



**MANAGEMENT
BODY of
CHELMOS
VOURAIKOS**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Chelmos Vouraikos
UNESCO
Global Geopark



PERIOD: JULY– DECEMBER 2019

NEWS Letter

Issue 10

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Awareness Actions

11th Ziria Music Festival 2019

The 11th Ziria Music Festival took place on 29-31 of August at Ziria Ski Center. Ziria Music Festival attracts a lot of people every year and hosts not only music concerts but also various activities including walking in the forest, hiking, astronomy lessons, sky observation, visits in Ermis cave etc. aiming to familiarize participants with nature. There is a great concern for the environment as every activity is structured so that it has the least environmental impact on the site. There is a strict directive towards fires so that there is a limited fire danger. As far as the waste management is concerned, there is a zero waste approach and an organized recycling plan.

The representatives of Chelmos – Vouraikos Management Body visited the area on Friday, August 30th and met with the organizing committee of the festival. Among other, they discussed about the environmental

Mount Killini (Ziria)

is a NATURA 2000 site (GR2530001) and a Special Protection Area for birds (GR2530006).

Since February 2018 it is included in the list of areas for supervision from the Chelmos Vouraikos Management Body.

Within the area's limits unique fauna and flora species can be found as well as various geological formations.

value of the area and the initiatives of the festival in order to protect the environment. Also, the representatives got informed about the informative events and actions that took place during the festival (a musical theater performance about composting, talks about the environment and informative leaflets from the Chelmos Vouraikos Management Body).

Music Ziria Festival is an event which, in cooperation with the Chelmos Vouraikos Management Body, can become a great opportunity to inform, raise awareness and educate people about NATURA 2000 sites.



Participation of the Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body in the “INHERIT” project Information Day

On Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 10am an informational Day of the European project “INHERIT” will be held at the “Palaiologina Mansion” at Kalavryta.

During the Information Day, the INHERIT project will be presented in detail and its pilot actions. The project will be presented by Mr. Christos Bouras, Professor of Department of Computer Engineering & Informatics, University of Patras. Mr. Gregory Iatrou, Chairman of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body and Emeritus Professor of Department of Biology of the University of Patras, will deliver a speech on Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park and the actions of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body. Mr. Panagiotis Dimopoulos, Professor of Department of Biology, University of Patras, will also give a speech on the contribution of the LIFE IP 4 NATURA project to the protection of the natural environment. Finally, Mr. Vassilios Kokkinos, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Computer Engineering & Informatics and member of the INHERIT project team, will also give a speech on Pilot Actions in the context of the INHERIT project.



The European project “INHERIT” is being implemented in the framework of the “INTERREG MED” Programme with the aim of protecting and promoting natural heritage in Mediterranean coastal and maritime tourist destinations. The project involves 15 partners and 3 support partners from 10 Mediterranean countries, headed by the Peloponnese Region. University of Patras is participating as a partner with Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park as a candidate area “INHERITURA”, where the pilot actions of the INHERIT project are expected to take place.

An important objective of the project is the establishment of “INHERITURA” areas, coastal areas of the Mediterranean with a natural heritage, tourism area, with high tourist activity, which take actions to protect and exploit the environment through bottom-up activities.

Promoting the area as “INHERITURA” will help increase traffic to the area while stimulating the local economy.





MEETING for INFORMATION AND AWARENESS for the celebration of the “International Day for Disaster Reduction”

The Meeting for information and awareness for the “International Day for Disaster Reduction” took place with great success and a great audience, at Saturday, 16 November 2019, at BYZANTINO Hotel in Patras. The meeting organized by the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece (Branch of the Peloponnese and Western Greece) in cooperation with the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos – UNESCO Global Geopark and the Department of Geology of the University of Patras.

The purpose of the meeting and of all the presentations was to inform and raise public awareness of the prevention and reduction of


natural disasters and the effects of climate change. An urgent need for cooperation between responsible agencies and the state was also showcased.

The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly, celebrating how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters. “Sendai Seven” campaign was launched in 2016 by UNDRR which is centered on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.

This year’s theme is based on Target “D” of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: “Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption services, among them health and education facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030”.



