

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Chablais UGGp, France, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2012 / 2021



Photo: One event to celebrate the Chablais UGGp 10th birthday as a UNESCO Global Geopark. This lakeside festival in Evian-les-Bains attracted around 60 000 people of which 2000 people visited the Chablais UGGp stand. Here they discovered the Geopark, its heritage and the national, regional and global networks.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 3 staff including 1 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: 170 243 people visited the main Geopark partner sites. Figures are still being compiled for the total number of overnight stays recorded in the Geopark. In 2021 this was 6.5 million.

Number of Geopark events: Chablais UGGp - 55 events; local villages - 30 events. More than 6000 people participated.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 5700 school children aged 3 to 18 participated. In addition, we ran a special 10th birthday activity with 8 classes. This was a yearlong project to produce films that concluded with a gala screening at the local cinema.

Number of Geopark press release: 11

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- Green card revalidation of our UGGp designation!
- The Chablais territory celebrated its 10-year anniversary! All the towns and villages shared in the celebration with the traditional local events and a special logo!
- The Chablais UGGp with a local business created a special chocolate bar with the relief of the Geopark. It was sold in local partner sites to celebrate our 10th birthday!
- A famous photographer worked on 10 special geosites. A major exhibition took place in the main Geopark town (Thonon), and then toured to five other Geopark towns.
- Award of the 2nd Chablais UGGp thesis prize (3000€) to Dr Sidonie Bochaton, archeologist and historian on her study of the cultural heritage of the Chablais.

- Working with a local beekeeper who cares for the Chablais UGGp beehives at its Vailly geosite, 60 pots of honey were produced for local families in need.
- A major event was held in October with a conference-debate with scientists (GEIC expert, meteorologist and a sociologist) and the local inhabitants about local climate change.
- Creation of the educational offers for school children from 3 to 18 years, locally and nationally (35 sites visits, overnight stays with certified partners and 14 workshops) for 2022-24.
- New training courses on climate change and sustainable tourism for Geopark partners.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Geoparks of France game played with local inhabitants.
- Participation in the EGN regional network meetings. Politicians and Geopark staff participated in the 16th EGN Conference in Seisa Val Grande UGGp, Italy. EGN and GGN publications.

Management and Financial Status

- The Chablais UGGP management and finances remained stable. A temporary recruitment permitted the Geopark to develop new educational material for secondary school children.

Geoconservation

- 1st International Geodiversity Day. The Chablais UGGp worked with all the local towns about our 86 geosites and the shared need to manage and protect them.
- Working with the national geoheritage team from the National Museum of Natural History, Paris on Geoparks the new French law for Protected Areas.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The Chablais UGGp guides (50 people) were equipped with new equipment, t-shirts and games to present the Geopark to locals and tourists.
- Summer events were held at the major geosites with Chablais UGGp guides to present and discuss the Geopark, our heritage and also how to behave and respect nature.

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

- Development of a special workshop for primary school children with the Service of Law and Justice about environmental law, our rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Strategic partnership

- Continuing participation in the IGCP GEOfood project.

Promotional activities

- The Scientific steering committee started a guidebook to the Chablais UGGp with the French Geological Survey. Active communication via Facebook, Instagram, television and radio.

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Sophie Justice, coordinationgeopark@siac-chablais.fr

Geologist: Sophie Justice, coordinationgeopark@siac-chablais.fr