

A big exhibition
for the most beautiful sea,
the creation of its islands and
its geological treasures
from the depths of geohistorical
time to this day

#### **CREDITS**

#### **ORGANIZATION**

Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest

#### **PARTNERS**

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – Museum of Geology and Paleontology

#### **CO-OPERATION**

University of The Aegean – Department of Geography Natural History Museum of Crete – University of Crete

#### SUPPORT

NOESIS - Science Centre and Technology Museum

#### **DESIGN - PRODUCTION**

**TETRAGON** 







### **GAIA MEMORIES**

The main thematic section presents the complex mosaic of the Greek islands and

tells the geological history of the Aegean area, born from the vast ocean of Tethys to form the unified landmass of mythical Aegaeis.

The islands and seas, the geological monuments and the diversity of landscapes, the water element, the emergence and submersion of land, together with impressive exhibits of geological formations and a 14-meter long petrified tree trunk are

this section's elements.

### FROM TETHYS TO AEGEAN

Visitors are initially informed, at the exhibition introduction, about the creation of the Aegean, then follow ten sections of island groups, each of whom is comprised of corresponding graphics and images, with a slideshow of the most important geological formations and locations shown on a 42" screen.

Exhibitis relative to the geological moniments of each island, the particular characteristics of rocks and ore that produce works of art and materials, enrich every section. In some of these, additional information is shown on 8" digital frames, as well as scenographic presentations with copies of art works and other exhibits.









# TO THE ISLANDS OF HEPHAESTUS AND POSEIDON

The geodynamic processes in the Aegean Sea, the volcanic and seismic activity defined the Archipelago with a process of huge volcanic eruptions and seismic events repeated many times through millions of years and continues even today. Thanks to this process we now enjoy some of the most beautiful Aegean islands, such as Santorini, Kos, Nisyros, Milos, Kimolos, Lesvos, Lemnos, Samothraki. The volcanic eruptions, chthonic powers, earthquakes, beyond destruction also gave us the gifts of heat like thermalism which man has enjoyed since ancient times.

In this section, today's active volcanoes in Greece are presented. Santorini, Nisyros, Milos and Methana each have their own presentation, with maps and photographic material, while Nisyros also has a documentary shown, with an hour's duration, on a 16" screen, as well as archive material from the Santorini eruption and other volcanoes presented on an exhibition screen. Samples of volcanic rocks are exchibited in this area as well as a miniature model of an active volcano.









## FORESTS 20,000,000 YEARS OLD

The impressive evolution of life in the Aegean, demonstrated through the wealth of plant and animal fossils that have been discovered, tells the exciting history of life and the ecosystems in the Aegean basin through the last 150 million years.

The wealth of the Aegean fossils includes the Lesvos Petrified Forest, fossils of mammals and also of early hominids. Images of contemporary trees, along with their corresponding petrified ancestral forms and reconstructions of animals among them, create an impressive setting for the visitor.

A large part of this section is taken over by a floor map of the Aegean, with displays containing fossils and rare rocks placed in a way that they correspond to the location they were discovered.

Another part of this section is dedicated to the petrified forest of Sigri, in Lesvos. This includes, apart from parts of fossilized trunks, roots and branches, the projection of an educational film about the underwater Nissiopi forest and the discovery and conservation of the petrified forest.

Part of this section is dedicated to the animals that lived in the Aegean area but have dissappeared. Life-shized shapes of prehistoric animals are shown here alongside their real fossils. The main exhibit is the spiral with the creation of life on the planet and the appearance of its species during millions of years. Correspondingly there is an interactive game, where children try to match shapes of prehistoric organism with the era in which they lived.

Finally, in this section, the presence of man in the Aegean is examined. Casts of hominid skulls and their tools are displayed in specially designed showcases.