CHELMOS-VOURAIKOS UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



MEETING for


INFORMATION AND AWARENESS

"International Day
for Disaster Reduction"

SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2019

10:30 am

BYZANTINO HOTEL (106 RIGA FEREOU STREET, PATRA)



The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly, celebrating how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters. "Sendai Seven" campaign was launched in 2016 by UNDRR which is centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.


This year's theme is based on Target (d) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: "Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption services, among them health and education facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030".

Organization

GEOTECHNICAL CHAMBER OF GREECE (BRANCH OF THE PELOPONNESE AND WESTERN GREECE)

in cooperation with

MANAGEMENT BODY OF CHELMOS-VOURAIKOS – UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK
& DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS





Greetings on the opening of the meeting were given by the official attendees. Mr. Gregory Iatrou, Chairman of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body and Emeritus Professor of the Department of Biology of the University of Patras, delivered a speech presenting Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park and UNESCO Global Geopark as an area of responsibility of the Management Body. Mr. Iliopoulos G., Associate Professor of the Department of Geology of the University of Patras delivered a speech entitled "Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark and Natural Disasters". Afterwards, speeches delivered by Mr. Zelilidis A., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Geology of the University of Patras about "Geologists' contribution to the prevention of floods, landslides and coastal erosions", by Mr. Katsaros D., Forester MSc PhD, Director of Civil Protection of the Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece and the Ionian about "Innovative practices in the service of civil protection" and by Mr. Nikolakopoulos K., Associate Professor of the Department of Geology of the University of Patras about "New technologies in dealing with natural disasters". Finally, speeches delivered by Mr. Sokos E., Associate Professor of the Department of Geology of the University of Patras delivered a speech entitled "The seismic hazard in the area of Western Greece" and by Mr. Depountis N., Assistant Professor of the Department of Geology, University of Patras entitled "Landslides: A timeless phenomenon with unpredictable consequences".



13 OCTOBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



On Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October, students of Primary School of Kalavryta visited the Management Body for the celebration of European Bird Day 2019, and participated in activities that were informative, educational and entertaining.



Educational Actions

Celebration of the “European Bird Day”- EUROBIRDWATCH 2019

Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body, responding to the invitation of the Hellenic Ornithological Society and in collaboration with the Environmental Education Centre of Kleitoria–Akrata organized a series of educational activities for the Kindergarten and the Primary School of Kalavryta.

On Monday, October 7th, representatives of the Management Body visited the Kindergarten of Kalavryta and gave an informational speech in order to familiarize toddlers with birds and their migratory practice. They also showed them photos and audio material from migratory birds found in the area.



Γιορτή Πουλιών 19





5-6 Οκτωβρίου 2019



**ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ
ΧΕΛΜΟΥ ΒΟΥΡΑΪΚΟΥ**

Τετάρτη 9 και Πέμπτη 10
Οκτωβρίου 2019, 9:00 π.μ.

- Επίσκεψη στον Φορέα Διαχείρισης Χελμού – Βουραϊκού, παρουσίαση και προβολή εκπαιδευτικού υλικού.
- Κατασκευή τσίτσας για τα πουλιά, για τοποθέτησή τους στο σχολείο.
- Πεζοπορία σε μικρό μέρος του μονοπατιού Χιονοδρομικό Κέντρο – Καλάβρυτα, στην περιοχή Κάστρο – Αγ. Ιωάννης.
- Παρατήρηση πουλιών με κιάλια και τηλεσκόπια καθώς και ακουστική παρατήρηση με αναγνώριση ήχων των πουλιών.
- Περιβαλλοντικά παιχνίδια και δραστηριότητες.





**The European Bird Day
was the first global event organized by
BirdLife International
for first time on October 9-10, 1993 in more
than 100 countries
and takes place every year on the first
weekend of October.**

As part of activities to celebrate the Day, students were given the opportunity to be informed about the basic characteristics of birds, their migratory practice and its importance as well as about the migratory birds that can be found in the area, to watch the construction of a bird feeder for placement at school, to cross a part of the hiking trail Ski Center - Kalavryta, to bird-watch using binoculars and telescopes and to participate in experiential activities and environmental games by activating their senses.

