

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal, European Geoparks Network)

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



New geological trail at Ferraria geosite, a partnership between the Azores UGGp and the Azores Government

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 3 staffs, including 2 geoscientists (e.g. GEOAÇORES Association)

Number of visitors: 2,917,800 overnights stays (cf. hotels s.l.)

Number of Geopark events: 30 events held by the management body and 55 through partners

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 334 activities, with 6,992 students and teachers

Number of Geopark press release: 26 articles in the press

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

i) Several initiatives to increase and improve the Azores UGG visibility to local population, visitors and abroad (e.g. new geological trails, informative poles and flyers); ii) The Azores is the first archipelago to be certified as Sustainable Tourism Destination by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

Participation in the 43rd EGN CC meeting in Swabian Alp UGG, Germany, March 25th - 29th; 15th EGN Conference and 44th EGN CC meeting, Sevilla UGGp, Spain, September, 24th - 27th; Participation on the "Atlantic Geoparks" Project, an INTERREG Atlantic Area EU Project involving 9

UGG from Europe aimed for the development of a common Geotourism Route; Coordination of the EGN “Volcanic Thematic Working Group”, where the Azores UGG Scientific Coordinator act as Catalyst; “LITOTECA”, a networking initiative among the Portuguese UGGp under the umbrella of the Portugal National Commission of UNESCO; Contributions to the EGN and GGN Newsletters and Magazines; Participation on the GGN Working Groups “Volcanic Areas, Geohazards and Islands”; 3 public sessions under the umbrella of the “Volcano Day”, a networking activity promoted by the EGN WG Volcanic Areas integrated in the EGN Week.

Management and Financial Status

The management of the geopark is assured by the GEOAÇORES Association – Azores Geopark Association, a non-profit association, with headquarters in Horta, Faial Island, established through a public deed on May 19th, 2010. The Azores Geopark Association has an annual budget, approved by the General Assembly, the Management Board and the Auditor’s Committee, and is supervised by an official accountant. At present the Association does not have debts.

Geoconservation

Partnership with the Project TURGEO – “Definition of carrying capacity for the touristic use of geosites: a tool for the sustainable use and valuing of the Azores natural resources”; this project is coordinated by the University of the Azores and has the ATA-Azores Tourism Board and the GEOAÇORES Association as partners; Monitoring of Azores UGGp geosites in cooperation with the regional nature rangers.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

Enhancing and strengthening of the cooperation with the Azores Tourism Board, which established the Azores Geopark as the key player for the implementation of the Azores geotouristic promotion and qualifying policies; Cooperation with the Ponta Delgada Municipality under the framework of the EU INTERREG ECO-Tour Project, aimed for the tourism valuing of important geosites and viewpoints of the S. Miguel Island (e.g. geological trail and panels); Empowerment of geotourism operators through the course “Natural Park’s Guides”; a class at the Azores University, about Geoparks and Geotourism.

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

Organization of the regional phase of the “Olimpíadas da Geologia/Geology Portuguese Olympiads 2019”, in the Azores Autonomous Region, involving 19 students from 5 schools and from 4 islands of the archipelago, in March: the Geopark financed and supported the participation of the Azorean student who was selected to the National phase; Cooperation with the EGN “GeoHazards” Working Group, with 2 public activities, October; Empowerment of teachers through short courses on geosites and geodiversity; Contributions to “SIARAM”, an Azores Government official web portal with educational and touristic contents.

Strategic partnership

Signature of the cooperation protocol with the Energy, Environment and Tourism Regional Secretariat (SREAT), June; several memorandum of collaboration with local stakeholders, being presently a total of about 50 partnerships.

Promotional activities

Collaboration with the "Açoriano Oriental" newspaper, by publishing a page every two weeks entitled "(Geo)diversidades"; Update of the Azores Geopark's facebook, with activities, photos and news; Weekly promotion of the radio program "Geoparque Açores em 5 minutos/Azores Geopark in 5 minutes", in the radio station "RDP - Antena 1 Açores".

4. CONTACTS

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