

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2011/2019



Green card in our second revalidation

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 20 staffs including 3 geoscientists.

Number of visitors: the 2019 data count a total of 34.931 visitors considering the number of individuals visiting the tourist caves and our museums or visitor centres (entrances to the geoparks without tickets are so numerous that it is impossible to determine exact number but it can be estimated in about 850.000 visitors).

Number of Geopark events: 19 events held by Apuan Alps UGGp management body and 48 events held by partners

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: the total number school classes is 76, for a total of 1373 students

Number of Geopark press release: 45 press releases

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

Green card at the second revalidation. The revalidation mission took place in August carried out by Niina Atsuko (Japan) and Guohang Zhu (China)

“Along the Gothic Line...”: Geopark festival at Mosceta di Stazzema

"After the Flood": opening of the photo exhibition by Joakim Kocjancic as a further contribution of the Apuan Alps UGGp to the UN strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

Opening of the Kids Adventure Park in Equi Terme of Fivizzano

“Let’s feed of the Geopark”: cultural promotion of the intangible heritage in the specific field of traditional local food

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

Participation at the EGN meetings (Swabian Alp UGGp, Germany, and Sierra Norte de Sevilla UGGp, Spain) and at the 15th European Geoparks Conference (Sevilla, Spain)

Participation at the 2nd UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluators’ Seminar (Aalen, Germany)

EGN magazine, issue 16, “Way-marked trails along the Gothic Line in the Apuan Alps Geopark”

EGN newsletter 14/2019; “Experiencing the Geopark: understanding its thousand whispers in the Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark”

GGN newsletter 2019, issue 3, “New Geotrails discovering the Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy”

Management and Financial Status

The management structure is made up of several offices and services for a total of 20 people and the operating budget for 2019 totals € 1,843.000

New financial status leads to an easier management of the dynamics of spending with costs and assets optimization

Geoconservation

National and regional laws, European Union directives, territorial and sector planning, together with the Authority competences regarding projects and activities (often through Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment procedures) are the numerous existing instruments, which allow the Geopark Authority to establish the direct and secure monitoring of potential threats to the integrity of the environment and natural landscape, including the protection of the area’s geological heritage.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

Opening of two new paths along the Apuan Gothic Line (Moscaeta, Grottotondo): cultural, naturalistic and geological trails

Opening of a new paths “Geosites on the road”

Restoration of “Sentiero Nardini” path

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

Educational meetings in primary and secondary schools managed by the Geopark Guides

“Green weeks” in the Geopark for kids from 8 to 16 years (10 weeks for about 150 kids)

Celebration of the International day on disaster risk reduction to raise awareness, inform and prepare people for a more effective response during the extreme events.

"After the Flood": opening of the photo exhibition by Joakim Kocjancic about the “red zone” of the 1996 flood.

New warning signs on the reduction of the risk caused by hydrogeological hazard placed along the main trails.

Strategic partnership

New facilities recognized for their ecosustainable choices according the criteria of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Special partnerships with local cooperatives and association responsible for the management of Visitor Centres, Museums and Caves Systems.

Signing of Memorandum of understanding for the development of geological knowledge and enhancement of geodiversity of the Apuan Alps with the National Research Council

Promotional activities

New promotional leaflets on paths, geosites, geotrails and facilities

New information panels along several paths

4. CONTACTS

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