

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2010 / 2018



Rokua Geopark was presented at the Northern Finland Outdoors fairs in Oulu Finland. May 2019.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 4 staffs including 1 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Approximately 200 000 visitors a year to all the area

Number of Geopark events: Several events were organized by the Geopark organization during the year 2019. Approximately 8 separate events.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: Rokua Geopark has seven Geopark schools (over 1000 pupils) In addition, many other schools have used the Geopark area it's educational programs during the year (around 10 classes -> over 200 students).

Number of Geopark press release: Several, approximately 10

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- Nomination of a new Geopark school: Vaala elementary school (covering classes 0-9).

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Both Rokua UGGp CC representatives participated in the EGN spring and autumn meetings
- A Delegation of 7 persons attended the European Geoparks Conference in Seville
- Vesa Krökki made a UNESCO evaluation/revalidation mission to Vietnam in 2019
- Vesa Krökki, is the coordinator of the Finnish UNESCO Global Geoparks committee.

- Mikko Kiuttu, participated in International Meeting on Geoparks, Sustainable Tourism and Local Development in Comarca Minera UGGp, Mexico in November 2019. He was invited by to present education in Geoparks and especially the work done in Rokua Geopark.
- RGP participated in an Erasmus+ project with Sesia Val Grande and Chablais UGGp's.
- Rokua Geopark prepared a Nordplus project together with Katla UGGp and Trollfjell UGGp

Management and Financial Status

- New Financial and management agreement is in place for the four-year period 2019-2022. The new financial agreement included a significant rise in the Geopark funding.

Geoconservation

- Rokua Geopark has participated in land use planning processes in the local municipalities and shared information on valuable geoheritage that should be preserved.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Rokua Geopark is actively developing and promoting tourism in its region by participating into the Attractive Oulu Region 2020 project. Theme: educational and technical visits.
- Rokua Geopark organization coordinates development of summer and winter trails in the region. New MTB route was opened in 2019 and new skiing trails were opened for winter 2019-2020. All the trails are planned respecting valuable geoheritage, protected species and private land owners existing in the area.

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

- A Geo Camp school product has been further developed during 2019 for the Asian customers by the Rokua Geopark, its companies and schools. Geo Camps include programs for sustainable use of natural resources, climate change and nature protection, for instance.

Strategic partnership

- 48 local companies are operating together under the Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark. The main operations are the regional promotion of tourism products.

Promotional activities

- Rokua Geopark participated in tourism fairs in 2019. Most important were the Northern Finland Outdoor Fairs in May 2019 and the MATKA travel fair in Helsinki in January. Furthermore Rokua Geopark was present at the ITB Berlin in 2019.

4. CONTACTS

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