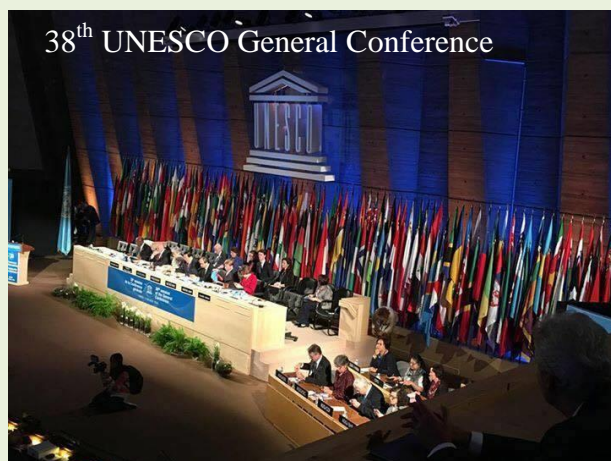


EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK



Geopark Annual Reports 2015



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APUAN ALPS GEOPARK (ITALY)



Green Card in our first revalidation

Major achievements in 2015

- Green card at the first revalidation. The revalidation mission took place in June carried out by Julian Atkins (Forest Fawr Geopark, Wales) and Mahito Watanabe (Asian Pacific Committee Advisory, Japan).
- Apuan Geoday 2015: workshop with presentation of two new issues of Acta Apuana, scientific journal of the Geopark (Levigliani di Stazzema).
- A new step forward to the “European Charter for Sustainable Tourism “ in the Apuan Alps Geopark”.
- “Nature is our business”, 2015 Parks Festival: many activities for different attendance (guided visits, cooking lesson, music concert, environmental activities).
- Sharp increase of visitors in Apuan Geolab, the interactive Museum of Earth Science of the Geopark.
- “Green weeks” in the Geopark for kids from 8 to 15 years (11 weeks for about 160 kids).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris (France) and Rokua Geopark (Finland)
- EGN Magazine, issue № 12, “The hiking and geotourism map of the Apuan Alps: a new tool to get to know the Geopark”

Management structure and financial status

- The management structure is made up of several offices and services for a total of 23 people and the operating budget for 2015 totals € 1,675.000.
- New financial status leads to an easier management of the dynamics of spending with costs and assets optimization.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Count of mouflons: activity guided by Geopark Rangers for the monitoring of mouflons in the Apuan Alps.
- New planning instrument (“Landscape Plan”), approved by Tuscany region in March 2015, recognizes a central role to geosites for the landscape protection.

Strategic partnership

- “Education to territorial management as part of consolidation in the democratic Tunisian process”, project placed first in the Integrated Plan of International Activities of Cooperation, in collaboration with Office National des Mines of Tunis, Pisa National Council of Researches, Association des Jeunes de Zammour and Garfagnana Local Action Group.
- “National Day of Mines – 7th edition (Stazzema); in collaboration with ISPRA, AIPAI, ANIM, ASSOMINERARIA, G&T, National Council of Surveys and EuroGeoSurveys, initiatives to encourage the use of the mining heritage and geology: guided field trips, minerals and photo exhibition, conference.
- Life Nature and Biodiversity project application: “LIFE_STIGE, Solid Transport Impact on Groundwater Ecosystem: sustainable quarrying and karst water habitats preservation” in collaboration with National Research Council – Institute of Ecosystem Study and Earth Science Department of Florence University (associated beneficiary).

Marketing and promotional activities

- Attendance at EXPO 2015 in Milan, for the promotion of typical products (chestnut bread, spelled bread, typical cheeses, etc.) with particular attention to food innovation
- “Sarzana, terra di mezzo”, Festival of protected areas (Cinque Terre National Park, Tosco-Emiliano Appenine National Park, Montemarcello Magra Regional Park, Portovenere Regional Park and Apuan Alps Regional Park): promotion of the areas, environmental education meetings, tasting of local food, guided tours.
- New promotional leaflets of several Geopark facilities in Italian and English languages for handing out at tourism fairs, visitor centres and recommended structures.

Sustainable economic development

- Experimental activity on vineyard producing mountain wine of good quality in Bosa Geopark Farm.
- “Wild food foraging” event in Bosa Geopark, special gourmet experience, walking, cooking and sale of vegetables, wine, jam, biscuits and other organic product made in Geopark by farmers.

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AROUCA GEOPARK (PORTUGAL)



New infrastructure: Wooden suspended walkways in Paiva River

Major achievements in 2015

- News infrastructures of valorisation in 4 geosites.
- Opening the wood walkways along 8.6 km on the Paiva River.
- Inauguration by the President of the Portuguese Republic of the Meteorological Radar in the Freita Mountain, with a belvedere only for the Geopark visitors.
- Launch of the new thematic route in Arouca Geopark “Rota dos geosítios do Arouca Geopark” (Trail of the Arouca Geopark geosites).
- Launch of the new thematic route in Magic Mountains Area “Rota da Água e da Pedra” (Trail of water and stone).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN CC meetings at UNESCO Headquarters (France) and Rokua Geopark (Finland).
- Contribution into EGN Magazine with the title “Nature Rhythms and Producing Art in Arouca Geopark - Portugal”.

Management structure and financial status

- New working staff: a technician with a degree in Geography for the meteorological radar.
- New application to the Life+ EU Programme designated “Paiva River”.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Presentation to the Municipalities integrating Magic Mountains territory of the Geosites Inventory of this area.
- Rehabilitation and valorisation of four geosites.
- Scientific revision of the new geological and geomorphological maps of the Arouca Geopark territory.

Strategic partnership

- Arouca Geopark Association be co-founder of the new Tourism Regional Agency for International promotion of the Porto and North of Portugal Destination.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New promotional brochure of Paiva Walkways.
- New Web sites www.aroucageopark.pt and www.passadicosdopaiva.pt
- News APP Arouca Geopark.
- New interpretative panels on 4 geosites.
- Up-grade of Arouca Geopark Tourism Offer Dossier.
- Conception of the “Trail of Arouca Geopark Geosites” Guidebook.
- Conception of the “Discover to the biodiversity of Arouca Geopark” Guidebook.

Sustainable economic development

- Certification of “Castaroucos sweet” with Arouca Geopark Brand.
- Partnership with “Arouca Agricola Shop” in order to promote Arouca agricultural products and farmers.
- New tourism packages of Arouca Geopark in partnership with Besttravel Tourism Agency.

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AZORES GEOPARK (PORTUGAL)



Training Course “Volcanoes, Geodiversity and Geotourism: A Trilogy of the Azores Geopark”

Major achievements in 2015

- Organization of the Training Course “Volcanoes, Geodiversity and Geotourism: A Trilogy of the Azores Geopark”, in partnership with the Regional Association of Tourism Activities Companies (AREAT), with 28 participants of about 20 private companies.
- Edition in partnership with the Azores Tourism Promotion Board, of the interactive brochure “Geotourism in the Azores”, available in the kiosk “visitazores.com”.
- Celebration of the European Geoparks Week, with 17 activities and 849 participants.
- Launch of the Promotional Video of Azores Global UNESCO Geopark available at the Azores Geopark YouTube channel.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the 13th European Geoparks Conference in Oulu (Finland).
- Participation in the 36th “EGN Coordination Committee meeting”, in Rokua Geopark in Oulu (Finland) and in the 35th Meeting of the European Geoparks Network at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
- Catalyst of the Thematic Working Group “Volcanic Geoparks” of the EGN.

Strategic partnerships

- The Azores Geopark has currently 38 partners, including public institutions and private companies.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Update of the Azores Geopark web site.
- Daily update of the Azores Geopark Facebook, with activities, photos and news.

- Publication of the geopark monthly electronic newsletter.
- Publication of a page every two weeks entitled “(Geo)diversidades” in the most important regional newspaper “Açoriano Oriental”.
- Contribution with the articles in the tourism magazines “Atlânticoline” and “GEOMAG”.
- Organization of 11 activities involving 200 participants at the aim of the “Geology in Summer/Life Science” promoted in partnership with the National Network of Science Alive Centres.
- Development of 6 activities at the framework of the special educational week called “Semana dos Parceiros do Roteiro de Minhas e Pontos de Interesse Mineiro e Geológico de Portugal”, involving 178 participants.
- Promotion of on-line contests the “Christmas card of Azores Geopark”, involving 12 participants and 17 Christmas cards.
- Celebration of several environmental days, such as: the World Environment Day; The Earth Day and The National Day of the Geological Heritage; the National Day of Nature Conservation; the Geologist Day; and the World Science Day for Peace and Development, with several activities.
- Participation in regional, national and international, technical and scientific events such as “EXPOMAR”; „V Bienal de Turismo Subaquático“; “Rural World Meeting 2015“; “Mountain Festival“; “XIX Hunting and Tourism Fair”; “Seminar Geoparks – New Territories of Education, Science and Culture of Century XXI”.
- Collaboration in the implementation in the Geotour Green Island – Geogaching and participation in its launch (São Miguel Island).
- Collaboration in the 1st Rustic Golf Circuit of São Miguel Island.

Educational activities

- Development of several activities for general population, with the partners for environmental education awareness, such as guided thematic trails in protected areas and different approaches with the environmental interpretations centres. In all the territory, 75 activities were realized, with a total of 1.885 participants.
- Implementation of the Azores Geopark school program, with educational activities prepared for all school levels, in all the territory / islands, with 168 activities and 4.514 participants.
- Release of three new books for educational purposes: “Rocks of the Azores – Children’s Guide”, “A Geological Safari in Santa Maria Island” and “Baguinho Simão”.
- Promotion of the Portuguese Olympics of Geology in the geopark territory.
- Promotion of the third edition of the School Contest “The Water That Unites Us” in partnership with the UNESCO National Commission and the Azorean Biosphere Reserves, with participation of 79 students of 9 schools and 22 works.
- Participation in the event “II GEODAY”, involving nearly 50 participants, aimed to motivate the student community for the study of science and think on the importance of geology in the world.

