

Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark – Greece GGN - Annual Report 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, EGN

Year of inscription: 2009 / Year of the last revalidation: 2015

Representative Photo:



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 11 and 1 external assistant/Geoscientist.

Number of Visitors: approximately 50.000 (in Chelmos-Vouraikos facilities and exhibitions).

Number of Geopark events: 4 (2nd Environmental and Sports Meeting of Lake Tsivlou, Information and Awareness Actions to the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, Swallow sounds 2017, EN SYRMO-The Art train 2017).

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 18

Number of Geopark press release: 13 (by the Management Body).

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017:

- Mapping of lignites and past coal mining activities in the area of the geopark.
- Recording and monitoring of the flora of the geopark and their habitats.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the 14th EGN Conference (Azores, Portugal) with oral presentation and participation in the joint exhibition.
- Update of the web page of our UNESCO Global Geopark in the site of GGN.

- Contribution to EGN magazine Issue 14 “Diakopto-Kalavryta Railway”, 120 Years of Beauty and History.
- Participating with a representative landscape picture, to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development with EGN.

Management and Financial status

Financial support achieved through the Green Fund and the annual revenues for the local hydroelectric plants (art. 25α, L. 3734/2009).

Geoconservation

During the mapping of the lignite beds of the Geopark, fossil plants were discovered and are being studied from students of the University of Patras.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Downhill of Vouraikos Gorge and informative presentations about flora species and geodiversity of the region.
- Visit of members of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature to the geopark area and organization of an event about “Routes in Geology and the Prehistory of the Cave of the Lakes in Kastria”.

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

- Visits of primary and secondary schools from all over Greece in the context of environmental education and for the celebration of the World Environment Day.
- Guided Visits of student groups (Department of Geology/University of Patras, Department of Geography/University of the Aegean, Athens Fine school of Arts).

Strategic Partnership

- Participation in the meeting of the Hellenic National Committee for UNESCO with representatives of the five Greek Geoparks and representatives of the corresponding Regions and Municipalities.
- Participation to the call for proposals of INTERREG Mediterranean Programme 2014-2020, in collaboration with 7 other geoparks and National Parks (EuGaia).

Promotional activities

- Participation in the newsletter and the ITB tourism exhibition in Berlin with information about the Geopark, photos and a map.
- In the framework of the celebration of the “European Day of Parks”, the geopark was presented on the local TV channel "IONIAN CHANNEL".

4. Contacts:

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