



## 9<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference

GEOPARKS:  
Learning from the Past –  
Building a Sustainable Future  
Celebrating 10 Years of Innovation

under the auspices of  
UNESCO

1-5 October 2010  
Lesvos, Greece

1<sup>st</sup> Circular

[www.europeangeoparks.org](http://www.europeangeoparks.org)

[www.petrifiedforest.gr](http://www.petrifiedforest.gr)

[www.lesvosmuseum.gr](http://www.lesvosmuseum.gr)

## Introduction

The past, the present and the future are equally important for Geoparks as they seek to recall the memory of the Earth and thereby support the communities that live there. In its tenth year of existence, the Geopark network has been developing this holistic approach to learning from the past and simultaneously building a sustainable future. Much has been achieved and the network continues to grow as more and more people become convinced that this is an approach that can address the needs of communities while protecting their natural environment.

In June 2000, four territories, the Reserve Geologique de Haute-Provence – France, Natural History Museum of Lesvos Petrified Forest – Greece, Geopark Gerolstein/Vulkaneifel - Germany and Maestrazgo Cultural Park - Spain, met together on the island of Lesvos and signed a convention which brought into being the European Geoparks Network. The network's aims are to protect geodiversity, to promote geological heritage to the general public as well as to support sustainable economic development of Geopark territories primarily through the development of geological tourism.

The network has drawn together territories from across Europe that share these aims and which are now working together in an active and dynamic way to achieve them. Frequent meetings, conferences and collaborations facilitate the sharing of information, expertise and the establishment of common tools for achieving the aims of the network. All members agree to the necessity of the improvement and enlargement of the network throughout Europe. At present, the network comprises 35 Geoparks from 13 European countries. The network owns the "European Geopark" trademark registered within all countries in the European Community.

In April 2001 UNESCO (Division of Earth Sciences) and the European Geoparks Network signed an Agreement for Cooperation placing the network under the auspices of the organization. Subsequently, the network signed an official declaration (the Madonie Declaration) in October 2005 according to which the EGN is recognized as the official branch of the UNESCO - Global Geoparks Network in Europe. With this declaration UNESCO recognize that the European Geoparks Network is a reference to follow for the creation of similar continental networks of Geoparks worldwide.

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Since the first annual meeting of the EGN in October 2000 in Molinos Maestrazgo, Spain, when the establishment of the EGN and membership procedure was announced, there have been seven more annual meetings throughout Europe with the meeting in Lesvos in September 2010 counting as the ninth such meeting. These meetings serve as a means to determine the steps involved in geotourism development, as well as future collaborations with other countries and institutions, and introduce new members into the expanding network. During the last 10 years the European Geoparks Network has worked on creating concrete results in a variety of fields.

A broad range of activities combines the main components for the operation of each Geopark, including scientific research, the creation of an inventory and map of geological sites, protection of the geological heritage operation of thematic museums

and interpretation centers, interpretation and promotion of geological sites, the conservation of fossils, the creation of parks for visitors, the establishment of a network of walking trails linking geological sites to ecotourism infrastructures, the development of environmental education programmes on geological sites, the organization of scientific and cultural events, and the promotion of monumental geological sites.

Geoparks also promote themselves as ideal destinations for educational activities. Geopark educational activities focus on young European citizens, aiming at the promotion of a common European geological heritage as a key factor for environmental understanding awareness raising for nature protection. The main target group for Geoparks are schoolchildren and university students. Ages ranged from 4 years upwards to university level and the interpretation and information material produced was tailored to the needs of each age group. The EGN has also established a range of promotional activities and tools

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## Members of the European Geoparks Network

