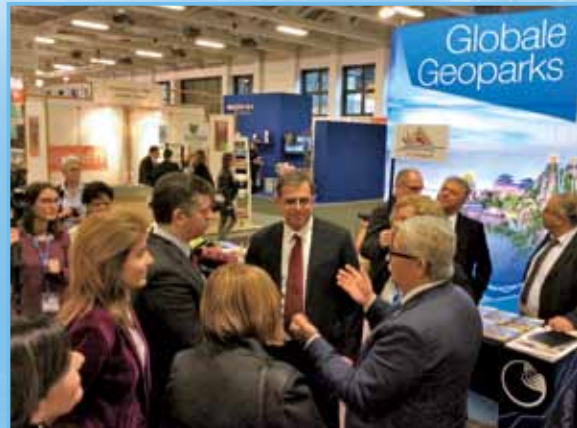




2018 ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER

The GGN stand promoting UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS in ITB Berlin



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◆ Inauguration of the 1st meeting of the GeoLAC Network

The Global Geoparks Network of Latin America and the Caribbean

—GeoLAC Network

—First Meeting Held in Comarca Minera, Mexico, January 2018

The Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, Hidalgo State, Mexico, hosted the First Meeting of the GeoLAC Network, a pioneering event celebrated from 22 to 25 January 2018 with the partnership of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM by its Spanish acronym) and the Secretariat of Tourism of Hidalgo.

The opening ceremony of the event took place in the city of Pachuca and was attended by the state's governor, Mr. Omar Fayad Meneses, as well as by representatives from UNESCO and GGN and by several universities, states and municipal authorities. Most academic and

networking activities, including open sessions, took place in the former mining town of Mineral del Chico, a picturesque village set in the lush heart of the El Chico National Park. In addition, discussions about geopark topics were conducted during field visits to geosites and mining towns across the Comarca Minera, with the participation of reputed specialists, local stakeholders and tourist guides. The main topics addressed in these activities were sustainable development, geoconservation, education and dissemination of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and the inclusion of communities in geopark



◆ Recognition to the promoters of the Mexican Geoparks by Hidalgo Governor



◆ Discussion groups for future GeoLAC planning

programs and actions. All of these aspects are fundamental for the consolidation of the GeoLAC in the Americas.

The main achievement of the meeting was the elaboration of the operation rules of the GeoLAC Network. In addition, the management chart of the network was constituted, with the coordination being in charge of Comarca Minera's scientific coordinator, Carles Canet Miquel, Earth Sciences senior researcher at UNAM.

Key participants of the meeting were Patrick Mc Keever, Executive Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme of UNESCO, Nickolas Zouros and Guy Martini, president and general secretary of the Global Geoparks Network, respectively, and Denise Gorfinkiel, from the Regional Office of Natural Sciences of UNESCO for Latin America and the Caribbean. Equally important was the presence of José Patrício Pereira Melo, coordinator of the Araripe Geopark and rector of the Universidade Regional do Cariri, Brazil, Diego Irazábal Tidemann coordinator of the Grutas del Palacio Geopark and Director of Promotion and Development of Flores, Uruguay, and José Luis Palacio Prieto, scientific coordinator of Mixteca Alta. In addition, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the two Canadian geoparks and of aspiring geoparks and geopark projects from Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia. Other enthusiastic working groups and related professionals to geoheritage and geotourism joined as well to this first meeting, totaling almost 200 attendants. We acknowledge all of them and recognize as well the amazing supportive work of our local geopark volunteers.

The GeoLAC Network

The GeoLAC Network was founded on May 26, 2017, in the Achoma District, Peru, with four founder UNESCO Global Geopark members: Araripe Geopark, State of Ceará, Brazil, declared in 2006; Grutas del Palacio Geopark, Flores Department, Uruguay, declared in 2013; and the two Mexican geoparks, Comarca Minera Hidalgo and Mixteca Alta Oaxaca, both declared on May 5th, 2017. This network is part of the Global Geoparks Network.

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◆ Field discussions about geoheritage at Comarca Minera geosites



◆ Group photograph at Peña del Cuervo geosite

The Global Geoparks Network Activities for the Promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in ITB Berlin 7–11 March 2018

GGN



◆ German Geoparks Press Conference

The Global Geoparks Network organized a variety of events to present and promote UNESCO Global Geoparks at the ITB Berlin 2018, the biggest tourism fair in the World.

The activities organized by the Global Geoparks Network and its Working Group on Tourism included international press conferences, a GGN stand operated by 20 UNESCO Global Geoparks, presentations for tourism professionals and important meetings with high profile politicians from many countries to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.

GGN PRESS CONFERENCE

The Global Geoparks Network organized with success at the ITB 2018 a Press Conference to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations. The

Press Conference was on March 6th, 2018 immediately after the official Press Conference of the ITB. At the GGN Press Conference participated 70 journalists from main German and International media.

The following presentations took place:

- Prof. Nickolas Zouros, GGN President:

“UNESCO Global Geoparks as Sustainable Destinations”

- Dr. Kristin Rangnes, GGN Treasurer:

“UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism Development”

- Dr. Marie-Luise Frey, GGN ExB:

“Collaboration of World Heritage Sites and Global Geoparks Network for Sustainable Tourism”

The Press Conference presentations covered the following topics:

- The Geopark concept
 - The UNESCO Global Geoparks
 - The Global Geoparks Network
 - Geoparks and sustainable tourism
 - The tourist products that Geoparks bring to the tourism market
- Geopark common projects
 - Geoparks networking, cooperation and twinning agreements
 - GGN Working Groups
 - UNESCO Global Geoparks and educational activities
 - 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2018 in Adamello – Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark
 - The Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 in Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark and other GGN capacity building activities

GEOPARKS STAND

The GGN booth at ITB (Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel - Responsible Tourism) presented the new UNESCO Global Geoparks label as well as the Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and the activities of the Global Geoparks Network - GGN, APGN and EGN!

20 Geoparks were present at the GEOPARKS booth with staff and promotional material presenting their geotourism offer. For the first time Geoparks from China (Funiushan) and Iran (Qeshm) were present in ITB – Geoparks stand together with 17 Geoparks from Europe and Messel Pit.

Several other Geoparks were present in ITB 2018 in association with their National/Regional Tourism Organizations or with Individual Stands.

The GGN Promotional Video produced by Haute Provence UNESCO Global Geopark team to promote Geoparks as innovative sustainable tourism destinations was playing at the Geoparks stand screen and at the GGN Press Conference! <https://youtu.be/f-UNKGShAHE>

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS PRESENTATION

The GGN presentation on "Global Geoparks Network and its activities to promote geotourism development and UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism



♦ Presentation of the Global Geoparks Network to the international tourism experts

destinations" took place on Wednesday 7th at 12.00, the best hour to attract professional visitors at ITB 2018, at the Main Stage, in ITB Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel - Responsible Tourism!

Many tourism professionals from several International and National organization were present and discussed with the GGN Representatives (World Tourism Organization, National Geographic, National Tourism Organizations, Regional administration, Local Authorities, tourism agencies).

GEOPARK COOPERATION PROJECTS

Geopark cooperation projects supported the promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks and new tourist offers commonly developed in their regions.

The partners of the INTERREG Geo-In project participated with stands at the GGN booth. On March 7th a presentation on the project was made at the main stage of the Hall 4. On March 9th a meeting of the partners of the INTERREG Geo-In project took place with the participation of 6 participants from 4 Geoparks from Greece and Cyprus.

Additionally on Friday 9th March 2018 at the GGN stand a meeting of the INTERREG Danube Geotour project took place with the participation of 6 partners!

GERMAN GEOPARKS PRESS CONFERENCE

The German UNESCO Global Geoparks organized a successful Press Conference on Thursday 8 March 2018 in ITB, with the presence of the President of the National UNESCO Commission of Germany, the representatives of the German UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum and the Authorities of Vulkaneifel and most of the German UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Andreas Schueller, Director of the Natur- und Geopark Vulkaneifel GmbH, was the coordinator of the Press Conference.

Speakers at the German Geoparks Press Conference:

1. Verena Metze-Mangold President of the German National UNESCO Commission,
2. Henning Zellmer, Representative of the section Geosites – Geoparks of the German Geological Society, presented the German UNESCO Global Geoparks.
3. Nickolas Zouros President of the Global Geoparks Network presented the activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks for sustainable development and the collaboration among geoparks through European projects.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

During the ITB 2018 GGN Representatives had

important meetings with Ministers and National Government officials as well as Regional and Local Authorities.

Portugal: The Minister of the Economy of Portugal visited on Wednesday the UNESCO Global Geoparks stand in ITB Berlin 2018 and was welcomed together with the Secretary of Tourism Ana Mendes Godinho by GGN representatives Nickolas Zouros and Kristin Rangnes and Armindo Jacinto president of Naturtejo Geopark. The discussion was very useful and productive. The contribution of Geoparks as tools for the local development of rural areas in Europe based on their territorial heritage protection, enhancement and promotion was the main topic of our discussion.

Spain: At the Andalucian stand in ITB Berlin the President of GGN N. Zouros had a meeting with the Minister of Tourism of Andalusia Francisco Javier Fernández and discussion about the promotion of the Andalucian UNESCO Global Geoparks : Cabo de Gata, Sierras Subbéticas and Sierra Norte de Sevilla, as sustainable tourism destinations.

GGN is supporting the activities of the Junta de Andalusia and especially the Ministries of Tourism and Environment and promotes through International publications the results of the recent conference organized



◆ GGN PRESS CONFERENCE



◆ The Minister of Economy of Portugal visiting the GGN stand



◆ Mrs Rosario Cordero, President of the Provincial Government of Caceres, Extremadura, Spain visiting the GGN stand

in Seville on Sustainable Tourism and Geoparks!

