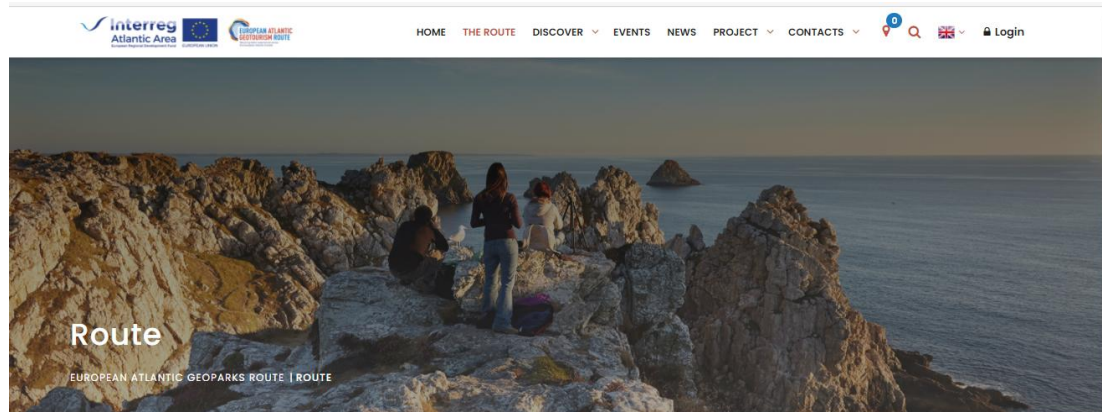


# GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal, European Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2013 / 2017



European Atlantic Geotourism Route (<https://geotourismroute.eu/route/>)

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 3 staffs, including 2 geoscientists (e.g. GEOAÇORES Association)

**Number of visitors:** 858,951 overnights stays (cf. hotels s.l.)

**Number of Geopark events:** 7 events held by the management body, and 34 through partners, with about 978 participants

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 129 activities, with 2,595 students and teachers

**Number of Geopark press release:** 26 articles in the press

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2020

i) Several initiatives to increase and strength the Azores UGGp visibility to local population, visitors and abroad (e.g. panoramic panels, roadside panels, informative poles and flyers); ii) Azores wins the Europe's Leading Adventure Tourism Destination (World Travel Awards); iii) Azores wins The Best Sustainable Destination in Europe (Green Destinations); iv) For the fifth year (2016-2020) Azores is in the "TOP 100 of the World's Most Sustainable Destinations" (Green Destinations).

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

Participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> GGN Digital Forum; Participation in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> EGN Digital Forum; Participation on the "Atlantic Geoparks" Project, an INTERREG Atlantic Area EU Project involving 8

UGGp from Europe, aimed for the development of a European Atlantic Geotourism Route (EAGR), with a common webpage and App; Coordination of the EGN “Volcanic Thematic Working Group”, where the Azores UGGp Scientific Coordinator act as Catalyst; Participation on the EGN/GGN Working Groups “Education, Geohazards and Islands”; Join to the GEOfood project; Publication at EGN Newsletter Nr. 16 “Azores Walking Trails: GEA in motion”.

### **Management and Financial Status**

The management of the geopark is assured by the GEOAÇORES Association – Azores Geopark Association, a non-profit association, with headquarters in Horta, Faial Island, established through a public deed on May 19th, 2010. The Azores Geopark Association has an annual budget, approved by the General Assembly, the Management Board and the Auditor’s Committee, and is supervised by an official accountant (Income 90,969.81€/Expenditure 70,166.96€). At present the Association does not have debts.

### **Geoconservation**

Partnership with the Project TURGEO – “Definition of carrying capacity for the touristic use of geosites: a tool for the sustainable use and valuing of the Azores natural resources”; this project is coordinated by the University of the Azores and has the ATA-Azores Tourism Board and the GEOAÇORES Association as partners; Monitoring of Azores UGGp geosites in cooperation with the regional network of nature rangers; Start the process of revision and (re)evaluation of the geological inventory of the 121 Azores geosite’s scientific value and its prioritization.

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

Enhancing and strengthening of the cooperation with the Azores Tourism Board, which established the Azores Geopark as the key player for the implementation of the Azores geotouristic promotion and qualifying policies; Cooperation with the Ponta Delgada Municipality under the framework of the EU INTERREG “ECO-Tour” Project, aimed for the tourism valuing of important geosites and viewpoints of the S. Miguel Island (e.g. geological trail and panels); Empowerment of geotourism operators through 2 Workshops "Geotourism at Atlantic Area" at Faial/Pico islands and Terceira Island”; Development of common actions with the 5 UGGp of Portugal and the Portuguese Tourism Agency (5 Webinar, Code of Conduct, regular communication at social networks, implementation of GEOfood project). Participation in Web Conference “Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles” organized by UTAD University, and Web Conference “Atlantic Geoparks – Geotourism for Sustainability” organized by Arouca UGGp; on-line training course for touristic enterprises, about “Volcanoes Route”, to be implemented in all 9 islands and several itineraries, by the Azores Tourism Agency with the collaboration of the Azores UGGp.

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

Participation at International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction with 4 activities and 89 participants; Contributions to “SIARAM”, an Azores Government official web portal with educational and touristic contents; With the aim to prepare educational materials about the volcanic caves of the Azores and under the theme “Geology of the Azores – a Holistic Perspective”, the Azores UGGp received and supervised the internship of Angeliki Zacharoudi (from Aristoteles University, Salonica, Greece), a student from ERASMUS+ Programme, during 4 months.

## **Strategic partnership**

Signature of the cooperation protocol with the Energy, Environment and Tourism Regional Secretariat (SREAT); Several memoranda of collaboration with local stakeholders, being presently a total of about 50 partnerships; Consultant services to the FEADER/PRORURAL+ Project “3G –Geoconservation, Geoduction and Geotourism”, coordinated by the Local Actions Groups ADELIAÇOR, GRATER and ARDE

## **Promotional activities**

Collaboration with the “Açoriano Oriental” newspaper, by publishing a page every two weeks entitled “(Geo)diversidades”; Update of the Azores Geopark’s Facebook and Instagram, with activities, photos and news; Weekly promotion of the radio program "Geoparque Açores em 5 minutos/Azores Geopark in 5 minutes", in the radio station “RDP - Antena 1 Açores”; Broadcast of 6 documentary films about the 9 islands and the marine geosites of the Azores UGG at Regional TV (RTP AÇORES) and National TV (RTP2)

## **4. CONTACTS**

**Manager:** Manuel Paulino Costa, manuel.ps.costa@azores.gov.pt

**Geologist:** João Carlos Nunes, jcnunes@azoresgeopark.com