

# Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark - Greece GGN - Annual Report 2016

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Lesvos Island UGG, Greece, EGN.

Year of inscription: 2004 / Year of the last revalidation: 2016

Representative Photo



## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 24 staffs (7 Permanent, 17 Temporary contract) including 8 geoscientist(s) (4 Permanent, 4 Temporary contract)

Number of Visitors: The total number of visitors is difficult to estimate. Concerning the people visiting Lesvos Geopark facilities and exhibitions in 2016 they are 75.000.

Number of Geopark events: 40 events held by management body and cooperative organization

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 100 in Lesvos + 300 in Athens (Exhibition the Forest under the Road)

Number of Geopark press release: 80

### 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES (bulletize)

#### Major achievements in 2016

1. Organization of the exhibition “AEGEON · BIRTH OF AN ARCHIPELAGO” at National Hellenic Museum in Chicago (23 November 2015 – 30 June 2017) and Polytechnic Museum Moscow (14 October 2016 - 14 March 2017).
2. Organization of the exhibition “The FOREST under the ROAD” at Evgenides Foundation in Athens presenting the unique fossil findings of the excavations discovered along the new road Kalloni – Sigri (25 January – 29 May) and at Chamber of Lesvos Mytilene (30 June-30 November).
3. Organization of the travelling exhibition “The animals of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos” in the Geopark Information Centre in Mytilene (January - 19 April) and at Natural History Museum of in Sigri – educational activities for school groups (18 May - 30 November)
4. Presentation event of the new Programme «UNESCO Global Geoparks» in collaboration with the Hellenic National Commission to UNESCO at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens (9 March)
5. Presentation events of the Book “Lesvos Island – Unesco Global Geopark” at Evgenides Foundation in Athens (13 April) and Mytilini (11 May).
6. International Intensive Course of Geoparks 2016 «UNESCO Global Geoparks» (20-30/6/2016)
7. Revalidation of Lesvos Geopark (26 - 28 June 2016)
8. Field educational programs in Lesvos Geopark for university students (March – June 2016). Education field class of the China University of Geosciences Beijing (August 2016).
9. Celebration of International Monument Day (18 April), International Day of the Earth (22 April), International Museum Day (18 May), European Geoparks Week 2016 (20 May – 5 June), Green cultural routes jointly organized with the Lesvos Ephorate of Antiquities (29 May), Green Week 2016 (30 May – 3 June) World Environment Day (5 June), “The Earth Festival 2016” – cultural events in Lesvos Geopark (June - September).

#### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

1. Hellenic Geoparks Forum Meetings (March – September 2016) - Secretariat operation
2. EGN - Participation in the two Coordination Committee Meetings - Coordination
3. GGN General Assembly and 7th International Geoparks Conference participation
4. Printing of the European Geoparks Magazine - Issue 13
5. Received the delegation of the Wudalianchi Geopark China (20 - 22 June 2016), Received the delegation of the Zhijindong Cave Geopark China (June 2016),
6. Participation in the Evaluation team of the Geoparks (July – August 2016)

Management and Financial status: The national economic crisis and the refugees crisis in Lesvos affected the Geopark income significantly. Geopark Management had to overpass obstacles and to deal with difficult challenges.

Geoconservation: Nissiopi Petrified Forest Park - major excavation and conservation activities, Conservation of the fossils along the Kalloni-Sigri road.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): Opening of the New Nissiopi Petrified Forest Park. 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: The Forest under the road educational programme on geoconservation.

Strategic Partnership: Yanqing UGG - Lesvos UGG fossil conservation programme.

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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