

Spanish Geopark Forum, Spain

Progress Report for GGN, 2020

Chair (Name and email): José María Barrera. jmbarrera@dip-caceres.es

Members (please list all UGG's followed by external partners involved in your Forum/Committee):

UGGps: Cabo de Gata UGGp, Sobrarbe - Pirineos UGGp, Sierras Subbéticas UGGp, Costa Vasca UGGp, Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UGGp, Catalunya Central UGGp, Sierra Norte de Sevilla UGGp, El Hierro UGGp, Molina Alto Tajo UGGp, Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo UGGp, Las Loras UGGp, Origenes UGGp, Montañas do Courel UGGp, Granada UGGp, Maestrazgo UGGp.

Individual members: Luis Alcalá, Pablo Rivas and Antonino Sanz.

Active Applications in your country (name, year of application submission):

Interested territories that you are advising:

In Spain, three new applicants have already sent their abstract to the National Committee. These are Cabo Ortegal; Valles de Cantabria and Costa Quebrada. Several members of different Spanish UGGp have participated in activities organized by these three territories. The candidates have an extraordinary geological heritage and could contribute to the rural development of the territories in which they are located. However, the Spanish UNESCO Commission has finally decided not to present any candidacy due to reasons of conception of the projects and essential formal questions.

Other Spanish territories that have shown interest and visited other Spanish UGGps: Campo de Calatrava (Castile-la Mancha) and Luarca (Asturies) visited Villuercas - Ibores Jara and Basque Coast UGGps.

Forum Activities:

Covid-19 pandemic has strongly affected Spain, both from the sanitary and economic point of view. Many face-to-face cultural, touristic, educational and outdoor leisure activities have been cancelled during this time and therefore the normal activity of our geoparks has been strongly affected. However, Spanish geoparks have kept on working to rise our profile up and consolidate our territories as sustainable tourism destinations and territories of resilience.

- Creation and presentation in Fitur (23/01/2020) of the new magazine "Discover Spanish Geoparks" with all the Spanish UGGp included.
 - Most of the institutional representatives of Spanish UGGp attended the presentation in Fitur. Prof. Nickolas Zouros, president of the GGN, took part in the presentation.

- A common press release was created and distributed by all Spanish UGG
- Joint celebration Earth day with a common style poster and a on line campaign
- Many geoparks have participated in the on line “Geolodia”, the most important geology dissemination activity in Spain.
- We have designed a common style Geoparks poster to EGN Week 2020.
- We have organized a common promotional campaign called **#RespiraGeoparques** (#BreathGeoparks). The aim of this campaign is to promote Spanish geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations. During 15 days, every geopark promoted the rest of the Spanish geoparks in a coordinated manner with a common calendar and a common hashtag and a poster. Many national organizations related to tourism and geology has shared our publications.
- Spanish Geoparks participated in the preparation of the "Guide of recommendations and guidelines to prevent contagion by COVID in Protected Natural Areas" promoted by the Institute for Spanish Tourism Quality (ICTE) of the Government of Spain.
- The Spanish forum had a virtual **meeting on 12th of June**. 27 members attended the meeting with many interesting discussions about our daily work and networking.
- The Spanish forum had a virtual **meeting on 16th of November** replacing the open days in Maestrazgo and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the creation of the EGN. 30 members attended the meeting where the new Forum Coordination team was agreed upon, consisting on:
 - Coordinator: José María Barrera. Villuercas Ibores Jara UGGp
 - Vice-coordinator: Karmah Salman. Las Loras UGGp
 - Secretary: Antonio García. Sierras Subbéticas UGGp
- The Spanish forum have a **new logo** for promotional activities thanks to a project carried out by Lanzarote and Archipiélago

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Chinijo UGGp:

- Spanish Forum has kept on working on social media during 2020:
 - Facebook fan page 5.531 followers (+1112 compared to 2019);
@GeoparquesUNESCO

- Twitter: 3.645 followers (+298 compared to 2019); @ComEspGeoParks 8.329 tweets.
- Website: geoparques.eu (to be rebuilt in 2021).