Geoconservation

- Monthly monitoring of the 117 Azores Geopark geosites.
- Collaboration in the creation of the interpretative panels of geosite Pedreira do Campo (Santa Maria Island); and the interpretive panel of the geosite Caldeira do Vulcão das Furnas (São Miguel Island).
- Collaboration in the interpretation of the municipal trail “Trilho da Barquinha” with the of Ribeira Grande municipality (São Miguel Island).

- Collaboration in the application for the Geoconservation award by ProGEO by the Ribeira Grande municipality with the "Geological Heritage of Ribeira Grande" (São Miguel Island).

Scientific activities

- Management of the Azores geological heritage - Strategy definition.
- Participation in several scientific meetings, as the "VIII International ProGEO Symposium", in Reiquiavique, (Iceland) and the "VIII Seminário "Recursos Geológicos, Ambiente e Ordenamento do Território", in the UTAD – Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro University.
- Cooperation with the University of Minho (Department of the Earth Sciences) on the Field Trip "S. Miguel Island Geodiversity", of students and teacher of the Geological Heritage and Geoconservation Master.

Networking

- Visits and networking with staff of the geoparks Terras de Cavaleiros (Portugal), Rokua (Finland) and Katla and Reykjanes (Iceland).
- Participation in the "International Workshop Harmonizing the Integrated Management Systems of Areas with Multiple International Designations" (Ramsar Sites, World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, Global Geoparks) in Jeju Island (South Korea).
- Production of an innovative product named "Exchanging Memories", allowing sharing among global geoparks a box containing an Azorean volcanic rock ("a memory of our GEA") and handcraft ("a memory of our People").

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BAKONY–BALATON GEOPARK (HUNGARY)



New interpretation site as the Western gate of the Geopark: Tapolca Lake Cave Visitor Centre

Major achievements in 2015

- Opening a new visitor centre at the Lake Cave of Tapolca, the most popular visitor site of the geopark. Exhibition “Wonderful Karst”: 3D photos and an impressive 3D movie, 150.000 visitors.
- 62 guided geotours of the Geopark organisation with 2.450 participants.
- European Geopark Week with many activities (guided geotours, photo exhibition and Geological Activity Day for school groups etc.).
- Geotour-guide training course for local communities in cooperation with our Geopark Partner civil organisation, Bakonyalja Barátai Association; 28 certificates.
- Geopark Contest for students on the geological, ecological and intangible heritage of the Geopark, in cooperation with local sponsors, 45 participants.
- 3 outdoor geo-pedagogic activity days for students, 255 participants.
- New, complete GIS database on the marked tourist/nature trails in the Geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two delegates in the EGN meetings in Paris and three delegates in Rokua Geopark (Finland); oral presentation in Rokua Geopark
- Contributing with two articles into the European Geoparks Magazine.
- Contributing articles to the European Geoparks Network Newsletter.
- Collecting progress reports and EGN Week reports of EGN members.
- Taking portrait photos of the EGN CC members for the EGN website.
- Creating the layout design of the future e-book, titled “Volcanic Geoparks in Europe” in the framework of the EGN Volcanic Geoparks Working Group.

Management structure and financial status

- New working staff: a Nature Conservation Engineer; a trained and experienced geotour-guide, MSc in Geography; a colleague with MSc in Earth Sciences; a Teacher of History, BSc in Popular Education, MSc in Sociology.

- Meeting the representatives of Őrség National Park Directorate, discussing the possible extension of our Geopark.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Consultations with the Ministry of Rural Development and the Hungarian National Park directorates about declaring geological key sections and fossil sites protected.
- GIS survey and assessment of the geosites, updating the geodatabase.
- Geological nature conservation action with the VERGA Veszprém Forestry Ltd. at Zsidó Hill geological key section (Bakonynána): cleared outcrop, new wooden seats, shelter and information panel and opening ceremony.
- Volunteer Camp by Pangea Association: renewal of a geological trail, new information panels, clearing an abandoned Permian sandstone quarry in Alsóörs.
- Volunteer Day by our partner, Lóczy Lajos Association at Somlyó Hill geosite, clearing the abandoned quarry.

Strategic partnership

- Strategic partnership agreements concluded with stakeholders of the Geopark.
- Supporting a successful application of our partner, Bakonyalja Barátai Association for financing a common geotour-guiding course.
- Preparing a new nature/geological trail, clearing an abandoned quarry by a student group of our partner Steiner School in Nemesvámos.
- Open days for the public ("Dino Expo") by the Hungarian Dinosaur Fund at the only Hungarian dinosaur locality, situated in our Geopark (Iharkút).
- Participation in the Danube Geo-Tour EU transnational project, coordinated by Idrija Geopark (first round submitted), meeting and field trip with the representatives of Idrija Geopark in Bakony–Balaton Geopark.

Marketing and promotional activities

- National promotion of caves in the framework of a tourism campaign.
- Websites, Facebook pages, mailing lists, smartphone application, tourism leaflets.
- Oral presentations, interviews and articles in the national and regional media.
- Celebrating and promoting of the 'Geological Asset of the Bakony–Balaton Geopark of the Year', assigned to Eperjes Hill in Olaszfalu.
- Participation in the International Travel Fair (Budapest), Valley of Arts Festival (Kapolcs), Dino Days (Iharkút) and Earth Science Whirl' (Budapest) etc.
- Information, advertisement on the geopark in a hiking map (Cartographia Ltd.)
- Media publicity and informing the local communities and partner organisation about UNESCO Global Geoparks membership.

Sustainable economic development

- Organising geotour-guide training courses for locals and offering them partnership.
- Selling local products, incl. local food at many of the visitor sites of the Geopark.
- Contracts with entrepreneurs for managing visitor sites and for providing services.

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BEIGUA GEOPARK (ITALY)



Nordic Walking activity during the EGN week 2015

Major achievements in 2015

- Hosting in Arenzano, Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (March 4th – 6th) the kick off meeting of the “EVANDE - Enhancing Volunteer Awareness and education against Natural Disasters through E-learning” project – with funds by EU ECHO Programme (partnership with the Natural History Museum of Crete - Greece, the Technical University of Chania Crete – Greece, the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation of Athens – Greece, the Consorcio de La Ribera – Spain, the Centre for Educational Initiatives of Sofia - Bulgaria, the Centro Studi e Formazione Villa Montesca of Città di Castello - Italy).
- Opening of a new hiking hut (Rifugio Sambugo) in Lerone Regional Forest, in Arenzano, on 10th May.
- European Geoparks Week 2nd May – 7th June (the most successful events).
Geo & Outdoor - Nordic Walking activities on 17th and 24th May in Sassello and Arenzano.
Geo & Education - Final event of the educational programmes developed during the year (2014/2015) and opening of the “Santa Giustina fossils site” showcase definitively located in the Stella City Hall.
Geo & Culture - Traditional flower decorations on 7th June (Corpus Domini holy day) along the streets in the historical centre of Sassello.
- Participation in the Milano EXPO 2015 with special events and presentations about Beigua Geopark on 24th May and on 14th September.
- Drawing up the new Management and Action Plan of the Beigua Geopark area (as well as Natura 2000 network sites) adopted in July.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN/GGN

- Attendance at the 6th Italian Geoparks National Forum in Rome (February) and the 7th Italian Geoparks Workshop in Sesia-Val Grande Geopark (June).

- Attendance at the 35th EGN – AC and CC Meeting at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (March 31st – April 1st)
- Participation in the 5th meeting in Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal, March 27th–28th) and in the final meeting in Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece, June 26th– 28th) of the “GeoEducation in Action” project – EU Leonardo Da Vinci Programme (with the Vocational Training Center - Natural History Museum of Lesvos Petrified Forest – GR, Arouca Geopark - PT, North Pennines AONB Partnership Geopark - GB)
- Attendance (with two Geopark Rangers) at the international Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos Island (Greece, June 23rd - July 3rd)
- Evaluation mission (M. Burlando) in Grevena Tethys Geopark (Greece, July 20th – 23th)
- Attendance at the 36th EGN CC Meeting (September 1st - 2nd) and at the 13th European Geoparks Conference in Rokua Geopark (Finland, September 3rd - 6th)
- Participation (Maurizio Burlando) in 10th November at the Science Commission in the framework of the 38th UNESCO General Conference to represent the Italian National Committee of Geoparks and to support the Italian Delegation at UNESCO in the discussion of the new IGGP and the UNESCO Global Geoparks recognition

Management structure and financial status

- Nomination of the new Board of Directors and the new President of the Parco del Beigua – UNESCO Global Geopark in November.
- Training activities for Beigua Geopark staff.
- No remarkable changes related the financial status.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Feasibility study of interventions to enhance the paleontological site at La Maddalena – Ponte Prina locality in Sassello.
- Re-organization and revalidation of Geopark Geosites’ inventory.

Strategic partnership

- Signing of a cooperation agreement with all the Geopark’s Municipalities to develop common projects and strategies about tourism.
- Signing of a cooperation agreements with UISP Italian Association about sports activities and with CAI Italian Alpine Club about hiking activities.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Photographs exhibitions on nature and landscape of Beigua Geopark in all the Municipalities of Beigua Geopark in the period April – August.
- New ViviBeigua tourism brochure published on August 1st with the cooperation of all the Geopark’s Municipalities.
- Implementation of a new nature trail (with interpretative panels) in Piampaludo area.

Sustainable economic development

- Closing of the “C3PO” project realized with EU funds with the ALCOTRA programme (with French and Italian partners) about waste reduction policy (March).

