

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2002 / 2016 (2020 postponed due to pandemic)



Launch of new Management Plan



Celebration of award "Geotope 2020"

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 18 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic: Information centres predominantly closed. Increase of individual visits of the Geopark: hiking and cycling, demand on information and advice

Number of Geopark events: > 1000 events planned, only a small part could be realized due to Covid-19 pandemic

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 34 (due to Covid-19 pandemic restricted)

Number of Geopark press release: > 1000

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- Numerous new infopanel, information facilities, trails (e.g. meditation trail, culture trail)
- Virtual web platform for pupils and families during lockdown: "creative workshop" - offers and downloads, nature arts, hiking tips, Ranger information stands at nature parking areas
- Geo-Naturpark Youtube Channel with new video series "Discover the Geo-Naturepark"
- Awards "Geotope 2020" and "Fruit tree 2020"
- Cooperation "International Forest Art Trail 2020" and UNESCO WHS Messel Pit
- International RURITAGE project: action plan and respective activities including new virtual formats as adaption to the pandemic; exchange with Lesvos UGGp (Role Model)
- Virtual vocational trainings for Rangers, Geopark on site teams and stakeholders

- Summer holiday “Family Tour” through the Geopark with creative tasks and awards
- Launch of interactive Geopark SDG platform for member communities & counties

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- EGN-Week 2020: Virtual Facebook campaign including European Geopark presentations
- Member of Editorial Board EGN Magazine and initiator & catalyst of EGN Newsletters 17, 18
- Catalyst of EGN Working Group SDGs / member of GGN Working Group SDGs
- Lesvos Digital Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks: Online Presentation on Global Agenda 2030 in UNESCO Global Geoparks

Management and Financial Status

- 1 additional staff (project leader), financial situation stable, budget 1.700.000 Euro
- Launch of new managementplan “Geo-Naturpark 2030” including Global Agenda 2030

Geoconservation

- Geosite Management GIS
- Continuation of cooperation with Historical Mining Association including video clip
- New geo-conservation project funding for local Geopark communities
- Additional “National Geotope” Schlossgraben Heidelberg
- Additional “Geotope of the Year 2020” Wlidlfruhaus

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Cooperation with new destination “Bergstrasse-Odenwald” including common projects on visitor service and PR for Geopark hiking and MTB trails
- Vocational training and information for stakeholders from gastronomy and local businesses

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

- New Geo-Naturpark School, support of UNESCO Project School
- New Strategic-didactic concept ESD, Preparation for new team member: ESD

Strategic partnerships

- Joachim & Susanne Schulz-Stiftung (Foundation for education and sustainability)
- Behindertenhilfe Bergstraße (Association for disabled people, Bergstrasse)
- Hochschule Darmstadt (University for Applied Sciences)

Promotional activities

- 2 Geopark Magazines, 7 Geopark Newsletters, brochures, hiking and cycling maps, numerous media releases, adverts, contributions to partner magazines and publications

4. CONTACTS

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