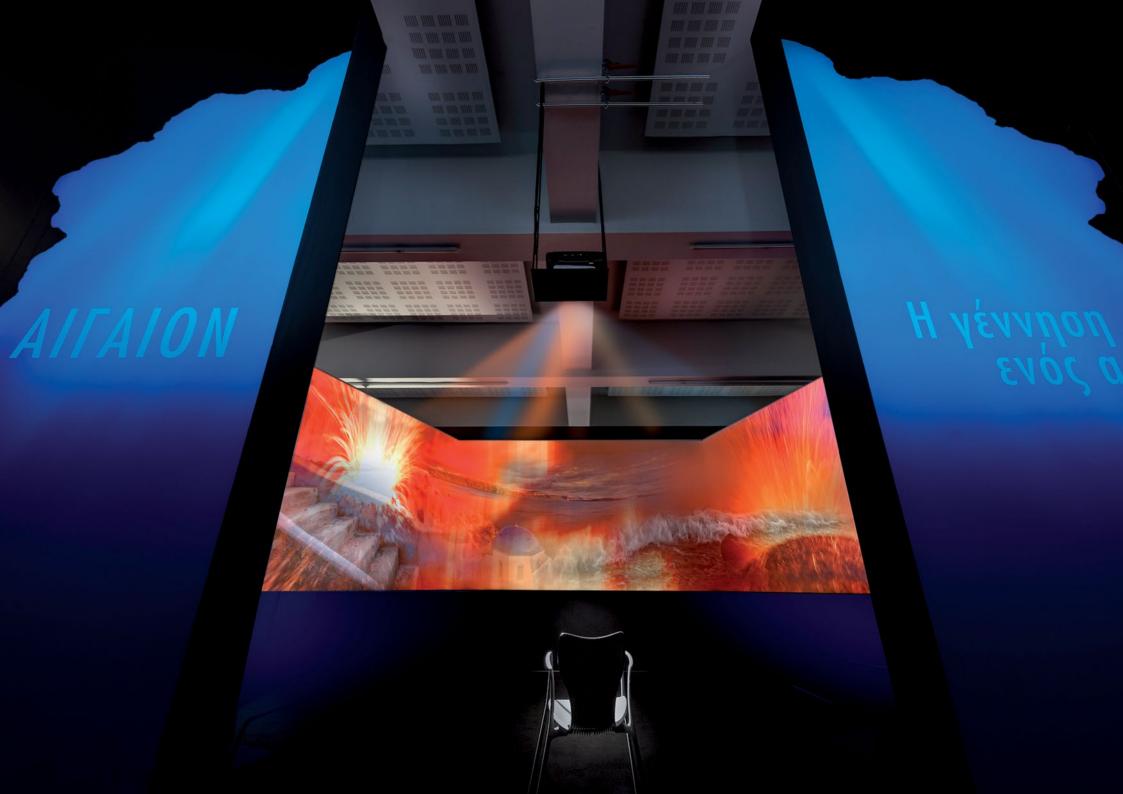


### **AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION**

An important part of the exhibition is the ten-minute long audiovisual production about the creations of the Aegean, from the dawn of geohistorical time to its contemporary form. Tectonic changes, volcanic eruptions, the eternal fight between fire and water and fossilization were the birthing processes that shaped the beauty of the Aegean Archipelago landscape and its inimitable civilization. The beauty of the Aegean was praised by many poets, from Homer to Elytis, whose excerpts are written on the big transparencies of the exhibition's first section.

The projection is done in a specially designed area with three continuous screens, providing for an impressive sight. There is a single screen projection option.





### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Unique fossils and a 12-metre petrified tree trunk on display, from the 20 million years old petrified forest in Lesvos!
- Triple-screen film footage for the Aegean and its Islands as they were captured in fascinating aerial photos by the celebrated photographer Giannis Giannelos.
- Floor graphics and display of the Aegean sea with real exhibits emerging from each corresponding location.
- Real specimens from "nature's gifts" like marble and opsidian, from which man created artifacts and tools.
- Impressive exhibits that showcase the relation between man and the processes that formed the Aegean sea.



### INTERACTIVE - MUSEOPAIDAGOGICAL

- Game of matching organisms with the geological time they lived.
- Eruption of a model volcano.
- Observing and recognizing volcanic rocks as well as fossilized plants.
- Educational tours, adapted to the age of each group of children.
- Educational CD-ROM for the creation of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and its plants, as well as the volcanoes and facts about the evolution of life on the planet.

Searching for the lost animals

Interactive exhibit and educational tool which uses augmented reality and aims at illustrating the natural history of the Aegean. The audience learns through discovery, scrolling through a book and interacting with an application projected on a screen.