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BERGSTRASSE-ODENWALD GEOPARK (GERMANY)



Happy about the membership in the “International Geoscience and Geoparks Program” of UNESCO – the Geopark Executive Board

Major achievements in 2015

- Opening of new entrance to showcave Buchen, new LED light system and new outdoor activity area, finalization of 2 Geopark trails, several geopoints, 2 MTB trails, 8 Nordic walking trails, 3 “accessible for all” trails.
- Continuation of the geo-workshops with Geopark rangers at WHS Messel Pit.
- Agriculture activity days with the Geopark rangers.
- Implementation and training of new Geopark-on-site guide teams.
- Celebration of the European Geopark Week (71 events).
- Cooperation with WHS Messel Pit and Odenwald Tourism.
- Presentation of the award “Geotope 2015” – “Zittenfelder Quelle”
- Continuation of the common “Hessian Naturepark Hiking Day” in combination with oral presentation “Earthquakes and volcanoes”.
- Cooperation with nature conservation associations (Streuobstwiesenretter, Großherbivoren).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the International Tourism Fair (ITB) Berlin: Global Geoparks booth.
- Member of the Editorial Board of the EGN Magazine (J.W.)
- Publication of contribution in EGN Magazine № 13.
- Publication of EGN Electronic Newsletters № 3 & 4 (J.W.).
- Participation in the EGN spring meeting (Paris).
- Participation in Annual EGN Conference in Rokua (Finland) with 2 oral presentations
- Regular meetings of the Forum of Global Geoparks in Germany (common activity of the 6 Global Geoparks in Germany).
- International Symposium on Sustainable Development, University of Heidelberg with Session on Global Geoparks and fieldtrip.

Management structure and financial status

- Continued solid financial status.
- No change in management structure.
- Change in staff: two contract staff members got permanent positions; two part-time members got fulltime positions. One Geopark Ranger got a permanent position in Geopark information centre.

Strategic partnership

- Partnership with Global Geopark Mt. Lushan (Intercultural peony project with arts exhibition from Global Geopark Mt. Lushan), preparation of next project step.
- Partnership with University of Heidelberg, geoscience department.
- Partnership with the International Forest Art Association: "BankArt project" Bird House Trail.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Participation in several Tourism fairs (Mannheim, Stuttgart).
- Extension of Geopark honey network for partners and information centres with 20 localities in 2015.
- Presentation of several new brochures (Geotopes, Geopark-on-site, hiking maps).

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BOHEMIAN PARADISE GEOPARK (CZECH REPUBLIC)



Grand opening of Libuň external exhibition

Major achievements in 2015

- Geopark prepared guided geo-tours, workshops, geo-camps and programs for teachers with hundreds of participants from the entire world. Excursions were focused not only on geological phenomena of Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark (BPUGG), but also on geo-hazards, sustainable tourism and nature conservation.
- In 2015 we prepared and successfully applied geopark area extension. The Jičín Volcanic Field will considerably enhance the geoheritage of the BPUGG. The extended area brings a potential for an important gate to the Geopark.
- We finished 8 new external exhibitions which provide a lot of information about geology, nature and history of the sites.
- Very active participation in the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference and previous sessions of UNESCO Executive Board.
- Participation in the capacity building workshop “Geoparks and geoheritage”; promoting geoheritage in Latin America” organized by Institute of Geography of UNAN University and Latin American UNESCO Office in May (28-29) in Mexico City and following this we realized a mentorship visit of Peruvian aspiring geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of Geopark representatives in EGN and GGN meetings and conferences.
- Active participation in UNESCO working group on geoparks.
- Collecting and editing the annual reports of EGN members.

- Since last revalidation, we strengthened the cooperation with our colleagues from Muskauer Faltenbogen UNESCO Global Geopark and Novohrad/Nógrad UNESCO Global Geopark. BPUGG participated in Novohrad/Nógrad project of knowledge exchange; we also took part in final conference of this project in their newly opened Information centre. We also took part in Muskauer Faltebogen infrastructure development and youth camp “Geology meets Art” in Germany. Our geoparks work together on project called “Development of innovative methods and multimedia utilization for European Geoparks geo-guides” which is focused on usage of multimedia in lectures and excursions, creation of new methodology in geo-guides training and training of new geo-guides.

Management structure and financial status

- Management structure remains unchanged.
- Financial status of the geopark is solid. After long negotiations, we increased financial support from regional government and municipalities.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- BPUGG held or took part in several annual conservation events – “Documentation of rock engravings”, “Annual Autumn cleaning of Bohemian Paradise”, “60 years of Bohemian Paradise PLA Conference”.

Strategic partnership

- After long negotiations, we finally prepared partnership agreement with Bohemian Paradise Association, chief local tourist institution.
- We started new partnership agreements with main environmental educational centres working in the area of Geopark (in Oldřichov and Sedmihorky communities).
- We also started partnership with several non-profit organizations in the region.
- Partnership with University of Hradec Králové focuses on Bachelor thesis elaboration.

Marketing and promotional activities

- BPUGG was promoted during volcanic workshop in Spain.
- Series of speeches were given during tour through main Slovakian universities.
- Several new information leaflets were published by our partners.
- 30 minutes long documentary about BPUGG was broadcasted in national-wide TV.
- Several speeches and lectures promoting geopark was held during the last year
- Geopark stuff also cooperated in building of new visitors’ centre in Dolánky with multimedia expositions about natural beauties and history of surrounding landscape.
- Geopark stuff prepared exhibition dedicated to 300 year-long history of stone-processing guild in town of Turnov.

Sustainable economic development

- Regional product brand helps in marketing of regional products in the BPUGG area.
- Annual Old-Bohemian market, as a part of EGN week event, helps to promote regional products and connected traditional local knowledge as a part of BPUGG heritage.

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BURREN & CLIFFS OF MOHER (IRELAND)



National Geographic visit our GeoparkLIFE programme

Major achievements in 2015

- Received a Green card for our first revalidation. The mission took place in June and was carried out by Dr. Margaret Woods (GeoMon) and Dr. Klaus George (Harz-Braunschweiger).
- Won the European Destination of Excellence (EDEN Award) designation for tourism and gastronomy for the Burren Food Trail, collaboration between the Geopark and local food producers.
- Shortlisted for the National Geographic Legacy Awards; one of three international destinations selected for the Destination Leadership Category <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/worldlegacyawards/> Winner was announced at ITB Berlin on 9th March.
- Established the Burren Rocks Festival in the annual calendar of events during European Geoparks Week, with guided walks and talks, Schools competitions, Antique Rocks show, and celebrations of local culture... this year on Hurling, our ancient national sport.
- Launched the Geopark Geology Field School in partnership with Caherconnell Archaeological Field School and the National University of Galway.
- 64 tourism businesses, who manage over 90% of visitors to the Geopark, are trained in the Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism.
- Completed 3rd year of the EU LIFE programme with partners from conservation and tourism agencies, tourism businesses and local community groups.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN Committee meeting in Paris and the Conference in Finland.
- Contribution to EGN Magazine issue № 12 with the title '*A Community initiated groundwater tracing project*'.
- Hosting a study visit from the aspiring Geopark in Saimaa, Finland in November.

Management structure and financial status

- The Geopark continues to be administrated and part funded under Clare County Council with co-funding from the Geological Survey of Ireland, Failte Ireland and the GeoparkLIFE programme. <http://www.burrengeopark.ie/geopark-life/>.
- Clare County Council has agreed to a permanent full time post for the Geopark Geologist.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Extended the Geopark Geosites from nine to 20, including a number of Visitor Centres.
- Establishing best practice visitor management and monitoring at a selection of sites under the GeoparkLIFE programme.
- Establishing a Code of Practice in Sustainable Tourism with local tourism businesses.
- Establishing Leave No Trace principles awareness programmes with incoming operators.

Strategic partnership

- Clare Council officials, on behalf of the Geopark, signed a twinning agreement with Shilin Geopark in Yunnan Province, China.
- The GeoparkLIFE programme is designed to strengthen strategic partnerships between local and national agencies, businesses and community groups.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Updated websites, promotional leaflets and social media strategy designed to assist tourism businesses promote the Geopark.
- Launch of 'This is the Burren' by Karsten Krieger, a coffee table book profiling the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark.
- Continued development of the Geopark Food Trail and Activity Trail.
- Burren Food Trail wins the Irish Foodie Towns Award, promoting the Geopark's support for local gastronomy.
- Design of new signage at Geosites and Visitor Centres.

Sustainable economic development

- Burren Food Trail wins the Irish Foodie Towns Award, promoting the Geopark's support through funding and co-ordination for local gastronomy.
- Co-ordination of the development of themed trails through the Geopark promoting Food, Activity, Crafts, Cultural Events and Accommodation.

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CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR GEOPARK (SPAIN)



Flamenco Festival, September 2015

Major achievements in 2015

- Coordinating beneficiary of the LIFE project “The protection of key ecosystems by adaptive management of Climate Change endangered ecosystems”. The Associated Beneficiaries are the Regional Environment and Water Agency, the Spanish National Research Council, the Committee of “Parque de las Ciencias” (Science Museum) and the Universities of Almería and Granada.
- Organisation and promotion of the EGN Week 2015. High involvement of local enterprises, local administrations, associations and the Geological Survey of Spain (IGME). 23 activities and about 750 participants.
- Support and collaboration in the organization of 14 sport events (triathlon, duathlon, ultramarathon, trail running, mountain biking, swimming crossing, fishing and kayaking). Monitoring and environmental compliance control.
- Collaboration and logistic support in the organization of cultural events: Ethnographic festival "Entrepitas", painting exhibitions, the classical music festival "Classics in the Park", the contemporary dance festival “Contemporary Coast”, cultural activities during the celebration of the “Night of the Candles and the Moon”, the flamenco festival “Flamenco 340” etc.
- Advice to audio-visual producers interested in the shooting of movies, documentaries and commercials. Monitoring and environmental compliance control. Collaboration with the Andalusian Film Commission Office in relation to blockbusters. Up to 19 movies, 3 documentaries and 18 commercials shot.
- Collaboration with Universities and Research Centres: The Geopark manages all field trips and research projects permits, and also provides assistance and guidance.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Attendance at the founding meeting of the network of Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean, held in the Biosfera Reserve of Montseny (Barcelona). The problems related to the overlap between Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks, once incorporated to Geoparks UNESCO Program, were discussed.
- Participation in Andalusian Geoparks Coordination Meetings.

