



**MANAGEMENT
BODY of
CHELMOS
VOURAIKOS**



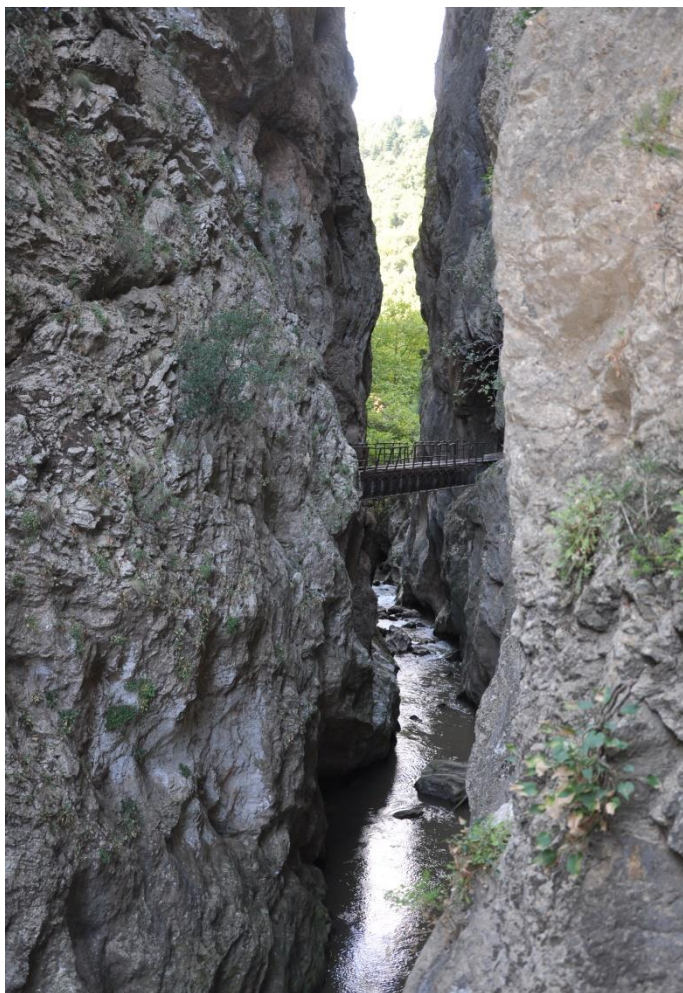
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Chelmos Vouraikos
UNESCO
Global Geopark



PERIOD: JANUARY– JUNE 2019



NEWS letter

Issue 9

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Awareness Actions

Events for the celebration of the World Environment Day 2019

The Management Body of Chelmos–Vouraikos (CVMB) participated in a lot of different events to celebrate World Environment Day 2019

On June 5th the Primary school of Sofiko visited the Exhibition Centre of CVMB. Students attended an interactive presentation about Chelmos- Vouraikos National Park & Global Geopark, the fauna and flora of the protected area and the role of CVMB in the area. In addition, students were given the opportunity to get informed and ask the staff of the CVMB questions about the environment and to suggest ideas and solutions for an environmentally- friendly way of every day life.

On June 8th, during 11:00 a.m. – 14:00 p.m., the CVMB, the Management Body of Kotychi and Strofyliia Wetlands and the Messolonghi Lagoon Management Body met at Riga Feraiou and Ermou streets, in Patras, where they organized an ‘on spot’ event. The aim of the event was to inform and raise awareness of the public through photo galleries and informative leaflets about the protected areas and the rear species of fauna and flora you can meet there. The staff of the Management Bodies had the opportunity to answer questions and to inform people about the ecological and aesthetic value of the protected areas as well as about the special legislation that applies there.

5th of June was designated World Environment Day by the UN General Assembly in 1974, as a way to raise global awareness of environmental issues. World Environment Day is celebrated every year since then, not only to remind us the importance of the environment for human beings and the conservation of the planet in general, but also to emphasize our responsibility towards the next generation to protect it.





Educational Actions

Educational activities of CVMB for the academic year 2018-2019

CVMB in the context of its informative role, carried out a lot of educational activities, during the academic year of 2018-2019, in co-operation with the Environmental Education Centre of Kleitoria- Akrata.

The Management Body organized an interactive presentation at the Exhibition Centre of the CVMB about the Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park & UNESCO Global Geopark, for schools of several regions of Greece. The aim of the presentation was to inform students about the National Park & UNESCO Global Geopark, to inform about the role of the Management Body in the area, and furthermore, to educate and alert them about environmental issues.

