

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

## 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 / ----



**Twenty eventful years: Anniversary celebration for the 20th anniversary of the Geopark on 11.09.2022 in/at the Geolinfocentre Kulturscheune Mühlberg, municipality of Drei Gleichen**

Photo left: Honouring of deserving Geopark actors during the Geopark anniversary ceremony at the Geolinfocentre Kulturscheune Mühlberg, here the honouring of the former mayors of the Geopark municipalities - the certificates of honour were handed over by Dr. Burkhard Vogel (State Secretary of the Thuringian Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Nature Conservation), Thomas Klöppel (Mayor of the town of Friedrichroda as managing municipality of the Geopark) as well as Sylvia Reyer-Rohde (Head of the Geopark Management Office).

Photo right: Balloon competition at the anniversary celebration on the square in front of the Geolinfocentre Kulturscheune Mühlberg next to the marquee: performance by the Mühlberg kindergarten "Waidspatzen" and subsequent balloon launching with Geopark competition. (The balloons that fly the furthest and whose postcard is sent back to the Geopark will win one of three special guided tours of the Geopark for the 2023

hiking season).

## **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:** 92.342 (total number of the visitors in all 5 GeoInfocentres and at the GeoMuseum as well as for larger events)

**Number of Geopark events:** 97

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 19

**Number of Geopark press release:** 16

## **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

### **Major achievements in 2022**

- Research project funded by DAAD-IKYDA 2022/2023: "Aquatic faunas from caves in Greece and Germany: a pilot study on historical (ecological) and biogeographical relationships" together with the partner geopark UGGp Chelmos Vouraikos (Greece), the University of Jena and the University of Patras
- Second scientific excavation at the international tetrapod fossil site Bromacker (Thuringian Forest, Georgenthal/Tambach-Dietharz) within the framework of the international BROMACKER research project in August (excavation period: 1 month, excavation participants: approx. 50 scientists in an international team) with supporting programme for visitors (science communication project)
- Drilling of the first research borehole (over 250 metres) at the Hainfelsen in Finsterbergen as part of the international BROMACKER research project with a supporting programme for visitors (science communication project)
- Ceremonial opening of Ehrenstein Ohrdruf Castle for visitors with new GeoInfocentre and GeoMuseum
- Geopark photo exhibition in Gotha hospital (duration: approx. half a year)
- Construction of a new GeoRoute (GeoRoute 18 "Mühlsteinroute" in the municipality of Geratal, OT Frankenhain), opening in 2023
- Establishment of the Geofood Programme in the Geopark (3 partners at the moment: farming TZG Ernstroda GmbH, restaurant Anno 1700 in Bad Tabarz, Rose farm Holzhausen)
- Further expansion of the Geopark's website and Facebook account

- New: Instagram account of the Geopark

### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Inaugural visits with the new cooperation partner UGGp Chelmos Vouraikos, Greece on site: meetings in Greece and in Germany
- Contribution to EGN magazine 19: Presentation of the UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen
- Participation in the EGN Spring Meeting 26-30.04.2022 at de Hondsrug UGGp (Netherlands) by Stephan Brauner (Participation in the EGN Autumn Meeting 26-30.09.2022 at Sesia-Val Grand UGGp (Italy) planned by Dr. Mauro Alivernini, but cancelled at short notice due to Corona illness)
- Participation in the EGN Week (6 events)

### **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**

- Planning for the renovation of the historic gypsum kiln in Floh-Seligenthal (preliminary planning in 2022, further planning and implementation in several annual phases).
- New signposting of various geosites in the Geopark area (e.g. in Trusetal: Elmenthal Geological Wall)
- Exposure of some geological outcrops in the Geopark area (e.g. in Ruhla: Geotope Thal Heiligenstein)
- Ceremonial reopening of the Kittelsthal limestone cave (show cave, visitor mine) in Ruhla on 3 October 2022 with a festival; restoration of access to the underground geosite with dripstones and sinter structures (Zechstein reef limestone)
- Safeguarding work in the Marienglashöhle Friedrichroda (geosite with visitor mine/show cave at the GeoInfozentrum)
- Securing the valley incision at Auwallenburg railway station with Zechstein unconformity (geosite)

## **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Opening of the BROMACKER lab on 27.02.2022 (as part of the BROMACKER research project) together with the Friedenstein Castle Foundation (free interactive exhibition with laboratory character)
- Planning and implementation of several special trips with the Thuringian Forest Railway from Gotha to the Bromacker and the Marienglashöhle with guided tours and activities on site (bookable directly via the Geopark website by tourists through the Regiondo online booking system)
- Start of construction work to modernise the GeoInfocentres Marienglashöhle Friedrichroda and Kulturscheune Mühlberg (1st construction phase in each case, further annual phases to follow)
- Start of constructional implementation for the conversion of the Günthersleben GeoInfopoint (1st of two construction phases)
- Start of planning for the modernisation of the GeoInfocentre Trusetal (at the visitor mine Grube Hühn)
- Planning of three new GeoRoutes (in Waltershausen, in Tambach-Dietharz, in Ruhla)
- Working meeting with the UGGp Ore of the Alps (Austria) regarding a joint project on SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals/Agenda 2030), project start planned for 2023
- Continuation of the planning of a visitor platform for the Bromacker international tetrapod fossil site as part of the BROMACKER research project (structural implementation planned for 2023)
- Preparation of the public geosite map of the Free State of Thuringia for the Thuringian State Office for the Environment, Mining and Nature Conservation
- Extensive maintenance work on the Saurian Discovery Trail (GeoRoute 6): General overhaul of the dinosaur sculptures

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

- Further work on 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 4 weeks) on the topic of knowledge transfer: BROMACKER\_Chronicles on Instagram, guided tours during the excavation, interviews with the researchers, special trips with public transport (see above)

- Implementation of a one-day teacher training course with the ThILLM (Thuringian Institute for Teacher Training, Curriculum Development and Media), start of integration of the Geopark as an extracurricular place of learning in the Thuringian school portal
- Start of the development of an ESD offer for the Geopark in Ruhla on the topic of forest & water (as part of the project "Implementation of education for sustainable development in educational offers of German UNESCO Global Geoparks - as part of the DBU call for proposals "The great transformation - sustainability dilemmas and dealing with uncertainties")

### **Strategic partnership**

- ongoing cooperation agreement of the BROMACKER Research Project of the Geopark with the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin - Leibniz Institute for Evolutionary and Biodiversity Research, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Friedenstein Castle Foundation Gotha

### **Promotional activities**

- Creation of a new Geopark image film (German/English)
- New edition of the Geopark image brochure
- New edition of an overview leaflet on the Geopark (German/English)
- Contributions to various publications (e.g. "Wandermagazin" - well-known German hiking magazine; "Digital Signage" - trade magazine for digital advertising and information systems; "Das Erbe unserer Welt" - supplement magazine for subscribers to the German edition of National Geographic)
- Activities in the context of the 20th Geopark anniversary (see above):
  - Creation of a series of postcards
  - Creation of Geopark stamps
  - Creation of Geopark pins
  - Creation of Geopark stickers
- Creation of individual display boards on various GeoRoutes

## **4. CONTACTS**

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