



COMARCA MINERA
GEOPARQUE MUNDIAL



1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark, Mexico
Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeoLAC Network)

Year of inscription: 2017

Year of the last (next) revalidation: 2022

Representative Photo



A field, practical lesson during the “Earth Stories: principles of geoheritage and geoparks” course, a capacity building activity where guides, hotel administrators and students learned the basics of heritage interpretation and get practical discussions in Comarca Minera UGGp geosites.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES Geopark Team

Management: Eduardo Javier García Alonso
Finance: Adrian Cruz Serrano
Legal coordination: Enrique Serrano Salazar
Public Relations: Paula Lamas Larenas
Scientific Coordinator: Carles Canet Miquel
Institutional Image and Publications: José Luis Carrascco Bardales
Historical and Cultural Heritage: Lucero Morelos Rodríguez
Fundraising: Miguel Angel Cruz Pérez
Education and Training: Juan Carlos Mora Chaparro
Social Entrepreneurship: Claudia Paulette Escalona Muñóz
Geotourism: Erika Salgado Martínez
Environmental Education: Daniel Acosta Ruiz

Number of Visitors

During 2021 the number of visitors increased little by little, a situation that was monitored by the sanitary authorities. By the end of the year the situation improved and geosites and destinations received more visitors, although it is hardly the statistics of pre-pandemics.

Number of Geopark events

- Four editions of the «Earth Stories» course, with a total of 80 hours in 2021.
- 4th Anniversary Webinar for the Comarca Minera UGGp.
- Design, elaboration and installation of new explanation panels Spanish-English-Hñähñu (otomí) at Prismas Basálticos conforming the initial works of the «Geolandscapes: art and science» route.
- Earth Day commemoration with a virtual event.
- Update meetings at Peña del Aire for the Dark Sky Park project.
- Basura-Cero (Zero Trash) program in Huasca de Ocampo, specially in the CECYTE Omitlán, a local high school.
- International Womens Day with a special lecture in Presa El Cedral geosite.
- Genre Equality Working Group events and translation of the Working Group Statutes.

Geopark educational programmes

- The scientific team lectures the «Geological heritage and geodiversity» subject at the Earth Sciences Graduate Program of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- The «Earth Stories» course was given in 4 editions to local population, in joint collaboration with the Educación Continua (Permanent Education) department of the UNAM and with researchers from the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia.
- Works towards the establishment of the UNESCO Chair “” ...
- The program Basura-Cero (Zero Trash) continues to give positive results in the CECYTE highschool in Omitlán de Juárez municipality.

Number of Geopark press release

The year 2020 was a prolific year in terms of visibility in the press for Comarca Minera, in which a total of 8 press releases in digital media were published.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES (bulletize)

Major achievements in 2021:

- Dark Sky Park candidacy at Peña del Aire geosite, with a good advance with local population agreements.
- Publication of the 2nd edition of the Geosites Guide, in collaboration with the UNAM and La Salle University at Pachuca. Also, a prolific series of scientific publications for the LABchico project and the internationally significance geosite of Cerro de Las Navajas¹.
- Consolidation of the Gender Equality Working Group of the GeoLAC Network and publication of the Working Group Statutes.
- A strong capacity building agenda, with a total of 80 hours of onsite training and education, in spite of the sensitive situation of the pandemics.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:

1. Joint coordination of the Genre Equality Working Group along with Rio Coco UGGp, Nicaragua.

1 Latest publications: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Investigaciones-y-comunicacion-en-el-geoparque-Comarca-Minera-Hidalgo>

2. Participation in virtual events of the GeoLAC Network and with the Latin American Platform for Resilience.
3. Publication of the Memoirs of the International Event “Geoparks, Sustainable Tourism, and Local Development” along with the UNESCO Mexico Office.²

Management and Financial status:

Currently, the scientific team is administering a National Science Council project of 1.5 million Mexican pesos that serves to the works of visibility, training, and exhibitions. La Salle University at Pachuca supported the printing of the 2nd edition of the Geosites Guide, that is found in many geosites and local shops of the geopark. The civil association of Comarca Minera is also able to receive contributions to support geopark activities.

Geoconservation:

The scientific team is working for the conservation and recognition of the Cerro de Las Navajas geosite, a place hosting the highly valued green-golden obsidian. During the year a series of meetings took place with locals and authorities to support a label that ensures a responsible and sustainable agenda, fostering research, geoconservation, and training³. Also, considering the international significance of this geosite, the team supported the nomination of it as a Global Geosite.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):

- The geosites guide is found in several places and is easily accessible for visitors and locals. The fact it is also available in English is a good asset.
- New explanation panels installed in Prismas Basálticos conform the route «Geolandscapes: art and science».

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:

- The new Platform for Resilience where a member of the Comarca Minera UGGp scientific committee is participating is an initiative where the geopark would benefit in the development of new programs and disaster risk reduction.

2 Memoirs of the International Workshop, hosted and organized by Comarca Minera, in joint collaboration with UNESCO Mexico Office, and state agencies CITNOVA and Planning Unit: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380262.locale=es>

3 Cerro de Las Navajas geoconservation strategy advancements: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12371-021-00610-7>

- During the second half of 2021, the initial works for conforming a UNESCO Chair is been outlined and it is expected that in 2022 a good series of updates can be achieved.
- During the second half of 2021, Comarca Minera organized and hosted the fieldwork of the GATEC (*Grupo Asesor Técnico y Científico* or Advising Technical and Scientific Group) for exploring the current state of climate change in Comarca Minera, a relevant field for planning and implementing educational programs.

Strategic Partnership:

- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - Institutes of Climate Change and Atmospheric Sciences. This institute facilitated active training during the year.
- Universidad La Salle Pachuca. This institution, in formal agreement with the UNAM, co-edited the geosites guide.
- Consejo de Ciencia y Tecnología del Estado de Hidalgo (CITNOVA). Supports release notes and updates on the LABChico and Dark Sky projects.
- Unidad de Planeación y Prospectiva del Estado de Hidalgo. Supports cooperation with Hidalgo state government and geoconservation initiatives at Cerro de Las Navajas.
- Rutas del Agua Aspiring Geopark, Aguascalientes.

Promotional activities:

Promotion is taken place in social media and work groups within the geopark. Press release notes are facilitated by strategic partners like Gaceta UNAM and CITNOVA Hidalgo.

4. Contacts

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