

# GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** MADONIE UNESCO Global Geopark, ITALY, European Geoparks Network)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2001 / 2019



Photo 1 - KIK OFF project Life Natura



Photo 2 - Inauguration of the *Abies nebrodensis* museum



Photo 3 - Presentation of the calendar on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Park in the presence of the Regional Councilor for Territory and Environment Salvatore Cordaro.



Photo 4 - International Conference Day on Disaster Reduction - TITLE "The land seen by a professional: at school with the geologist" at the scientific high school "G. Salerno "by Gangi.

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 6;

Staffs including: 1 staff coordinator + 1 geologist + 4 administratives

**Number of visitors:** museums, park information points, hikers around 180.595

**Number of Geopark events:** about 65

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** about 350

**Number of Geopark press release:** unnumbered press releases, social media, web, posters, online newspapers, Municipalities.

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2019

- May: Forbioenergy Project "Forest bioenergy in protected Mediterranean areas, extraction and use of biomass in protected areas" Workshop;
- May-June: programming of the activities of the EGN Week in collaboration with Municipalities, associations, citizens, schools, tour operators, tourism agencies, AIGAE nature guides, museums and information points on parks;
- July: Madonie Geopark revalidation mission. The program agenda included various activities in the municipalities of the Park: Castellana Sicula, Polizzi Generosa, Geraci Siculo, Petralia Soprana and Petralia Sottana: visits to geological, naturalistic sites, historical re-enactments, craft exhibitions, traditional recipes, cultural events;
- November: celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Madonie Park. Activities: philatelic cancellation, creation of a calendar dedicated to geology, cooking show for chef Giuseppe Scieurca's creation of typical dishes based on ancient recipes of Madonite cuisine, enriched by the scientific dissemination of the Director of the Botanical Garden of the University of Palermo Professor Rosario Schicchi, regarding the organoleptic properties of the products used.  
Event: Sustainable mobility in the "Cycle ride in the Park" Park;

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- **March:** Participation in the 43rd Coordination Committee Meeting Scheduled Swabian Alb Unesco Global Geopark, Germany;
- **September:** participation in the 44th EGN CC Meeting & 15th European Geoparks Conference - UGG, at the Sierra Norte Natural Park of Seville in Spain;
- **November:** Participation in the Unesco Geoparks National Committee meeting in Rome;

### Management and Financial Status

- The main financial income comes from the Sicilian Region - Territory and Environment Department, which transfers the sums entered in the current budget for the financial year, necessary for the payment of all expenses relating to the management of institutional activities, geoparking and personnel.  
Other proceeds come from European Community Projects, from the rental of owned assets and from the commercial activity of the park authority.  
The annual budget is approved by the Park Council and submitted to the control of the Sicily Region.

### Geoconservation

- Project: "Decisive strategies of in situ and ex situ conservation to guarantee the endangered Sicilian fir, *Abies nebrodensis* LIFE4FIR";
- Project "Conservation of the *Abies nebrodensis* and restoration of the peat bog Geraci Siculo";
- Forbioenergy Project "Forest bioenergy in protected Mediterranean areas, promoted by the Department for rural and territorial development of the Sicilian Region";
- Realization of the Project: "Conservation and naturalistic improvement of the ponds and bogs of Geraci Siculo and interventions and actions for the protection and recomposition of degraded habitats in the special conservation area ITA020020" Evergreen oaks of Geraci Siculo and Castelbuono";

- Completed the works for the replacement and implementation of the signs in the Madonie Park, located at the entrance and exit of all the Municipalities of the Madonie Park with the Unesco and Geopark logos and the words "Welcome ..." and "Goodbye. ..." in English, German and French..

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

- **November:** second edition of the Break the Limit Project - Tourism beyond barriers - target diffusion of tourism without architectural barriers and development of social inclusion, as a cultural model between the different generations;
- **May:** Project "We give color to our future" promoted by the Comprehensive School "Castellana Sicula - Polizzi Generosa", with the aim of improving the educational function of the school in the Park, developing knowledge of the area through collaboration-integration processes, school - territory;
- **May:** *Dreaming of the Madonie*, is an event created in the Park as a form of Forest Bathing, "diving" tourism in the green of the Madonie woods and dedicated to those who live every day with their families, the difficult reality of social inclusion due to serious diseases, still unsurpassed in science and medicine.  
In collaboration with the Park, The City Association, the ASLTI-Onlus association "Free to Grow" created by parents of children suffering from oncological diseases and being treated at the Pediatric Onco-Hematology Operative Unit of the Palermo Hospital, Association New Path, Williams Syndrome Association and San Pio di Geraci Siculo Community.
- **July:** inauguration of the Nebrodensis Abies museum in the municipality of Polizzi Generosa;
- **June-July:** guided tour for schools and groups in the geological sites of Monte D'Oro in the municipality of Collesano and Sant'Otiero in the municipality of Petralia Sottana etc.;

