

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

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 / 2021



Implementation of (Geo)Urban Route at Angra do Heroísmo City

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 11 staffs, including 5 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: 1 887892 overnights stays (cf. hotels s.l.)

Number of Geopark events: 37 events with 2156 participants (32 events organized by the geopark management body)

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 136 events with 1858 students (133 events organized by the geopark management body)

Number of Geopark press release: 24 articles in the press

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- Several initiatives to increase and improve the Azores UGG visibility to local population, visitors and abroad (e.g. panoramic panels, road signs, informative poles and flyers);
- Implementation of the GEOfood project;
- Implementation of the (Geo)Urban Route at Angra do Heroísmo City, a WHS of Azores Islands

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- The Scientific Coordinator (João Carlos Nunes) is Catalyst of the EGN Thematic Working Group “Volcanic Areas” and Vice-coordinated of the GGN Working Group on Volcanic Areas;
- Participation on the meetings of the EGN/GGN Working Groups “Education”, “GeoHazards”, and “Islands”;
- Participation at the “3rd EGN DIGITAL FORUM”, January 26th with an oral presentation by the Scientific Coordinator;
- Participation at the “4th EGN DIGITAL FORUM”, April 13th;
- Participation at the “5th EGN DIGITAL FORUM – PAPUK SPECIAL EDITION”, September 1st and 2nd
- Participation (by Salomé Meneses and Dina Silveira staff members) at the “Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021”, Lesvos Island, Greece, June 7th-20th
- Participation (João Carlos Nunes and Salomé Meneses), with a poster presentation, at the “9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks” – Jeju Island, Republic of Korea (Digital), December 12th-16th;

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 (Income 42 548.32€ / Expenditure 42 186.83€).

Geoconservation

Monitoring of Azores UGGp geosites in cooperation with the regional nature rangers; under the umbrella of a Pos-Doc research, begun the process of revision and (re)evaluation of the geological inventory of the 121 Azores geosites based on its scientific value, vulnerability and its prioritization.

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, including the creation of the “Volcanoes Route”; Development of common actions with the 5 UGGp of Portugal and the Portuguese Tourism Agency, including regular meetings and communication at social networks, implementation of GEOfood project at a national level and the scientific catalog of those territories, training course “Geotourism by Geoparks”; “SciCom conference: Science Communication in Portuguese UGGp”. Participation in Web Conference “Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles” organized by UTAD; Volcanoes Route, who will be implemented by the Azores Tourism Agency with the collaboration of the Azores UGGp.

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

Participation at International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction; Contributions to “SIARAM”, an Azores Government official web portal with educational and touristic contents; Preparation of educational materials about the Azorean volcanoes and volcanic caves and the GEOfood project. Refresh of the already implemented educational programs.

Strategic partnership

Several memorandum of collaboration with local stakeholders, existing nowadays a total of about 50 partnerships; Implementation of the “3G - Geoconservation, Geoduction and Geotourism” Project with the Local Actions Groups ADELIAÇOR, GRATER and ARDE; Cooperation with Portuguese UGGp and Portugal Tourism Agency; Participation in the projects IGCP 726 “GEOfood for sustainable development in UNESCO Global Geoparks” and IGCP 731 “IUGS Geological Heritage sites”.

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 in the radio station “RDP - Antena 1 Açores” with the radio program “Geoparque Açores em 5 minutos/Azores Geopark in 5 minutes”; Broadcast of 6 documentary films about the 9 islands and the marine geosites of the Azores UGG at the regional TV station (RTP AÇORES) and national TV (RTP3); Training course for teachers entitled “Azores Archipelago Geodiversity” co-organized with the Portuguese Association of Biology and Geology Teachers (July); Participation on the GeoXplora (April), Praia da Vitória Environmental Fair (June), GLEX Summit (July) and the EXPOLAB “Evenings with Science” (August) promotional activities; Activities under the scope of the EGN Week, including the “Volcano Day – June 1st”.

4. CONTACTS

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