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*Map showing the location of the 35 members of the European Geoparks Network as of September 2009. 1. Réserve Géologique de Haute - Provence–FRANCE, 2. Vulkaneifel European Geopark – GERMANY, 3. Petrified Forest of Lesvos – GREECE, 4. Maestrazgo Cultural Park – SPAIN, 5. Psiloritis Natural Park – GREECE, 6. Terra.Vita Naturpark – GERMANY, 7. Copper Coast Geopark–REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, 8. Marble Arch Caves GeoparkREPUBLIC OF IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND 9. Madonie Geopark –ITALY, 10. Rocca di Cerere Geopark – ITALY, 11. Naturpark Steirische Eisenwurzten – AUSTRIA, 12. Naturpark Bergstrasse Odenwald – GERMANY, 13. North Pennines AONB – England UK, 14. Park Naturel Régional du Luberon – FRANCE, 15. North West Highlands – Scotland UK, 16. Geopark Swabian Albs – GERMANY, 17. Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen– GERMANY, 18. Hateg Country Dinosaurs Geopark – ROMANIA, 19. Beigua Geopark – ITALY, 20. Fforest Fawr Geopark – Wales UK , 21. Bohemian Paradise Geopark – CZECH REPUBLIC, 22. Cabo de Gata – Nijar Natural Park – Andalucia – SPAIN, 23. Naturtejo Geopark – PORTUGAL, 24. Sierras Subbeticas Natural Park – Andalucia – SPAIN, 25. Sobrarbe Geopark – Aragon – SPAIN, 26. Gea Norvegica Geopark – NORWAY, 27. Sardenia Geominerario Park – ITALY, 28. Papuk Geopark – CROATIA, 29. Lochaber Geopark – Scotland UK, 30. English Riviera Geopark - England UK, 31. Adamello-Brenda Geopark – ITALY, 32. Geo Mon Geopark -Wales UK, 33. Arouca Geopark - PORTUGAL, 34. Shetland Geopark – Scotland UK 35. Helmos Vouraikos Geopark - GREECE*

## Global Geoparks Network

Following national and international initiatives and recommendations, such as the "International Declaration of the Rights of the Memories of the Earth" (Digne, France 1991), IGCP, IUGS, ProGeo, Malvern Group, and the Council of Europe, an international group of experts on Geoparks established by UNESCO's Division of Earth Sciences recommended the establishment of a "Global Network of National Geological Parks (Geoparks) seeking UNESCO's assistance" in order to promote the three goals of conserving a healthy environment, educating in Earth Sciences at large, and fostering sustainable economical local development.

In February 2004 the UNESCO international group of experts assembled in Paris where the following items were discussed and decided: a) the establishment of a Global UNESCO Network of Geoparks and b) the acceptance of the Operational Guidelines for application on the global Network.

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The protection and sustainable development of geological heritage and geodiversity through Geoparks initiatives, contributes to the objectives of Agenda 21, the Agenda of Science for Environment and Development into the twenty-first century adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and which was reconfirmed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 in Johannesburg. The Geoparks initiative adds a new dimension to the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by highlighting the potential for interaction between socio-economic and cultural development and conservation of the natural environment.

The Global Network of National Geoparks operates in close synergy with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) World Network of Biosphere Reserves, national and international undertakings and non-governmental organizations active in geological heritage conservation. For national Geoparks in Europe, UNESCO has established a privileged partnership with the *European Geoparks Network (EGN)* since 2001.

As a result, the EGN acts as the Global Geoparks Network for Europe. UNESCO recommends the creation of similar regional networks, reflecting local conditions, elsewhere in the world. Networking among Geoparks is an important component of the Global Network of National Geoparks. UNESCO encourages any form of cooperation especially in the fields of education, management, tourism, sustainable development, regional planning among network members.

## **HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN GEOPARKS CONFERENCES**

### **CREATION of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**3-5 June 2000 - Lesvos (Greece).**

During a ceremony organised in Mytilene the representatives of the four founding territories signed the convention defining the usage of the European Geopark label, its conditions and attributes and its constitutional charter.

### **1<sup>st</sup> CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**October 2000 - Maestrazgo Cultural Park- Molinos, Teruel, Spain**

During the first annual conference, organized in Molinos, Teruel, Spain, the establishment of the EGN was announced as well as the procedure to welcome new members into the network

### **2nd CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**October 2001 - Lesvos (Greece)**

The representatives of the twelve first territories received membership certificates.

### **3rd CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**October 2002 - Kamptal Geopark (Austria)**

Welcome of three new members. The EGN now has 15 members.

