

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy, (European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2011 / 2023



Group photo during the Apuan Alps UGGp Revalidation Mission of 2023

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 23 staffs including 3 geoscientists

Number of visitors: the 2023 data count about 25.000 visitors considering the number of individuals visiting the tourist caves and our museums or visitor centres (entry to the geoparks is not governed by ticket sales and entrances are so numerous that it is impossible to determine their exact number).

Number of Geopark events: 15 events held by Apuan Alps UGGp management body and 58 events held by partners

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: the total number school classes is 59, for a total of about 950-1000 students

Number of Geopark press release: 38 press releases

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- Grants for maintenance and installation of new signs along the Apuan trails
- Temporary Photography Exhibition by the Tuscany Speleological Federation at the Seravezza Visitors Centre
- Opening of the new permanent exhibit on earthquakes and Geoparks' seismic risk education at the Apuangeolab in Equi Terme
- Third successful UGGp revalidation mission in June
- 9th "Maria Ansaldi" Conference at the Geopark Farm on "the unexpected charm of the Apuan landscapes"
- The second edition of Medieval Bosa, event for the enhancement of tangible and intangible heritage of local communities, with their history, mythology, folklore and folk traditions
- Apuan Autumn, a celebration of the season in Bosa di Careggine

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation at the EGN AC and CC meeting in Hateg County UGGp (Romania)
- Participation at the EGN AC and CC meeting in M'goun UGGp (Morocco)
- Participation at the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in M'goun UGGp (Morocco) with thematic presentations on geology and tourism enhancement
- Participation in the Erasmus+ project in the area of environment and sustainability titled "Approaching sustainable development through Geoparks" with two high schools, one Portuguese and one Greek
- EGN magazine, issue 20, "Geo and bio education: the Apuan Alps Geopark teams up with the children in its local communities"
- Participation in EGN Geohazards Working group
- Participation in EGN Communication Working group

Management and Financial Status

- The management structure is made up of several offices and services for a total of 23 people and the operating budget for 2023 totaled € 2.150.327,89 (remained stable from prior year)
- New financial status leads to an easier management of the dynamics of spending with costs and assets optimisation

Geoconservation

- Integrated Park Master Plan is awaiting approval by the Tuscany Region
- The management Plan of the Natura 2000 network sites has taken effect

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Grants to support sustainable tourism and activities managed by Geopark's stakeholders with a rich programme of hikes and activities
- Renewal of the Tourism Strategy and ECTS Action Plan for the years 2024-2028 (evaluation mission will follow in 2024)

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

- The Geopark for school. Grants for promoting environmental education
- Summer camps for children ages 8-12 years
- Scholarship on the role of the wolf in the ecosystem of the Apuan Alps funded by the Geopark and Pisa University
- IDDRR 2023: Geopark Guide Training on earthquakes and seismic hazard and training course on meteorology and mountain medicine in collaboration with the Alpine Rescue

Strategic partnership

- Agreement between the Geopark and National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology to deepen the geological and seismic knowledge of the Apuan Alps
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources of the National Research Council of Italy
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Earth Science Department of the University of Pisa
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Municipality of Camaiore for actions and projects for the enhancement and promotion of its territory
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Municipality of Seravezza for maintenance, conservation, and restoration actions, scientific research and historic and environmental promotions of the Archeo-urban Park of Corvaia Rock
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Circolo ARCI "Le Tanacce" of Terrinca for the conservation and promotion of areas of environmental, historic and cultural value in the Municipality of Terrinca (Stazzema)
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Speleological Federation of Tuscany for the inspection and research in the karstic cavities of the Apuan Alps
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Tuscan Alpine and Speleological Rescue (Carrara-Lunigiana station)
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Superintendence of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the Provinces of Lucca and Massa Carrara for the establishment of the "Museum of the Apuan Man" in Equi Terme (Fivizzano)

- Agreement between the Geopark and the Ciclistica Forte dei Marmi association for the promotion of the Geopark area, as well as for the sustainable use of the protected territory through amateur cycling activity
- Agreement between the Geopark and the Department of Civilization and Forms of Knowledge of the University of Pisa for the implementation of the project “Mountain Archaeology for Ecosustainable Development”

Promotional activities

- 2023 Calendar dedicated to the historical crafts and professions related to the marbles of the Apuan Alps through illustrated postcards
- “Along the Gothic Line...”: on 28th of May, the fourth edition at Mosceta di Stazzema
- Wild food foraging at Bosa Geopark Farm during the EGN week
- “Living under Rocks”. Presentation of the book on the ancient rock shelters of the Apuan Alps written and edited by the Geopark at Palazzo Rossetti in Seravezza
- “Protected areas beyond their borders”: a workshop on the cross-territorial initiatives and programs of the protected areas of Tuscany organized in collaboration with Tuscany Region

4. CONTACTS

Alessia Amorfini, aamorfini@parcapuane.it

Ilaria Rosani, irosani@parcapuane.it