- Participation in the II Open Meeting of the Spanish Geopark Committee (SGC), held in Sierra Norte Geopark.
- Attendance at the Ordinary Session of the SGC, held in Sierra Norte Geopark.
- Participation of the geopark official representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua (Finland).
- Participation in EGN Working Groups.

Management structure and financial status

- New official representatives in the Coordination Committee.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Maintenance and improvement of public use equipment. Installation of wooden fences to protect habitats and geological outcrops. New interpretative panels.
- Technical proposals to be included in the Regional Action Programme “Conservation of Dunes, Beaches and Coastal Cliffs”.
- Cooperation with the competent authorities in mine action related to the reclamation of abandoned bentonite quarries that are required to restore by the Spanish law.

Strategic partnership

- Attempt to participate as associated beneficiary, together with other Mediterranean Geoparks, in the Cooperation Programme “Interreg Med 2014-2020” with a project proposed by Rocca di Cerere Geopark as Coordinating Beneficiary.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Collaboration and advice to local entrepreneurs interested in designing innovative products on the Geopark.
- Guided visits addressed to schools under the Regional Programme “The Nature and You”, and to disabled people under the Regional Programme “Nature for everybody”.
- Participation in social networks and online periodical publications such as the Geobio Bulletin and the Environmental Natural Areas Network Bulletin.
- Extending and updating information related to the Geopark in the smartphone application “Trails for public use by the rural heritage of Andalusian natural protected areas”, developed by the environmental regional administration.
- Participation in local and regional media.

Sustainable economic development

- Collaboration with local authorities to implement projects in the territory, such as the Transalmería project, a long distance route for mountain bikes certified by the International Mountain Biking Association.
- Collaboration with active tourism and ecotourism companies: The Geopark team, together with the Tourism Administration, manages all the permits related to active tourism and ecotourism (kayaking, horse riding routes, boat routes, 4x4 routes, scuba diving, snorkelling, mtb, windsurfing, paddle boarding, paragliding, etc.), establishing compulsory operating conditions. In 2015 up to 53 companies and 11 non-profit organizations operated with authorization.

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CARNIC ALPS GEOPARK (AUSTRIA)



Lake Zollner See

Major achievements of Geopark in 2015

- Feasibility check transboundary UNESCO Global Geopark Carnic Alps; commissioned by the Gemeindeverband Karnische Region /Lead partner of the Interreg project „SMARTBORDERS 2020“; Editing: Arge NATURSCHUTZ und E.C.O. Institut für Ökologie, Klagenfurt, 20 p. + annex.
- Raising awareness through training courses, evening classes for adults, guided tours and press releases.
- Networking activities to increase number of stakeholders.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Contribution to the EGN Magazine № 12.
- Public lectures.

Management structure and financial status

- The funding is secured till end of 2016.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- No special activities.

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation with Italy (Interreg V 2014-2020) with the target of a common cross-border projects and a transboundary UNESCO Global Geopark Carnic Alps.
- Cooperation with print media.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Cooperation with the regional (Karnische Tourismus Region) and federal touristic board (Kärnten Werbung); further information <http://naturerleben.kaernten.at/en.aspx>

Sustainable economic development

- Encouragement for local products.
- Development of touristic packages.

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CENTRAL CATALUNYA GEOPARK (SPAIN)



Gastronomic fair of Central Catalunya UNESCO Global Geopark

Major achievements in 2015

- Organization the 1st gastronomic fair of Central Catalunya UNESCO Global Geopark, a place of sale, tasting and activities of producers and food processors of the Geopark territory, that includes Bages, Moianès and Collbató. More than 20 stalls were exhibited, sell and offer tasting of wines, oils, garden products, bread, milk, honey, sausages etc. All these merchants form part of the project “Rebost del Bages” (led by the Bages County Council), which aims to boost the agricultural production quality, to divulge handmade production and to promote the recovery of local traditional varieties.
- Edition of a new promotional video of the Central Catalonia UNESCO Global Geopark and its Gastronomy.
- European Geopark Week with many activities addressed to different public (public speeches, workshop for children, free guided visits for citizen etc.).
- New routes between Geoparks vineyards. We offer 2 and 4 days long bike routes.
- Theoretical course about the Geopark fundamentals and the geological heritage of our territory addressed to professional guides within the new official Geoparks guides program.
- Increase number of visitors; the region has increased tourist arrivals from France and Northern Europe.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua (Finland)
- Participations in the mining, intangible heritage and fossil working groups of the EGN.

Management structure and financial status

- The Geopark has contracted a company specializing in corporate communications and marketing.
- The tourism area of Barcelona Provincial Council promotes the Geopark through their national and International channels (familiarization trips, business tourism, rangers).

Education and Cultural Projects

- Edition the first geopark tale for children aged from 1 to 6 years.
- Organization a specific course to the secondary school professors for the 6th Geology Olympiads of Catalonia.
- Meetings with a working group of different institutions to organize the XIX Symposium on teaching of geology in the 2016.

Strategic partnership

- Representatives of the Geopark visited Sardinia to participate in the festivities of August 31, invited by the Barcelona Provincial Council, and to be present at the opening of the photographic exhibition "The Secret Life of disuse," Jordi Aligué that months back to Suria was released. The trip to Alghero was returning the visit made at that time the representatives of Bages Geominerario Parco della Sardegna, where the images were taken of the exhibition. First steps to define a cross-border project.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Editions of a new promotional leaflet in different languages for hanging out at tourism fairs and hotels.
- Publishing news about the activities in the media, radio, newspapers, EGN, website, television, contribution to EGN Magazine № 13.
- Familiarization trips addressed to the Geopark tourism companies focused on how to take advantage of the singular geology of the Geopark and the possible ways of innovation on their touristic products.

Sustainable economic development

- Full collaboration with the Gastronomic Associations "Els Fogons del Bages" and "Cuineres del Bages to promote the Geopark gastronomy.
- Every Wednesday morning, products of the project "Rebost del Bages" Quality and proximity can be found at the Plaza de Manresa.

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CHABLAIS GEOPARK (FRANCE)



A Geopark workshop to forge links between the Geopark Guides and the holiday centres in the Chablais to create new educational school trips

Major achievements in 2015

- Establishment of a new Geopark Working Group following the municipal elections of 2015. Council members represent every area of the Geopark territory. Election of J.F. Baud as the Geopark Councillor for the Chablais and member of the EGN CC.
- Review and establishment of an updated 5 year Geopark strategy and management plan. Revision of Geopark communications and marketing approaches.
- Design and approval of a new Geopark Partners scheme designed to (a) formalise relations with existing partners and (b) provide a framework for new partnerships in local production for example.
- European Geopark Week with activities for a wide public (public talk, workshops for children and adults), a guided school trip to a new geosite.
- Training of 17 new guides in a week long specialist training course.
- Publishing of a geological map of the Geopark. This map is free to guides, specialist groups, educational groups and members of the public by request.
- Significant progress was made in our formal relations with the education authority at junior, senior and high school levels.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris (France) and UNESCO Global Geopark Rokua (Finland).
- Presentation of Geopark progress in education, communication and community at the Rokua meeting.
- Contribution of an article for the next EGN Magazine concerning education.

Management structure and financial status

- Engagement of Sophie Justice as the replacement Geopark Coordinator in January 2015, hiring of Tiffany Sarre as Education Manager in March 2015.
- Stable budget. Larger portion of Geopark Chablais activities financed by the municipalities of the area.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- On 28th December 2015 a new law was enacted in France explicitly to conserve geoheritage.
- “The Rendez-vous du Geopark”: more than 50 free events are geosites throughout the area with more than 900 participants promoting environmental education.

Strategic partnership

- Geopark Chablais has been working with UNESCO Global Geopark Geo-Naturepark Bergstrasse-Odenwald to put in place a new cooperation to share best practice in promoting geopark wines. The towns of Thonon in the Chablais and Eberbach in Bergstrasse-Odenwald are twinned and undertake regular exchanges.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Redesign and updating of the website including more regular news articles and more information concerning our geo-partners.
- Landscaping of a roundabout at the entrance to the Chablais area with the Geopark logo.
- Publicity printed on 75 000 baguette bread bags and distributed in bakeries throughout the territory.
- Radio interview and newspaper articles to celebrate the UNESCO status of Global Geoparks and the territory.
- Inter-school mascot competition for the Geopark.

Sustainable economic development

- Organisation of a meeting between the directors of holiday centres and geopark guides in partnership with Haute Savoie Juniors to develop and promote Geopark residential school trips to the area.
- Signing of the agreement with the society of Geopark Guides to be the public communicators of the Geopark.
- Launching the Geopark Partner program, for example with the Inter-professional Syndicate of Abundance Cheese (SIFA).

