

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

Year of inscription: 2002 / Year of the last revalidation: 2021



Climate exhibition with Lesvos UGG & WHS Messel Pit



Celebration of award "Geotope 2021"

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 20 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Overall impression: Geopark visibility increased during the Covid-19 pandemic as place for recreation and health. Increase of individual visits of the Geopark: hiking and cycling, demand on information material and advice. Outdoor localities well visited, e.g. "Felsenmeer" > 200.000 visitors.

Number of Geopark events: > 1000 events planned, between June & October 50 % could be realized with limited participation numbers due to the pandemic.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 64 (due to Covid-19 pandemic restricted)

Number of Geopark press release: > 1000

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- Numerous new Geopoint infopanel, information facilities, trails (e.g. trail of myths, trail of springs, planet trail)
- Continuation of RURITAGE project with numerous activities (Climate exhibition, playing card game, MTB actions, welcome booths, Ranger tours)
- Global Nomadic Arts workshop with 20 artists from 7 countries
- Awards "Geotope 2021" and "Fruit tree 2021"

- Cooperation “International Forest Art Trail 2020” and UNESCO WHS Messel Pit: new art piece at WHS Messel Pit
- Virtual vocational trainings for Rangers, Geopark on site teams and stakeholders
- Summer holiday “Family Tour” through the Geopark with creative tasks and awards
- Cooperation with Universities Bonn (3D Geosites) and Aachen (community participation APP for geosciences)
- 5th UNESCO Revalidation
- Participation in ESD World Congress with presentation
- Additional Ranger staff with focus on biodiversity & nature protection

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Compilation for Mother Earth Day 2021 activities as catalyst of the SDG working group
- EGN-Week 2021: Focus on our WHS partners in the territory, hiking, Geopark Day and International photo exhibition
- Member of Editorial Board EGN Magazine and catalyst of EGN Newsletters 19, 20
- Lesvos Digital Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks: Online Presentation on Global Agenda 2030 in UNESCO Global Geoparks
- International Photo Exhibition “West East Impressions” in partnership with UGG Mt. Lushan (China) digital and real including 3-D tour and video
- International Climate Exhibition “Climate change in the light of Earth History” in cooperation with UGG Lesvos (Greece) and WHS Messel Pit

Management and Financial Status

- 2 additional staff (project leader), financial situation stable, budget 1.750.000 Euro
- Continuous implementation of managementplan “Geo-Naturpark 2030” including Global Agenda 2030

Geoconservation

- Geosite and maintenance APP with GIS
- Continuation of cooperation with Historical Mining Association including restoration activities
- Revalidation of award “National Geotope” of Felsenmeer and UNESCO WHS Messel Pit
- Additional award “Geotope of the Year 2021” Böllsteiner Gneis

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Cooperation with 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
- Preparation of new vocational training for touristic tour guides

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

- New Geo-Naturpark School, support of UNESCO Project School, preparation of 2 new Geo-Naturpark kindergardens
- Finalization New Strategic-didactic concept ESD and preparation of Geopark ESD platform

Strategic partnerships

- Preparation of cooperation with Klima Arena Sinsheim
- Behindertenhilfe Bergstraße (Association for disabled people, Bergstrasse) for the construction of birds and bats breeding and nesting homes
- University of Bonn, University of Aachen

Promotional activities

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

4. CONTACTS

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