### **4th CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**October 2003 - Psiloritis Geopark (Greece)**

Welcome of two new members. The EGN now has 17 members.

### **5th CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**October 2004 - Madonie Geopark (Italy)**

Welcome of five new Geoparks. The EGN now consists of 22 members. Results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Revalidation procedure of the EGN members.

### **6th CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**October 2005 - Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark (Greece)**

Welcome of four new Geoparks. The EGN now has 25 members. Results of the 2nd Revalidation procedure of the EGN members.

### **7th CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**September 2007 - Northwest Highlands Geopark (Scotland UK)**

Welcome of four new Geoparks. The EGN grows to 32 members. Results of the 4th Revalidation procedure of the EGN members.

### **8th CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**September 2009 - Naturtejo Geopark (Portugal)**

Welcome of four new Geoparks. The EGN now has 35 members. Results of the 6th Revalidation procedure of the EGN members.

### **9th CONFERENCE of the EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

**September 2010 - Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark (Greece)**

# 9<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference

The 9<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference will be held on the Greek island of Lesbos for the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the European Geoparks Network.

Lesbos, located in the North Eastern Aegean sea, hosts the Lesbos Petrified Forest Geopark which is a founding member of the EGN.

The 9th European Geoparks Conference will comprise general sessions and thematic oral sessions with invited speakers as well as selected oral presentations and poster sessions related to the main objectives.

The 9th European Geoparks Conference will take place at the Municipal Theatre of Mytilene, the capital city of Lesbos.

## Organizers

The 9<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference will be organized by the Natural History Museum of the Lesbos Petrified Forest in cooperation with the University of the Aegean / Department of Geography.

### Aims:

- To exchange ideas on various issues related to geopark management, geo-promotion and geoconservation.
- To reflect on growth and achievements of the European Geoparks Network and to foster continuing innovations in the many geoparks across Europe as they work to address the interconnectedness of environmental and human needs.
- To develop new trends on geoconservation and sustainable management of geological heritage and abiotic nature

### Topics for Discussion:

1. Geoparks: Holistic Environmental Management
2. Research in Geoparks
3. Climate changes recorded in Geoparks
4. Best practices in Geoconservation
5. Humans and Earth: Cultural Landscapes
6. Geoparks and Environmental Education
7. Marketing Geoparks
8. Geoparks – Interpretation and Communication
9. Geoparks and Local Development

10. Geoparks and Nature tourism development (geotourism, ecotourism, adventure tourism, trekking, birdwatching, etc).
11. Aspiring Geoparks

### **Special Symposia**

1. Karstic Geoparks
2. Coastal Geoparks
3. Volcanic Geoparks
4. Ice Age Geoparks
5. Geoparks and Mining Heritage
6. Geoparks and Paleontological heritage

### **Place and date**

The 9<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference will be held in Lesvos, Greece  
from 1 – 4 October 2010

### **PROVISIONAL DATES FOR THE EGN MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE 2010**

Arrival of the EGN AC Members: 27 September (evening flights) or 28 September (morning flights).

Arrival of the EGN AC Members: 28 September

Distance between the Mytilene Airport and the village of Molyvos : 1 hour.

**28 September EGN AC Meeting (10.00-18.00) MOLYVOS**

**29-30 September 26th EGN CC Meeting MOLYVOS**

**1 – 3 October 9th EGN Conference MYTILENE – MUNICIPAL THEATRE**

**3 October UNESCO Geoparks Bureau MYTILENE – PREFECTURE**

**4 October Field trip Lesvos Petrified forest Geopark**

**1 – 5 October 4th Intensive Course MYTILENE - UNIVERSITY**

### DETAILED PROGRAMME

**Tuesday 28 September - MOLYVOS VILLAGE**

AC Meeting (10.00 – 18.00)

