

The Nisiopi Petrified Forest Marine Park:

A new geotourism attraction in Lesvos Global Geopark, Greece.

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Nisiopi islet (or Megalonisi) is located at the westernmost tip of Lesvos, 1.5 km west of the village of Sigri. In the northern part of the islet exists a great concentration of plant fossils. The Petrified Forest of Nisiopi is part of the wider Petrified Forest of Lesvos. It includes a large number of petrified logs belonging to the angiosperms and conifers. These logs can be found not only on the islet but also at the bottom of the sea surrounding the islet and constituting thus a spectacular geosite.

The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest has submitted a project proposal for funding under the NSRF 2007 – 2013 and specifically the Operational Programme "Crete & Aegean Islands" which was approved in 2011. Since then it is conducting a series of excavation, conservation and protection works as well as works for the improvement of the accessibility to the various geosites of the islet as the petrified tree trunks needed immediate protection and conservation and similar works have never been done before in that area.

The operation of Nisiopi Marine Park will contribute to the development of geotourism and the improvement of the economic and social development of the region through the creation of new jobs and will contribute to the protection and preservation of the natural environment. It will also provide a more complete view of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos, a unique protected natural monument.