

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador, Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GEOLAC)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: April 17, 2019



Imbabura UGGp – Women of Zuleta, members of the Cubilche Work Team

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 20 staffs including 3 geoscientists

Number of visitors: 100.000 visitors to the Cotacachi - Cayapas National Park. The Tourism sector is being affected by the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Number of Geopark events:

- 4 team formation
- 3 training for guides
- 28 socializations in the field
- 32 webinar

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 8

- Geoeducation program with Los Alamos school.
- Geotourism program with the staff of the Imbabura Provincial Government.
- Vitual Congress “Te Vivo Imbabura”

Number of Geopark press release:

24 (local and national press releases)

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- 1st Congress “Te Vivo Imbabura”; from May 13 to June 10, 2020; developed over 9 days with 30 speakers and topics related to geoparks.



Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation.

Being part of the Global Geoparks Network – **GGN**; The Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network - **GeoLAC**, and the Ecuadorian Geoparks Committee enhances the articulation with local actors in the components, geoeducation, geotourism, geoconservation and positions the concepts to walk towards sustainable development strengthening local capacities and networking.

- Visit to Tungurahua Volcano geopark project and Napo - Sumaco geopark project
- Participation in Webinar with Nevado del Ruiz.
- Conversation with UNESCO, thematic: ***“IMBABURA GLOBAL GEOPARK, volcanoes, lagoons and cultures; seeking social and environmental resilience”***.
- Webinar “3rd Anniversary - Ecuadorian Geoparks Committee”.
- Participation in the Webinar organized by the Ruiz Volcano Geopark project of Colombia Topic: ***“Contributions to the Local Community and its Good Practices”***.
- Participation in the Quarantine Webinar with Geosciences, Global Geoparks Week.
- Participation in the Tourism Week Webinar organized by the Geopark Project in Brazil, online.
- We participate and coordinate actions for the activity of the III Meeting of Geoparks of Ecuador with the support of UNESCO Uruguay.
- Participation in the ***“UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience”*** webinar, organized by the International Geosciences Program UNESCO Regional Office.
- Participation in the Plenary meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Committee.
- Participation in the GeoLAC event ***“Public Policy for the Management of Protected Areas in Latin America and the Caribbean”***.
- Participation in the Webinar organized by GeoLAC ***“Role of Indigenous People”***
- Participation in the UNESCO Global Geopark workshop, virtual modality.

Management and Financial Status

- The Imbabura Provincial Government assigned a budget of USD 73,000 in the 2020 Annual Operational Plan; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this value was reduced to a minimum. To solve this problem, the "AMIGOS" campaign and the Management Committee, adding institutional capacities, are fundamental for strengthening the Imbabura UGGp, not necessarily providing financial resources.

Geoconservation

- Taking the Imbabura Geopark process as a management instrument, an inter-institutional collaboration framework was established between the Imbabura Provincial Government and rural parishes to promote collaborative work and strengthen geoeducation, geotourism and geoconservation components. As a result, working groups are formed in La Esperanza, Angochagua,

San Pablo, Apuela, Sigsipamba. This is the strategy to promote the strengthening of local capacities with criteria of sustainability and resilience. We have started with training events to share the concepts of global geoparks and field trips doing trail cleaning.

- Participation in Community “Mingas”.



Sustainable tourism



- Collection of information for the elaboration of interpretive panels of the trails.
- Training for tourist guides.
- Events for the promotion of geotourism integrating the education, tourism, environment and culture components.
- Tours of the Conrrayaro, Balzapamba, Taxopamba, La Plata waterfalls; to place safety implements and encourage geotourism with the sport of canyoning with experts, in coordination with the entities that make up the Imbabura Geopark Management Committee.

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

- Socialization of research results “A first reconstruction of the evolution of Cubilche Volcanic Complex, Imbabura Province, Ecuador”.
- Empowerment and socialization activities in the communities of El Abra, Angochagua, Buenos Aires, Intag.



Strategic partnership

The main strategy of Imbabura UGGp to promote collaborative work with local, national and international actors is the "Campaign AMIGOS de Geoparque Imbabura". By this means we put into practice the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 with a philosophy of networking, win - win, citizen participation and inclusiveness; respecting the role of each organization. Understanding SDG 17 makes it easier to meet, step by step, other SDGs related to the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Promotional activities

- Publication of posters on special dates and positive messages to mitigate the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Periodic meetings of the Imbabura Geopark Management Committee.
- Participation in cultural, sporting, tourist, environmental events.
- Interviews in local media and publications in social networks: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Website

4. CONTACTS

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