Mrs. Rosario Cordero, President of the Provincial Government of Caceres, Extremadura, Spain attended the GGN Press Conference and supported the operation of the GGN stand.

Kirgistan: The Minister of Tourism of Kingistan visited UNESCO Global Geoparks stand in ITB Berlin 2018 and discussed about the efforts to submit applications for the recognition of Geoparks.

Germany: At the Hessen stand in ITB Berlin N. Zouros, K. Rangnes and M-L Frey had a meeting with the Minister of Economy of Hessen Tarek Al-Wazir and discussed the role of Geoparks for the development of sustainable tourism and especially the efforts to protect the WHS of Messel which is included in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp.

Gunter Rosenke, Landrat of Euskirchen visited the UNESCO Global Geoparks stand in ITB Berlin 2018 and discussed the Global Geoparks activities on sustainable development.

Andreas Larem, the Mayor of Messel visited the UNESCO Global Geoparks stand in ITB Berlin 2018 and discussed with the GGN President N. Zouros and M-L Frey on the collaboration between European and Chinese Geoparks and the benefits for both regions.

GGN Representatives N. Zouros, K. Rangnes and M-L Frey were invited and participated at the Federal Parliament Tourism Committee meeting on March 8th.

Greece: The regional councilor of Tourism of North Aegean Region Mrs A. Sarantinou visited the UNESCO

Global Geoparks stand in ITB Berlin 2018 and discussed with the Lesvos Geopark representatives on the Geopark activities

Mr. Th. Paterakis Mayor of Sitia, in the Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark visited the UNESCO Global Geoparks stand in ITB Berlin 2018

Mr. G. Lazouras, Mayor of Kalavrita, in the Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark visited the UNESCO Global Geoparks stand in ITB Berlin 2018

RESULTS

Global Geoparks Network participation in ITB can be characterized successful and productive. The booth hosted 20 UNESCO Global Geoparks rotating in 8 individual geopark stands, was equipped with big screen for GGN promotional videos, a space for discussions and a variety of common materials to present UGG/GGN. (UGG/GGN maps, GGN brochures, UGG Brochures, GGN Newsletter, EGN Magazine, EGN Newsletter).

UNESCO Global Geoparks through the stand, press conference and presentations, got visibility and raise the interest of the tourism professionals during the ITB 2018.

A general impression from ITB 2018 is that Geoparks start to become more visible in the tourist market. UNESCO Global Geoparks use the opportunity of their presence in ITB to raise profile and visibility, to discuss with top European Politicians, to present themselves to the tourist market and to build new collaborations.

The Bridge over the Armorican Quartzite

Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UGGp, Spain & Naturtejo UGGp, Portugal

A Cross-border Geotourism cooperation project between Naturtejo (PT) and Villuercas-Ibores-Jara (ES) UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The Armorican Quartzite is a geological formation that is especially present in the landscape of the province of Cáceres (Spain) and in the Beira Baixa region (Portugal). It is visible at the top ridges of the mountain ranges that go from Penha Garcia to Guadalupe, drawing a line that join Naturtejo (Portugal) and Villuercas-Ibores-Jara (Spain) UNESCO Global Geoparks. This imaginary line constitute the Bridge over the Armorican Quartzite who is

solidly supported in important natural enclaves of high scenic value such as both geoparks, the Canchos de Ramiro and the sierras of Cañaverál (Natura 2000) and the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve.

The project is the result of the continued collaboration of both geoparks and their communities that have a large experience in cross-border cooperation projects. In the framework of the last one – REDTI, CBC PROGRAMME SPAIN-PORTUGAL 2007-2013 (POCTEP) also known as Interreg Spain-Portugal- the geoparks cooperation is included. The Bridge over the Armorican Quartzite is based on

several pillars of activities:

Tourist pillar - Promotion of the Route (the “bridge”) linked to the Armorican Quartzite mountains between Penha Garcia and Guadalupe. The bridge will take advantage of the existing trails thanks to the activities of Naturtejo, the local LEADER groups and the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark. Information and interpretative equipment will be created.

Promotional pillar - The promotion will be carried out on several channels and supports. On the web, on the pages of both geoparks as well as on their social networks. In paper format through the edition



The Armorican Quartzite Route potential for landscape touring

GGN Networking and Common Activities

of a promotional book and a tourist's guidebook in three different languages. In video with different formats for use in rooms, websites, events, etc. In specialized local and international fairs.

Educational pillar - both geoparks work tirelessly to integrate the knowledge of the territory in the classrooms. The project will serve to share their methodologies, design common didactic units that affect the Armorican Quartzite and carry out practical activities in formal and informal education.

Scientific pillar - The scientific teams of both geoparks will establish guidelines for the correct interpretation of the Bridge and will design lines of common work. For example, those referring to Paleozoic

paleontology.

International pillar - At a global level, the project will be disseminated in the Global Geoparks Network.

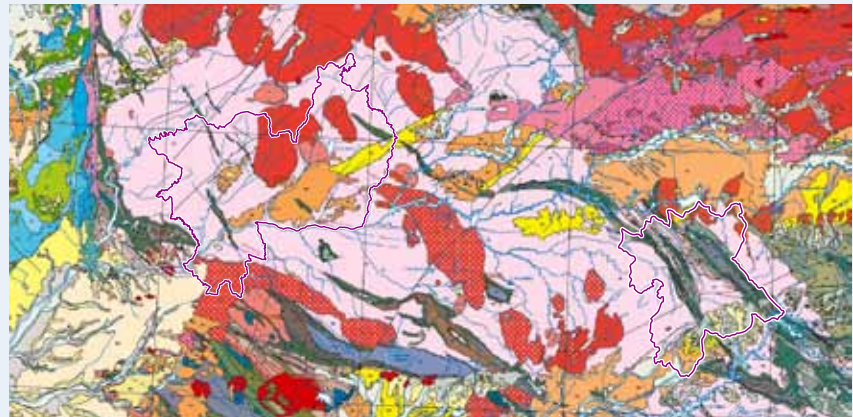
The connection with the International Appalachian Trail association will be an important asset in this matter.

José M^a Barrera

Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO
Global Geopark (Spain)

Carlos Neto de Carvalho

Naturtejo UNESCO Global
Geopark (Portugal)



♦ Part of the geological map of Iberia with the location of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal, on the left) and Villuercas UNESCO Global Geopark (Extremadura, Spain, on the right); the Variscan-folded Armorican Quartzite landforms connecting both geoparks are represented in dark green.

Interreg Danube GeoTour Project Meeting in Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark

Successful meeting in Romania from 12th – 15th February 2018



The Hateg UNESCO Global Geoparks in Romania had the chance to welcome the Danube GeoTour project partners. During the first days in the Hateg Geopark the partners had the possibility to be part of a joint GeoProduct training. Invited guest speakers from Romania and the Associated Strategic Partner Naturtejo Geopark from Portugal were giving interesting inputs for the development of GeoProducts. In addition, a field trip through the Hateg Geopark took place to discuss GeoInterpretation according to best practice examples. The project team would like to add many thanks to the organizers from Hateg including all their involved

GGN Networking and Common Activities

helpers and partners. The main project result will be a joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Geoparks regions and act as an innovative tourism product to accelerate visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks.

More information about the project and the organizers are available within the following links:
www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour

<http://en.unibuc.ro/>

<http://en.hateggeoparc.ro/>



◆ Greetings by Mr. Marcel Adrian Goia, the mayor of Hateg City and Mr. Viorel Demian, the vice mayor



◆ Field trip and GeoInterpretation at Hateg Geopark



◆ Visit of the Hateg Geopark Information Centre

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◆ Group Picture of the participants

Rhododendrons in Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark in April

Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp, China

With its terrain higher in the north and lower in the south, Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp located in Hubei, China, lying along the boundary of Henan and Anhui Province, covers a total area of 2625.54 square kilometers. Its unique location derives from the warm subtropical monsoon zone, which produces humid climate, abundant rain and obvious seasons, creating a region with dazzling biodiversity.

As proved by studies of paleontologists, the rhododendron originates in the transitional period between the Late Cretaceous

and the Paleogene when it had been distributed all over the North Hemisphere. The majority of paleontologists believe that the southwestern China, which replaced the central China as the most advantageous center of long geological history and predominant natural conditions since the Mesozoic, is the most likely origin area of rhododendron plants or the origin center of rhododendron.

Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp is one of the major concentrating areas of rhododendrons in China. In spring, Huanggang Dabieshan

UGGp is always covered with rhododendrons in full blossom. The Geopark has a large area of primeval forest where over 100 species of wildlife and over 1000 species of wild plants, especially the ancient rhododendrons group called as "the uniqueness of Central China" live. The Geopark boasts the world's most well preserved, concentrated and complete ancient rhododendrons group, with a gross area of over one hundred thousand mu. The average age of the rhododendrons trees in the Geopark is more than 100 years



photographed by Wang Zhan



◆ photographed by Qiu Dongxu

old. Of these trees, the largest single plant can reach 56 branches, of which the trunk diameter is from 6 to 10 centimeters and the crown diameter is 6 meters, covering an area of about 35 m². More than 60 international experts on rhododendrons has evaluated the rhododendrons group in Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp as the most well preserved, complete, concentrated, graceful, magnificent and the purest, largest rhododendrons group in the

world. Now going to Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp to see rhododendrons in April has become the best brand of rhododendrons watching in China. What's more, beautiful rhododendrons has added tremendous charming for magnificent Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp. So come on! Join us in enjoying the beauty of rhododendrons in Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp!