All actions were embraced by students and teachers who accompanied them as it gave them the opportunity to come closer to nature, learn useful information about their area, and reflect on possible problems facing the migratory birds and the environment in general.



EU funding programmes

Integration of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body in the Operational Programme «Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development 2014 - 2020», in the Act “Funding of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body for management actions for protected areas, species and habitats”.



ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
Υποδομές Μεταφορών, Περιβάλλον και
Αειφόρος Ανάπτυξη

Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body integrated in the Operational Programme «Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development 2014 - 2020», in the Act “Funding of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body for management actions for protected areas, species and habitats”, with total budget 921.130,00 €.

The physical object of the act is related with the funding of management actions aimed at protecting and preserving the biodiversity of the Chelmos - Vouraikos Management Body, according to Law 4519/2018.

The funded actions aim at:

a). improving the conservation status of habitat and species included in Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC, whose conservation status is unsatisfactory or poor or of a satisfactory or of an unknown degree and in need of repeated management or protection,

b). environmental awareness and raising of the local community, local stakeholders and the public visiting the area on biodiversity issues, and

c). networking of Management Bodies of Protected Areas each other for the purpose of cooperation, exchange of know-how, experience and good practice, through the simultaneous training of staff by experts in the field of biodiversity conservation.

The physical object of the Act conforms with the actions of the Specific Objective 32 (Reducing Biodiversity Loss and Degradation of Ecosystem Functions) of the investment priority Giii of the Priority Axis 14 of the Operational Programme, promoting the implementation of Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and on the conservation of wild birds.

Management actions to be implemented are:

1. Promotion of the actions of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body in the context of the Operational Programme "Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development" (OP TIESD).
2. Support the participation of the Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body in the European Geoparks Network and Global Geoparks Network.
3. Action of scientific documentation and development of know-how related to the implementation of the National and European Strategy on Biodiversity and Organization and Support of Workshops.
4. Scientific support for the identification of micro-reserves of important species of flora in the area of responsibility of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body.
5. Planning for fire protection of habitats in the Protected area of Vouraikos River.
6. Evaluation of carrying capacity of Vouraikos River Gorge.
7. Recording the pressures in the area of responsibility of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body for the protection and sustainable management of aromatic and medicinal plants.
8. Assessment of the status of ecosystems in the area of responsibility of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body.

9. Investigation of the implementation of conservation measures about endemic fish species in Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park.
10. Study for the recovery of broadleaf forests from coppice to high-forests.
11. Establishment of plant micro-reserves.
12. Reintroduction of the local endemic plant species *Silene conglomeratica*.

The implementation of management actions will contribute positively to the natural richness of the region and thus to its ecotourism development. After all, the ecotourism development of each region strengthens its economy without creating problems to the sustainable management of the environment.

Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos throughout the implementation of the project and until its completion, on December 31, 2023 will inform the public in detail through meetings and workshops.



ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
Υποδομές Μεταφορών, Περιβάλλον και
Αειφόρος Ανάπτυξη

Integration of the Operation “Support to services and infrastructures of Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark” in CLLD/LEADER 2014-2020

Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body, following the call of the local action group (LAG) DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF ACHAIA S.A. for the submission of applications, integrated the Operation entitled “SUPPORT TO SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURES OF CHELMOS-VOURAIKOS UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK” in Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020, Measure 19: “Support for LEADER local development”, Sub-measure 19.2: “LEADER support for the implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy”, Action 19.2.4: Basic services and village renewal in rural areas, Sub-action 19.2.4.3: “Support for investment in public services and infrastructures of leisure and redevelopment of spaces within settlements, tourist information and small-scale tourist infrastructures (e.g. public spaces, promotion of areas, cycling routes)”, with the total budget of 130.000,00 €.

The Operation is co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The Action will be implemented in the following Subprojects:

1. Development of Geological Mapping of Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark,
2. Production of printed and digital information material for Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark and
3. Signage of Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark.