During the academic year of 2018- 2019 the following schools visited the Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body: Primary school of Vlasia, Primary school of Sofiko, 1st Secondary school of Kalymnos, Secondary school of Iolkos, Secondary school of Sitia, 1st Secondary school of Neapoli Lakonia, 4th High

school of Petroupoli, 2nd High school of Gerakas, High school of Kalavryta, Vocational Senior High school of Kalavryta and a group of volunteer students from Patras Science Festival.

Within the framework of the educational activities of the CVMB, the schools also crossed several hiking trails within the protected area, in order to investigate the area's flora and fauna and to become acquainted with nature.



Working Meetings

Participation of CVMB at the 11th Working Meeting of Certified Protected Areas in Sustainable Tourism - EUROPARC

The Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos, through the representatives N. Topouzidis, Geologist and G. Rousinos, Forester, participated in the 11th workshop of certified protected areas in Sustainable Tourism – EUROPARC, entitled **"The social and cultural impacts of tourism: exploring a sustainable response"** which was organized by the Management Body of the Tzoumerka, Acheloos, Agrafa and Meteora Valley in Pramanta, of Northern Tzoumerka, from 9 to 11 April 2019.

The workshop included speeches by specialized speakers, workshops as well as excursions to the Tzoumerka National Park, Acheloos, Agrafa and Meteora areas.

In its 11 years of operation, the CVMB, additionally to its important core responsibility for monitoring and preserving biodiversity within the National Park as well as raising local resident’s and visitor’s awareness, has also succeeded in integrating the protected area into the EUROPARC Network with the certification of "European Charter for Sustainable Tourism" and into the Geological World Heritage Sites, as an **"UNESCO Global Geopark"**.



Through these networking tools, it seeks to contribute to the promotion of alternative tourism, environmental education, environmental protection and promotion activities within the National Park area, with multiple benefits for the local community.

Biannually, the EUROPARC Network, which implements the Sustainable Tourism methodology in protected areas, organizes meetings for its members in order to exchange experiences and their best practices. With respect to every protected area's culture, it aims to strengthen the partnerships between the members, to develop the social, economic and environmental characteristics of each area and at the same time to promote further growth and prosperity.

Collaborations

Participation of CVMB in a Programme of the Region of Western Greece (Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Italy 2014-2020)

Within the framework of the implementation of the European project **CI-NOVATEC**, the Region of Western Greece, as the Lead Partner, has chosen the region of Kalavryta for the pilot implementation of this project.

CI- NOVATEC project, adopting an innovative methodology, aims to collect data based on visitor experiences. These data will be used to facilitate business and political decisions in order to create an added value for the local tourism ecosystem.

The purpose of the project and the role of the Region of Western Greece is to record and evaluate the experiences of the visitors in relation to the simple or complex services that they receive at their destination.

The purpose and role of the members of the regional networks is to mobilize the tourists in order to participate in filling questionnaires for achieving the maximum response. In this way, not only the visitors' opinions will be recorded but also the empowerment and strengthening of the area will be achieved.

For this reason a **cooperation protocol** was signed by the Region of Western Greece, the Municipality of Kalavryta, Achaia Development Agency SA, the Kalavryta Ski Center, the Cave of the Lakes, the Municipal Museum of Kalavritan Holocaust and various other associations in the tourism sector within the wider area of the Municipality of Kalavryta. With this cooperation, a network was established under the name "**Regional Network of Kalavryta as a Pilot Region**". The scientific director for the **CI-NOVATEC** project and its platform is University of Patras and especially, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.



CVMB contributes through the electronic platform to transfer the data and elements of biodiversity and geodiversity to the visitors within Chelmos - Vouraikos National Park, aiming at increasing alternative forms of tourism such as ecotourism, geotourism, etc. It is remarkable that the region has been recognized as a **"UNESCO Global Geopark"** since 2015.



Greece, for the support of Chelmos- Vouraikos Geopark.