◆ Mascot of Huanggang Dabieshan Geoapr--Mr Moschus moschiferus

◆ Mascot of Huanggang Dabieshan Geoapr--Ms. Rhododendron



◆ photographed by Hua Ren

Drive to Grow a Fragile Economy around the Geopark Brand

North West Highlands UGGp, United Kingdom



→ Scottish Highlands fragile areas map

The yellow areas on this map show parts of the Scottish Highlands officially designated as fragile. The North West Highlands Geopark lies entirely within it, an area of some 2000 km² which is home to only 2500 people. Fragility is defined by distance from any urban area, with its hospitals, larger schools, retail and mainstream employment. Accordingly, the economy of our Geopark, with its stunning location, depends overwhelmingly on tourism. In common with so many other remote areas of Europe, fragility is accompanied by loss of young people and an ageing and declining population. The challenge is how to maintain our tourist economy, keep it sustainable, strengthen our communities and provide greater

opportunity for young people.

The North Coast 500 route delivers a higher volume of tourists than we have had before, though people doing the road trip do not stay very long in the Geopark. This of course does not fall within the UNESCO definition of sustainable tourism. So our challenge is to attract people to stay longer. There is not necessarily a conflict here, because industry experience shows that many people who visit any beautiful location briefly will probably want to return for a longer stay.

Visitor research over the last few years tells us people holiday here for a variety of reasons. Our geology of course, and the landscape as a whole. Outdoor activities attract them, for example walking, climbing, kayaking, fishing, wildlife watching.



◆ Ancient rock exposed by new road building

And let us not forget excellent local food and drink in high quality accommodation. None of this will come as a surprise to any fellow member of the Geoparks Network

A UNESCO Global Geopark is privileged to have access to a brand of unique quality. Over the coming year we will be working hard with businesses in the Geopark to build that brand, with the aim of becoming a destination of choice for those who do not yet know what a Geopark is. Our intention is to make sure that we are known, that people will understand what to expect when they arrive, and that their expectations of slow tourism are met.

We have decided to extend this year's highly successful October Geofestival to run throughout the 2018 tourist season, collaborating with partner businesses to promote a wide range of outdoor activities. We will be developing a Geofood network with quality producers, caterers and accommodation providers. And we will be supporting our many craft and art businesses with organized trails

to help them bring their work to market. All of this building on the opportunities offered by our incredible landscape and wonderful people. Why not come visit?

Graham Phillips

Business Development Officer

North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark

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◆ Geologist at Moine Thrust

(the wicked giant) awake from her sleep. Furious with disturbance made by Mat Chinchang and Mat Raya, Sang Gedembai cursed both of them into two stone mountains, namely Gunung Matchinchang (Matchinchang Mountain) and Gunung Raya (Raya Mountain). Matchinchang Mountain is the oldest rock formation (approximately 500 million years) in Malaysia known as Matchinchang Formation.

Kilim Karst Geoforest Park

Various caves with beautiful deposits and features can be easily found within this geoforest park area such as Gua Kelawar (Bats Cave), Gua Buaya (Crocodile Cave) and Gua Cherita (Cave of Legends). In Gua Cherita, old inscriptions can be found on the cave wall. Those old inscriptions are believed to consist of Quran verses. Besides, the famous legend of Merong Mahawangsa is associated with Gua Cherita. Back in 10th AD, in order to enforce alliance and mutual benefit, the great empires of Rome and China agreed to a marriage between their children. However, this decision was not favored by the Phoenix (mythical fire bird). The Phoenix tried to hide the Princess of Chinese Emperor at the isle of Langkawi. Meanwhile, the Roman Prince who were on his journey to China by sea voyage and assisted by his protector, Merong Mahawangsa, was attacked. Merong

Mahawangsa turned his arrow into Jentayu (mythical bird with rain power) to fight back on the Phoenix's persistent attack to the armada. However, Merong Mahawangsa was defeated and the prince was washed ashore. The beach was close to the place where the Princess is hidden, and the Prince was saved by the Princess' maids.

Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park

Tasik Dayang Bunting (Lake of Pregnant Maiden) is the biggest freshwater lake in Dayang Bunting Island. This lake is famous with a legend story about a husband and wife, (Mat Teja and Mambang Sari), who were longing for children after years of marriage. Mambang Sari was finally pregnant and she decided to stay at the lake. However, after seven days of giving birth, the baby didn't survive and was laid into the lake. It was said that the baby had turned into a white crocodile. Moreover, local people believe that barren women can be healed by the magical power of the lake with a drink of the lake water. .

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◆ Kilim Karst Geoforest Park



◆ Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park

Geoconservation Activities

in the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy):

the Paleontological Site in Sassello

Beigua UGGp, Italy



The Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark is located in Liguria, in the north-western part of Italy. It includes the Beigua Regional Nature Park and a broad zone linked to the nature park. The Beigua massif dominates the coast with summits widely over 100 meters of altitude and reaching 1287 meters above sea level with

the Beigua Mountain. The Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark is one of the most interesting areas in Liguria and it is important for understanding the geological history of Italy, especially the evolution of the Alps and the Apennines. The area has an extraordinary geodiversity and is of outstanding scientific value resulted in forming a large variety of landscapes and rich geomorphology. Inside the territory of the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark is located one geosite of particular interest from the point of view of fossil remains: Sassello-Maddalena. The well preserved fossil content of these site highlights the geological history of the territory, referring in particular to the transgressive depositional phases of the Tertiary Piedmont Basin (TPB) on the inner margin of the Ligurian Alps chain before the opening of the modern Ligurian Sea. The Maddalena succession starts with marine sediments, laying on the metapliolites of the Voltri Unit,



◆ Fossil corals on the ophiolitic substratum

Activities and Events

which testifies the early stage of the Oligocene (28 My) transgression of the TPB. This event is here characterized by the development of a small reef of corals and red algae (Corallinales). The reefal buildup is suffocated by coarse to medium grained silicoclastic sediments which exhibit a rich larger foraminifera assemblage (Nummulites and Lepidocyclinids). A new coral and red algae reefal settlement overlays these deposits that are, finally, overlain by mollusk-rich sandstones and pelites, linked to a deepening phase of the basin. The abundant, well preserved, in living position, large coral colonies are the most valuable element of this site. During Miocene the area underwent shallow and deep sea phases until the Messinian (7.2-5.3 My), when the deposition of evaporates closed the history of the TPB. Meanwhile, at the beginning of the Miocene the modern Ligurian Sea was opening southward, changing therefore the paleogeography of the entire area. The site, equipped with interpretative panels, is characterized by an easy accessibility, an excellent conservation status and exposure of fossil remains (coral colonies still in situ) and an easy reading of stratigraphic succession. These characteristics make it a perfect didactic geosite, but at the same time, very exposed to natural deterioration and thoughtless drawing of samples. A new project has been planned to guarantee the best condition of conservation and educational use. The project aims: 1) to identify bigger and better preserved coral colonies;



◆ The infrastructure project to protect the geosite



◆ Fossil corals: detail

2) to remove debris material; 3) to protect it with a transparent structure. This structure will be accompanied by essential data explanations. The Sassello-Maddalena geosite is already explained in the Geopark's Visitor Centre of Palazzo Gervino, a historical building in Sassello town centre, through a dedicated

exposition of some corals and multimedia material which allow visitors to retrace the geological evolution of the area.

Bonci Maria Cristina
Burlando Maurizio
Firpo Marco

New Year Volcanic Mountain Climbing Activity in Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark

Wudalianchi UGGp, China

As there is an old saying that climbing on volcanic mountain at the beginning of a year will bring good luck for the whole year, some locals of Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark and climbing enthusiasts climbed Laohei Volcanic Mountain on January 1st, 2018.

The competitors started from the parking lot of Laohei Volcanic Area and climbed along the footpath to the volcanic crater. The footpath is 3.9km long and the destination is at the altitude of 392m. The footpath is one of the best routes to appreciate volcanic mountains in winter.

In order to implement the national fitness program, Wudalianchi UGGp organizes a series of fitness activities including Hiking Competition, New Year Volcanic Mountain Climbing, Dragon Boat Race and International Marathon, etc, successfully setting up a good mode of combining tourism with sports.

◆ Participants of the New Year Volcanic Mountain Climbing Activity waiting at the starting point



◆ Participants at the parking lot of Laohei Volcanic Mountain



◆ Participants at the crater area of Laohei Volcanic Mountain





Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark Integrates the Project “Junto à Terra”

Terras de Cavaleiros UGGp, Portugal

From March 19 to 23 the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark will host another edition of the Project Together for the Earth.

This is a project powered by Electricity of Portugal - EDP, in partnership with 4 municipalities.

The initiative, made for the territory, in the territory and with the territory, takes place under the compensatory measures of the hydroelectric exploitation of Rio Sabor (Program for Sensitization and divulgation of the Natural patrimony of Rio Sabor) and its main objectives are to teach the students involved in the activities about the biodiversity and its importance for the human well-being; and to communicate, involve and value the natural patrimony (biodiversity) as a territorial development factor.

It is intended that each of the partners in this project create a

Biodiversity Workshop. "Minerals and Biodiversity" will be the workshop organized by Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark, and aims to offer these students the opportunity to enjoy authentic outdoors classes, providing them a holistic view on Natural and Cultural patrimony, in order to make them

understand the ecological relations between the different elements that surround them.

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Golden Snub-nosed Monkey eating food (Photo by Yao Hui)

Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark Replenishes Food for Wild Animals in Winter

Shennongjia UGGp, China

Since January 2018, Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark has been covered by thick snow. The wild animals living in the mountains above the altitude of 2,300m, which are represented by Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, found themselves in the predicament of food shortage. On February 11th, the management of Shennongjia UGGp placed abundant food including carrots, cabbage, apples, soybean, corn and peanuts



◆ Golden Snub-nosed Monkey eating peanuts (Photo by Yao Hui)

in the habitats of the wild animals to help them survive through the winter.