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

- **April:** 7th edition of "Earth Day Cefalu" on the occasion of the 49th World Earth Day in collaboration with the Fare Ambiente Cefalù-Madonie association with the aim of raising public awareness of the environmental problem;
- **June:** the Madonie Regional Park, as associated partner, participated in the final conference of the ForBioEnergy project on the theme: "Forest bioenergy in protected areas of the Mediterranean", held at the Botanical Garden of Palermo, coordinated by the Department for Development rural region of Sicily, co-partner with the countries of Slovenia, Croatia, Spain and the Municipality of Petralia Sottana in the Madonie Park, where the pilot area of the project to implement the use of residual biomass in protected areas is located;
- **October:** the seventh edition of the "Week of Planet Earth" initiative took place with the event dedicated to Geology: "Salt of the Earth and Culture in the UNESCO Geopark".  
In the Madonie Park there is a mine of pure rock salt.
- **October:** 3rd edition of the awareness campaign "The Earth seen by a professional: at school with the geologist - A day dedicated to information and awareness in schools about potential natural hazards in the Geopark area, the associated risks and on how to protect yourself, to minimize the risks of disasters  
Organisms involved: National Council of Geologists, Regional Order of Geologists, Regional Department of Civil Protection.

### **Strategic partnership**

- Partnership agreement on the LIFE project Decisive strategies for in situ and ex situ conservation to guarantee the endangered Sicilian fir *Abies nebrodensis* - LIFE4FIR. Project partner National University of Palermo, Research Area of the CNR (National Research Council), Regional Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries in the Mediterranean - Regional Department for Rural and Territorial Development - Service Office for the Territory of Palermo, University of Seville (USA);
- Partnership with the Rotary Club Palermo Parco delle Madonie for the realization of programs and projects of common interest in the social, cultural and promotional field of the Madonie area;
- Partnership with the *Cosmo Natura Tourism Culture and Environment* Association for the realization of initiatives aimed at promoting typical products and promoting the area;
- Memorandum of understanding for "the integration of bioenergy issues into plans and strategies of rural areas" with the Regional Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries in the Mediterranean - Regional Department for Rural and Territorial Development,

Municipality of Petralia Sottana, Sicilian Region - Regional Department of Energy and Public Services - Regional Department of Energy So.Svi.Ma. Spa - Madonie Local Development Agency GAL Madonie, Pantelleria Island National Park;

- Partnership between the Madonie Park and the Regional Department for rural and territorial development for the realization of the restoration and management project of the wildlife enclosure of Piano Zucchi, Madonie Park
- Collaborations with cultural, sports, hiking associations, Sicilian Alpine Club;

#### **Promotional activities**

- **May:** participation in the 5th edition of the Food Biodiversity Fair in Sicily at the Botanical Garden of the University of Palermo in Palermo for the promotion and enhancement of the agri-food excellence and natural resources of the area;
- **May:** participation in the Mediterranean Horse Fair organized by the Sicilian Region to promote cultural identity and environmental sustainability, integrated development of the territory and the showcase of agri-food products;
- **May:** participation in the 68th edition of the "Madonie Expo" Mediterranean Fair with tastings of typical products, socio-cultural events and artistic performances, in order to promote the excellence of the Madonite territory and the itineraries of the places to visit;
- **June:** website restyling: [www.parcodellemadonie.it](http://www.parcodellemadonie.it) with new thematic sections dedicated to: Geopark, Volunteering, Art, Culture, Tradition, Hospitality, Alternation to school work and buttons to facilitate the accessibility functions managed directly by the bar tools;
- **March-September:** presentation of the Geopark in schools;
- **November:** participation in the IV edition of the Extralberghiero Tourism Exchange (B.T.E.) for the enhancement of the Sicilian tourist offer of small and medium-sized tourism enterprises;
- **October - November:** traveling exhibition in the Municipalities of the Madonie Park "Trame di Filo" with display of handmade laces and precious embroideries made with ancient manufacturing techniques and display of ancient equipment of the past;
- **December:** Exhibition of nativity scenes, designed and made with entirely recyclable materials built by pupils, associations of disabled people, artisans and with local agri-food products (honey, cheese, bread, biscuits) from openings by confectionery masters;  
Sale of gadgets and publications in the information points of the Madonie Park Authority, online on Parks.it, on shipping to accommodation facilities;

#### **4. CONTACTS**

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