

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2000 & 2012/2024



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 52 staffs (5 Permanent, 47 Temporary contract) including 12 geo-scientists (3 Permanent, 9 Temporary contract)

Number of visitors: 90.847 people visited Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark facilities

Number of Geopark events: 110 events held by management body and cooperative organizations

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 90 school classes realized educational programmes

Number of Geopark press releases: 170 press release and articles

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Organization and implementation of the International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainable Management, in Lesvos, Greece with participants from more than 40 countries from all over the globe (2024)
- Impressive new findings of fossil tree trunks came into light during the realization of the excavation and conservation programme in the new Kalloni - Sigri road.
- Successfully completed the conservation programme “Conservation and promotion of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos – “Kyria Apolithomeni”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Successfully completed the programme «Completion of Museum’s storage for the retention of petrified findings through implementation of major public activities in Petrified Forest site”, “NSRF 2014-2020”

- Successfully completed the Programme “Promotion and utilization of petrified trunks position, through implementation of major public activities in Petrified Forest site”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Successfully completed the digital programmes for the promotion of Lesvos Geopark geosites, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and Lemnos Island geosites.
- Successfully completed the Programme “Awareness activities for NATURA 2000 SITES, with emphasis at Lesvos wetlands”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Successfully completed the Programme “Study for the completion of the Visiting Center at Sigri”
- Implementation of annual conservation of fossils at all the Petrified Forest Parks and at the fossils of the permanent exhibition halls
- Implementation of research activities for the identification, categorization and store of fossil leaves
- Conservation and replacement of the interpretation panels of Lesvos Geopark in various places along the territory
- Implementation of various digital educational programmes for school students and organisation of webinars for schoolteachers

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Printing of the poster “UNESCO Global Geoparks – Global Geoparks Network”
- Printing of the new Global Geoparks Network Map 2024
- Participation in the 49th Meeting of European Geoparks Network in Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark, Turkey (2024)
- Participation in the 5th Conference of Greek and Cyprus UNESCO Global Geoparks, Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, Kalavryta, Greece (2024)
- Supporting organization and participation in the Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks (2024)
- Hosting the GGN Executive Board meetings in Lesvos (2024)
- Collaboration between Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark and San’in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark (2024)
- Collaboration between Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark and Majella UNESCO Global Geopark Italy on educational activities (2024)
- Participation in the 8th International Education Seminar on Management and Developing UNESCO Global Geoparks, China (2024)
- Participation in the digital meeting between UNESCO Global Geoparks and United Nations in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (2024)
- Participation in the International Tourism Fair FITUR in Madrid, Spain (2024)
- Participating in the «European Geoparks Week» with various educational activities (2024)
- Participation in the Global Bird Fair in Rutland, England (2024)
- Participation in the 37th International Geological Congress in Busan, South Korea (2024)
- Participation in the 8th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium in Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, in Vietnam (2024)
- Participation in the 17th European Geoparks Conference in Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, in Iceland (2024)
- Participation (on line) in the International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks in China (october 2024)
- Participation in the 8th GeoLAC Conference in Canyons Do Sul in Brazil, November 2024
- Participation in OEWG on Geoparks at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

- Visit of Delegation from Lesvos Geopark to San' in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark (December 2024)

Management and Financial Status

No remarkable changes related to management and financial status.

Geoconservation

- Promotion of conservation activities
- Realisation of the conservation programme "Conservation and promotion of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos – "Kyria Apolithomeni", "NSRF 2014-2020"
- Realisation of the conservation programme "Construction of the new road Kalloni - Sigri" in collaboration with Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation
- Realisation of the "Promotion and utilization of petrified trunks position, through implementation of major public activities in Petrified Forest site", "NSRF 2014-2020"
- Realisation of the annual conservation programme at Sigri Park, Plaka Park and Nissiopi Marine Petrified Forest Park
- Realisation of the annual conservation in the new fossil sites along the new road Kalloni – Sigri

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Celebration of the European Heritage Days 2024, "Routes, Networks and Connections"
- Celebration of the International Day of Wetlands 2024
- Celebration of the International Day of Tourism 2024
- Celebration of the International Day of Geodiversity 2024
- Implementation of summer events and activities
- Implementation of Gastronomy events with the collaboration of Women Cooperatives and local enterprises
- Implementation of the geotouristic activity: Daily guided boat tours with a glass bottom boat at Marine Nissiopi Petrified Forest Parks
- Implementation in collaboration with the Geopark partners of the various alternative tourism activities (birdwatching, cycling, hiking, running etc)

Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Organising digital educational events for students and teachers
- Organising educational programmes for 90 school units
- Organising daily educational programmes at summer period
- Organising field activities for undergraduate and postgraduate students from 11 different universities
- Organizing joint educational activity for the International World Energy Saving Day between Lesvos Island (Greece) and Maiella Geopark (Italy) with title "I turn off the lights, I illuminate the future!"
- Organising field activities with the University of Kiel, Germany in Lesvos Geopark
- Organising field activities with the University of London, Department of Geography
- Organising field activities with the Inter-Institutional Master Program PANGEA (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Geology and Geoenvironment (Greece), University of Lille (France), University of Upsala (Sweden) and University of Minho (Portugal)).
- Organising field activities with the Institute of Geology, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology, China, in Lesvos Geopark
- Organising field activities with the China University of Geosciences Beijing in Lesvos Geopark

- Organizing and hosting the temporary exhibition of the Fine Arts Schools of Berlin, in Sigri, Lesvos
- Organising educational activities for the International day for disaster risk reduction
- Organising educational activities for the International day of Environment
- Webinar "Experiences & suggestions from the educational visits of schools in Lesvos Geopark"
- Participating in the European Camp of UNESCO Global Geoparks, which hosted by the transborder Muskauer Faltenbogen/Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark, in German-Poland

Strategic partnership

- Collaboration with Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency (N.E.C.C.A.)
- Collaboration with China University of Geosciences Beijing
- Collaboration with University of Patras
- Collaboration with University of the Aegean
- Collaboration with Institute of Geology, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology, China
- Collaboration with Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesvos

Promotional activities

- Implementation of a programme for the digital promotion of Lesvos Geopark
- Promotion of Lesvos Geopark in Greece and abroad
- Numerous radio-TV and newspapers interviews and articles on the Geopark's activities in the national, regional and local media – also in TV shows
- Organisation of various athletics activities and cultural events in the Lesvos Geopark territory

4. CONTACTS

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