The purpose of marking the Geotopes and giving prominence to the Geo-trails is to inform, educate (welcome and information signs), and orient (direction signs), creating the required feeling of security for the visitor and giving him the opportunity to plan its course.

Through the implementation of the project it will be possible to give prominence to the geo-trails throughout the Geopark, which will promote the alternative forms of tourism in the area, through the combined promotion of geodiversity and biodiversity, as well as the promotion of sites with archaeological, religious, historical and cultural interest.

Signage with welcome, information and direction signs is required for promoting Geotopes of Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark, which have a unique geological history and they are unique landscapes and sites of cultural heritage and tourism interest.





Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark

«Evaluation of Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark on 22nd to 26th July 2019»



Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park, which is integrated into UNESCO Global Geoparks since 2015, was successfully evaluated by UNESCO certified evaluators, on the week of July 22-26, 2019 receiving a green card and staying on the network for the next 4 years, until the next evaluation.



On the first day, Monday, July 22 in the afternoon, at Paleologina's Mansion an open event was held to welcome UNESCO assessors, with presentations of all the activities of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body for the protection and promotion of the Chelmos- Vouraikos National Park and the UNESCO Global Geopark, for the period from the previous evaluation, in 2015, to the present, headed by the President of the Management Body, Mr. Gregoris Iatrou, Emeritus Professor of the Department of Biology, University of Patras.



In the following days, guided tours were held within the Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park and Geopark and meetings with representatives of the production agencies and services of the area, who are also partners of the Geopark, with the common aim of protecting, promoting and recognizing the area due to its unique Geodiversity and Biodiversity.

The protected area includes **40 important Geotopes** and 10 of them belong to the GeoPoints of National Importance (the geotopes in Vouraikos Gorge, Cave of the Lakes, Mega Spilaio), ie geological areas of particular scientific, aesthetic, educational value but also archaeological, ecological, historical or cultural interest.

Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark

covers an area of 647 km² and the largest part of it is in the Region of Western Greece. It presents a unique geological history and it hosts very important biodiversity, unique landscapes, cultural heritage sites and excellent scientific, educational and tourist infrastructure such as the Cave of the Lakes, the Aroanios River Springs in Planitero, the Vouraikos Gorge with its unique Odontotos rack railway Diakofto - Kalavrita, Tsivlou Lake, Doxa Lake, the facilities of the Environmental Center of Klitoria - Akrata in Klitoria, the facilities of the Ski Center, the Aristarchos Telescope etc.



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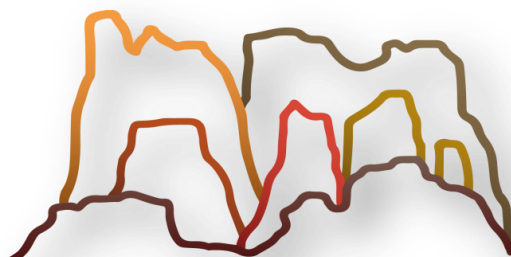


• UNESCO
• Global
• Geoparks



Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark participates in the 44th European Geoparks Network Meeting & the 15th Conference of the European Geoparks Network in Spain

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 44th European Geoparks Network Meeting and the 15th Conference of the European Geoparks Network, that took place in Cazalla de la Sierra (Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark) in Spain, on September 23-27, 2019.



15th Conference EUROPEAN GEOPARKS

EGN Coordination Committee Meeting

Natural Park Sierra Norte de Sevilla
UNESCO Global Geopark

September 23rd - 27th, 2019

Seville - Andalusia - Spain



The meeting was attended by representatives of 73 European Geoparks. In Greece there are 5 areas (Lesvos, Psiloritis, Chelmos-Vouraikos, Vikos-Aoos, Sitia), as well as the Geopark of Cyprus (Troodos), which belong to the European Geoparks Network and as UNESCO Global Geoparks they are also UNESCO World Heritage Sites. At the meeting discussed issues common to all members of the Network, including proposals for transnational partnerships with funding projects and activities in the Geopark regions by European Programmes.

Excellent organization, impeccable hospitality, high level of presentations, announcements and presentations marked the 15th Conference of the European Geoparks Network in Spain.