Arrival of the EGN CC Members

20.00 Dinner in Petra at a Traditional Tavern

**Wednesday 29 September – MOLYVOS VILLAGE**

9.00 – 17.00 EGN CC Meeting

19.00 Enjoying the sunset from the Molyvos volcanic dome

20.00 Cultural event at Molyvos castle

21.00 Dinner in Molyvos



### **Thursday 30 September - MOLYVOS VILLAGE**

9.00 – 14.00 EGN CC Meeting  
14.00 Lunch  
16.00 – 18.00 EGN CC Meeting  
Departure for Mytilene

### **Friday 1 October - MYTILENE – Municipal theatre**

9.00 – 18.00 Conference Sessions  
In Parallel – Geoparks Fair at the conference center.  
19.30 Official opening of the Conference – Municipal theatre  
21.30 Buffet Dinner with traditional music

### **Saturday 2 October - MYTILENE – Municipal theatre**

9.00 – 18.00 Conference Sessions  
9.00 - 14.00 GGN BUREAU meeting  
In Parallel – Geoparks Fair at the conference center.  
20.00 Opening of the Exhibition EARTH and ART in the Hamam  
21.00 Buffet Dinner with traditional music

### **Sunday 3 October - MYTILENE – Municipal theatre**

9.00 – 18.00 Conference Sessions  
9.00 - 18.00 GGN BUREAU meeting  
FREE EVENING

### **Monday 4 October – Field trip**

Visit to the Petrified Forest – Sigri – Eressos.

### **Tuesday 5 October – Field trip**

Kalloni wetlands – Agia Paraskevi (Messon temple, Museum of Industrial Olive Oil Production) – Molyvos.  
In Parallel – Intensive Course 2010 –Workshop

### **Registration – submission of papers**

Colleagues wishing to participate in the annual conference must fill in and return the registration form.

The title of the presentation and the abstract should be sent by June 1, 2010.

Full manuscripts must be submitted by August 1, 2010.

The proceedings volume will be compiled and distributed at the conference.

## **Conference Secretary**

All correspondence (registration forms, abstracts) should be addressed to:

Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest

8th November 17, Mytilene, Lesvos Isl.,

GR- 81100, GREECE

Fax Number: +30 22510 47033

e-mail: [europangeoparksconferencelesvos2010@hotmail.com](mailto:europangeoparksconferencelesvos2010@hotmail.com)

## **Registration Fee**

**Regular Registration: 200 €**

**Early Registration: 160 € (Before July 31)**

The fee includes the Abstract Book, promotional materials, coffee-break refreshments, ice-breaker dinner, European Geoparks Tourism Fair, airport and hotel transfers, field trips on Lesvos and guided visit to the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, opening and closing ceremonies and social events organized at the conference.

**Student Registration: 100 €**

**Early Student Registration: 70 € (Before July 31)**

The fee includes the Abstract Book, promotional materials, coffee-break refreshments, ice-breaker dinner, European Geoparks Tourism Fair, airport and hotel transfers, field trips on Lesvos and guided visit to the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, opening and closing ceremonies and social events organized at the conference.

## **About Lesvos**

Greece is a country of strong contrasts, where life is at once lively and relaxed and always personal, where the Greek penchant for spontaneous living is supported by endless days of sunshine. Friendly and curious, Greeks live in a beautiful country carpeted by olive groves and high mountains surrounded by the sea.

Lesvos, one of Greece's 1400 islands, is a thriving country unto itself, cast far off on the Aegean Sea and facing the Turkish coast. Visitors to this island, also known as Mytilene, will enjoy the many facets of Lesvian life which dates back to 10 A.D. For birdwatchers and hikers the island is a paradise of natural opportunities, for those who enjoy swimming, the many beaches offer scenic and creative relaxation, the archaeological remains will impress history buffs, and for others the ornate orthodox churches will stir the senses. The many cafes and taverns offer an excellent vantage point from which to observe the cheerful chaos of everyday life, and to taste the flavors of the local cuisine.

## Transportation

**Arrival by air:** Ulysses Elytis International Airport of Lesvos Island (airport code **MJT**) has several daily connections to Athens and Thessaloniki.

Charter flights from the UK, Germany and other countries can be also used.

Delegates are strongly recommended to book air travel as early as possible, since Greece is a busy tourist destination.