With rich biodiversity, Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark is the home of 4,358 invertebrate species including 4,318 insects, 591 vertebrates including 8 national Class I protected animal species such as Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, Musk Deer and Golden Eagle, and 76 national Class II protected animal species such as Blue-throated

Activities and Events

Sunbird and Golden Pheasant.

The flagship species Golden Snub-nosed Monkey is now with a small population of 1,300.

Due to its high average elevation, Shennongjia has a long winter, and the areas with altitudes over 2,000m in Shennongjia is covered by snow for 3 months annually, which causes tremendous difficulty for the wild animals to find food and many wild animals starve or freeze to death in winter. For many years Shennongjia UGGp has replenished food for wild animals in winters, with an accumulated expense of over 3 million Yuan. This effort results in a significant decrease of wild animals that starve or freeze to death. At the same time, the Geopark has reinforced field patrol and rescue and create favorable conditions for the growing and breeding of the local wild animals, realizing harmonious co-existence of human and the nature.

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◆ Golden Snub-nosed Monkey and Elaphodus Cephalophus (Photo by Yao Hui)



◆ Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys eating peanuts (Photo by Yao Hui)



◆ Food delivery for wild animals (Photo by Chen Yao)



◆ Placing food in habitat of wild animals (Photo by Chen Yao)



Geopark Hosts XVIII Holiday Cologne

Araripe UGGp, Brazil

During three days, 19 children from public and private schools in the Cariri region were able to have fun and learn about the Araripe Geopark in ludic activities developed at the XVIII Holiday Cologne that was held at the Center for Interpretation and Environmental Education (CIEA) on

22,23 and 24. The holiday cologne is an event proposed by the Environmental Education sector and coordinated by Professor Neuma Galvão. The children participated in interactive and fun activities, such as treasure hunting, painting of the Araripe Manakin bird, painting of plaster toys and

soccer. On the last day, the kids visited the Batateiras Geosite and Sítio Fundão State Park, during an ecological tour which is funny and with a lot of knowledge. The Holiday Cologne is held every year with open participation of children between 6 and 15 years of the Cariri region of Ceará.





◆ The winter camp participants (Photo by Lu Junfeng)

The First Session of Study Tour Winter Camp of 2018

Shennongjia UGGp, China

At the beginning of the winter vacation of 2018, Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark received a group of children from Guangzhou, who were the first participants of a 7-day study tour winter camp

program which enables children to have a close observation of animals and plants and a deep understanding of geology and local culture in Shennongjia.

As a place with multiple

international designations such as MAB Reserve, UNESCO Global Geopark, World Heritage and Ramsar site, Shennongjia is an ideal destination for study tour. Shennongjia was lifted from



◆ The Animal Day activity (Photo by Lu Junfeng)



◆ Painting the Golden Snub-nosed Monkey (Photo by Lu Junfeng)

the ocean during the Himalayan Orogeny and became the “Roof of Central China” with 6 peaks over 3,000m high. Because of its special geographical environment, Shennongjia was a shelter for animals and plants during the quaternary glaciations, and now it’s the habitat of many rare and endangered species. Its unique natural resources endow Shennongjia with advantages in respect of natural science education.

During the study tour, according to the topic of each day, children were given popular science lessons on animals, plants, geology and culture by researchers, managers, museum interpreters and intangible heritage inheritors of Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark.

The winter camp program not only gave the children an unforgettable tour, but also allows them to experience and learn more about Shennongjia’s unique geo-heritage, abundant plant and animal species as well as intangible heritage with fun.

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◆ The Plant Day Activity (Photo by Lu Junfeng)



◆ Painting the plants (Photo by Lu Junfeng)



◆ Learning Paper-cutting, an intangible heritage (Photo by Lu Junfeng)



◆ Painting on the rock (Photo by Lu Junfeng)



◆ The Geo-class (Photo by Lu Junfeng)

Danxiashan Nature Academy

Danxiashan UGGp, China

'Nature Academy' is a program to educate public especially the young generation to love nature and protect environment. Ministry of Environmental Protection of China developed this program in 2015 and Guangdong is the first province to promote this program. In December 2016, Danxiashan UGGp and other 16 organizations were selected as the first bunch of Nature Academies to be established.

Danxiashan, as a UNESCO Global Geopark, is the only organization with global-recognized excellence and conditions in the province in terms of environmental protection and education. Guangdong Environmental Protection Department (GEPD) funded Danxiashan to set up the Nature Academy and selected two Danxiashan volunteers to develop the school. To make the Academy sustainable, GEPD, Danxiashan and a NGO called Guangzhou Yuechengzhang Nature Academy, work together to design lectures and activities, train teachers, launch the pilot scheme and recruit students to run the academy. Danxiashan also offers technical support and training venues for the operation of the academy. The cooperation has been so successful and the academy is able to be economically sustainable after the first year of operation.

Introduction to the Danxiashan Nature Academy Construction

A. Facility and Construction

Danxiashan Nature Academy is the first pilot project implemented within the Chinese Geoparks Network. The Danxiashan Museum provides place which can

hold 1000 people. Five classrooms are available to accommodate different sizes of class of 300, 100, 60, 40 and 20 students. The different theme halls of the Geopark, including Earth Science, Danxia Landform, Ecology, Culture Halls, as well as the exhibition hall together with the outdoor open grounds are also ready for utilization. All rooms are equipped with multimedia soft and hardware facilities. There is also display of books about the Geopark and other UGGps which are available to students and the public.



B. Teachers

There are five levels of teachers in the Danxiashan Nature Academy, namely experts and scholars, geo-guides, popular science volunteers, nature instructors and teaching assistants. Experts and scholars have conducted professional guidance on science popularization activities on the basis of their research. The geo-guides are staff who have been engaged in science popularization education for years in Danxiashan.

Apart from teaching, they also help to design the courses respectively targeting at students and public from different backgrounds. Popular science volunteers are the backbone of the park. They brought about new ideas and vitality to the geopark. Nature instructors are geopark staff who directly operate the courses and organize the activities for the academy. Roles of teaching assistants include assisting nature instructors in all aspects of science education as well as acting as reserves when the instructors are absent. Two full-time staff have been hired named Yu Dongliang (male) and Luo Dongxiu (female) and two other young graduates from Shaoguan University are recruited to provide professional science course.

C. Course design

The Danxiashan Nature Academy has offered over 200 science popularization courses so far for all walks of life. These courses are designed according to the available natural resources of Danxiashan. These include geology, landscape, ecology, water bodies, astronomy, meteorology, local culture and religion. Language used in both teaching materials and in the field are in easy, understandable format to meet the needs of different ages, education backgrounds and learning abilities.

To prepare for a more attractive curriculum, we begin designing according to the syllabus of primary and secondary schools. Meanwhile, students' need of science curriculum and practicum out of the classroom is also considered. The courses encourage more students to



learn outdoor through understanding the natural and cultural resources of the Geopark through non-conventional teaching methods such as field-trips, experiments, group discussion for sharing knowledge and inspiring every student through the learning process. The courses target mainly at primary and secondary schools concerning subjects such as geography, biology, science, social studies and history. Ministry of Education of China has made attendance of outdoor learning in every school term compulsory for students of Grade 1-12 since 2018.

Danxiashan UGGp is one of the first 204 learning centers chosen to implement this new regulation.

News of science popular activities of Danxiashan Nature Academy

A. 2017 Danxiashan (native) science popular volunteers training camps

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/NeHAnuuOAloG-F2GyHg-tA>

B. Recruiting announcement of 2018 Danxiashan (native) science popular volunteers

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/uTJIQxZ5ufgfTkYFGBkDXA>

C. Recruiting announcement of science participant-er from Shaoguan Native People

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/tNAvYrnrIMrcjNMxTD9FA>

D. Danxiashan Science Course Open to Public

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/K5oujl3N2gelrctYZFbarg>

E. Water knows the answer

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/LS_KFUBmbqGAzwWUVR_hrQ

F. Children Painting Danxia Landform

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/PFdupFa011nBoxj_d0qEng

G. 'Magic insects'—Inspect in the night

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/zvDPAsTsP7g4PVZU5H6RXA>

H. Nature and Human-being-Plant a tree on Arbor Day

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/30b-XQU6gpbmnmrJx4Fcw>

I. Cognitive wild plants and animals

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/bL8ZEjXiGOyAnNK8OPY05Q>

J. Danxiashan Eco-tourism Planer Training

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/BN_XAZf3bVqpVHrsGglXVg

Travel around China with Geoscience Popularization

Geoparker, China

With the aim of promoting science popularization and natural education, 'Geoparker' represents a group of geopark popularization amateurs and experts from China University of Geosciences (Wuhan). With the mission of "strengthening the connection between human and

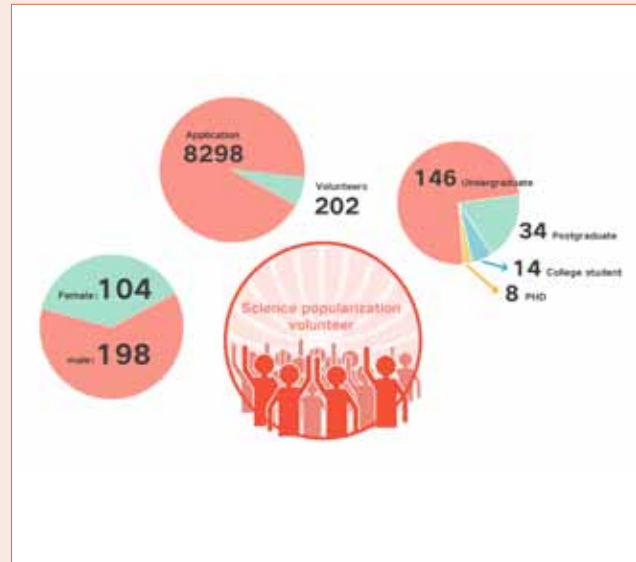
nature", Geoparker uses new internet technologies to bring together science popularization volunteers from all corners of the global to provide better science-based services to the geopark industry and promote sustainable development.



