

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany; European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2001 / 2019



Guided tour at the Dinosaur Tracksite Barkhausen during the Family Day in September.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 9 (minijobs not included)

Number of visitors: about 3 Mio.

Number of Geopark events: > 450

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs: 2 school classes in the TERRA.park (not more because of the Covid pandemic)

Number of Geopark press release: about 50

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- After the opening of the “Giants hiking trail” (“Hünenweg”) in 2021, with 326 km the longest cross border trail between the Netherlands and Germany, the trail has been declared the most attractive long distance hiking trail in BeNeLux. The track is a result of a bilateral

INTERREG Va project together with the Dutch UGG De Hondsrug and connects megalithic tombs, which were build c. 5,000 years ago with erratics.

- We opened the Plaggenesch Information Centre, a small interpretative educational unit addressing an important anthropogenic soil, to be found only in northwestern Germany. The Plaggenesch is a very productive but endangered soil.
- The naturepark TERRA.vita is certified as a “quality naturepark” for the third time
- A new marketing concept for German National Geoparks has been finalized

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- TERRA.vita participated in all virtual EGN Meetings and the European Geoparks Conference in Sesia Val Grande (I) with an oral and a poster presentation. Contributions were made to the EGN Magazine and the GGN newsletter.
- TERRA.vita was the coorganizer of the EGN CC spring meeting in March 2022.
- The managing director participated in 4 revalidations in Mexiko and Canada and as a lecturer in the virtual Geopark Intensive Course, Lesbos.

Management and Financial Status

- We experienced no major changes in the management structures besides some personal replacements, which left no vacuum. The financial status was satisfactory and did not change compared to 2021.
- We hired the retired archeologist of the county of Osnabrück for a one year minijob, to explain the cultural relevance of Scandinavian erratic blocks in the region

Geoconservation

- TERRA.vita’s most important geosite, the dinosaur footprints in Barkhausen have been conserved after we detected a potential eroding processes.
- The brochure “Valuable Landscapes and Landscape Elements of TERRA.vita” was published in English language
- Several geosites along the TERRA.track Geological Educational Trails have been cleaned from vegetation

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- We opened new thematic stations, such as on archaeology and geology at Bardenburg Oesede and the connection of mushrooms and soils in Bad Essen. TERRA.vita acted as a moderator, mediating a conflict between mountainbikers and landowners in the hilly mountains. Goal is the development of a legal trail network and reducing illegal tracks.
- The Earth Age Centre in Borgholzhausen was equipped with new interpretational panels

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

- We published a new brochure on geohazards, addressing soil erosion by wind and water,

also available in English language

- The outdoor school in Barkhausen significantly extended its activities improving its infrastructure with an available budget of around 5 Mio. €. The outdoor school is one of the most prominent partners of TERRA.vita
- TERRA.vita successfully applied for the establishment of a so called Ecological Station, dealing with the protection, monitoring and development of Natura 2000 sites

Strategic partnership

- The most important partnership still is the international partnership with UGG De Hondsrug (NL), although the INTERREG project ended in the middle of 2022. We are intending to continue to cooperate.

Promotional activities

- In June we co-organized the Conference of Northern German Geologists (Tagung der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Norddeutscher Geologen, NDG-Tagung) in Osnabrück together with the Geologic Survey of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Museum am Schölerberg, attended by 110 geologists from the geologic surveys of Northern Germany and from geologic institutions
- In August we invited families to celebrate 300 Mio. years of earth history and 60 years of TERRA.vita as a naturepark in the course of a big event
- In November we organized an author's reading on the new nonfiction novel "Die Stimme des Bodens" ("The Voice of the Soil") by Sonja Medwedski
- TERRA.vita published the music CD "Scharpbacket" by "Pottbäckers Bäänd" with songs performed in Low German as part of TERRA.vita's project to promote intangible heritage and local traditions.
- Piesberg has become part of the project "30Geotope³" by the Deutsche Geologische Gesellschaft – Geologische Vereinigung (DGGV) in the course of which a rockwall in the Piesberg quarry was photogrammetric documented.

4. CONTACTS

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