There is a regular public bus connection between the airport and the Mytilene city centre which is located 8 km to the north of the airport.

**Arrival by boat:** Ferries to Mytilene depart from the port of Piraeus in Athens (daily), Thessaloniki, Alexandroupolis and Kavala, as well as from Ayvalik in Turkey.

The village of Sigrí, the home of the Natural History Museum of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos, is located on the west side of Lesvos Island, 96 km from Mytilene.

**Climate :** The weather is usually mild in September, but it can occasionally be wet. Temperatures may reach well above 25° C. Sunny days with high humidity and perhaps cool nights should be expected.

## Useful addresses

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Some internet addresses that might be of use to participants:

Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest

<http://www.lesvosmuseum.gr>

Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark

<http://www.petrifiedforest.gr>

The Friends of the Lesvos Petrified Forest Association

<http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/filoi>

European Geoparks Network

<http://www.europeangeoparks.org>

# 4<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks Evaluating Earth Heritage Management

1-5 October 2010

The Geography Department of the University of the Aegean and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest invite you to participate in the intensive course on Evaluating Earth Heritage Management which will be held parallel to the 9<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference and will involve a variety of lectures, workshops and fieldtrips.

This intensive course is co-organized by the Global Geoparks Network, the European Geoparks Network and the Working Group "Geomorphosites" of the International Association of Geomorphology (IAG).

Please join us if you are a Geopark staff member with a university degree, a graduate student working on related topics involving Geoparks, geotourism, geosites, geomorphosites and landscapes, as well as to geoscientists interested in Geoparks. Please send us a completed application form, a short CV and one page abstract of your presentation (Geopark action plan, PhD or Masters project thesis) for the course.

**Registration Fee: 250 €**

**Early Registration: 200 € (Before July 31)**

The fee includes the 9<sup>th</sup> Geoparks Conference fee and lessons by international staff, the European Geoparks book, didactic material, course field trips and field trip meals.

**Accommodation and Meals: 300 €** (6 nights in a double room in a hotel and 2 meals daily).

## Contact and Information

Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark: [www.petrifiedforest.gr](http://www.petrifiedforest.gr)

Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest: [www.lesvosmuseum.gr](http://www.lesvosmuseum.gr)

Tel. Fax: +30 22510 47033

Email: [europangeoparksconferencelesvos2010@hotmail.com](mailto:europangeoparksconferencelesvos2010@hotmail.com)

## Definition of a European Geopark

1. A European Geopark is a territory which includes a particular geological heritage and a sustainable territorial development strategy supported by a European programme to promote development. It must have clearly defined boundaries and sufficient surface area for true territorial economic development. A European Geopark must comprise a certain number of geological sites of particular importance in terms of their scientific quality, rarity, aesthetic appeal or educational value. The majority of sites present on the territory of a European Geopark must be part of the geological heritage, but their interest may also be archaeological, ecological, historical or cultural.

2. The sites in European Geopark must be linked in a network and benefit from protection and management measures. The European Geopark must be managed by a clearly defined structure able to enforce protection, enhancement and sustainable development policies within its territory. No loss or destruction, directly or via sale, of the geological values of a European Geopark may be tolerated. In this respect European Geoparks are managed within the framework established by the Global Geoparks Network Charter (see below).

3. A European Geopark has an active role in the economic development of its territory through enhancement of a general image linked to the geological heritage and the development of Geotourism. A European Geopark has direct impact on the territory by influencing its inhabitants' living conditions and environment. The objective is to enable the inhabitants to re-appropriate the values of the territory's heritage and actively participate in the territory's cultural revitalization as a whole.

4. A European Geopark develops, experiments and enhances methods for preserving the geological heritage.

5. A European Geopark has also to support education on the environment, training and development of scientific research in the various disciplines of the Earth Sciences, enhancement of the natural environment and sustainable development policies.

6. A European Geopark must work within the European Geopark Network to further the network's construction and cohesion. It must work with local enterprises to promote and support the creation of new by-products linked with the geological heritage in a spirit of complementarity with the other European Geoparks Network members.

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