The event was honored with the presence of the Secretary - General of the Board of Directors and Agronomist, Mr. Menelaos Gardikiotis. Secretary - General of the Geotechnical Chamber of Peloponnese and Western Central Greece and Ichthyologist, Mr. Spyridon Spyropoulos, recited the preface of the event, and subsequently the chairman of the Geotechnical Chamber of Peloponnese and Western Central Greece, Mr. Athanasios Petropoulos, gave a speech about the role of the Geotechnical Chamber and its collaboration with the Management Body. On behalf of the Management Body, Dr. Grigoris Iatrou, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Management Body and Emeritus Professor of the Department of Biology, University of Patras gave a welcome speech, while, Dr. Georgios Iliopoulos, Associate Professor of Palaeontology and Stratigraphy of the Department of Geology, University of Patras, presented analytical data about Chelmos - Vouraikos Geopark, a Member of UNESCO Global and European Geoparks Network.

Event for the presentation of the collaboration of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park with the Geotechnical Chamber of Peloponnese and Western Central Greece for the support of Chelmos- Vouraikos Geopark

On Saturday 9th February 2019, the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos and the Geotechnical Chamber of Peloponnese and Western Central Greece, held successfully an event with the presence of a large number of geotechnical, stakeholder and civil representatives, in order to present the collaboration of the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos with the Geotechnical Chamber of Peloponnese and Western Central



Chelmos - Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark

Participation of CVMB at the 43rd European Geoparks Network Meeting in Germany

The official representatives of Chelmos-Vouraikos Unesco Global Geopark, Mr. Georgios Iliopoulos, Associate Professor of the Department of Geology of the University of Patras and Scientific Associate of Geopark and Mrs Eleni Koumoutsou, Project Coordinator of the Management Body, participated in the 43rd European Geoparks Network Meeting in the Swabian Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Aalen in Germany, on March 25 - 29, 2019.

Representatives of 73 European Geoparks attended the meeting and discussed common issues to all members of the Network, including proposals for transnational partnerships with funding projects and activities in the Geopark regions by European Programs.

Also, Chelmos - Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark participated in a work group concerning lignite and mining activities within Geoparks, aiming to establish and follow a common guide for all attending Geoparks.

On the 2nd day, a Local Products Exhibition was held including all Geoparks, giving the opportunity to all participants to meet and

Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark is a member of UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network since 2009.



UNESCO Global Geoparks are geological heritage sites of of international geological significance.

They help us understand and respond to our current environmental problems in the context of our dynamic planet.

They also highlight all aspects of our natural and cultural heritage.

taste flavors from many regions of Europe. In the exhibition there was a Greek kiosk with products and pictures from Achaia, Lesvos, Ioannina and Crete and also a kiosk from Cyprus.

We have been given the opportunity to have meetings with colleagues from around Europe, to learn good practices and information about the management of their Geoparks and learn how we can use their experience to better develop Chelmos- Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark.

The Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos contributes constantly to the promotion of alternative tourism, environmental education, environmental protection and promotion in the National Park area, with multiple benefits for the local community. This establishes the global recognition of Chelmos - Vouraikos National Park as a World Heritage Site with a special geological heritage (beyond unique biodiversity) and enjoys international recognition.

Participation of CVMB at the “2nd International Conference on the UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus”, in Nicosia.

The official representatives of Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, Dr. George Iliopoulos, Associate Professor of the Geology Department of the University of Patras and Scientific Director of Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, and Eleni Koumoutsou, Environmentalist and Project Coordinator of the Management Body, participated in the 2nd International Conference on

the UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus”, in Nicosia, on May 16 - 18, 2019. The conference was under the theme “Promotion of the geological and mining heritage, enhancement of geo-education and development of geo-tourism”.

Photo reference: www.geoparksconference.gov.cy

The Conference was organized by the Geological Survey Department and Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark in Cyprus, and representatives of the 5 Greek Geoparks participated. During the Conference these areas were presented, and also, valuable presentations were made by scientific specialists on geotourism and sustainable local development, geo-education, geological and mining heritage, natural heritage and the environment, cultural heritage and web applications for the promotion of Geoparks.

At present, there are 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 41 countries. This number is steadily rising, as many regions around the world request to join this network.

UNESCO Global Geoparks’ main goal is to protect our planet's geo-diversity in cooperation and for the benefit of local communities.



Photo reference: www.geoparksconference.gov.cy



Photo reference: www.geoparksconference.gov.cy

So far, the Greek Geoparks of Lesvos, Psiloritis, Chelmos-Vouraikos, Vikos-Aoos, Sitia, and the Geopark of Cyprus (Troodos), belong to the European Geoparks Network and UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



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