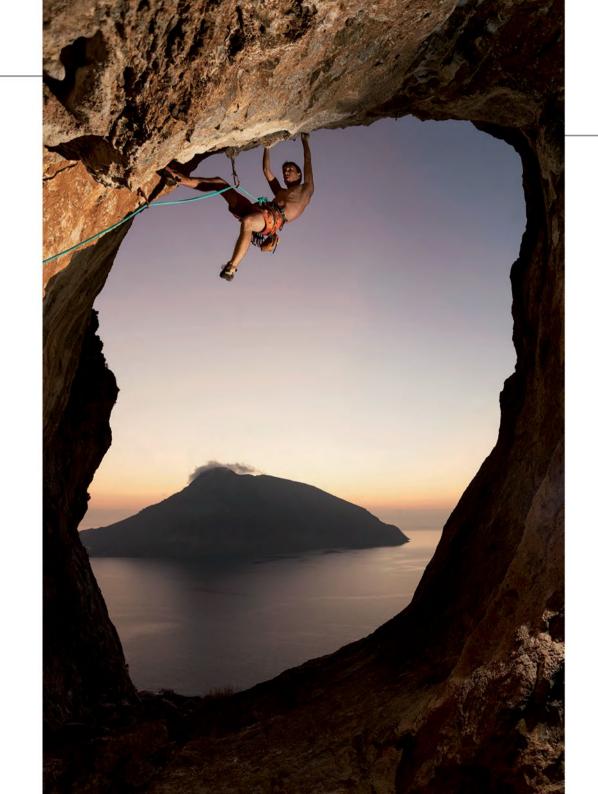




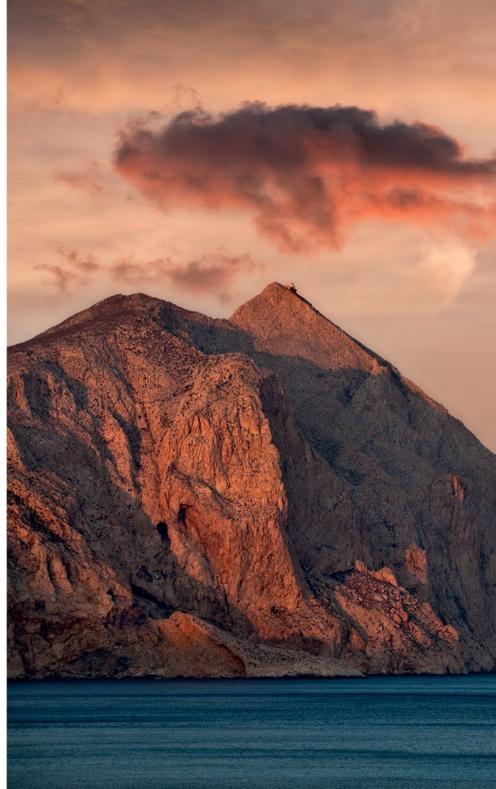
# THE ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN

The following sections of islands are presented in the exhibition, with their particular characteristics, their geomorphology, mythology, mineral wealth and products of earth and art.

- Lesvos Limnos
- Samothraki Halkidiki Thassos
- Chios Samos
- Paros Antiparos
- Tinos Naxos Amorgos
- Milos Kimolos
- Santorini
- Kos Nissyros Tilos
- Rhodes Patmos Kalymnos
- Crete







### **EXHIBITION OBJECTIVES**

- Promotion of the Aegean as a unified geohistorical, cultural, touristic entity.
- Promotion of the Aegean islands with their particular characteristics (geomorphological, cultural, mythological, products of art and everyday life).
- Showcasing another side of the Aegean, its geohistory and the evolution of life, in a contemporary and attractive way for the wider public.
- Extroversion promotion of the Aegean in an international level. The exhibition is designed to be able to travel to museums and cultural spaces abroad.
- Informational and educational role of the exhibition for young people and students in Greece and abroad.
- Promoting scientific data of the exhibition's gnostic subjects in Greece and abroad (paleontology, seismology, volcanology, mineralogy).

### **MEANS OF PROMOTION**

- Identity: the exhibition has a comprehensive identity for its promotion in all media and ways. Each element is designed and organized so that it follows the general concept of the exhibition and serves every particular function.
- Website and Facebook page
- Mass Media (press advertisement, radio and TV spots)
- Leaflets and posters, designed applications for banners, print ads and various other indirect actions.









# **HOSTING VENUES**

The exhibition has been hosted at the:

- Science Centre and Technology Museum NOESIS
- Eugenides Foundation







# **EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS**

- Availability: 3 6 months
- Space needed: 250 900 sq m (2,700 9,700 sq ft)
- Minimum necessary space height: 3.05 m (10 ft)
- Minimum set up time: one week

The exhibition comes with:

- Catalogue
- Souvenirs
- Seminars/Events
- Intellectual property and rights
- Training for guides
- Museopedagogical programms

## **AEGEOMORPHIA**

AEGEAN - Creation of an Archipelago can be complemented with the aesthetically impressive exhibition, "Aegeomorphia".

Aegeomorphia consists of fascinating black and white aerial photographs captured by the celebrated Greek photographer Giannis Giannelos.







ORGANISERS PARTNERS DESIGN PRODUCTION











#### **UNDER THE AUSPICES OF**







SUPPORT

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