

## 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



*Naturally Inclusive! A new inclusive sensorial path in the Foresta della Deiva, with **tactile panels and Braille plaques***

## 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 90.000 (estimation of the visitors to the major geosites, trails, museums, visitor centers and information points).

**Number of Geopark events:** 80 events (982 participants) organized by Beigua UGG management body (but realized 55 because of Peste Suina restriction during winter and spring 2022)

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 102 classes - 1892 students.

**Number of Geopark press release:** 52 press releases, 4 quarterly newsletter (paper and on-line), 12 monthly newsletters, Facebook: 17.441 like\* (+8%), Twitter: 4.4655\* (+4%), Instagram: 6.488\* (+6%), Telegram 312 (+28%)\* (like at 31/12/22)

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### - **TOURIST RECEPTION:**

- Polo Turistico Palazzo Beato Jacopo, Varazze, 4238 visitors, 274 opening days (\*)
- Palazzo Gervino Visitor Centre, Sassello, 708 visitors, 81 days of opening (\*)
- Pratorotondo Information Point, Cogoleto (summer opening), 687 visitors, 27 days of opening (\*)

- Case Vaccà Ornithological Centre, Arenzano (seasonal):240 visitors, 6 opening days (\*)  
(\* ) limited openings due to the Peste Suina restriction

- **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:**

**Environmental education activities with school:**

- 50 activities indoor + 66 activities outdoor (102 classes - 1892 students)
- **PEDIBUS:** 45 children involved (Masone municipality and Campo Ligure municipality)

**Environmental education (special projects) and sustainability:**

- Biowatching activities (AG2030)
- “Wednesday with the Guide” – educational on line activity for citizen
- “Outdoor Education Project” (programme of activities and free educational workshops in the midst of nature)
- “Beigua in action: cleaning initiatives” - scientific cleaning of beaches and stream banks
- to combat marine litter
- #InclusiviPerNatura: activities in the museum with a group of children with autism spectrum disorder
- **Certification ISO 14001:** Environmental management coordination Park Authority + 10 municipalities. Sending 50 newsletters with weekly regulatory updates

- **ACTIVE PROJECTS IN 2022:**

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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 fieldwork, 160 listening points, 1468 observations, 75 species contacted Migrations of short-toed eagle owl: 11 days of fieldwork in spring 11 days of fieldwork in fall. Spring migrations of the honey buzzard 10

days of fieldwork. Spring migrations of the crane: social experiment from late February to early March.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT:** 4 interventions of maintenance and restoration of grassland habitats for red partridge and related species.
  - **ZOOTECNIC HERITAGE PROTECTION:** installation of 4 new electric shepherds
  - **TERRITORY MAINTENANCE:** Maintenance of 450 km of trails with interventions entrusted to local associations, agricultural cooperatives, direct farmers. 2,500 hectares of maintained state forests (routine maintenance work (cleaning and tree cutting), trail arrangement and forest management plan (interventions on sub-measure 8.5 of the RDP)) 115 information panels (refurbishment of 3 bulletin boards and 9 panels with graphics and printing). Maintenance of 9 equipped green areas.

#### **OUTDOOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:**

(financed by GAL Valli Savonesi RDP Liguria 2014-2020 in Sassello Municipality):

- upgrading of the hiking network in the Deiva Forest and Bastia Soprana areas
- valorisation of the Ponte Prina fossiliferous geosite in the Maddalena locality
- already realised didactic and inclusive sensorial path in the Foresta della Deiva, with **tactile panels and Braille plaques**

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Attendance at the EGN Spring meeting 2022 De Hondsrug – Terra Vita (march 2022 )
- Attendance at the 16<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference + contribute with a poster
- Attendance at 46<sup>th</sup> EGN Coordination Committee Meeting (26-30 september 2022 )
- Attendance at EGN Week 2022
- Contribute with a text about Beigua UGG in EGN Magazine Issue 19

#### **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 2022 the financial status was about 808.000,00€

#### **Geoconservation and Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Regular program of walks and guided tours have been realized. 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.
- **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 2022** with several activities
- Joining the **World Biodiversity day** and the **European Day of Park** with digital 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 2022:** during summer 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!
- **International Day for Disaster Reduction:** on the International Day for the Reduction of Natural Risks, the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 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.
- **Outdoor Education Project:** a rich calendar of family initiatives was held from April to November. In particular, during the summer months, the "Fridays with the Park Guides" were organised, offering a double date, in the afternoon as a Junior Geoparker and in the evening with activities concerning the animals of the night for families.
- **Beigua in Action!** From October to December 4 beach cleaning meetings (in 4 different municipalities of the Geopark) to fight the Marine Litter problem. But that's not all! 4 on-line meetings to better understand, together with experts, the problem of marine litter and its harmful impact on the marine world.

### **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:** 52 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](http://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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