

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: BEIGUA UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2005 / 2021



Beigua revalidation mission 2021

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 14 staffs (5 permanent + 11 by contract) including 2 geoscientists (by contract); to be added 1 scientific coordinator + 5 researchers (geoscientists from University of Genoa through an official partnership/agreement)

Number of visitors: about 115.000 (estimation of the visitors to the major geosites, trails, museums, visitor centers and information points).

Number of Geopark events: 92 events (921 participants) organized by Beigua UGG management body (but realized 52 because of COVID-19 restriction during march and april 2021)

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 56 classes* - 951 students. (*classes involved are far fewer than in other years due to restrictions for Covid-19)

Number of Geopark press release: 60 press releases, 4 quarterly newsletter (paper and on-line), 12 monthly newsletters, Facebook: 14.614 like* (+20%), Twitter: 4.466* (+5%), Instagram: 6.148* (+18%), Telegram 243 (+20%) * like at 31/12/21
Web site: 126.600 users, 633.00 pages viewed

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

- TOURIST RECEPTION:

- Polo Turistico Palazzo Beato Jacopo, Varazze, 2538 visitors, 334 opening days (*)
- Palazzo Gervino Visitor Centre, Sassello, 687 visitors, 70 days of opening (*)

- Pratorotondo Information Point, Cogoleto (summer opening), 577 visitors, 21 days of opening (*)
- Case Vaccà Ornithological Centre, Arenzano (seasonal): 280 visitors, 12 opening days (*)
(* limited openings due to COVID-19 limitations.)

- **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:**

Environmental education activities with school:

- New catalogue for teachers
 - 34 activities indoor + 31 activities outdoor (56 classes - 951 students) (classes involved are far fewer than in other years due to restrictions for Covid-19)
- PEDIBUS: 56 children involved

Environmental education (special projects) and sustainability:

- “Biodiversity Valley” (in collaboration with Metropolitan City of Genoa - AG2030)
 - Biowatching activities (AG2030)
 - Trekking for Climate (climate change project)
 - Pilot project for inclusion of young people with mental or physical disabilities
 - Certification ISO 14001: Environmental management coordination Park Authority + 10 municipalities. Sending 50 newsletters with weekly regulatory updates
- **Safe guided hikes:** implementation of new specifications to make hikes safe from covid-19 contagion.
- **New MTB Trail** in Beigua Geopark to promote Sustainable mobility

- **ACTIVE PROJECTS IN 2021:**

- ✓ **Interreg Marittimo 2014-2020 CambioVia – Walking of Biodiversity:** an agreement was signed with the Regione Liguria for collaboration in the Interreg CamBioVia project for the enhancement of local biodiversity with actions that promote accessibility, innovation, enhancement of natural and cultural resources in order to ensure territorial cohesion and promote employment and Sustainable Development
- ✓ **LifeWolfAlps EU (2020-2015):** national wolf monitoring in Italy coordinated by ISPRA on the behalf of the Ministry of Environment: involvement in the working group of Liguria Region.
- ✓ **Protection and management plans of Natura 2000 Network sites PSR Liguria 2014-2020:** Surveys and monitoring in two SACs - Special Areas of Conservation: 50 days of field work on field.
- ✓ **Conservation of the Mediterranean trout in the Orba basin:** Re-introduction of trout and fry into the wild to maintain environmental value and improve the level of biodiversity. Collaboration with the Municipality of Sassello and the Province of Alessandria to Palo hatchery for the reproduction and growth of Mediterranean trout (*Salmo ghigii*), an indigenous species present in the Baracca stream.
- ✓ **WWF Project about wetlands in Beigua UGGp:** Improvement of the conservation status of wetlands in Beigua Park Interventions on 3 existing wetlands and restoration of 4 new wetlands
- ✓ **Rural development program Liguria Region 2014-2020:** knowledge and Communication on the presence of wolves (*Canis lupus*) and preventive measures for the mitigation of damage to farms

- **AVIATION MONITORING:** breeding species (annual) 30 days of field work, 160 listening points, 1468 observations, 75 species contacted Seasonal migrations of Short-toed Eagle 11 days of field work in spring 11 days of field work in autumn Spring migrations of Honey Buzzard 10 days of field work Spring migrations of Whooping Crane Social experiment from the end of February to the beginning of March
- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT:** 4 interventions of maintenance and restoration of grassland habitats for red partridge and related species
- **ZOOTECNIC HERITAGE PROTECTION** Installation of 1 new electric shepherds and extension of an existing one
- **MAINTENANCE OF THE TERRITORY:** Maintenance of 427 km of pathway with interventions entrusted to local associations, agricultural cooperatives, direct growers. 2500 hectares of state forest maintenance (ordinary maintenance works (cleaning and cutting of trees), arrangement of paths and forest management plan (works on submeasure 8.5 RDP)) 115 panels maintenance (refurbishment 3 notice boards and 9 panels with graphics and printing). Maintenance of 9 equipped green areas.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Attendance at the 3rd EGN Digital Forum (26th january 2021)
- Attendance at the 4th EGN Digital Forum (13th april 2021)
- Attendance at EGN Week 2021
- Contribute with a text about Beigua UGG in EGN Newsletter:19/2021
- Contribute with a text about Beigua UGG in EGN Magazine Issue 18

Management and Financial Status

The Beigua Geopark is managed by the Beigua regional nature Park Authority, that is a public equivalent body supervised by the Regional Administration of Liguria, founded in 1996 (Regional Law n. 12/1995). The Beigua Park Authority has the responsibility for all necessary actions towards the benefit of the area in combination with the protection of the nature park and the four Sites of the European NATURA 2000 Network (Birds Directive and Habitats Directive). The Beigua Geopark financial status especially depends on Regional Administration and on EU projects. During 2021 the financial status was about 650.000,00 €.

