

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name: LESVOS ISLAND UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Country: Greece

Regional Network: European Geoparks Network, Hellenic Geoparks Forum

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2000 & 2012 /2016



International Intensive Course of Geoparks 2017 – Visiting of the Petrified Forest Park

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 29 staffs (6 Permanent, 23 Temporary contract) including 9 geoscientists (3 Permanent, 6 Temporary contract)

Number of Visitors: The people visited Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark facilities (Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, Mytilene Information Center, Petrified Forest Park, Sigri Park, Nissipi Marine Petrified Forest Park) and the exhibition “The FOREST under the ROAD” at Yeni Mosque in Thessaloniki Greece were 44.700.

Number of Geopark events: 58 events held by management body and cooperative organizations

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 93 school classes realized educational programmes in Lesvos and in Thessaloniki Greece in the exhibition “The Forest under the Road”

Number of Geopark press release: 103 press release and articles

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017:

- Presentation of the exhibition “AEGEON · Birth of an Archipelago” at National Hellenic Museum in Chicago USA – Visiting of the Prime Minister of Greece (15 October 2017)
- Presentation of the exhibition “AEGEON · Birth of an Archipelago” at Polytechnic Museum in Moscow (Closing: 14 March 2017)
- Presentation of the exhibition “The FOREST under the ROAD” at Yeni Mosque in Thessaloniki Greece (14 February 2017 – 7 April 2017) and at Mytilene Information Centre of the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest – Organization of special educational activities for school groups

- Founding of the Local School Thematic Network “UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece” in collaboration with Primary Education N. Lesvos, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and Environmental Centre of Evergetoulas (2 March 2017)
- Field educational programs in Lesvos Geopark for pupils and university students
- Co-organizing of the 2nd International Meeting of Early-stage Researchers in Palaeontology (2nd IMERP) with the University of Patras Geology Department (19-22 May 2017)
- Implementation of the geotouristic activity: Daily guided boat tours with a glass bottom boat at Marine Nissipi Petrified Forest Park (July – September 2017)
- Celebration of the International Day of the Earth (22 April), International Museum Day (18 May), European Night of Museums (20 May), European Geoparks Week 2017 (26 May – 11 June), World Environment Day (5 June), “The Earth Festival 2017” – cultural events in Lesvos Geopark (June – September), European Heritage Days (23 – 25 September), International Day of Disaster Reduction (13 October)
- Organising the “GREEN CULTURAL ROOTS 2017” – Special geotour in areas of archaeological, cultural, ecological and geological interest in central and western Lesvos Geopark jointly organized by the Antiquities Ephorate of Lesvos and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest under the aegis of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture (28 May 2017)

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:

- Printing of the poster “UNESCO Global Geoparks – Global Geoparks Network”
- Printing of the “UNESCO Global Geoparks – Global Geoparks Network” magazine - Issue 1
- Participation in the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable 2017 - In collaboration with Global Geoparks Network and European Geoparks Network
- Participation in tourist exhibition Fitur Madrid - In collaboration with Global Geoparks Network and European Geoparks Network (17 - 21 January 2018)
- Received the delegation of Yanqing Geopark, China – Signing of an agreement (16 - 17 February 2017).
- Participation in ITB Berlin - In collaboration with Global Geoparks Network and European Geoparks Network (8 - 12 March 2017)
- Organizing of the event «UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS: Ideal destinations for sustainable tourism. The example of Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark» - Participation of the representative of the World Tourism Organization Mr. Beka Jakeli (12 June 2017)
- Organizing the International Intensive Course of Geoparks 2017 «UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism Development» (12 - 22 June 2017)
- Participation in the 14th European Geopark Conference, Azores (7 – 9 September 2017)
- Participation in the 5th Asian – Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium, Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China (19 – 22 September 2017)
- Project “GEOPARKS” - Received pupils from Portugal, France and Spain in collaboration with the Experiment School of Mytilene (2 – 8 October 2017)
- Participation in the conference «UNESCO Global Geoparks: Benefits and prospects of development – The role of Environmental Education» which organized by the Environmental Education Center of Salamiou, Cyprus (4 November 2017)
- Participation in the 39th General Conference of UNESCO in Paris (6 - 7 November 2017)
- Participating at the 1st International Workshop on Sustainable Tourism and Geoparks, Seville (24 - 26 November 2017)
- Participation in the Seminar of Collaborating Geoparks for the exchange of experiences which held by the Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark in China (28 November - 1 December 2017)
- Participation in the 3rd International Intensive Course «Geoparks Management and Earth Heritage Interpretation» which organized by the China University of Geosciences in Beijing China (3 - 8 December 2017)

- Participation at the Global educative project “I AM A GEOPARKER”
- Participation in the evaluation team of the Geoparks (July – August 2017)

Management and Financial status:

The national economic crisis and the refugees’ crisis in Lesvos affected the Geopark income significantly. Geopark Management works in order to overpass obstacles and to deal with difficult challenges.

Geoconservation:

- Realisation of the EU project “Conservation and promotion of the Petrified Forest Park”
- Realisation of the annual conservation programme at Petrified Forest Parks (Petrified Forest Park, Sigri Park, Nissiopi Marine Petrified Forest Park) and a rescue conservation programme of the fossils along the new Kalloni-Sigri road
- Upgraded the interpretation panels in the geopark

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):

Implementation of the geotouristic activity: Daily guided boat tours with a glass bottom boat at Marine Nissiopi Petrified Forest Parks (July – August 2016)

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:

- New summer educational programme “I learn about the earthquakes – I learn how to protect myself”
- Upgraded the educational programme on plant fossil conservation “I adopt and protect the Petrified Forest – I participate in the cleaning and conservation programme”
- Implementation of the educational programme “The Forest under the Road”

Strategic Partnership:

- Collaboration with Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark, China – Conservation program of petrified plant fossils
- Implementation of the European project “GEO-IN / Geotourism in insular Geoparks”, INTERREG V-A «Greece – Cyprus 2014-2020»
- Implementation of the EU project “RURITAGE – Rural regeneration through systemic heritage-led strategies”
- Collaboration with China University of Geosciences Beijing – Implementation of educational field classes (17 – 23 August 2017)
- Signing of cooperation agreement with Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark China (24 November 2017)
- Signing of cooperation agreement with Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark China (1 December 2017)
- Visiting of the Ningde Unesco Global Geopark China – Signing of a cooperation agreement (April 2017)

Promotional activities:

Numerous radio-TV and newspapers interviews and articles on the Geopark’s activities in the national, regional and local media – also in TV shows.

4. CONTACTS

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