Contacts:

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CHELMOS-VOURAIKOS GEOPARK (GREECE)



Joined promotional activity of the protected area of Western Greece during the European Geoparks' Week

Major achievements in 2015

- Green card revalidation. The mission was held at 7-9 June 2015 by the English Riviera (UK) and Maestrazgo Cultural Park (Spain) representatives.
- Celebration of European Geoparks Week with more than 10 activities.
- Organization of 3 workshops and seminars for the dissemination of Geopark activities to the public.
- Production of new flyer titled “Chelmos-Vouraikos: where the reality meets legend” presenting a journey to the ancient myths of Chelmos.
- New geotrails and new signage within the Geopark area.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the 35rd and 36th CC meetings of the EGN.

Management structure and financial status

- Financial support through the project “Natural Environment 2015” from the Green Fund, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
- Set up of a laboratory and new equipment for the research activities of the Geopark.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Completion of the Biodiversity Monitoring Project on ecotypes, flora and fauna species within the Geopark jurisdiction area.

Strategic partnership

- New educational programs and workshops on Geodiversity.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Set up of info-kiosks in Kalavryta Town.
- New collaboration and promotion of the Geopark at Kalavryta Ski Centre and at rack railway stations.

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CILENTO AND VALLO DI DIANO GEOPARK (ITALY)



Italian Geoparks Delegation at 38th UNESCO General Conference

Major achievements in 2015

- The Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark supported by Italian Ministry of Environment has finished the procedure for recognition of the Charter for European Sustainable Tourism
- The Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark attended to Milano Expo with Ministry of Environment
- the Geopark has obtained funding for € 26.000.000 and have realized the projects and have finished the works to: improve some natural sites; create virtual museums, to print and produce publications for the promotion of the territory;
- National and international cooperation for the realization of projects financed by the European Community.
- Celebration the European Geopark Week.
- The program of environmental education oriented to the schools, related to the themes of geodiversity, biodiversity, landscape, sport & nature and sustainable development.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Attendance at all the meetings, conference and workshop of EGN and Italian Geoparks
- Submission of the article for publication in European Geoparks Magazine № 11.
- Submission of the articles during 13th European Geoparks Conference in Rokua Geopark (Finland).
- Attendance at 38th UNESCO General Conference.

Management structure and financial status

- The operative structure of the National Park - Geopark is divided into three areas: Technical Nature Conservation, General Affairs and Communication-Promotion, for a total of 37 employees coordinated by a manager. More specifically, the area of

Technical Nature Conservation consists of one geologist, an environmental engineer, an architect, a biologist, an agronomist, three surveyors, an agrarian expert and three administrative employees. After 2010, a specific structure was created just for Geopark with Geopark manager and his staff. In 2015, a specific office with UNESCO designation was created.

- The National Park - Geopark receives funds directly from the Ministry of Environment and obtains, through a project, funding from European Commission and Campania Region.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

The Geosites Inventory of Cilento and Vallo di Diano geopark was inserted in the National Inventory of Italian Geological Survey.

- We are studying an important geothermal geosite to preserve it and to promote it for tourism.
- We have sponsored the new research at geo-archaeological site in Camerota, where the remains of Neanderthal Man and Homo Sapiens were found, in several caves. One of the most important caves is in the process of adjustment to allow access for tourists.

Strategic partnership

- We are realizing research project on biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural heritage with Italian University.
- Meeting with Korean Geoparks.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Participation in various national and international workshops to promote the Geopark
- Participation in national television programs, where we spoke about the Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark and the EGN-GGN.
- We have published some articles on the newspaper.

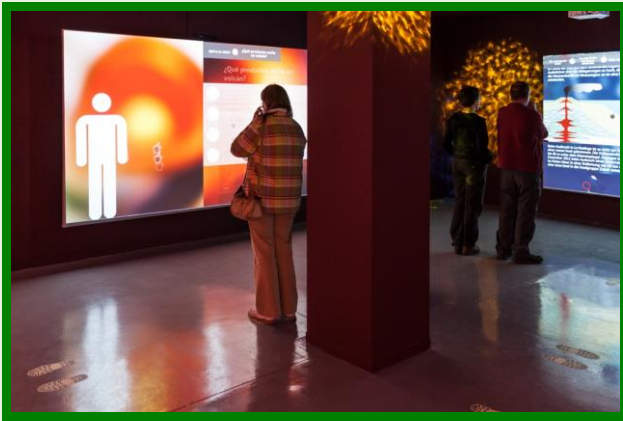
Sustainable economic development

- The range of different recognitions received by the National Park has helped raise awareness of importance the area as a research unit which allows, in a holistic manner, the study of the complex interactions between natural, cultural and social elements. Such an area allows the study of the “services” rendered by each of these components, making a contribution to understanding the linkages between ecosystem services, sustainable development and society’s well-being. Being the ‘Emblematic Community for the Mediterranean diet’ led to the establishment of a network of Farmer Custodians of the park’s agricultural heritage. The farmers collect seeds of traditional crops (e.g. cereals, vegetables and fruits) and work on the recovery and cultivation of these crops.

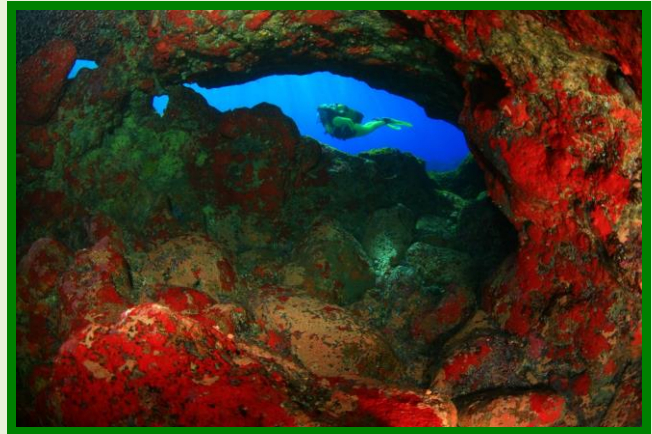
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EL HIERRO GEOPARK (SPAIN)



*Vulcanological Interpretation Center,
El Hierro Geopark*



*Marine geosite in El Hierro Geopark
(Foto: Arturo Telle)*

Major achievements in 2015

- Opening of the Vulcanological Interpretation Centre of El Hierro (21st February). Museographic space to discover the volcanism of the Canary Islands and relive the submarine eruption in El Hierro (La Restinga, October 2011).
- Increased number of visits to Tourism Centres of El Hierro, up to a total of 8.360 visitors of Vulcanological Interpretation Centre of El Hierro.
- Inauguration the Geological Interpretation Centre and El Hierro Geopark museum space for geological, ethnographic and cultural knowledge of El Hierro Island.
- Creation of a children playground at the Geological Interpretation Centre and El Hierro Geopark.
- Presenting Vulcanological Interpretation Centre of El Hierro and Geological Interpretation among schools in the island of El Hierro.
- Linking Geopark El Hierro and the University of La Laguna (ULL, Canary Islands). Scientific and informative coordination meetings about El Hierro Geopark El Hierro.
- Information exchange with scientists visiting and studying geo-volcanic events.
- Collaboration with journalists and media to spread knowledge about El Hierro Geopark.
- Increase the number of visitors to Guinea Volcanic Tube El Hierro Geopark (Ecomuseum of Guinea, Frontera).
- Integration of educational content on El Hierro Geopark in the school year 2015: Speeches and visits to the Geopark Interpretation Centres.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of a Geopark representative at the EGN CC Sobrarbe (Spain) meeting.
- Contribution to the EGN Magazine with the title "The island of 1.000 volcanoes, the first Geopark in the Canary Islands."
- Staff of the Geopark "Parc Naturel Regional du Massif des Bauges, France" visited the El Hierro Geopark and its interpretation centres.

Management structure and financial status

- Appointment of new representatives for El Hierro Geopark: Hector Hernández and Cesar Espinosa.

- The Conservation Area of Cabildo de El Hierro provides special budget to support El Hierro Geopark during 2015.
- Creating a multidisciplinary work group, formed by technical staff of the Insular Cabildo of El Hierro (Investment Manager of the Geopark) belonging to the Planning, Tourism, Heritage, Environment, Local Development and Management Biosphere Reserve areas, for project development for the next 4 years.

Conservation (geo-conservation) strategy

- Preparation of the first draft of the Partnership Agreement to edit the first geological and Geodiversity Guide of the island of El Hierro; and development of an underwater Geopark Geosites Guide (Geological and Mining Institute of Spain, IGME & Cabildo de El Hierro).
- Reviewing geosites for the development of interpretative content on El Hierro Geopark.

Strategic partnership

- ULL (University of La Laguna, Canary Islands), the first steps to define a collaborative strategy with ULL (University of La Laguna, Canary Islands).
- Presentations by Dr. Ramon Casillas "Geological itineraries in El Hierro: resources available for design and development" and "Concepts, methods and basic techniques for interpretation and description of the topography in volcanic terrains".
- Presentation "Magic Forms of El Hierro" by Dr. Ramon Casillas (University of La Laguna) in the Volcanological Interpretation Centre.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Attending the national and international tourism fairs for promotion of El Hierro: Vakantiebeurs (Utrecht), Fitur (Madrid), Dive Travel Show (Madrid), CMT (Stuttgart), Navatur (Navarra), Sevatur (San Sebastian), ITB (Berlin), SITC (Barcelona), Vacaciones en Canarias (Workshop at Las Palmas de Gran Canaria y Santa Cruz de Tenerife), Expovacaciones (Bilbao), Tournatur (Düsseldorf) Rural Tourism and Nature Tourism Fair, World Travel Market (London).
- New content and redesign of the Geopark website www.geoparqueelhierro.es
- Editing and printing El Hierro trail map with Geopark marks and signals.
- International Circus Festival in Motion, outdoor show held in different places with beautiful Geopark background scenes.
- Collaboration in the organization and conduct of different sports events in the island, such as "Magma bike" (Mountainbike competition), "Travesía a nado Mar de Las Calmas" (open water swimming competition), "International Paragliding Concentration".

