

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Mëllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2022

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



Press conference on the designation of Mëllerdall as part of the UNESCO Global Geoparks network.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 22 staff members including 1 geoscientist; permanent staff: 12, temporary projects staff: 10

Number of visitors: In 2022 a total of 205.744 hikers were counted on the Mullerthal Trail, the 112 km long regional hiking trail that leads along most of the geosites.

Number of Geopark events:

Organisation of the 2 major annual events for the general public: “Woche des Natur- & Geoparks” (EGN-week, 30 May - 5 June) and “Mount vum Bongert” (‘Month of the Orchards’, in October). Both events included numerous sub-events in collaboration with regional partners, such as guided hikes, lectures, activities and workshops.

Celebration of International Days: Geodiversity Day, Disaster Risk Reduction Day

Organisation of 24 different courses for the general public, communicated through the annual calendar of activities

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: not systematically recorded, at least 14 (EGN-week)

Number of Geopark press release: 16 press releases, 2 press conferences. Mellerdall personnel also gave interviews to national newspapers and radio stations. Numerous articles in municipality newspapers and in the Luxembourg Nature Parks' newspaper, which are distributed to all households in the region.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- UNESCO Global Geoparks designation, celebration including a visit by His Royal Highness, Grand Duke Henri
- Opening of the newly designed exhibition GEO-Expo on the special heritage of the region, development of didactic materials
- Creation and inauguration of the 1st Geo-Pad („Helt“), an education and interpretation trail with information panels
- Creation of measures to improve the visibility of the UNESCO Global Geopark in the region (roll-ups, update of flyers and entrance signs along the roads, placemats and beer mats, Devil's Claw soaps), creation of a marketing concept (financed by the European LEADER program)
- Realisation of numerous projects on nature conservation, sustainable economy, climate protection, drinking water protection, regional products, that are closely linked to the SDGs

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in all official Geopark network meetings (GGN AC, EGN CC, ...) and publications
- Integration of the 'Wall of Geoparks' in the Geo-Expo to make the Geoparks network visible
- Meeting with the UGGps Famenne-Ardenne and Vulkaneifel, as well as the aUGGps Waitaki and Schelde-Delta to exchange ideas and to discuss common projects
- Participation in international projects with other UGGps: GEOfood, LEADER Sand Landscapes, LIFE-IP ZENAPA

Management and Financial Status

- The Natur- & Geopark is financed through contributions from its member municipalities, ministries as well as national and international projects. stable; no remarkable changes

Geoconservation

- Explanations on the importance and necessity of geoheritage protection to visitors during guided walks
- Maintenance of various geosites and biotopes

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Creation of the Geo-Path “Helt” with information panels on geology, geomorphology, natural and cultural heritage, land use, ...

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk

reduction

- School classes and the public learn about fluvial processes such as flooding at an interactive model in the Geo-Expo)

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation with regional stakeholders was improved through our formal partnership program, which counted 50 partners in 2022. Partners are supported through regular information events and advertising. A first partner networking event was held.
- The NGPM has cooperation agreements, among others with the regional tourism association Mullerthal Region – Luxembourg's Little Switzerland, the LAG LEADER Mëllerdall Region and with the University of Trier
- The Natur- & Geopark is member of the national UNESCO Geopark Comitee, which includes delegates from national scientific institutions and administrations (geosciences, history/archaeology, ...) and regional stakeholder

Promotional activities

- Information on websites naturpark-mellerdall.lu and geopark-mellerdall.lu
- Publication of the annual calendar of activities with events on geological, cultural, intangible and natural heritage, which is distributed to all households in the region
- Regular activities on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube
- Integration of the UNESCO logo on all existing information and interpretation panels, staff member's workwear, and newly printed materials, ...

4. CONTACTS

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