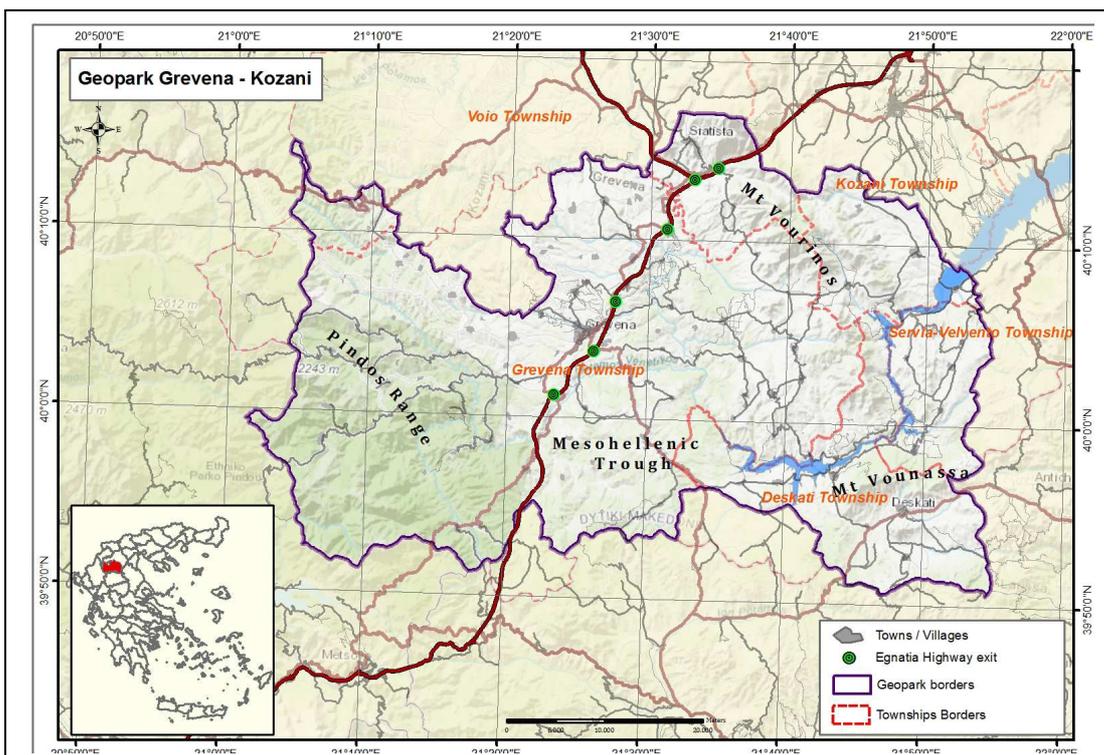


 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>	 <p>UNESCO Global Geoparks</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Geopark Grevena-Kozani</h3> <h2 style="margin: 0;">geographical and geological summary</h2>
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Standard UN Map with location of the region of Geopark Grevena-Kozani, GREECE.



MAP of the Geopark Grevena-Kozani, Greece, indicating its borders, towns and cities, township borders and major topographic features.



1. Physical and human geography- 1500 characters

The 2,486 km² area of *Geopark Grevena-Kozani, Greece*, straddles the 40th parallel between meridians east 21° - 22°; topography varies from 380 to 2300 m altitude. The terrain traverses (west to east) the high rugged mountains of the Pindos Range and their foothills, a broad Cenozoic peneplain, the Vourinos-Vounassa Mountain Range and Kamvounian Hills of the Pierian Range: this terrain is crossed by the Aliakmon River, the longest of Greece. Environmental zones vary from glaciated Alpine to mixed forests and Mediterranean; the complex topography has created numerous micro-climate areas, especially rare when combined with ultramafic soil chemistries. Human history is woven with that of the Geopark's geologic and geographic features: the concurrence of Neolithic sites with small copper deposits, of Hellenistic sites and hilltop fortresses, and trade routes and battle fields of Byzantine to modern times. Today's population, chiefly rural inhabitants of traditional villages and the small cities of Grevena, Deskati, and Siatista, is <35,000 with population density of <15/km² within the Region of West Macedonia. The region has the highest unemployment in Europe. The Egnatia National Highway, with 6 exits within the Geopark area, provides driving distances from Thessaloniki to the east and the Ionian port of Igoumenitsa on the west of <2 hours. In 2011, the area was granted the EDEN European Destinations of Excellence award.

2. Geological features and geology of international significance – 1500 characters

The plate tectonic history of the Tethyan Ocean, from its rift-zone birth to collision and destruction, is documented within the Geopark; the geologic-structural features of this history define the geomorphology and ecologic systems of this globally unique area. The oldest rocks of Greece (~1 bya) are found here; the rifting of "Pangaea" and birth of the Tethys and European tectonic plates is recorded within the rocky exposures of Mount Vounassa; the global geoheritage site of the Vourinos Ophiolite (~12 km thick Tethyan lithosphere) hosted pioneering research recognized as critical to the original development of plate tectonic theory; Mount Orliakas, itself formed as a reef within the remnant waters of the Cretaceous Tethys, is astride the ancient African-European collision zone. These ancient plate motions themselves fashioned structures controlling today's astonishing landscape, sculpted by recent glaciations. Deltaic rocks (~50 – 12 mya) from an ancient European river on a scale similar to that of the Nile Delta flood the northern territory of the Geopark. The Plio-Pleistocene history of the area is marked by four cataclysmic gorges and is provenance to some of the world's most important proboscidean fossils, including those with the world record longest tusks (at over 5 m). Among the youngest geologic features are paleosol formations dating from ~4 my to recent, deep colluvial deposits hosting Greece's only hoodoos, and globally rare occurrences of mature ultramafic soils.