Geo-Education and Science Popularization

As a science volunteer service system, it is Geoparker's mission to cultivate a team for science popularization who follows, serves and disseminates geoparks for life. Science volunteer training camp, which was first jointly established by Danxiashan UGGp and Geoparker in 2014, is an important component of the service system. It was recognized by the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and was awarded "Outstanding Science Popularization Demonstration Activity Based on Geopark".

In 2017, in order to further enhance the visibility of geopark in the public view and deepen its popular brand image, the Geoparker created the brand "Geopark & Around China" as a "major science popularization activities". Through brand



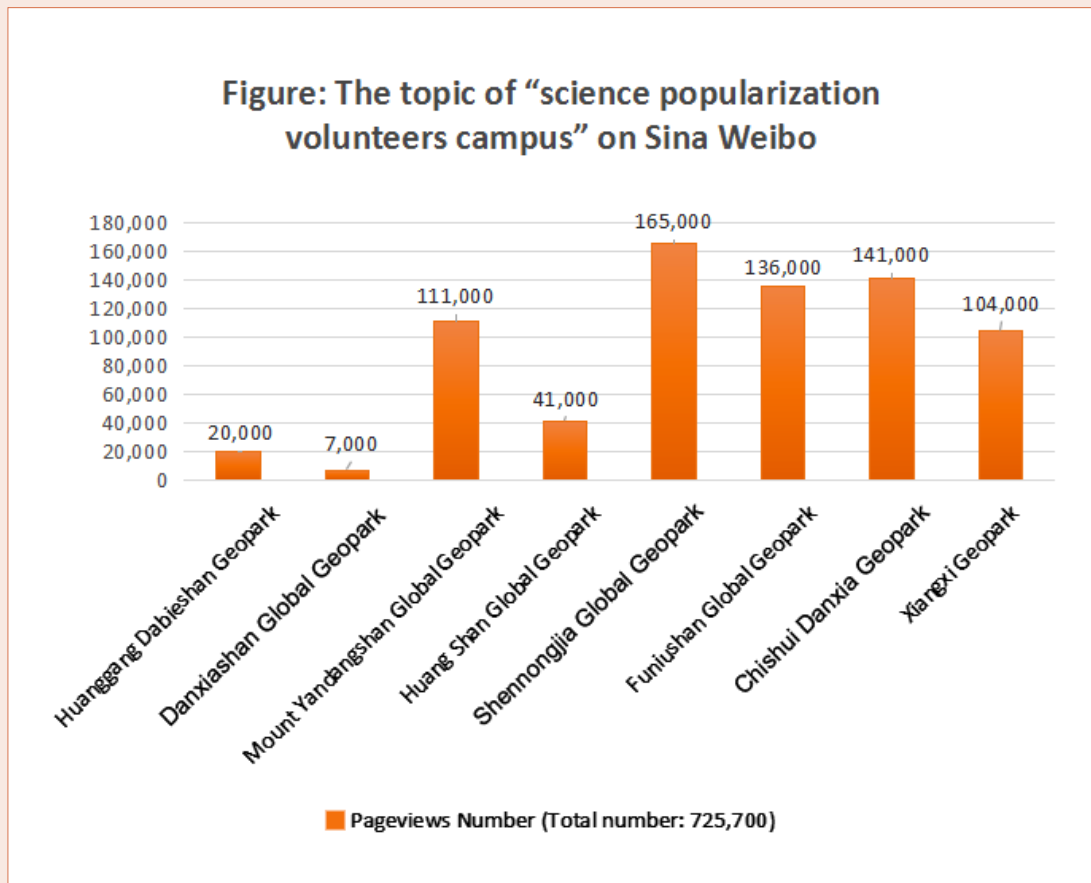
planning and media promotion, a total of 8,298 volunteer applications were received throughout the year. Finally, 202 science volunteer popularization applications were selected, covering 115 majors.

The topic "Geopark Science Popularization Volunteers Training Camp" at Sina Weibo (a major social media platform in China) has got 700000 hits. In all media platforms (including internet forums), reaches on this topic are up to 1.73 million. The Camp has played an important role in promoting geo-tourism industry in geoparks and in realizing the organic combination of "education and sustainable development".

At the end of 2017, the 'Geoparker' provided science volunteer recruitment, training and management services for a number of Geoparks, including DanXiashan, Yandangshan, Wangwushan-DaiMeishan, Leye-Fengshan, Luzhai, Dabieshan, Huangshan, Shennongjia, Funiushan, ChishuiDanxia and Xiangxi. It is said that: "A little spark kindles a great fire". Based on typical, diversity and irreplaceable geological heritage of geoparks, the science popularization volunteers advocate the knowledge of earth science and the idea of protecting the earth, and promote conservation through their own strength. They are effective assistants for science publicity in geoparks and the key "starting point" for science popularization.

In his New Year message of 2018, China's President



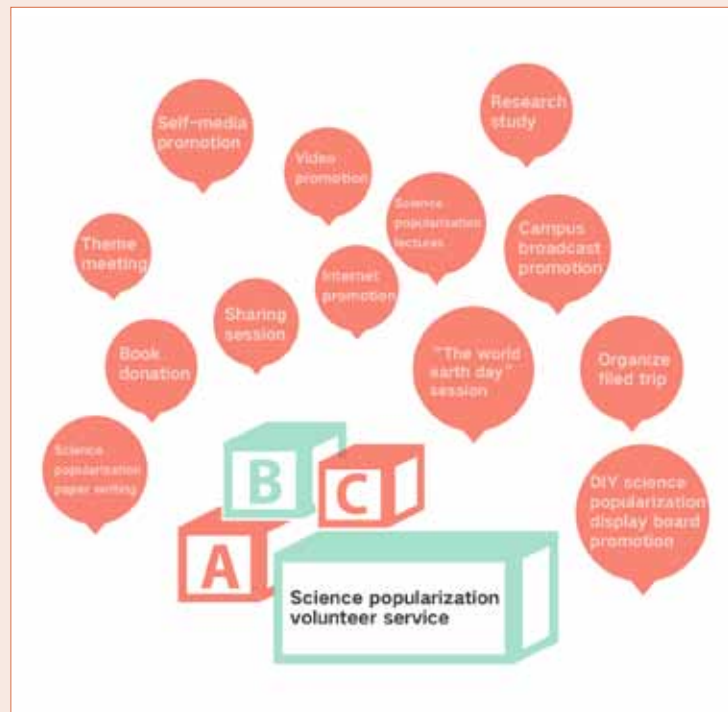


Xi Jinping mentioned that “happiness is achieved through hard work”. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and working together with Chinese Geoparks Network, Geoparker will continue to deepen science popularization, enhance public awareness of environmental protection while promote regional economic development in Geoparks, encourage more people to join in the volunteer group for the dissemination of scientific and aesthetic values of Geoparks, and finally safeguard our beautiful planet earth!

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Plácido Cidade Nuvens Paleontology Museum Reopened with More Interactive and Didactic Exhibitions

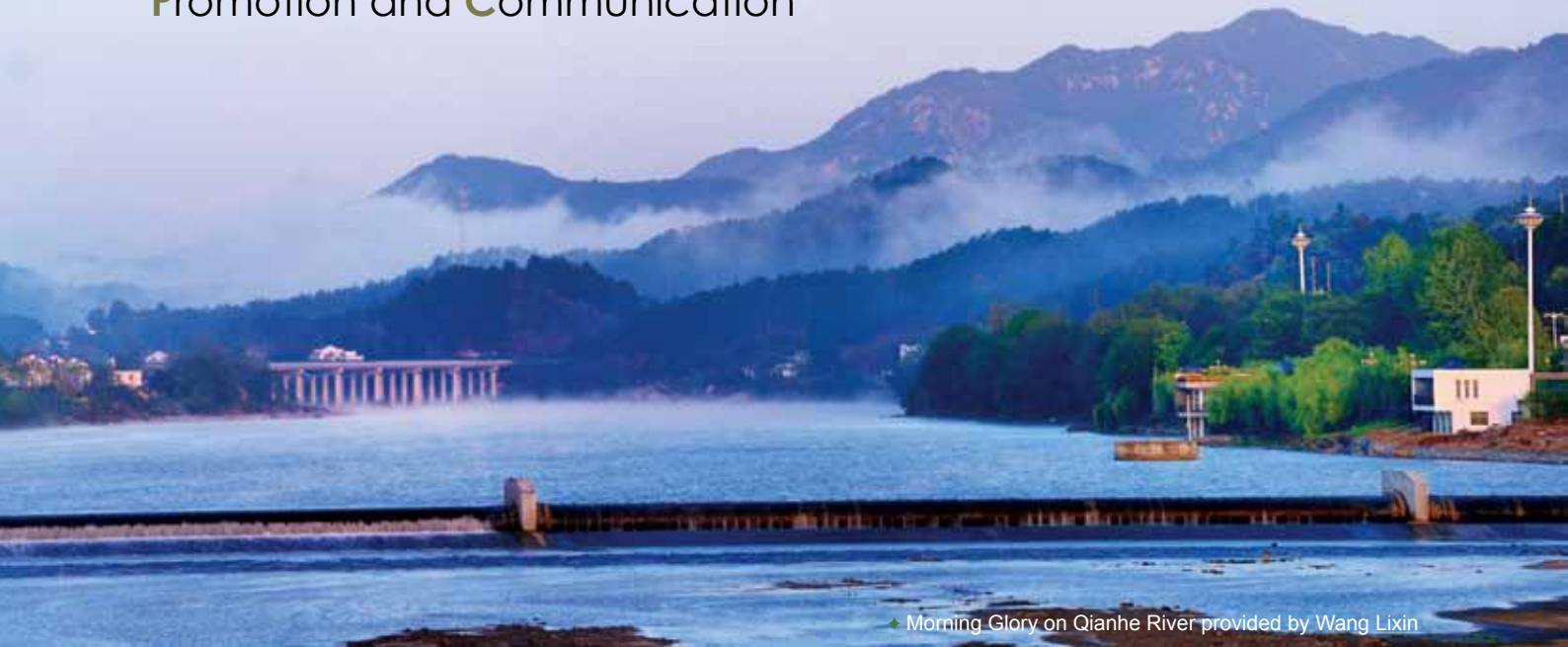
Araripe UGGp, Brazil

A more interactive environment combines culture and science in one environment. The Plácido Cidade Nuvens Paleontology Museum of the Regional University of Cariri (URCA), was reopened on 17/01, 2018, in a ceremony held on the spot, with the appointment of the director Sérgio Vilaça, by the Rector of URCA, Patricio Melo.

