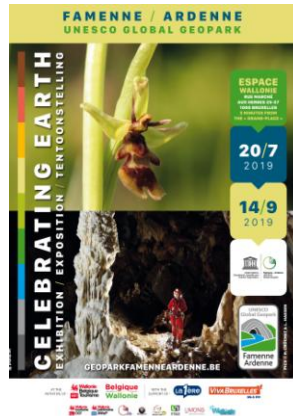


# GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark, Belgium, European Geoparks Network)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018



## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 3 staffs including 1 geoscientist

**Number of visitors:** Total number of the visitors to the Cave of Han: 310.650 visitors

**Number of Geopark events:** 6

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 12

**Number of Geopark press release:** 9

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2019

« CELEBRATING EARTH » : a responsible exhibition by and for our citizens. The exhibition « CELEBRATING EARTH » took place from 20 July to 14 September, in the House of Wallonia, located in the very heart of Brussels. An opportunity to learn everything there is to know about our Geopark. Our natural and cultural heritage, our folklore, our history, the heart and soul of our villages, our initiatives in the fields of education, scientific research and sustainable development. We counted more than 3600 visitors for this exhibition.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- In March our delegates participated in 43th EGN CC meeting in Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark in Germany. In September the Geopark team took also part in 15<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference on Unesco Global Geopark in Sevilla.

### Management and Financial Status

- We received funding of 47.900 € from our partner municipalities. We also received our annual subsidy of 150.000 € from our regional government.

## **Geoconservation**

We have implemented a recurring geoconservation action on one of our emblematic geosites "*Le Gouffre de Belvaux*" with several of our partners. The specificity of the Belvaux swallow hole, where the entire river Lesse is lost (which makes it one of the biggest swallow hole in Europe), means that the waste carried by the river is inevitably trapped at the entrance to the swallow hole. To eliminate this pollution, a significant deployment of human and material resources is necessary.

## **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- As part of a European project in collaboration with the "Famenne-Ardenne Tourism Office", our Geopark participated in the drafting of a vademecum of good environmental practices for tourism operators and for visitors to the territory. How to reduce the ecological impact in tourism practice. "We love our area, and bet you do too...With these simple gestures, you can help us make our area even "greener"!"

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

- We have started the "Geopark Ambassadors" project with 17-18 years old students in their school. The name of the project: "Geo4Marchois Project". There are several objectives:
  - show them a geosite near their school
  - make them work on themes related to this geosite (Karst, landscape, folklore, sustainable development)
  - get them to present this project to younger students in their school

## **Strategic partnership**

- We have set up a network of more than 75 partners with whom we are working on a variety of projects: school groups welcoming, guided tours, introduction to crafts, ecological practices, use of local products,...We also organized for them a "Partner Evening".

## **Promotional activities**

- We participated in several national and regional TV shows to present our Geopark. We have also set up a national advertising campaign for the promotion of our exhibition "Celebrating Earth". We are registered in different guides of tourist promotion (routard, 365.be, ...). We are also very active on the social networks: facebook and Instagram. Finally, we participated in 5 general public fairs in Belgium and France to promote our Geopark and 2 promotion actions in Belgian stations.

## **4. CONTACTS**

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