

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Catalunya Central UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, European Geoparks Network.

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2012 / 2021 (postponed from 2020).



Salt Mountain in the municipality of Cardona, a new major geosite incorporated at the area extension to the Geopark.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 8 in the core management body, including two geologists.

Number of visitors: The total number of visitors is complicated to estimate accurately. In some of our main visited spots, we have confirmed the increasing trend of visitors, both tourists and scholars, started last year. For example, in the Montserrat Caves (19.000), el Toll Caves (25.000), Cardona (63.000), and Museum of Geology Valentí Masachs (3.000) the numbers are pretty close to those in pre-pandemic times. Montserrat has reached 1.600.000 visitors; however, it's still 1 million away from its maximum. The visitor centre of the Geopark received 300 people in the first two months of opening.

Number of Geopark events: Forty, nine of them held by the Geopark.

Number of school classes realized in Geopark educational programmes: About 26.500 scholars assisted at hundreds of educational activities related to geology, environmental education, climate change and natural resources that the different educative centres organize at the Geopark.

Number of Geopark press releases: 12 press releases, two newspaper advertorials, one radio interview, one TV programme, two TV news, and 1.293 posts in the different Digital Media and Social Networks.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- Revalidation of the green card.
- The extension of the Geopark area with the incorporation of the municipality of Cardona.
- Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Geopark.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation at the meetings of the EGN and the Spanish Forum.
- Participation at the annual Spanish Geopark's Open Meeting.
- Contribution to the UNESCO book on Geoparks.
- Celebration of the EGN Week and the first International Geodiversity Day.
- Writing of a chapter for the "Karst in the Spanish Geoparks" book.
- Participation at the Scientific conferences at El Hierro UGGp.
- Members of the mining working group at the EGN.

Management and Financial Status

- Continuity of the grant of 50.000€ for 2022 from the Government of Catalonia.

Geoconservation

- Elaboration of an executive project for the geoconservation of the geosite "Mineshaft El Salí", the second place in the World where Sylvite was found.
- Elaboration of a report about the Charles Lyell Route in his journey across the Geopark to acquire data on the main locations, geosites and elements for future educational, geoconservation, networking and geotouristic actions.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Salt Mountain geosite in Cardona with its geotouristic/education facilities.
- Opening of the new visitor centre of the Geopark at Sallent.
- Promotion of the Geopark as a sustainable destination in the new promotional actions.
- Formation course on basic field geology interpretation for guides.
- Design of the new geotouristic map.
- Elaboration of a new A2 portable panel for official collaborators with basic information about the Geopark (characteristics and storytelling) and the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

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

- Participation as a researcher in the project "DIAPERNO PROJECT-Geomorphic processes in active salt systems. Uplift, subsidence, sinkholes, landsliding, drainage disruption." founded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.
- Elaboration of five educational activities about the main geological and natural elements of the surroundings of the new interpretation centre of the Geopark.
- Elaboration of interpretative material and one educational activity for the palaeontological site of Costa de la Vila.
- Elaboration of a short guide about the karst in the Geopark and the karstic sites to visit.
- Cooperation with several schools and educational entities by assessment and formation.

Strategic Partnership

- Contact the Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark (Ecuador) for future cooperation.

Promotional activities

- Renewal and update all the promotional material with new logos of UNESOC and the Geopark: roll-ups, brochures, informative material and identification plates for stakeholders.
- Assistance to the promotional event of the Spanish geoparks in FITUR, and other promotional actions.
- New communication plan, digital marketing strategy and a new interactive web app linked to a FEDER project.

4. CONTACTS

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