

KULA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK, TURKEY, Annual Progress Report – 2017

Geopark Activities

- Geopark tours were organised for High Schools students, who were from schools located within the territory of Geopark area. (Jan / 2017).
- Geopark tours and seminars were organized for students from elementary schools located within the boundaries of the geopark area.
- Many interviews and articles about the geopark have been published in the national and regional media (January 2017-January 2018).
- News and article about the geopark activities were shared in the social media organizations such as Facebook and instragm (January/2017-January/2018).
- ,Geopark visits were organized for the personnel of Salihli and Kula municipalities(February / 2017).
- A special geopark tour was organized for local media members (February / 2017).
- Local volunteers to become tour guide were trained and the first volunteer guide team was formed and certificates were given to those who completed the training (March – May / 2017).
- TRT Correspondents visited the Kula Geopark for photo shoots for the photo contest event in nationwide (March/2017).
- In order to promote the geopark, brochures and letters were sent to all universities, professional associations, associations and schools (March/2017).
- With the participation of botanist experts, the plants in Kula Geopark area were identified (April / 2017).
- A meeting was held with the Jeopard Officers andMayors about sustainable development activities in theGeopark. (May / 2017).
- Guided by local guides and geopark employees, a total of 730 students visited the geoparkarea (June - July / 2017).
- Within the scope of "Let's Women VisittheKula Geopark Project" approximately 1000 housewives visited Kula Geopark (August /2017).
- UNESCO inspectors Dr. Setsuya NAKADA and Dr. ChrisWoodley STEWART inspected Kula Geopark for re-validation (July 2017).
- A special excursion was organized for students from 7-10 years old to visit the geopark. (August / 2017).
- Elementary school students were taken to the Geopark to enhance their knowledge about geoparks (September / 2017 - January / 2018).
- Training seminars and educational trips were held for university students from various universities (September 2017 - January 2018).
- A new documentary was filmed for the introduction of Kula and the Geopark. (September / 2017- January / 2018).

- A new website has been prepared for the introduction of the geopark (jeoparkbelediyelerbirliigi.com). (September / 2017).
- Within the scope of a TÜBİTAK project, two days of seminars and educational trips were organized for the earth science teachers. (September / 2017).
- A trekking group of 500 people from İzmir, Turgutlu and Salihli districts walked in thegeopark (October / 2017).
- Kula Geopark was introduced in a TV program called "Green Nature" on CNN Türk channel. (October / 2017).
- In order to coordinate the geopark a new coordinator, Prof. Dr. Tuncer DEMİR, has beenappointed (November / 2017).
- Volunteer guides were trained by training local people. Those who have completed the course are given a professional certificate (November-December / 2017).
- With the participation of Kula Municipality and Geopark Municipalities Union The Kula Geopark was presented and introduced in a fair called "Travel Turkey İzmir 2017" (December/ 2017).
- Coats and boots were distributed as a geopark gift to the students who were educated in the primary schools located within the boundaries of the geoparks (2017 / December).
- For the headmen of the villages located within the boundaries of the geoparks, an event was organized with the intention of introducing the geopark (2017 / December).

1. **Networking**

- A step has been taken to communicate with other geoparks by notifying the official website of Kula Geopark (March / 2018).

Activity by Partners

- Kula Hiking and Journey Association and Kula Geopark organized trackinga ctivities two times a month (January/2017 – January/2018).
- On the second Tuesday of each month, the members of the Council of theJeopark Municipalities Gathered (Manisa Mertopolitan Municipality, Salihli Municipality and Kula Municipality) to make decisions about the geopark activities (January / 2017- January/2018).
- Meeting and seminar program was organized withCelal Bayer University (September / 2017 – December/2017).
- Planning, in cooperation with the local tourism boards and local administrators, of the winter educational activities with geotouristic topic (December /2017).
- Supporting a municipality of the Geopark for the application for EU funding for the valorisation and geo-interpretation of a new area inside the Geopark, June December 2017.