Mr. Socrates Tsakos, Architect-Civil Engineer and External Partner of the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos, presented the new labelling of the Geotopes of Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global.

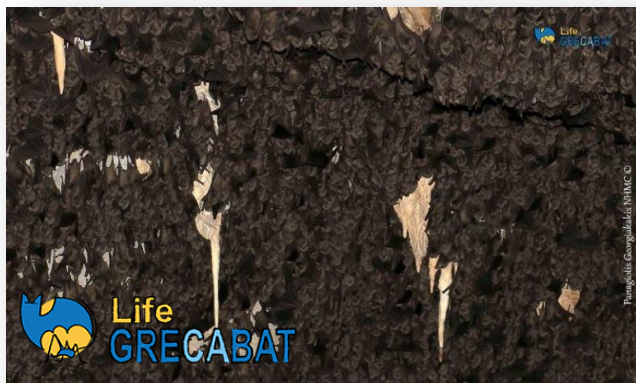
During the conference, we were given the opportunity to have meetings with colleagues from other Geoparks, to learn good practices and information about the management their Geoparks and learn how we can use all of this experience that has been developed in the Global Geoparks for a better presence of 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.

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.



Biodiversity in Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park



The largest colony of bats in Greece was discovered!

In the framework of the programme Life Grecabat, one of the most important winter colonies in Europe was recorded in the non-visitable part of the Cave of the Lakes in Kastria of Achaia, as it hosts more than 18,000 bent-wing bats (*Miniopterus schreibersi*) and 9 additional species in various seasons of the year. This record was made in collaboration with the Management of the Cave and Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body.

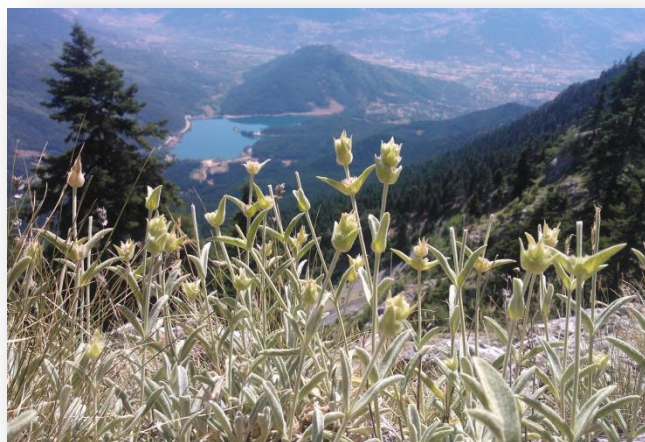
The project Life Grecabat implements conservation actions in 10 selected NATURA 2000 sites in Greece and also inform and train the involved stake-holders. It aims to improve the conservation status of 10 bat species (of Community interest, Annexes II-IV of Directive 92/43/EEC) and selected caves (Habitats Type 8310, Annex I to Directive 92/43/EEC), while is helping the survival of the unique cave fauna (dozens of endemic species of insects and other invertebrates live exclusively in one or more caves of Greece).

It is the first nationwide effort to manage, protect and promote bats, caves and cave life. It is intended to be an example of their integrated management at national level.

A treasure in our area!

The mountain ranges of Chelmos, Kyllini, Erymanthos and Panachaiko host the famous mountain tea *Sideritis clandestina* subsp. *peloponnesiaca*, an endemic plant in the Peloponnese. It is an intensely aromatic perennial grass with raised shoots that grows in rocky places at high altitudes. It has unique healing properties as it has proven anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and analgesic activity. It is said to have been named after the Greek word "iron" due to the healing action of the plant against wounds caused by iron weapons. According to another version it was named because it is a natural source of iron, since the beverages made from it contain a lot of iron. A third version states that the name derives from the shape of the flower, as the lanceolate calyx teeth look like a spear.

It should be noted that the uprooting and complete cutting of aromatic bee-pollinating plants such as mountain tea are prohibited, and they may only be collected free of charge and in limited quantities only during flowering and fruiting period and for personal use only.





Mavrolimni Lake (2050 m.), the only alpine lake in Peloponnese.

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NEWS letter

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