

Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark – Greece GGN - Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Chelmos Vouraikos UGG, Greece, EGN.
Year of inscription: 2009 / Year of the last revalidation: 2015

Representative Photo



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 13 staffs including 11 of permanent staff and 2 external assistants (a Geoscientist and a Biologist).

Number of Visitors: The total number of visitors is difficult to estimate. Concerning the people visiting Chelmos-Vouraikos facilities and exhibitions in 2016, they are about 54000.

Number of Geopark events: 5 events held by Management Body and local authorities.

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 12 in Kalavryta (Exhibition)

Number of Geopark press release: 16 (only by the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos)

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016 :

1. Global distinction for the protected area of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park-Certification for Sustainable Tourism which marks the integration of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park and UNESCO Global Geopark in the “European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

2. Organization of 3 workshops and seminars for the dissemination of Geopark's activities to the public.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:

1. Participation in the EGN Committee meeting in Spain and the Conference in English.
2. Hellenic Geoparks Forum Meetings (March-September 2016).
3. Contribution to EGN magazine Issue 14 'Diakopto-Kalavryta Railway, 120 Years of Beauty and History.
4. Sent a high definition video that represents the descent of a path that leads to the waters of Styx, one of the Geotopes in Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark in order to embody it to the EGN video during the EGN CC.

Management and Financial status:

The national economic crisis affected the Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark income significantly. Geopark Management had to overpass obstacles and to deal with difficult challenges. Financial support achieved through the project "Natural Environment 2015" from the Green Fund, Ministry of Environment and Climatic Change.

Geoconservation:

Strengthening of infrastructure of Geotopes (signs on paths that connect Geosites and recreation equipment at specific locations to view the landscape) contributing to the geoconservation and sustainable development of the region.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):

Cooperation of Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark with the Municipality of Kalavryta in order to participate in call for proposals to fund under national and European Programmes, aiming to create an exhibition space close to the Cave of the lakes

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

"Journey to the Protected Area of Chelmos-Vouraikos" educational programme on geoconservation.

Strategic Partnership:

1. Cooperation with the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark for the celebration of the International Day of Monuments and Sites which intends to create a video with monuments and sites of interest from all the Geoparks in the world, to share on social networks and website. Also we sent some pictures of monuments and cultural sites of interest from our Geopark.
2. We sent a text titled " La frana del 1912 a Tsivlou /the 1912 landslide in Tsivlou " for the exhibition of Apuan Alps Geopark about the topics of flood, landslide and hydrogeological hazard.
3. We sent samples of sand for the exhibition of Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark for the creation of a collection of samples from around the world for educational purposes.

Promotional activities:

Participation with the Municipality of Kalavryta in the 1st International Meeting for Alternative Tourism "NOSTOS EXPO" and the exhibition for the Peloponnesus, "PELOPONNESE EXPO 2016", with rich informative material of the Management Body of

Chelmos-Vouraikos about the promotion of biodiversity of the Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park and the prominence of the Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark

4. Contacts:

Manager: Eleni Koumoutsou fdxb@otenet.gr

Geologist (external assistant): Dr. G. Iliopoulos iliopoulosg@upatras.gr

Geologist: Topouzidis Nikos ntopou@yahoo.gr