

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany, European Geoparks Network

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



Ceremonial presentation of the certificate of designation "UNESCO Global Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen" on 19.07.2021 in Castle Ehrenstein Ohrdruf

Photo left: The kindergarten "Brunnenspatzen" from Floh-Seligenthal entertained the guests with a Saurian-Musical.

Photo right: Minister of State for International Cultural Policy, Michelle Müntefering hands over the certificate of designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark to Thomas Klöppel, Mayor of the managing municipality of Friedrichroda. In the background are the mayors of all Geopark municipalities, important state and federal parliamentarians and our Geopark ambassador.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 10 staff members including 7 geoscientists (one geoscientist more since our previous Progress Report in April 2020)

Number of visitors: 66.804 (total number of the visitors in all 5 GeoInfocentres, less than usual due to longer pandemic-related closing times)

Number of Geopark events: 69 (less than usual due to the pandemic)

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 7 (less than usual due to the pandemic)

Number of Geopark press release: 14

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- 1st regular scientific excavation at the international tetrapod fossil site Bromacker in august (Thuringian Forest, Georgenthal/Tambach-Dietharz) as part of the international BROMACKER research project (excavation period: 1 month, excavation participants: approx. 50 scientists in an international line-up)
- Completion of the new GeoInfocentre and GeoMuseum Schloss Ehrenstein Ohrdruf (due to the pandemic opening in 2022).
- Special exhibition at Mühlburg castle on clay as raw material and its use in cooperation with a local pottery
- Completion of planning for a new GeoRoute on the subject of millstones (GeoRoute 18 in Gemeinde Geratal, OT Frankenhain), implementation in 2022
- setting up a new GeoInfopoint in Bad Tabarz in the tourist information KUKUNA
- setting up a New GeoInfopoint at the Paulfeld campsite in Altenbergen
- Planning for redesign of the GeoInfocentres Marienglashöhle Friedrichroda and Kulturscheune Mühlberg (construction phase begins in 2022)
- planning a new GeoRoute and a new GeoInfopoint in Waltershausen
- Further expansion of the Geopark's website and Facebook account

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Signing of the cooperation agreement with the UGGp Chelmos Vouraikos, Greece (currently 1st joint research proposal via DAAD for academic exchange and cave fauna research in both Geoparks).
- Participation 9th International GGN-Conference from 14.-16.12.21 with presentation by Dr. Mauro Alivernini (Introduction to the BROMACKER research project of UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen)
- Participation of Stephan Brauner and Nancy Schröter in the Geopark Intensive Course Lesvos UGGp from 07.-20.06.21 with presentation by Nancy Schröter (topic: 10th anniversary of the Saurian Discovery Trail of UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg – Drei Gleichen)
- Contribution to EGN-Magazine 19 (to be published in 2022): Introduction to the UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen
- Participation in the 5th EGN Digital Forum in Papuk on 01./02.09.21
- Participation in the bi-national geopark conference of the UGGps in Germany and the Czech Republic on 23./24.09.21 with presentation by Kerstin Fohlert (Introduction to the UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen)

Management and Financial Status

- same management structure as reported in our previous Progress Report (April 2020)
- stable financial status, annual Geopark budget slightly increased compared to 2020 due to higher fee of Geopark municipalities from 2021 onwards

Geoconservation

- Renovation of the historic gypsum kiln at the geosite "Kittelsthal gypsum quarry" in Ruhla; Entry of the gypsum kiln in the district's register of protected monuments
- Renovation of the wooden bridge of the listed spar bunker of the Hühn tourist mine in Brotterode-Trusetal (near the GeoInfocentre)
- Renovation of the entrance to the abandoned Glücksstern mine (this geosite is Thuringia's most important mineralogical type locality) at the Friedrichroda mining trail (GeoRoute 7)
- Construction of a lorry with rail track at a former coal mine (Concordia mine) in Bad Tabarz on the Tabarzer Vulkansteig (GeoRoute 8).
- New signposting of the geosite "Trusetaler Hauptgang" in Brotterode-Trusetal
- Protection work on the geosite and natural monument "Plattenbruch am Gottlob" in Friedrichroda
- Safeguarding work in the Marienglashöhle cave Friedrichroda (Geosite with tourist mine/cave at GeoInfocentre)

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Establishment of a network of all tourist informations in the Geopark together with the Regional Tourism Association Thüringer Wald Gothaer Land e.V.
- Meeting with UGGp Ore of the Alps (Austria) regarding to initialize a project about special targets of the SDG's, project start planned for 2022/2023
- Planning of a visitor platform for the international tetrapod fossil site Bromacker (implementation 2022/2023) within the framework of the BROMACKER research project
- Participation in the special exhibition "Saurians-The Invention of Prehistory" at the Duke's Museum Gotha with our cooperation partner Friedenstein Castle Foundation
- Participation in the planning of the BROMACKER *lab* (as part of the BROMACKER research project) together with the Friedenstein Castle Foundation (Opening of the exhibition on 27.02.2022, free admission)

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

- Establishing contact with the UNESCO school Salzmannschule Schnepfenthal (special grammar school for languages)
- Revision of the Geopark timeline into a new form: a time spiral
- Start of development of an app for the GeoRoute Kleinschmalkalder Vulkansteig in Floh-Seligenthal (GeoRoute 14) with elements of augmented reality and virtual reality
- Various activities during the BROMACKER research excavation (with around 2.000 visitors in 3 weeks) on the subject knowledge transfer: BROMACKER_Chroniken on Instagram, guided tours, interviews with the researchers)
- Participation in the planning for two research drillings as part of the BROMACKER research project with the University of Jena
- Contacting the Geofood programme and starting to recruit partners

Strategic partnership

- Signing of the 5-year cooperation agreement of the BROMACKER Research Project of the Geopark on 19.07.2021 with the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin - Leibniz Institute for Evolutionary and Biodiversity Research, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Friedenstein Castle Foundation Gotha
- International volunteering for knowledge transfer for UGGp and aUGGp as well as UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Global South with focus on Africa (cooperation project of the Forum of UGGps in Germany with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, lead partner: UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen)
- Start of the development of a study together with the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin to support the establishment of a geopark in Tanzania

Promotional activities

- Creation of a new geotouristic and geological overview map of the Geopark for visitors
- Creation of diverse panels on various GeoRoutes/ in the Geopark area
- Creation of four new Guides for GeoRoutes (leaflets)
- Contributions to various magazines and publications (e.g. "alverde" (magazine of a drugstore-chain in Germany; "Mission Outdoor" (magazine of a sports equipment company in Germany); "Hörselbergbote" (local magazine in Western Thuringia))
- Production of a short film for the presentation of the certificate of designation "UNESCO Global Geopark Thüringen Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen" on 19.07.2021

- Strategic concept for the medium-term media preparation of geopark-specific topics by the UGGp in Germany with reference to socially relevant key topics from the Global Agenda 2030 (cooperation project of the Forum of the UGGps in Germany with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, lead partner: UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen)

4. CONTACTS

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