

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, (European Geoparks Network)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2014 /2018 /2022

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



*Training Sessions for tourism professionals*

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staff:** 4 people: Director, Manager, communication professional and Geologist.

**Number of visitors:** 3.514 people visited the Interpretation Center of the El Hierro Geopark.

**Number of Geopark events:** 5 events: Open Fotosub, Geoloday, European Week of Geoparks, Training Sessions for tourism professionals and “Latest eruptions in the Canary Islands: El Hierro 2011-Las Palmas 2021” sessions.

**Number of school classes sharing Geopark educational programs:** 2 primary schools, 2 secondary schools 22 classes in total

**Number of Geopark press releases:** 12 in press and 1 in Conciencia Canaria TV program

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2022

- New Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks web launch event in FITUR
- AGEO Meetings (El Hierro Landslide Citizen Observatory)
- Rebranding
- Geoloday. “Walking among lavas”
- Traveling Exhibition "Volcanoes in Motion", via Lajial Project leaded by Francisco Pérez Torrado
- Photography contest with first-year high school students from IES Garoé. The winning photos are displayed by the main road with representative images of El Hierro geology. These photos are nearby the airport and the harbour, so that they welcome and say goodbye to our visitors when they arrive by sea or air to the island.

- Geology, ornithology and marine species training sessions for official tourism guides, and active tourism companies staff.
- Collaboration agreement between the Geopark and Gorona del Viento
- Tour "Between lava, wine and cheese" in the Geopark Interpretation Center
- Young Ambassadors Project with Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo Geopark
- Best Geosub Photo Award in the 26th edition of the Open Fotosub El Hierro
- Conference "Last eruptions in the Canary Islands: El Hierro 2011 - La Palma 2021", to which representatives of the Spanish geoparks were invited, open to the public, and with speakers who worked in both eruptions.
- EGGn Week: activity with students of the IES Garoé in secondary school led by Ramón Casillas, including a visit to the Geopark Interpretation Center to know all the details of the submarine eruption of 2011. Then, In La Restinga, they visited the fish market and the Fishermen's Guild to learn directly from the fishermen the effects of the eruption in their activity and the artisanal and sustainable fishing traditions in our Geopark.  
 "Open doors" day at the Geological Interpretation Center of El Pinar and El Hierro Geopark Center.  
 "Vulcan Day" celebration, together with Lanzarote Geopark, consisting in an online event that included presentations about the geological heritage of each Geopark, as well as the economic development and impact for both regions.  
 "Visiting the places of geological interest in El Hierro Geopark" video release. It also included a conference about the inventory of these sites by our scientific coordinator and Petrology and Geochemistry Prof. in La Laguna University, Ramón Casillas.
- Spanish Geoparks Web Launch at FITUR

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

- Working together with Lanzarote and Archipiélago Chinijo Geopark in the Young Ambassadors Project
- First contact with Azores Geopark in the meetings we have attended in 2022, to carry out a common project Networking with Spanish Geoparks for the new website.
- Participation in different activities with Gorona del Viento
- Conference "Last eruptions in the Canary Islands: El Hierro 2011 - La Palma 2021", in which representatives of the Spanish geoparks were invited, open to the public and with speakers who worked in both eruptions.
- EGGN Week
- Participation in 2022 scheduled Meetings of the Spanish Geoparks Forum
- Participation and presentation of the Maestrazgo Geopark in the VII Open Days of the Spanish Geoparks Forum in the UNESCO Global Geopark Origenes (Lérida). 2-3 November 2022
- Attendance to the 16th European Geoparks Network Conference and 46th European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee meeting in Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy) 27-30 September 2022.
- Attendance to the 45th Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network (EGN). De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, The Netherlands 27-29<sup>th</sup> (2022)/Education (WG on Education).

- Networking with Spanish Geoparks to edit a common Magazine, and to be presented in FITUR 2023. The content of the magazine is published in Spanish Geoparks Forum website.
- International Geodiversity Day (6th October, 2022). Contribution with the 5 most important Geological Heritage Sites of El Hierro UGGp in the framework of GGN initiative and Participation in the common promotional video “Geodiversity in the UNESCO Spanish Geoparks” (Spanish National Forum).
- Article published in European Geopark Network Newsletter 22 (2022) El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Learning from the past, creating the present and serving for the future: How the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Europe integrate the Global Agenda 2030 into their holistic approach.

### **Management and Financial Status**

- Own budgets for Geopark
- Government of the Canary Islands

### **Geoconservation**

- Hiking path conservation (Tasked to GESPLAN)
- "World Geopark of El Hierro, Diversity of volcanic heritage for geotourism" paper in collaboration with the Volcanological Institute of the Canary Islands.
- Collaboration with SEO/BirdLife Canarias activities in El Hierro
- Collaboration with different activities with the La Laguna University (ULL), such as the workshop on the correct management of sea turtle strandings

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Project “Volcanoes on the move” via Lajial Project leaded by Francisco Pérez Torrado (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria University)
- Geology, ornithology and marine species training sessions for official tourism guides and active tourism companies staff.
- Geological billboards (3) and wooden QR codes fully integrated into the landscape along Las Puntas-La Maceta trail.
- Billboard with information on the Tagoro submarine LIG in La Restinga, municipality of El Pinar
- New service in the Geological Interpretation Center, in the municipality of El Pinar, consisting in a computer where both the local population and the tourists can search for information and find different works, studies, researches, etc... by different entities such as: ULL (La Laguna University) , ULPGC (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria University) , IGN (National Geological Institute), etc...
- Participation in the Marine Tourism Networks organized by Buenamar Canarias, a project from Canarian Government

### **New education programs on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction**

- “AGEO program” (El Hierro Landslide Citizen Observatory)
- Restoration of Tamaduste Lava landscape and environmental workshop with the locals.

### **Strategic partnership**

- Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo Geopark.

- Azores Geopark Association
- "World Geopark of El Hierro, Diversity of volcanic heritage for geotourism" paper in collaboration with the Volcanological Institute of the Canary Islands.
- Gorona del Viento

#### **Promotional activities**

- Presence in all national and international fairs attended by the Ministry of Tourism with information material concerning the Geopark .
- Geopark Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
- Rebranding. In the new logo, we keep the sanjora plant (*aeonium hierrense*), but we also add some lines representing the corded lavas of the lajiales.

#### **4. CONTACTS**

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