

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Kula UNESCO Global Geopark, TURKEY, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:2013 / 2017



Fig 1:A group of teacher of earth science from all over the Turkey, visiting the Kula UNESCO Global Geopark within the scope of TUBITAK Nature Education Projects.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs (including two geoscientists):12

Number of visitors: 91000.

Number of Geopark events: Clarify the events held by management body and cooperative organization(30)

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:(40)

- Students from summer schools were trained on Geopark.
- Geopark trips were organized to primary school students from different schools.
- Seminars were given on the importance of geoparks in high schools and universities.

Number of Geopark press releases: (85)

Kula Geopark has been broadcasted 20 times in national and 65 times in local press.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2018-

- Kula Geopark boundaries were modified by less than 10% and an application was made to UGGpC for approval.
- The area of Kula Geopark has been extended from 930km² to 2300². Within the scope of this work, some new geosites were defined and included in the newly defined geopark area and a full extension dossier was prepared and UGGpC was applied to for validation.
- A partnership agreement was signed with **Turkish Geomorphology Association** and also with the **Turkish Geography Association** to promote and support all kind of scientific investigations and activities in Kula Geopark area.
- Within the scope of *TUBITAK Nature Education Projects*, an introductory seminar on geoparks was given to 30 students from the various universities and 30 teachers from public schools.
- 20 women belonging to the *Hanumeli women's Association* were trained on geo-tourism, geo product preparation, promotion and sales.
- Kula Geopark staff took part with and contributed to an **international earth science project** entitled "Pleistocene environments of the Gediz valley" led by Prof. Darrel Maddy, from Newcastle University-United Kingdom, undertook in the Geopark area.
- With the co-operation of Kula Geopark staff an **international earth science project** entitled "Temperate Mediterranean Badlands" led by Dr. Jeroen Schoorl from Wageningen University-Netherlands was successfully completed in the geopark area.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Four representatives from the Kula UNESCO Global Geopark participated in the 8th International UNESCO Global Geoparks Conference held in Italy.
- As Kula Geopark's coordinators, Prof. Tuncer DEMİR and Dr. Serdar AYTAÇ participated in seminars titled "Coordinators of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the International Intensive Course on Sustainability and Geo-Heritage Conservation" on Lesbos Island of Greece.
- Kula Geopark's representatives Dr. Serdar AYTAÇ and Yiğit Karakuzu attended the International Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks workshop held in Iran. (Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark).
- **A Sistership agreement was completed between the Kula Global Geopark (Turkey) and Conca de Tremp–Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain).**
- An article entitled "Cooperation agreement between Kula UNESCO Global Geopark (Turkey) and

Conca de Tremp – Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)" was published in GGN Newsletter 13.

- Within the scope of a Ruruitage project entitled "Madra Mountain Geotourism Geopark Project of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality" we made a stakeholder agreement with the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality.

Management and Financial Status

- The number of Geopark staff in 2017 was only 3 but has increased to 12 in 2018.
- The management plan of the Geopark was completed.
- Land was allocated by the state to build a new Geopark museum within the geopark area.
- Land was allocated by the state to build a new visitor centre in Adala-Salihli.
- The information and guidance panels within the Geopark area have been replaced.
- A Cell phone application was developed for use by geopark visitors.

Geoconservation

- In order to monitor geo-protection and to protect geosites, three new staff were employed.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- In order to develop sustainable tourism, partnership agreements have been made with businesses that are directly related to tourism (some hotels, restaurants and souvenir shops).
- In order to determine the tourism potential of Kula Geopark and the attitudes of tourism stakeholders about the geopark, an agreement was signed with Dr. Cemali Sarı from Akdeniz University, Geography Department.
- A project has been signed with Prof. Mustafa Ertürk from Akdeniz University, Geography Department to determine cultural and ecological awareness of the local people about the geopark.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Geopark tours were organized in order to introduce geoparks to the tour companies in the surrounding cities and districts.
- In order to raise their awareness on geopark issue, Geopark tours were organized for the tour and tourist guides who were working in the region.
- In order to raise their awareness of geopark, Geopark tours were organized for the tour and tourist guides who have been working in the region.
- A training seminar on geoparks and tourism was given to the tourism enterprises from the surrounding provinces.

- Partners of the Kula Global Geopark were trained on Geopark.
- Primary school students were trained on natural disasters.

Strategic partnership

- A partnership agreement was signed with Anemon hotels chain. According to this agreement, Kula Geopark will be promoted at 32 Anemon hotels throughout Turkey.

Promotional activities

- A documentary was produced to introduce Kula Geopark in national and international platforms.
- Kula Geopark was introduced in some national radio and television channels.

4. CONTACTS

Manager:

YiğitKarakuzu

yigitkarakuzu@gmail.com

Geologist:

Prof. Dr. Tuncer DEMİR

tuncerdemir20@hotmail.com,

Dr. AhmetSerdar AYTAC

aserdaraytac@yahoo.com