Sustainable economic development

- **GEOHierroJoven III**: Program of activities for young people to enhance their entrepreneurial capacities in: organic farming and restoration, outdoor activities, aesthetics etc. through different workshops (homemade greenhouses and cupcakes, diving, mountain bike, surfing, underwater football, climbing, Fantasy Makeup etc.).

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ENGLISH RIVIERA GLOBAL GEOPARK (UNITED KINGDOM)



Promoting the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (www.GGN2016.com) at the 13th EGN Conference in Rokua

Major achievements in 2015

- Green Card revalidation result.
- Considerable Arts Council England support towards the creative local community engagement projects of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Melanie Border liaison with, and support of, UK National Commission for UNESCO thus assisting progress towards the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Participation in 35th and 36th EGN AC and CC meetings.
- Attendance at 13th EGN Conference.

- Attendance at 4th APGN Symposium.
- Attendance and promotion of GGN2016 at Chinese Volcanic Geoparks Forum.
- Completion of revalidation missions of Massif de Bauges and Chelmos Vouraikos.
- Hosted two week visit of Leire Barriuso of Basque Coast Global Geopark.

Management structure and financial status

- Strengthening of Geopark Management Group through additional seat for Plymouth University and further seat for South Devon College.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- New Oxford University research initiated at Kents Cavern.
- Exeter University research initiated on coastal erosion rates.
- Discussions underway regarding the recognition of Berry Head Caves as a new Site of Scientific Interest.
- Public access improvement and restoration of geological site and 11th Century stone chapel complete at Chapel Woods, Torquay.

Strategic partnership

- New partnership formed with South Devon College.

Marketing and promotional activities

- VisitBritain and UKTi have agreed to support promotion of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, under the Environmental/Countryside and Science strands of the GREAT Britain international marketing campaign, recognising the significant opportunity for attracting tourism and trade opportunities represented by the network.
- Conference website www.ggn2016.com live in Dec 2015.

Sustainable economic development

- It is anticipated that hosting the 7th International Conference on Global Geoparks in the Geopark territory will contribute in excess of GBP 1.6 million to the local economy.

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FFOREST FAWR GEOPARK (UNITED KINGDOM)



'Iron Landscapes' - a 'Business Improvement Day' field excursion on Penderyn Quarry Line

Major achievements in 2015

- **Earth Science Teachers Association Conference September 2015:** Invitation to give a presentation on The Geoparks Concept Fforest Fawr Geopark Wales' First European Geopark September.
- **Earth Science Teachers Association Conference September 2015:** Invitation to lead a field excursion based on the Geology of the Cribarth, a geosite in the Fforest Fawr Geopark.
- **Cardiff University, School of Biosciences:** Invitation to Co-supervise a Masters in Research (MRes) Student in Bioscience 2015. The thesis co-supervised with Prof. Mike Bruford, Cardiff concerned "The use of ancient DNA from sediment as a viable measure of historic biodiversity within the Brecon Beacons National Park".
- **Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival:** the Festival delivers European Geoparks Week locally and included a variety of activities including talks, field trips and activities for children. This event attracted over 1000 visitors to the Geopark. The programme for the Geopark Festival was made possible with funding from the Rural Alliances project which is 50% funded by the ERDF Interreg IVB North West Europe Programme and the Welsh Government's Targeted Match Fund.

- **BBNPA Staff Workshop 4 October 2015:** Presentation by Camilla Ryan on *The use of ancient DNA from sediment as a measure of biodiversity succession in the Brecon Beacons National Park and discussion of future research in the Geopark.*
- **Fforest Fawr Geopark Public Lecture, Brecon 26 November 2015:** Presentation by Tom Sharpe entitled '*Making the first Geological Map*', This- public lecture to mark 200 years since William Smith's historic publication and the 10th anniversary of Fforest Fawr Geopark's membership of the EGN/GGN.
- **Fforest Fawr Geopark Workshop:** A successful meeting with the Geoparks partners and community representatives to design the Action Plan for the period 2016-2020.
- **UNESCO Global Geoparks designation:** News coverage by ITV Wales on Fforest Fawr's designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark. Broadcast on the ITV Welsh News (December).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the 35th and 36th European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee Meetings in Paris, March, and Rokua (Finland), September.
- Contributions to the EGN Magazine, issue № 12 and the Newsletter, issue № 4.
- EGN Committees: Tony Ramsay is a member of the EGN Advisory Committee.
- The EGN Magazine. Tony is also a member of the EGN Editorial Board and organizes and edits the articles submitted for inclusion in the EGN Magazine.
- The EGN Newsletter. Tony edits articles submitted for inclusion in the Newsletter.
- Julian Atkins acted as the catalyst for the Mining Thematic Group.

Management structure and financial status

- In 2015 the Geopark's Management Group expanded to include representatives from the National Trust and the community of Coelbren (through Coelbren Miners Welfare Hall Committee and Tawe Uchaf Community Council).

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- The Geopark was represented at several meetings of the South East Wales Group for Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Sites (SEWRIGS). The group is involved in designing a geoconservation and interpretation programme for the Geopark and the wider region.
- Conservation work in the Geopark is also included in the activities of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales and other Geopark partners.

Strategic partnership

- **The Romans in Carmarthenshire Project:** a project involving the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the National Trust, Cadw and Carmarthenshire County Council which introduces visitors to the history of the Roman conquest of the Silures tribe. The downloadable mobile phone app produced as part of the project won the Association of Heritage Interpretation's Best Landscape Interpretation Project for 2015.
- **The CALCH Project:** a project involving the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the Black Mountain Centre in Brynaman and the National Museum of Wales. This exciting project has enabled the local inhabitants and visitors to discover how limestone quarrying and the lime industry contributed to the Agrarian Revolution and the Industrial Revolution. The Geopark contributed to the development of this project.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Marketing activities have continued within the context of the National Park as a whole. Fforest Fawr features as a sub-brand within that work and features within the destination's website, visitor guide and related material. There is a Marketing Coordination Group made up of public and private sector bodies involved in marketing the area. This has invested further in the destination website, has commissioned a PR Agency and has developed a strong social media campaign.

Sustainable economic development

- Sustainable Economic Development underlies much of what the Geopark is engaged in and which is reported elsewhere – particularly in working with businesses and communities. Over the past year a number of projects have contributed specifically to that goal, including:
 - Rural Alliances Interreg IVB NWE project.
 - Beacons Way Development
 - Route 49 Long Distance Road Cycle Route
 - Underground project promoting safe access to caves
 - Visitor Transport Initiative.
- Equally over the year the following major programmes (worth at least €50.000 pa) have been under development:
 - LAND Interreg V project – failed in North West Europe Programme (May), under re-development for Atlantic Area in 2016
 - Food & Tourism
 - Visitor Transport
 - Literature & Story Telling.

Engaging with Businesses

- **National Park Ambassador Scheme:** the Geopark contributed to this well-established scheme on 30 April. Participants, mainly tourism providers were introduced to the geopark concept, and to the Geopark's holistic approach in using its geology, cultural history, industrial history for geotourism and education.
- **Business Improvement Days:** the Geopark organized and delivered 'Iron Landscapes' - a Geopark orientation day for local businesses on 24th February at Penderyn Community Centre. This event focussed on the history of the iron and steel industry in South Wales to which the Geopark made a major contribution as a mineral resource. An event on 3rd November ('Four Falls Trail') introduced businesses to the geology and landscape of waterfall Country.
- **"National Park Knowledge":** this initiative focusses on introducing taxi drivers to aspects of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Fforest Fawr Geopark in order for them to act as 'ambassadors' and story-tellers. An event on 10 March equipped taxi drivers with stories about numerous locations associated with the long military history of the area which extends from the Roman conquest of the Celtic Silures tribe in AD 77 to the present day.
- **Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassador Scheme:** this successful training programme for local businesses and tourism providers was delivered to two groups in October 2015. Participants were introduced to the Geopark concept, to the requirements of the charters of the European and Global Geoparks Networks and the rigorous evaluation

and revalidation procedures which ensure that the Geopark designation stands for quality.

Educational Activities

- University of the Third Age – Malvern U3A Chapter: the Geopark provided a field trip to the Waterfalls Area on 11th March. The leaders included the Geopark Development Officer and a member of the Brecon Beacons Park Society.
- Lucton School, Leominster: the Geopark Development Officer led a field trip on 18th June introducing pupils to the geology of Fforest Fawr Geopark.
- Geological Field Mapping Training Programme: Students from the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University, were trained in the principals of geological mapping at Moel Penderyn – a significant exposure in which a folded sequence of limestone and siliciclastic rocks is associated with the major Vale of Neath Disturbance.

Research in the Geopark

- Sediment DNA and pollen stratigraphy at Traeth Mawr Geosite: This research involves scientists from Cardiff University's Schools of Biosciences, Earth and Ocean Sciences, and School of History, Archaeology and Religion, and Fforest Fawr Geopark.
- The structural geology of the Cribarth Geosite: A collaborative project involving the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University and Fforest Fawr.

New Projects in the Geopark

- Explosive Times Project, The Glynneath Gunpowder Works: Within the Geopark, the National Park Authority has secured Stage one project development funding from the National Lottery 'Your Heritage' Fund to progress the conservation and interpretation of South Wales' only gunpowder works.
- Penwyllt Quarry: A geosite within the Geopark, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority commissioned a study of the abandoned Penwyllt Quarry site and its environs to assess how its history and operation could be best interpreted and promoted.

