

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2009 /2019



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 11 staffs including 1 geoscientist and 1 external research assistant/Geoscientist

Number of visitors: For 2019 the estimated number of visitors is more than 120.000 (maximum number of visitors reported by the visitors in popular places). During most of 2020, due to COVID19 restrictions, the Geopark facilities were closed most of the year. As a result, only a rough estimation of the number of visitors can be made, and which can only be estimated to 40.000, mostly during the summer months.

Number of Geopark events: During 2020 the Chelmos-Vouraikos UGGp held 4 events:

- 29-6-2020: The Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp and its partner the Kleitoria-Akrata Environmental Center among others have co-organised and held the educational digital meeting “The educational value of Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp”.
- Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark participated in the European Geoparks Week 2020 (May 24-June 7, 2020) by organizing the 1st Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark Amateur Photo Contest.

- 8-7-2020: The Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp and its project partners held a meeting regarding: the Caves and underground life in Kalavryta Municipality: towards a holistic approach in protection and management.
- 13-10-2020: Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark participated in the International Day for Disaster Reduction with a short video and an all day facebook event regarding landslides: A common natural hazard for Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark with a long history...”

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 81 (only in January and February 2020 because of COVID19 restrictions afterwards)

Number of Geopark press releases: During 2020 the Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp management Body has announced **21 official press releases** available through its website (<https://www.fdchelmos.gr/el/news/newsletter.html?start=21>). Moreover the geopark releases monthly multiple announcements on its social media pages (fb, Instagram).

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- The Unesco Global Geoparks Council has officially approved the revalidation of Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp for the period of January 2020 to December 2023.
- Volunteer work of young volunteers from Germany in Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp. Action of the Hellenic and German Commission for UNESCO

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in the 17th EGN Newsletter with an article regarding the Lake Doxa geosite and the 18th EGN Newsletter with an article regarding the IDDR 2020 actions.
- Participation to the 2nd and 3rd EGN Digital Forum
- Participation to the 1st GGN Digital Forum
- Participation in the Digital Course on Unesco Global Geoparks 2020 (10-26 June 2020)

Management and Financial Status

- Financial support achieved through the Green Fund and the annual revenues of the local hydroelectric plants (art. 25α, L. 3734/2009).
- Integration of the funded Action “Support to services and infrastructures of Chelmos-Vouraikos UGGp in CLLD/LEADER 2014-2020.

Geoconservation

- During 2020 in the context of an Msc Course of the University of Patras the geosites of the geopark were revisited and evaluated using appropriate published scientific literature.
- Participation of the Management Body of Chelmos - Vouraikos in the information day «Management actions for the protection and conservation of Biodiversity»
- Firefighting system installation for fire protection and prevention of Chelmos-Vouraikos

National Park and its areas of responsibility.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The actions to strengthen Geotourism were carried out by social media, due to the effects of covid-19.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Educational digital meeting for school teachers about the educational value of Chelmos-Vouraikos.
- Two-day digital meeting for school principals regarding environmental education.

Strategic partnerships

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Kefalonia-Ithaca aspiring geopark.
- Participation of the Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark in the web meeting of UGGps of Greece and Cyprus entitled “ Facing Modern Challenges”

Promotional activities

- Promotion of Alternative Tourism Routes within Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark in the Framework of the European Project “INHERIT” (10 videos available through youtube channel and fb and one brochure).
- New fb page and multiple monthly announcements
- Release of Chelmos-Vouraikos calendar 2021

4. CONTACTS

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