



Report from the Hellenic Geoparks Forum – 2024

The Hellenic Geoparks Forum operates as a national network encompassing the **nine UNESCO Global Geoparks** in Greece, fostering collaboration and the exchange of knowledge among all stakeholders involved in or interested in UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Chair: Fassoulas Charalambos (Psiloritis Geoparks)

Vice Chair : Ilias Valiakos (Lesvos Geopark)

Lesvos Geopark : Zouros Nikolaos, Valiakos Ilias, Mpentana Konstantina

Psiloritis Geopark: Fassoulas Charalambos, Kolendrianou Maria

Helmos - Vouraikos Geopark: Iliopoulos George, Koumoutsou Eleni

Vikos - Aaos Geopark: Papaioannou Charitakis, Kitsaki Georgia

Sitia Geopark: Perakis Vaggelis, Kontogiorgakis Christoforos

Kozani - Grevena: Mpatsi Anna, Ptochoulis Panagiotis

Kefalonia - Ithaka: Xanthakis Michalis, Zoumbouli Elena

Lavreotiki Geopark : Moraiti Evgenia, Kampolis Isidoros

Meteora - Pyli Geopark: Pitsoulis Nikolaos, Fotaki Efi

Observers:

Troodos UGGp,

Nisiros AUGGp

The Hellenic Geoparks Forum Committers

There are three Committees in the Forum

A. Geodiversity and Geoconservation

B. Education

C. Communication

Aspiring UNESCO Geoparks

Active UGGp applications:

The application of **Nisyros Geopark** was submitted to UNESCO in November 2022, and the geopark was evaluated in June 2023 by two members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks evaluation team. The Hellenic Geoparks Forum provided support to Nisyros Geopark throughout its evaluation process through several online meetings and by sharing relevant information.

At its meeting in September 2023, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council reviewed the evaluators' report and decided to defer the application pending the successful completion of a number of

recommendations. The geopark has until August 2025 to submit a progress report detailing how these recommendations have been addressed. The geopark is currently working on fulfilling the recommendations, with ongoing support from the Hellenic Geoparks Forum.

Several members of the Forum participated in the Conference on the UNESCO Global Geoparks organized by the aUGGp in Nisyros island from 11-13 October 2024, transferring their knowledge and activities on the management and operation of a UGGp to the local authorities and stakeholders. The meeting was followed by a field trip at several geosites and the caldera of Nisyros volcano.

MEETINGS

Forum meeting during the EGN CC meeting in Kula Salihli UGGP

The HGF representatives met in person during their participation in the EGN Coordination Committee meeting that took place from 5-8 March 2024 at Kula Salihli UGGp in Turkey and discussed the organization of common activities for the year.

National Geoparks Meeting of the Hellenic Geoparks Committee

The National Meeting of Geoparks, entitled “UNESCO Global Geoparks: Greece’s Participation in the International Program,” was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens. The event was organized by the Greek National Commission for UNESCO.

The President of the Greek National Commission for UNESCO, Ekaterini Tzitzikosta, and the President of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, Professor N. Zouros, addressed the meeting. With the participation of Mayors, Regional Representatives, and Managers of the Hellenic UNESCO Global Geoparks, the meeting focused on the progress achieved, the operation of the Geoparks, planned projects within the Hellenic Geoparks, and the need for closer cooperation among them to facilitate the exchange of views and experiences.

5th Annual Conference of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus

The 5th Annual Conference of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus was held in Kalavryta on 13–15 June 2024. It was organized by the Helmos–Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, under the auspices of the Hellenic National UNESCO Commission, the Cyprus National UNESCO Commission and NECCA.

With the participation of representatives from all UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks, as well as representatives of various stakeholders, the conference was highly successful. The programme also included a field trip within the Helmos–Vouraikos Geopark.

On line meetings

Several online meetings, seminars and other activities have been carried out during 2024 between Geopark Representatives and other stakeholders.

LOCAL INTERVENTIONS

- The Forum participated in September 2024, in the public consultation on the new National Spatial Plan for Tourism, providing its positions for the development of Geotourism in Greece.

- The Chair of the Forum C. Fassoulas participated and presented the activities of the Forum at the 4th Hellenic Gathering for Hiking Tourism organized at Chania Crete on 15 -17 November 2025.

Dr Charalampos Fassoulas, Chair

Dr Ilias Valiakos, Vice Chair