The Museum has a new configuration, with four exhibitions, valuing the didactic and interactive aspect with the public. Fossils distributed at various points on the first floor of the museum can be observed in more detail, with magnifiers available for this purpose.

The event was attended by the great names of Brazilian paleontology, like Professor of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Alexander Kellner, one of the greatest authorities in studies of pterosaurs in Brazil. Also with a tribute to the former Rector of the URCA and creator of the Museum, Plácido Cidade Nuvens.





► Morning Glory on Qianhe River provided by Wang Lixin

Tianzhushan Comprehensively Implements River Chief System and Forest Chief System to Protect Clear Water and Green Mountains

Tianzhushan UGGp, China

In recent years, Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark firmly follows the development concept “Lucid Water and lush mountains are invaluable assets” and comprehensively implements the River Chief System and Forest Chief System (Two Chiefs System). Main principals of the geopark administrative committee, towns and villages serve as the River Chief and Forest Chief, which ensures clear water and green mountains are fully protected.

“Two Chiefs System” better protects the local ecology. Since carrying out the “Two Chiefs System”, Tianzhushan Geopark

has taken the ecological protection as a priority. All introduced projects must be assessed by environmental protection departments and comprehensively evaluated by professional institutes and experts. “One-vote Negation System” is carried out against pollution projects. Dozens of enterprises along Wanshui River and Qianshui River are closed. New models to improve rivers are being explored to protect river ecological system through dyke consolidation, water reserve, landscape engineering, fish protection and bird conservation.

“Two Chiefs System” beautifies local landscape. Adhering to

conservation priority and natural recovery, Tianzhushan converts cultivated land into forests and propels the conservation of water and soil, builds ecological shelter forests and water conservation forests and promotes the construction of important ecological projects. In 2017, Tianzhushan newly built 11,000mu forests and 11.9km-long forest belt and afforested 146mu, which upgraded the forest quality and improved the eco-environment and made the landscape more beautiful.

“Two Chiefs System” benefits villages. Tianzhushan mobilizes the “Two Chiefs System” as a whole, increases the input of the



Green Vortex provided by Zhu Bangzhen

beautiful countryside construction, undertakes the summit talkfest of “Charming Villages in Beautiful China” and builds more than 20 beautiful countryside demonstration sites. Two villages are awarded National Living Environment Example Prize, Huangpu Village is awarded as National Civilized Village and Shuihou Town is awarded as National Beautiful Livable Town. Tianzhushan accelerates development of organic, green and pollution-free agriculture and has currently built nearly 26mu standardized production bases of tea, sericulture, oil-tea camellia, trichosanthes kirilowii Maxim and forest-fruit, and establishes more than 20 famous and green brand products. Tianzhushan develops surrounding ecological tourism spots and creates

a batch of ecological tourism areas (spots) integrating sightseeing, relaxation, summer resort, holiday and scientific investigation. In this year’s Spring Festival, rural-run inns received tourists 20% more than that of last year. Green economy boosts and opens a beneficial door for local community to shake off poverty and become prosperous.

Implementing River Chief System and Forest Chief System complies with President Xi Jinping’s latest philosophy of environmental protection and the five new concepts of green development. Fully recognizing the significance of the implementation of Two Chiefs System and with the aim to make the green mountains, clear water and fresh air everlasting in Tianzhushan



provided by Wang Lixin

UNESCO Global Geopark, Tianzhushan Geopark respects and protects nature, adheres to lawful management and green development, conserves mountains, water, fields and lakes as a whole.

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Egrets Flying above Qianhe River provided by Wang Lixin



Provided by Wang Lixin

A Big Hit on the Spring Festival Tourism of Xingwen County

Xingwen UGGp, China

During the Spring Festival in 2018, Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark, which plays a leading role in the local tourism, has provided tourists with a great tourist feast. Thanks to the fast developing tourism of Xingwen UGGp, Xingwen County has received up to 779,100 tourists with an annual growth of 10.48%.

With Xingwen UGGp acting as the leading brand of tourism development, full measures have been taken by the government of Xingwen County to promote building national level demonstration zone of global tourism. After a year's development, tourist products have become more diversified, the supervision and protection for tourist market have been upgraded, and civilized tourism has been more popular. To attract tourists in a thorough way, many A-class scenic spots have offered preferential policies and provided tourists with leisure activities, a variety of cultural tourism activities have been planned in towns and diversified events and activities celebrating the Spring Festival. Due to all those promotional policies and measures, a large number of tourists have been

attracted to Xingwen UGGp.

Based on the tourist sources of Xingwen UGGp, many scenic areas and towns around have held a series of events and cultural tourism activities both in towns and countryside to attract tourists from the very first day of the Spring Festival. Tourists participated in a variety of events and activities, such as the Miao people's Mountain Treading Festival in the Yongshou scenic area, the International Dream Lighting Festival in the karst cave of Gusong town, the Second Chinese Nursery Rhymes & Windmill Festival in Daba

Miao minority town, the International Dream Lantern Festival in Shijugudi scenic area. According to incomplete statistics, the Miao people's Mountain Treading Festival has received more than 40,000 visitors on the opening day; the Second Chinese Nursery Rhymes & Windmill Festival has received more than 5,000 visitors per day and about 40,000 visitors through the 7-day Spring Festival vacation, directly benefiting dozens of agritourism, more than 30 stalls and several amusement parks around and achieving comprehensive tourism income of more than



4,000,000 yuan.

During the Spring Festival, Shihai scenic area of Xingwen UGGp offered free tickets to students; the Shijugudi scenic area held special and free of charge activities for the locals; Windmill Festival in Daba Miao minority town also carried out preferential activities for the local residents..

During the Spring Festival, the Administration of Xingwen UGGp, the Administration of tourism development of Xingwen County as well as other tourism enterprises have utilized WeChat, websites and other media methods to promote the scenic spots, routes and latest tourism information of Xingwen County. Volunteer service stations will be set up on the toll stations of the highway to give out free travel manuals and tourist maps, provide consultation service, promote civilized tourism, so as to create a civilized and orderly tourism market.

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European Atlantic Geoparks

Work Together to Promote Economic

Development through Geotourism

Supported by the GGN, ten European Geoparks along with two aspiring Geoparks and the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro have been awarded funding by the EU Interreg Atlantic Area programme for a transnational economic, cultural and sustainable tourism development project.

The Atlantic Geoparks Project aims to promote and disseminate

the geological and cultural heritage within the Atlantic Area as a basis for economic development. The 30 month project which begun in July 2017, aims to forge new tourism links along a defined Atlantic route through highlighting the common interests and heritage of the destinations along the route.

The project is funded through the Atlantic Area section of the European

Regional Development Fund and supported by the GGN. The aim of the project is to strengthen the integration of tourism and natural heritage, reconciling tourism development with conservation of geology, biodiversity and cultural heritage in five territories in the EU, including Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and the UK.