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GEA NORVEGICA GEOPARK (NORWAY)



Guided tour on Mølen locality is very popular

Major achievements in 2015

- Opened new Geopark headquarters and visitor centre.
- Sharp increase of visitors participating in the Geopark official guided tours Developed digital guide “island hopping” for the ferryboats. Information about the islands, camping, history, geology, botany etc.
- Entrepreneur work for establishing a 90 meters timeline finished, panels will be placed on local rocks and mark important events in Earth's history. Funded by The Savings Bank Foundation DnB.
- Meeting at the Parliament with Ministry of Education and local parliament members, presentations of the Geopark and the geopark education program.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee meeting in Paris March 2015.
- Participation in the European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee meeting and the EGN conference in Rokua Finland.
- Manager: several Skype meetings with GGN Executive Board and meetings in UNESCO.

- 12 delegates from Buzau Land, Geopark project Romania visited the Geopark for five days (EEA project).
- Delegates from Semsvannet Geopark project in Norway visiting the Geopark for two days.
- Participated in three revalidations / evaluations; in Spain, France and Austria.
- The manager of the Geopark participated for GGN in a capacity building workshop in South America (Mexico and Ecuador) May 27th - June 6th.
- Manager participated in APGN conference and GGN bureau meeting in Japan.
- Visit from Trollfjell aspiring Geopark.
- Manager gave a presentation at a workshop in a Swedish Geopark project (Kinnekulla)

Management structure and financial status

- Gea Norvegica Geopark is an inter-municipal company. The Geopark is owned by eight municipalities and two county councils. Board of representatives have 12 members, and meets twice a year, all members are politicians. The Geopark board have seven members. The elected members have different backgrounds, from education, science, business etc. The board meets regularly.
- The Geopark is fully financed by the owners, according to a legal agreement.
- The Geopark have three full time positions, and two part-time positions

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Enhanced knowledge will make people more aware and enhance understanding and will to take care of geological heritage as part of our natural heritage. To raise awareness of the connections and the story geological attractions can tell.
- Places of special interest: notification procedures to different institutions; according to Norwegian law in different levels.

Strategic partnership

- Partnerships with local enterprises.
- Partnership with hotels, special offers for geopark tourists.
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Marketing and promotional activities

- Regularly guided tours during the season (May-September). 30 guided tours between May and September with certified geopark guides on different themes.
- The manager of the Geopark has been on Norwegian television, radio and in newspapers several times. Thematic programs and different interviews.
- National day of geology. Family event and field trip in the Geopark.

Sustainable economic development

- Focus on sustainable nature tourism as a tool for different enterprises, connected to geological heritage.

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GEOLOGICAL AND MINING SARDINIA GEOPARK (ITALY)



Press Conference for the presentation of the Week of Earth Planet events

Major achievements in 2015

- Celebration of the European Geopark Week, May 22nd-7th June, 2015 with workshop, exhibitions, guided excursions.
- EXPO 2015 Milan, 2nd October Workshop: The recovery and development of abandoned mine sites in Italy, an opportunity for the development of geological and cultural tourism: the need for a normative regulation. Collaboration with ISPRA and the Lombardy Region under the patronage of AIPAI.
- International Workshop on Past Mine Activity: heritage, environmental issues and tools for remediation. May 30-31, 2015. AUSI, Palazzo Bellavista-Monteponi, Iglesias (CI). Collaboration with University of Cagliari, Sardinia Mining Geopark and AUSI.
- November 17th 2015, 38th UNESCO General Conference in Paris (November 3-18) the Geo-mining Park of Sardinia belongs to the 120 Global Geoparks Network of UNESCO.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- 6th Italian Geopark Forum, Roma, February 17, 2015.
- 35th EGN meeting in UNESCO Paris France March 31-April 1, and 36th EGN meeting in Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark (Finland).
- 13th European Geoparks Conference 2015, September 3rd-6th, Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark (Finland).
- 7th Workshop of the Italian Geoparks in the Sesia Val Grande Geopark (11th-13th June 2015).

Management structure and financial status

- The Geopark structure is governed by a special commissary, 1 director, 10 employees on permanent contracts.
- The structure has annual budget by the Italian Government.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- February 25th, 2015, presentation to Sardinia regional government, the municipality of Sassari, La Maddalena National Park, the Porto Conte Natural Regional Park and University of Sassari, the Project on environmental cultural historical values, of the Sardinia Mining Geopark, created pursuant to Resolution of the Regional Council of the Sardinia regional Government n. 34/10 of September 2, 2014
- Week Earth Planet 3rd edition by ISPRA, October 18-25 2015, with 27 geo-events programmed in the whole Sardinia territory.

Strategic partnership

- *Second level* Master's Degree in Management of Natural Heritage, Convention between Mining Sardinia Geopark, University of Cagliari and AUSI Iglesias.
- Workshop "Mining Landscapes" II edition. Plans for the Geological and Mining Sulcis-Iglesiente Geopark", organized by Engineering and Architecture Department of Cagliari University, AUSI, Iglesias, December 1-5 2015.
- Expo 2015 Milan October 2nd 2015. Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of an Italian national network between ISPRA, Mining Parks and Museums.

Marketing and promotional activities

- G & Tday 2015 8th edition, Italy beauty 30-31 May. This edition enhanced the beauty of the areas of Geology was offered in the Italian Geoparks which share the objective of enhancing the geological heritage.
- 7th National Day on Mines. May 30-31 2015, promoted by AIPAI, ISPRA, ANIM, AMIIMP, G&T to spread the value and cultural significance of the geological and mining heritage with more than forty initiative and activities.
- Photo exhibition on Sardinia mines by photographer of Barcelona Jordi Aligué. Collaboration between Sardinia Mining Geopark, the Porto Conte Natural Regional Park, Società ATI-IFRAS, cultural association "Obra Cultural" from Alghero and the Diputació de Barcelona.

Sustainable economic development

- Financial support to local authorities and other institutions in the promotion for the construction in the Geopark territory of a new integrated process of sustainable development in the sectors of designated ecological and cultural tourism and handicrafts.
- Agreement between Sardinia Mining Geopark and Porto Conte (Alghero), La Maddalena and Asinara Natural Parks to promote together sustainable development, cultural and scientific activities
- Expo Milan 2015 International week 5-11 October 2015. International School: "Nature and History, the Reclamation Issue in Sardinia and Cagliari". Partners: Sardinia Mining Geopark (leader), Cagliari municipality, The International Association of Earthen Cities, Edilana, Euromed-mapping.

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GEOMON GEOPARK (UNITED KINGDOM)



Undercut cliff pre-rock fall at Red Wharf Bay subject of GeoMon safety report of 2015

Major achievements in 2015

- Trained 4 new guides for Newborough Forest and Llanddwyn Island.
- Access improved in Newborough Forest trail by AONB volunteers exposing more pillow lava skins and altered pillows.
- Summer visitors to our geocentre increased to 2000.
- Worked with Bro Aberffraw area of Anglesey on Community projects.
- Geology book on Anglesey completed and distributed.
- Gave 3 talks and field courses to 3 university groups.
- Participated in partnership with Mentermon our enterprise agency in EGN week and monthly geo-walks.
- Produced a report on Red Wharf Bay Cliff fall and now new safety measures in place.
- Produced detailed report for archaeology agency on a dig finds in northern Anglesey. Identified the rock used in around 1000 specimens and identified their source.
- Report to the largest estate on Anglesey, Bodorgan on the stones used in their buildings and surveyed the estate for rocks they could use to repair masonry.
- Surveyed the rocks at Cadnant Hidden gardens near the Menai Strait since which the area was badly damaged by flooding and have advised remedial measures. We have now formed a partnership with the Cadnant owner and will be training guides to do 6 geo-walks for him this summer.
- Continue working with our artist in residence and also now have a sculptor in residence with whom we are advising on new sculptures of folds and faults.
- Had articles in the Geoscientist, Cemaes Voice and Earth Heritage plus 2 newspapers regarding UNESCO designation.
- Had displays with Isle of Anglesey County Council in international tourism fairs in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

- Exhibited in 2 County shows for 2 days each at Cheshire and Anglesey.
- Formed new partnerships with Cadnant Gardens, the Bro Aberffraw area of Anglesey and the food Group of the Tourism Association and the Marram Grass restaurant.
- Working with The University of Bangor on research projects with the Biological and Geo Sciences and the Ocean Sciences departments.

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Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Hosted the UK Geoparks forum in Anglesey for 2 days
- Attended UNESCO meeting in Paris with 2 representatives
- Attended Rokua (Finland) meeting with 2 representatives
- Carried out revalidation of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark
- Geopark displayed in 3 International Tourism fairs (London, Manchester, Birmingham)

Management structure and financial status

- New members of Board enrolled and looking for new Chairperson as our Chairman died in November.
- Use of RDA grant from County Council to complete the Boards, publications and events they have supplied and organised. Continuation of staff usage from County Council agreed with CX.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Continued work with the NRW – the government agency for the Environment, Conservation and Forestry who look after our statutory sites and the Association of Welsh RIGS groups who identify and look after the non-statutory sites. Initiating a new venture to get senior school children and Geopark members and friends to ‘adopt a site’ by monitoring and clearing sites of importance. NRW monitor our sites additionally.

Strategic partnership

- Anglesey Tourism Association membership in addition to the IoACC and partnering with various businesses in the partnership, NRW, Bangor University, Llanbadrig Community Council and Bro Aberffraw Community Council.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New promotional leaflets on the geology and soils of the Geopark in 2 languages. Four versions in different languages for handing out at tourism fairs and hotels.
- On-going updates and new contents for the website.
- The new geology book Footsteps through time.
- Our publications in local and national tourism and trade fairs.

