

Meeting of UNESCO's Global Geoparks Network Bureau



During the 9th European Geoparks Conference, the Global Geoparks Network Bureau met on the 3rd October, for the first time on the island of Lesbos, in the Senate Hall of the University of the Aegean, and, in a marathon session, it assessed application dossiers of aspired geoparks for their admission in the Global Geoparks Network. In the meeting, the 11-membered Bureau also discussed the guidelines for the operation and coordination of the Global Network for the following two years, aiming to protect and promote the world natural heritage. Assoc. Prof. N. Zouros, also Director of the NHMLPF, represented the European Geoparks Network within the international body of the GGN Bureau.

11 New Members of the Global Geoparks Network Vikos-Aoos: the 4th Greek Geopark

In the frames of the 9th European Geoparks Conference, a special celebratory event was held in the evening of the 3rd October at the Auditorium of the Geography Dept. of the University of the Aegean. During the event, the new members of UNESCO's Global Geoparks Network, following the meeting of the GGN Bureau, were officially announced. The Global Geoparks Network, created under the aegis of UNESCO in 2004, now comprises 77 Geoparks in 24 countries around the world! Specifically, the Bureau admitted in the GGN 11 new members in nine countries:

- Basque Coast Geopark, Italy
- Parco Nazionale del Cilento e Vallo di Diano, Italy
- Rokua Geopark, Finland
- Tuscan Mining Park, Italy
- Vikos – Aoos Geopark, Greece
- Stonwhammer Geopark, Canada
- Leye-Fengshan Geopark, People's Republic of China
- Ningde Geopark, People's Republic of China
- San'in Kaigan Geopark, Japan
- Jeju island Geopark, Republic of Korea
- Dong Van Karst Plateau Geopark, Vietnam

The special admission certificates were handed over to the delegates of the new GGN members by the representative of UNESCO Dr. M. Patzak and the co-ordinator of the European Geoparks Network, Assoc. Prof. N. Zouros.