

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany (European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2000 (EGN), 2004 (GGN) / 2023



Public opening of the Ulmen Maar tunnel with the head of ministry of economics, mayors and county counsellors of the Vulkaneifel region.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 7 staffs including 4 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: ~510.000 (statistical tourism data: overnight guest arrivals)

Number of Geopark events: 650 guided tours by our geopark guest guides, five public evening lectures, one educational parcours for the Nature- and Geopark -schools and -kindergartens

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 8 Geopark schools and 9 kindergartens: 55 classes per contract, most of which do multiple courses per year

Number of Geopark press release: weekly announcements about events as well as 24 editorial press releases

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- Opening of the Ulmen Maar tunnel connecting the Jungferweiher and Ulmen Maar in April
- Educational parcours along the Weinfeld Maar in June
- New edition of the Vulkaneifel Magazine, which is published every ~ five years in three languages – German, English and Dutch
- Start of training of 30 new Nature- and Geopark Junior-Ranger “Youth-Rangers” between

the age of 9 and 13 years

- Press trip of the science press conference consortium of Germany
- We got awarded: National Award - Education for Sustainable Development presented by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German Commission for UNESCO
- Biodiversity measure: conversion of a silted-up fire pond into a wetland area for amphibians and wetland plants contributing to local climate protection
- New staff position especially for ESD

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Working groups of the EGN: geohazards, volcanic areas and education
- participation in GGN conference (Morocco) / EGN CC meeting (digital meeting in autumn)
- contributing with articles to European Geoparks Magazine and UGGp Newsletters

Management and Financial Status

- secured by contract

Geoconservation

- maintenance of various geosites and biotopes
- securing and opening Ulmen Maar tunnel to the public: geological window from Lower Devonian to Quaternary deposits
- EGN Geohazards book partaking

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Program with 650 guided tours – digital copy as well as printed (15,000 copies)
- Programme “The mysterious 13 – twelve maar craters and a crater lake” – series of guided walks
- Thematic Brochures e.g. about the maars, the landscapes, wild orchids, the local mineral water springs, ..., as digital copy as well as printed version (in total ~ 270,000 printed copies)

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

- ESD module about sustainability dilemma: Extraction of raw materials as a conflict between human economic activity and the preservation of the landscape

Strategic partnership

- Newly established Junior-Uni Daun “University for the youth” – partner for educational activity

Promotional activities

- See above “Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)”
- Weekly announcement about events and digital & printed brochures
- Website & social media

- Public lectures
- Promotional press visits
- TV, radio and web press accompaniment

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Dr. Andreas Schüller, andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

Geologist: Sabine Kummer, sabine.kummer@vulkaneifel.de