Geoconservation and Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Regular programmes of walks and guided tours have been realized compliance with health restrictions related to the pandemic of Covid-19. Geopark Guides offer a rich and varied **calendar of excursions, photographic treks and cultural-educational activities**. The activities are promoted through the website, press releases, social channels and posters and are aimed at different segments of the public: expert hikers, families with children, photography lovers.

New safe excursions mode:

In order to be able to carry out the proposed initiatives in total safety, important changes have been made:

- Quoted number of participants.
- Compulsory registration on line.
- Mandatory mask and distance during the excursion.
- mandatory hand disinfection with gel frequently.
- Self-certification on temperature below 37 degrees and no contact with positive persons in the last 15 days).
- Green Pass request when needed

- **Photographic exhibitions:** Geological and naturalistic itinerant photographic exhibitions, periodically exhibited at Visitor Centers, Refuges and other public places in the District
- Joining the **European Geoparks Week 2021** with several activities
- Joining the **World Biodiversity day** and the **European Day of Park** with digital activities
- Joining **“Week of the Planet Earth”** with several activities

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

- Educational programs for primary and secondary schools have been realized in Beigua Geopark according to specific agreement with local School Authorities, during the pandemic period Environmental Education activities were transferred outdoor or on-line
- **Junior Geoparker 2021:** during summer and compatible with the periods of restrictions by covid-19 a calendar of meetings is proposed for children aged 6 to 11, to spend an afternoon with the Park Guides between educational workshops and explorations in nature. At each meeting, the kids get a passport stamp and can become Junior Geoparker, little ambassadors of the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark in the world! 3 nights with the Junior Geoparkers were organised for the first time in summer 2021. The Junior Geoparkers slept in 3 different visitor centres of the Geopark with different thematic activities.
- **International Day for Disaster Reduction:** on the International Day for the Reduction of Natural Risks, the 13th October 2021 , the Geopark organizes an activity in the garden of the Arenzano primary school where, in collaboration with forest fire volunteers, “best practices for behaviour in the event of a forest fire” were identified.
- a project related to climate change was carried out as part of the project project **"Regional strategy for sustainable development - 2030 AGENDA "** and included a calendar of climate change themed excursions and a mapping of the actions carried out by the Geopark municipalities to mitigate environmental risks due to climate change. The project included a final webinar in which the data obtained from the survey were presented.

Strategic partnership

The Beigua Geopark is strongly supported by local communities and stakeholders which are substantial part of the management body (Regione Liguria, Provincia di Savona, Città Metropolitana di Genova, n. 10 Local Municipalities, University of Genoa, Tourism Operators Associations, Agricultural Associations, Breeding Associations, Forestry Associations, Handicraft Associations, Environmentalist Associations, Hunters Associations, Sports & outdoor Associations, University of Genoa, Regional and Local School Districts. Many others national and local bodies collaborate with the Beigua Geopark (Museum of Natural History of Genoa, Italian Alpin Club, Italian Federation for Hiking, Italian Union for Sports, Italian Federation for Parks and Nature Reserves, ISPRA National Institute for Environment Protection and Research). For years Beigua Geopark has been collaborating with teachers from the geology department of the University of Bremen.

Promotional activities

- **Social media:** Beigua Geopark is present on Facebook (with two pages: Parco Beigua – UNESCO Global Geopark dedicated to activities strictly connected to the protected area and ViviBeigua to promote the touristic area in collaboration with Local Authorities) and on

Twitter and Instagram. The social accounts are monitored on a daily basis and contents to post are planned in advance. Our followers are growing steadily, without any form of paid marketing.

- **Press releases and newsletters:** 60 press releases were produced to describe the activities of the Geopark, the progress of the ongoing projects and new initiatives in the area involving the interested parties. To these is added an average of 30 releases sent for the promotion of excursions and educational workshops organized by the Geopark.
- **Posters:** Realization of monthly posters to promote the activities proposed in the Geopark. The posters are posted at the Visitor Centers and Information Points of the Geopark as well as being sent via email to the tour operators belonging to the Park circuit and to all the tourist offices in the area, in Genova and in the most important tourist areas of the Region.
- **Website:** Daily updating of Beigua Geopark website (www.parcobeigua.it)
- **Periodical publications:** "Parco del Beigua - Beigua Geopark" newsletter published quarterly (3.000 (during lockdown period 2021) - 10.000 (during summer period) paper copies; downloadable also by the web site) published and distributed in Summer, Autumn and Winter. It contains articles and information about tourism, activities and events; special features are dedicated to the Geopark territory and its highlights, EGN, GGN and UGG, etc. In summer a special issue of ViviBeigua is also printed, 12,000 copies distributed throughout the area.

4. CONTACTS

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