

DE HONDSRUG GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark,
(Netherlands, European Geoparks Network)

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

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 2,5 staffs including 1
geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Approximately 1 million people visited
the region

Number of Geopark events: 5

Number of school classes realize 12

Geopark educational programmes: 20

Number of Geopark press release: 15



Time line in the Hunzebos 3D project.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES 2019

Major achievements in 2010

1. Building a new museum about the theme 'Farmers on the Hondsrug', including an update of the museum and a new exhibition, to be completed February 2020
2. Hunenweg-Hondsrugpad – an attempt is being made to make the route a "Leading Quality Trail" of Europe (see Networking). The trail is set. Next year we will arrange the signposting.
3. The Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark had organized the big event "The Mystery of the Sleenerzand": an evening walk to the hunebed 'De Papeloze Kerk'. Along the way the participants encountered the 'builders of hunebedden', Witte Wiev'n, and a story teller.
4. In cooperation with The Hunebed Highway Business Club promotion of the Hondsrug Region. We succeeded to have four episodes about our region on the national television.
5. Research into the visibility of the landscape off the Hondsrug Region: **How can we improve**
6. Hunzebos 3D Project: Visualize and experience the rich history of the ice-age landscape around Exloo through play routes for children and grown-ups. Wit VR and attributes in the landscape visitor have a fantastic experience.

7. Craftsmen project: Strengthening the business operations of craftsmen in food and non-food with the aim of preserving and strengthening the number of craftsmen and artisans with expert knowledge in old and new trades.
8. Again 20 entrepreneurs of De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark have participated in a course to become an ambassador of the Geopark.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

9. Participation EGN meeting Swabian Alp March 2019
10. Participation ITB Berlin March 2019
11. Participation on the EGN Meeting in Sevilla September 2019.

Management and Financial Status

- No important changes.

Geoconservation

- We developed a system for monitoring the sites.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Hiking and biking are the main touristic activities in the region. Besides that we have the possibility to visit an area in an electric car. EKO Tours.

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

- We have developed a new program for workshops on primary schools. Every week we visit a school to give a workshop.

Strategic partnership

- We have an agreement between De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark and Natur UNESCO Geopark TERRA.vita, Germany and an agreement with the National Park Drentsche Aa.

Promotional activities

- Starting the production of a new film about the region
- New brochure
- Developing the Oertour. A tool to organize your own visit to the region.
- Several presentations for groups on the geology and cultural history of the region
- Promotion De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark by the Geopark Promotion Team at many events

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Cathrien Posthumus, c.posthumus@dehondsrug.nl

Geologist: G.roelfs@drenthe.nl, W.Sikkema@dehondsrug.nl