The innovative aspect of

Promotion and Communication

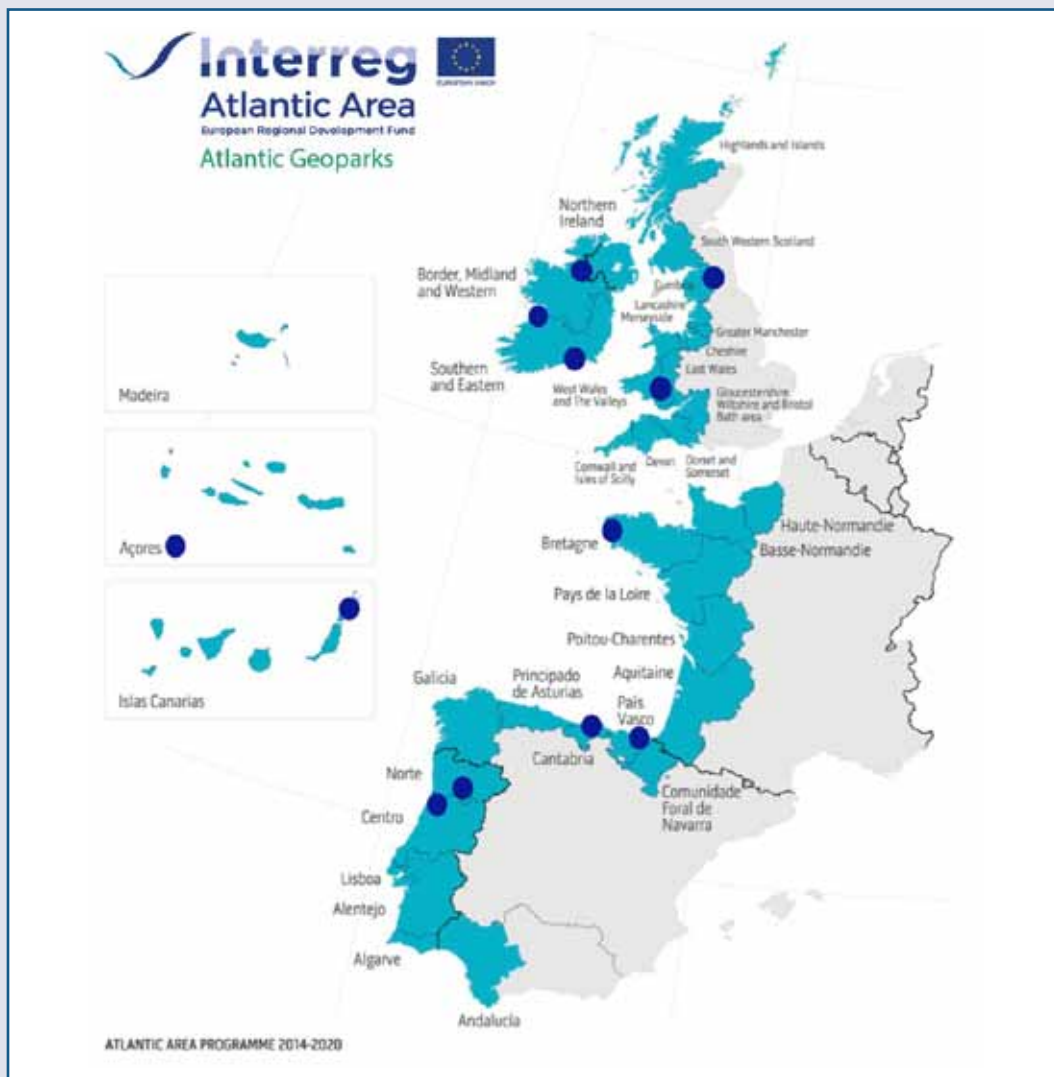
the Project will be to advance transnational Geotourism along the western margin of Europe using UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks as best practice models for regional and local sustainable development. The project will develop a European Atlantic Geoparks Route which will be submitted as a candidate for a Cultural Route of the European Council.

Through a series of work packages the project will also develop: management toolkits, a suite of supports for aspiring

Geoparks, a geodiversity conservation charter, a geotourism monitoring system, an online presence for both the route and the project through utilising social networking, innovative ICT tools, and a community engagement programme.

Project partners include: University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (Portugal), Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal), Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal), Forest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark (UK), Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global

Geopark (Northern Ireland / Ireland), Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain), Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain), Sustainable Municipalities Community of Cantabria Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain), PNR Armorique Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (France), North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark (UK), Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark (Ireland), Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Ireland), GeoMon UNESCO Global Geopark (UK).



Yimengshan National Geopark Signed an Agreement for Being Sister Parks with Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark

Yimengshan National Geopark, China

In order to optimize cooperative network and show the determination to be a UNESCO Global Geopark, Yimengshan National Geopark signed an agreement with Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark on being sister parks at Yanqing UGGp on April 20th, 2018.

Mr. Song Jian from Administration for Yimengshan National Geopark and Mr. You Baojun from Administration for Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark signed the agreement on behalf of the two geoparks. Subsequently, the two sides made discussions and exchanges on the application of the UNESCO Global Geopark and the scientific research on geoparks and visited the Yanqing Geological Museum.

Covering an area of 1,804.76 km², Yimengshan Geopark is composed of Mengshan, Diamond, Daigu,

Menglianggu and Yunmenghu Areas. The Geopark is situated on the Luxi Block, to the west of Yishu fault zone. The very old strata and the Archean massive intrusive rock series honestly record the evolution of the early crust in North China. The earliest primary diamond mine is located in the Geopark, yielding diamonds up to 1,800,000 karats. The Geopark is the naming place of Daigu (castle-shaped) landform, with dense clusters of typical castle-shaped landforms. With peaks towering to the sky and beautiful streams and waterfalls, the natural scenery here is fascinating. Here is one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization and the center of Dongyi culture, converging site of the Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism. Yimengshan Geopark is a special site with perfect combination of culture and natural landscape, as well as the recent significant Yimeng spirit.

Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark is the third sister geopark of Yimengshan National Geopark. Before Yanqing UGGp, Yimengshan National Geopark has two sister Geoparks, which are Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Guanzhaishan National Geopark in Fujian Province. Yimengshan National Geopark will learn more experience from the sister Geoparks on the management of geopark, the protection of geoheritages, the popularization of science knowledge and the promotion of local economy.



Outdoor Sustainable Activities



Magma UGGp, Norway

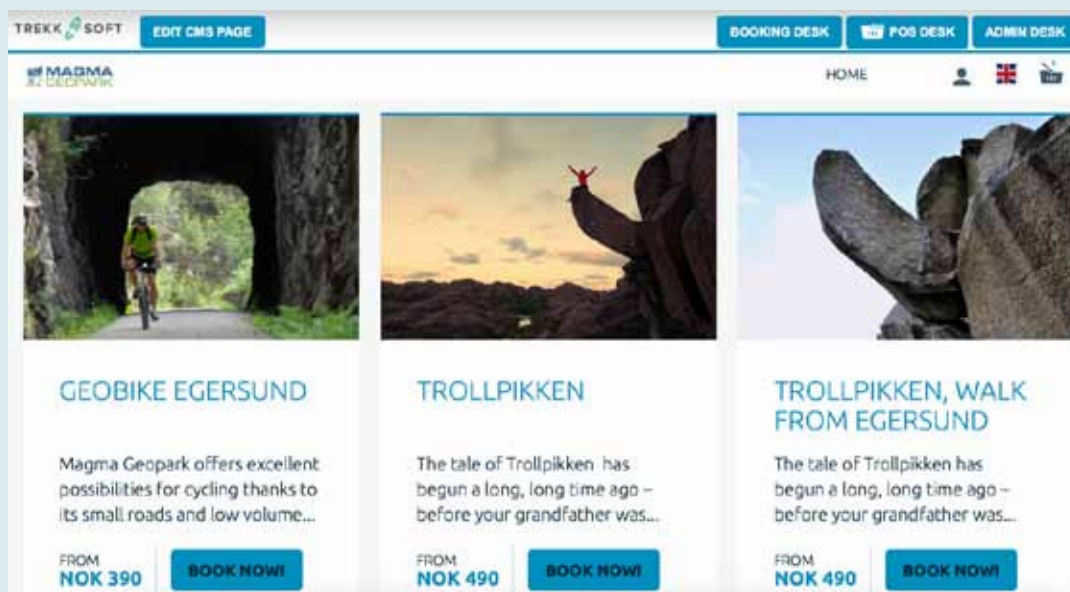
Magma UNESCO Global Geopark (MGP), located in South West of Norway, is actively working to promote and valorize the area in the frame of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The “Climate action” goal is one of the Magma’s area of activities. Last year Magma strengthen the connection with the Regions and stakeholders to set up one common strategy on green transport combined in tourist activities. Magma improves the biking tours with 5 new routes across the Geopark and the possibility to rent bikes in the Magma headquarter.

Magma promoting the outdoor low-carbon emission tours like biking, climbing, hiking within the new booking system which allows visitors to book their tour and the professional guides. The Innovative educational activities are also environmental friendly like the virtual experience within geoVR interactive exhibition at the MGP office in the centre of Egersund and the new ESTEAM app for teachers and students.

Magma Geopark developed two specific low-carbon emission packages for the Chinese market with Chinese mother tongue guide.

One offer is tailored for youth (two overnight and more challenging activities visiting Trollpikken, Brufjell and others) and one tour is address to senior tourist which includes one overnight stay (mining, historical tour and moon walk on the anorthosite landscape). Magma Geopark will get a group from the Chinese summer camp organizer for planning the summer Chinese kids- camp in Magma Geopark for 2018.

From now the Magma Geopark tourist offer is bookable through the webpage: (www.magmageopark.com).





“Krampus” and “Perchten” Parades in the Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark

Ore of the Alps UGGp, Austria

The four communities of the Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Bischofshofen, Mühlbach am Hochkönig, St. Veit im Pongau and Huetttau, are very famous for their intangible cultural heritage.

The time of Advent is the time of old customs, and next to the beautiful Advent markets of the region you will hardly find a more traditional custom than the running of the fur covered beasts, at the so called “Krampus” and “Perchten” parades.



◆ “Krampus” and “Perchten” parade (TVB Bischofshofen)



♦ "Krampus" and "Perchten" parade (TVB Bischofshofen)

The "Krampus" and "Perchten" parades take place every year at the beginning of December. Since hundreds of years the struggles of good against evil - especially in winter, when the nights are cold and long. The landscape is covered by meters of snow and everybody is longing for sunshine and warmth! In accordance with centuries old tradition young men done masks that are artistically carved by hand, they dress up in thick, shaggy furs and carry huge cowbells around their waist in order to make an ear-splitting din as they roam through the streets and participate in the parades.

The parade in Bischofshofen takes place every year on the evening of the 4th December. Around 5000 visitors are overwhelmed by the performance of the covered beasts each year. Beside this event you can

find lovingly decorated stalls and the enticing smell of fresh gingerbread, Christmas cookies and hot tasty wine (Glühwein) everywhere.

