

1. Geopark Identity

Geopark name, country, regional network: Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2016 / 2021

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



Picture: Welcome ceremony of the new manager in Puumala (Pistohiekka). Jouni Riihelä, left (SGP President) and Mikko Ikävalko, right (SGP Manager).

2. Geopark Figures

Number of Geopark staffs: 2 staffs

Number of visitors: Accommodation in Saimaa area 1 319 500. Visitors in Imatra rapids 124 502 and Lappeeranta fortress 102 569.

Number of Geopark events: 15

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 9

Number of Geopark press release: 9

3. Geopark Activities

Major achievements in 2022

- New website with outdoor active service (www.saimaageopark.fi)

- Behavior information and etiquettes for travellers
- Salmi Ar virtual guide app
- From ancient sea to Saimaa II (geological guide / book)

Contribution towards GGN -Networking and participation

- Participation in EGN Conference in Italy
- Participation in GGN webinar in Global Geodiversity day
- Digital meetings with Scandinavian Geoparks
- Participation for Youth initiative group

Management and Financial Status

Nine municipalities around Southern-Saimaa lake have created Saimaa Geopark society. The municipalities (members) invest every year together 150 000€ for Geopark. Local cities (3) member fee is 30 000€ per year and small towns (6) pays for membership 10 000€ per municipality. SGP has also projects. Total project money sum was around 100 000€ in the last year. Geoparks total budget has been 250 000€ in year 2022.

Geoconservation

There are trails and routes for geotargets what visitors are using. Part of routes are wooden ones because sensitive ground. Fire places are also marked and we have created together information with municipalities and South-Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas. Information included for example hiker instructions.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

SGP has taken part of Visit Finland national sustainable travel program (STF). Saimaa Geopark is Sustainable Travel Finland destination which co-operate with local firms together and support also firms to part of program.

Green values are important for Saimaa Geopark. SGP has maken developing work for minor carbon travelling. Crowing bycycle tourism is one great experience. Last year we have been created bycycle map with geotargets in Southern- Saimaa area.

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

-communicational "arrows" like how to behave in the nature cards. Information and instructions for travellers.

-co-operational projects (GeoNaCu, Secrets of Saimaa and Crowing with knowledge) with local firms. Projects has included education and information for example for digital service using.

Strategic partnership

Saimaa Geopark has co-operated with Magma Geopark in the field of Geofood. Saimaa Region is European Region of Gastronomy in year 2024.

Promotional activities

Meetings with local municipalities, performance in Italian tv, goSaimaa tour in November, exhibitions in Geopark region, co-operating with schools and firms. Communications over social media, website, mail and several individual meetings.

Material producing like guidelines, maps, electrical innovations.

Events like Saimaa Challenge, Saimaa Cycle tour, Saimaa Regatta

4. Contacts

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