Horst Ibetsberger

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www.geopark-erzderalpen.at

www.geopark.agency

♦ The snow-covered village of Mühlbach (Foto Horst Ibetsberger)





GEO-NATURPARK
Bergstraße-Odenwald



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Forum of UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald: How We Implement and Communicate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030

Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp, Germany

UNESCO has declared the UNESCO Global Geoparks as model territories for the implementation and communication of the SDG's 2030. In this context, the Geopark has implemented series of activities: The website includes SDG platform, which offers basic information about

the goals, best practice examples related to specific goals and helpful links for a more sustainable life. This platform will be opened to the local communities and stakeholders to present their own SDG projects. In the Geopark magazine, articles inform regularly about SDG related

activities of the Geopark. Vocational training for the Geopark Rangers and Geopark on site guides will additionally support, that the SDG's 2030 are experienced as integral part of the Geopark communication and philosophy. More information: www.geo-naturpark.de

Workshops for Sustainable Tourism in the Geopark

Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen, Germany

The UNESCO Global Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen offered stakeholders of the tourist sector to learn more about the Geopark region. Two staff members of the Geopark told them about the tasks and aims of the Geopark in two workshops last year. About 20 participants got to know facts about the regional earth history, the touristic highlights, which are linked with it and their promotion. An excursion led them to Geopoints in the world heritage site "City of Quedlinburg", amongst others to the cliffs of the castle rock. The general idea of the workshops is to encourage the collaboration between the Geopark and stakeholders of the

tourist sector by involving them in the Geopark marketing.

The workshops are one precondition for the certification of a tourism office as a Geopark information point. Besides, the tourism office should provide all Geopark publications and should be open two days a week at minimum.



✦ Workshop participants at the castle rock in the city of Quedlinburg. (Photo: Isabel Reuter)

Furthermore, the tourism office resigns from selling geological material. At the moment, there are six tourism offices, which are certificated as official Geopark information points.

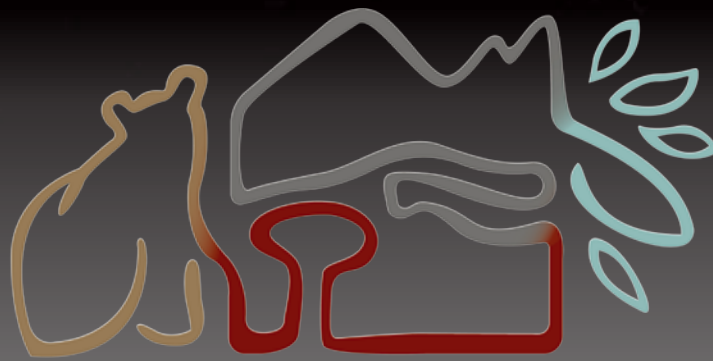
In addition, the Nature Park Harz, which is part of the Geopark region, participates in a project supporting climate-friendly tourism offers by finding out appropriate stakeholders and promoting their activities. This project is initiated by the German Nature Parks Union and is funded by the Federal Ministry for the environment, construction and nuclear safety.

Isabel Reuter
Laura Wielert



MADONNA DI
CAMPIGLIO
 PINZOLO VAL RENDENA
 TOP DOLOMITES

TRENTINO



ADAMELLO BRENTA GEOPARK
 Madonna di Campiglio - Italy

8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
 ON **UNESCO** GLOBAL GEOPARKS

8-14 SEPTEMBER 2018

Regular registration date: Until July, 20th 2018

Late registration date: Until Aug, 20th 2018



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epid. Bergamo, M. Zan. arcivio. 08/11/18

◆ "Jameos"--Los Jameos del Agua anchialine lake during the morning (Photo: Brett C. Gonzalez)

Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark will Host the 4th International Symposium on Anchialine Ecosystems

Anchialine ecosystems consist of water bodies with marine origin that penetrate inland, becoming partially isolated from the ocean. Several of these water bodies are accessible through ponds or wells, but more often through caves. Famous examples have been found in Yucatán Cenotes or in the Blue Holes of the Bahamas. Although found in different parts of the world, anchialine ecosystems are

more common for the Caribbean and Mediterranean basins, where they form subterranean labyrinths with several kilometers of length. These impressive geological settings are inhabited by animals that have never been found in the Ocean. Some of these creatures have their closest living relatives in other but very distant caves, such as remipedes; whereas others are closely related to animals otherwise inhabiting

very deep in the ocean. Because of the challenges related to the exploration of these subterranean environments, the origin of these animals or how they interact in these ecosystems remain, indeed, obscure.

Amongst its many natural wonders, Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark hosts one of the most extensive and biologically diverse anchialine ecosystems known



◆ LOGO

on Earth. As UNESCO highlights, Geoparks are not only about Geology but also about reconnecting human society to our planet and celebrating how the geological history of Earth have shaped all aspects of life and society. With this in mind the Geopark will organize 4th International Symposium on Anchialine Ecosystems: a commemoration of how series of geological contingencies during the 14.5 million-years-old history of the island have favored the presence of at least 38 species its underworld. Since they are dramatically linked to the geological history of Lanzarote, understanding how these living forms evolved and interacted in the entrails of the island is also amongst the goals of Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark.

Between 1st and 7th of October, scientists, students, and explorers from all over the world will be gathering in Lanzarote to talk about that and any other aspect concerning anchialine

environments. The multidisciplinary meeting will integrate fields of Biology, Systematics and Evolution, Biogeography, Geomicrobiology, Ecology, Geology, Hydrology, Paleontology, and Archeology. The scientific committee will include both pioneer in the study of anchialine environments, as well as some of the most promising researchers in the field. The conference provides for an informal atmosphere including oral and poster presentations, roundtable discussions, and multiple social events showcasing local food and wine. Mid-conference excursions will unveil the beauty of the Chinijo Archipelago and Túnel de la Atlántida, one of the world's

longest and most diverse known anchialine lava tubes. These events and sessions are not only for scientists but also for the public in general, so everyone in the island can learn and celebrate their unique Geoheritage. Altogether, we hope bringing light to whatever is lurking in the underworld.

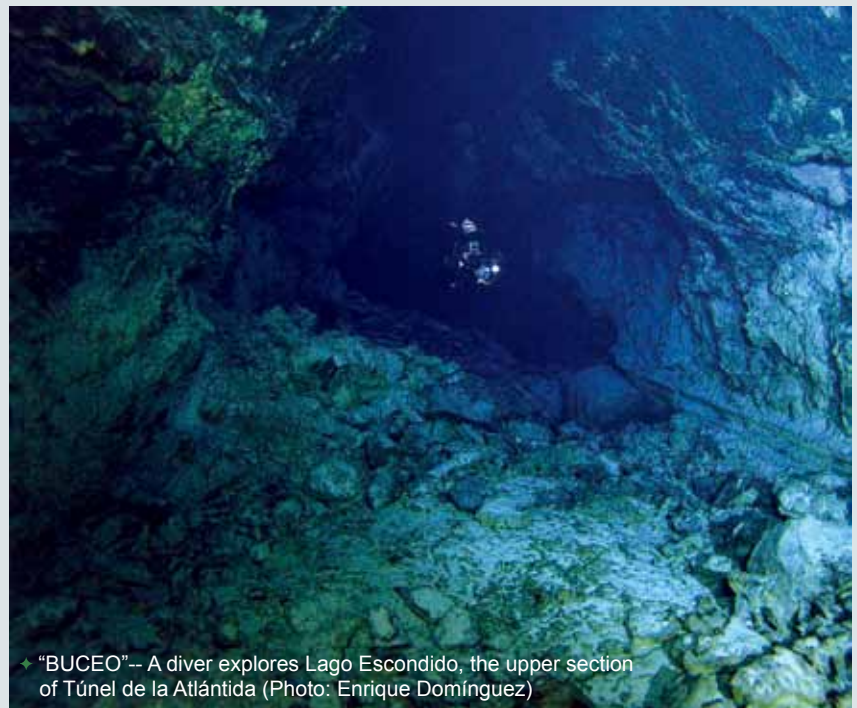
More information on the conference at www.4isae.es.

More information on the anchialine ecosystems of the islands at:

<http://www.geoparquelanzarote.org/biblioteca/>

Alejandro Martínez

Elena Mateo



◆ "BUCEO"-- A diver explores Lago Escondido, the upper section of Túnel de la Atlántida (Photo: Enrique Domínguez)



◆ *Munidopsis polymorpha*, endemic from Lanzarote and symbol of the island



◆ "Gesiella"--The annelid worm *Gesiella jameensis*



◆ *spelaeonicippe*



SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

The GGN Newsletter will be published regularly on a quarterly basis. Submissions of January, February and March will be published as ISSUE 1 of the current year by the end of April, and so on. Submissions of October, November and December will be published as ISSUE 4 by the end of January of the following year.

The contents of the articles could involve the following themes: 1_GGN Networking and Common Activities, 2_Geo-Tourism, 3_Activities and Events, 4_Geo-Education and Science Popularization, 5_Promotion and Communication, 6_Human and Nature, 7_Culture and Custom, 8_Conferences, Courses and Workshops (which have happened), 9_Announcements (Future Conferences, Courses and Workshops), etc.

Article template and requirements:

THEME: you could choose one of the 9 themes above or you could define a theme.

TITLE: no more than 20 words.

GEOPARK NAME: If the article is from a geopark.

MAIN BODY: 1_Times New Roman, 11 pt. 2_For the length of the texts, it is better between 300-500 words of each text. 3_The file needs to be saved under the Issue_THEME_geopark/affiliation. For example, 2018 ISSUE 1_Geo-Tourism_Yanqing UGGp, China.

INFORMATION OF THE AUTHOR: author's name, affiliation/organization, COUNTRY, email.

THE PHOTOS: no more than 5 photos and related captions (captions could be added at the end of the article) and the logo of the geopark (if the article is from a geopark).

We will notify you within two weeks prior to publication whether we accept or reject the article. And we will make appropriate modifications without changing the original meaning of the article. You can download the past issues of GGN Newsletter on the following website:

<http://www.globalgeopark.org/News/Newsletter/index.htm>

Submission email: ggnnewsletter@163.com.

Welcome your contributions! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Editorial Board



2018中国火山地质公园论坛

Chinese Volcanic Geoparks Forum

2018.6.25-29

主题：世界地质公园火山遗迹与可持续发展

Theme: Volcanic Heritage and Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks

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Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark

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