Sustainable economic development

- As partners in the food group of the Anglesey Tourism Association the group has taken over the monthly Local produce and Farmers market in Menai Bridge.
- Working with the Economic Development Department of the IoACC (Isle of Anglesey County Council) in all relevant projects in Anglesey.

Contacts:

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GEOPARK ODSHERRED (DENMARK)



850 new Geokids in 2015

Major achievements in 2015

- Geopark Festival (week) in August with many different public activities. All together about 10.000 visitors.
- Participation in the national event “Days of Geology” with a couple of guided geological tours.
- During summer UNESCO Global Geopark Odsherred offered 7 very successful guided bus tours mainly for seniors in holiday houses.
- Further development in the Geokids-Project. 850 pupils from public schools in Odsherred received outdoor lessons in geology, landscape, cultural history, art and local produce during 2015. Altogether 1200 masks are now displayed as a land art exhibition.
- The Geopark Odsherred Foundation has launched two brand new flagship projects which will make the geopark understandable and accessible. They are called: “Dissemination of Lammefjord” and “Better access to the finding place of the Sun Chariot”. Geopark Odsherred has already received founding orders of € 210.000 for the Lammefjord-Project which includes a cooperation agreement with Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the Nordic GEOfood project along with Magma, Rokua and Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geoparks.

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings Paris and Rokua (Finland).
- Participation in the 38th UNESCO General Conference in Paris in November 2015.
- Contribution to the EGN Magazine with the title “Geokids”: Geokids is an educational program in Geopark Odsherred, Denmark, which combines all the themes and elements of the Geopark – geology, cultural history, local produce and art.

Management structure and financial status

- Our new geopark organization was finalized as a foundation – The Geopark Odsherred Foundation. The main purpose of the foundation is to preserve the geological heritage and the uniqueness of the landscape and to establish, operate, develop and improve public access and further knowledge within the range of Geopark Odsherred.
- 3-years financial agreement with Odsherred Municipality.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- 2-year agreement with Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland about 2 to 3 different analyses and samples in connection with the Lammefjord-Project to clarify and support the dissemination of the formation of the landscape.
- New book and final report from the research program DIAplan (University of Copenhagen, Institute of GeoScience and Nature Management). Article and chapter on Geopark Odsherred – the landscape as a lever to the planning of rural areas.
- Geocentre Denmark publishes special issue of their popular science magazine Geoviden (1/2015), called ‘Geopark Odsherred – the first geopark in Denmark’.

Strategic partnership

- Partnership agreements with Magma, Rokua and Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geoparks about the Nordic GEOfood Project

Marketing and promotional activities

- New coffee table book called “Odsherred – landscape, light and life” both in Danish and English.
- New leaflet “Shaped by the ice” highlighting 20 interesting geological sites in Geopark Odsherred - in three different languages.
- New leaflet about Geokids - in Danish and English.

Sustainable economic development

- Agricultural partnerships with local producers selling especially vegetables and local produce from Geopark Odsherred.

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HARZ . BRAUNSCHWEIGER LAND . OSTFALEN GEOPARK (GERMANY)



Opening of the “Allertal-Velpke-Project”

Major achievements in 2015

Beside our regular work in our Geopark management board, Geopark advisory committee and our two offices the most important achievements were:

- Opening of the “Allertal-Velpke-Project” in Velpke.
- Opening of the “Experience Hall” in the State Museum and Geopark-Infocentre Braunschweig.
- Opening of the exhibition “Salt – the way from brine to the salt shaker” in the Museum and Geopark-Infocentre Salder Castle, Salzgitter.
- Opening of the exhibition “Zeitkapsel Bernstein – Lebewesen vergangener Welten“ (Time capsule amber – creatures of past worlds) at the State Museum and Geopark-Infocentre Braunschweig.
- All over the year: several new panels and leaflets at our geopoints / landmarks.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the common ITB Global Geoparks stand.
- Participation in the 35th EGN CC meeting at the UNESCO in Paris.
- Participation in the 36th EGN CC meeting and conference in Rokua (Finland).
- Several events and guides tours within the European Geopark Week 2015.

Management structure and financial status

- Foundation of a new Geopark-association for the Northern Part: Geopark-Trägerverein Braunschweiger Land – Ostfalen e.V.
- Meetings of Geopark Advisory Committee at Willershausen and Schöningen.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Participation in the „Geotop 2015“ conference in Friedrichroda.
- Start of the new GIS (Geo-information-system) in co-operation with Helmstedt district.

Strategic partnership

- Geopark field trip for the 30th GIC (Geoscience Information Consortium) conference at the BGR (Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources) in Hanover.
- Participation in the scouting visit (German Naturepark quality evaluation) of the Naturpark Elm-Lappwald.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Several Geopark tours and events of the “Calendar of events 2015”.
- Several meetings with “Allianz für die Region” about a common marketing strategy.
- Miner’s Christmas inside the copper hill at show mining Roehrigschacht Wettelrode and many other geopark partner events.

Ecological & Geo-education

- Forest week in the stone garden Königslutter.
- “Nature experiences strengthen kids!” Advanced training for school and pre-school teachers.
- Presentation of the new leaflet “Geopark offers for school classes”.
- “Nature experiences with all senses” advanced training for teaches at FABI / Wolfsburg.

Sustainable economic development

- Co-operation on sustainable geotourism with local and regional tourism enterprises and tourism associations.

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HATEG COUNTRY DINOSAURS GEOPARK, ROMANIA



Major achievements in 2015

- Two prizes for Geopark's projects. One for The Fragrance Garden (popular project involving volunteers, best green project financed by Partnership Foundation), and one for Hateg Country Cross (organised by geopark volunteers);
- More than 200 interviews and articles on the Geopark in the national and regional media – also in TV shows of high ratings;
- Development of the Edu - GEOPARK Network. An educational partnership of schools, school inspectorate, university led by the geopark in order to sustain education and public awareness for local development;
- Guided geo-tours and geo-pedagogic programmes for 500 participants, new educational projects carried out in the frame of Edu – GEOPARK network;
- New project financed by Romanian American Foundation aiming to prepare the designation of Hateg Country – Retezat area as an ecotourism-geotourism destination;
- Presentation of the Geopark at different meetings and conferences;
- Organising the First edition of Dinosaurs Festival, July, 2015;
- Development of new visiting facilities: the House of Traditions, Dinosaurs` Valley, Fragrance Garden, The Senses Trail, The House of Miniatures;
- Development of an educational 7 days programmes in partnership with Colibris Club and local association;
- Inviting internationally renowned volcanologists to reinterpret Volcanoes geotrail;

Networking

- Participation in CC Meeting and Geoparks Fair in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris;

- Participation in the 33th European Geoparks Network Conference, Rokua Geopark;
- Starting the process for creation of the Romanian Geoparks Forum;

Management structure and financial status

- Secured budget and local sponsorships;

Strategic partnership

- National and regional partnership to develop the Hateg Country – Retezat ecotourism destination;

Marketing and promotional activities

- Branding the geopark as a tourism destination;
- Publications to promote dinosaurs, geodiversity, new geotrails;
- More than 200 media reports (newspapers, TV, online media).

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HAUTE PROVENCE GEOPARK (FRANCE)



During the revalidation mission

Major achievements in 2015

- Green card after the revalidation mission. The mission took place in end of July carried out by Hartmut Escher (Germany) and Prof. tran Van tan (Vietnam).
- Increase of visitors in the Musée Promenade, UNESCO Geopark headquarters.
- New process of partners Geopark branding with more than 60 partnership agreement officially signed.
- Opening of a New Geopark English /French website www.geoparchauteprovence.com
- Opening of 70 Geopark sites with new geopark panels.
- Creation of Geopark Working Group (branding, management, partnership, orientation committee, etc..) composed by political and technical.
- Realisation of 60 video productions on Geopark activities.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris (France) and Rokua (Finland).
- Participation in EGN publication.
- Participation in EGN AG and several meetings.
- Participation in the European Geopark week like all the years.

Management structure and financial status

- Increase of Geopark budget and new line of investment.
- Modification of Geopark management structure transferred from a private status towards a public status.

- Partnership agreement signed between the different institution or/and cooperatives involved in the Geopark management.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Partnership agreement signed between the Geopark and the National Geological Reserve.
- New studies on the Geopark geological heritage realized by the N. Geological Reserve.

Strategic partnership

- With all institution / communalities, provincial government, tourism office, museums, producers, etc. involved inside the Geopark territory.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New promotional brochure of the Geopark in French and English.
- New website.
- New Geopark travelling corner.
- Participation in the Lavander Fair with M'goun Geopark (Morocco) as special guest.
- Participation in several public events inside the Geopark territory.

Sustainable economic development

- Geopark branding of 13 local products with signed agreement.
- Promotion of these products inside the Lavanda Fair with the producers' presence.

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HONDSRUG GEOPARK (NETHERLANDS)



Opening of the woodland discovery path

Major achievements in 2015

- Gaining EGN approval at the meeting in Rokua (Finland) in September for a proposal to extend the Honsrug Geopark to include the Haren local community area and part of the city of Groningen.
- Opening a new 'experience path' at the Boomkroonpad Outdoor Centre of the Forestry Commission, with the help of students from a number of primary schools.
- Drafting a project plan for a new Expedition about "Farmers on the Honsrug" in co-operation with the working party "Boeren" (farmers).
- Developing a long-distance walking route of over 60 kilometres through the Honsrug region. This route leads walkers to pass a large number of Geopark hotspots. The walk is already available on our website and has been translated into English. It is planned to link this route to the Hühneweg in Germany, so creating one continuous route between the Honsrug UNESCO Global and UNESCO Global Geopark Terra Vita in Osnabruck.
- Organising the annual small business fair with local group, Destination Borger-Odoorn. Some 100 local businesses took part in the event. Advertising support from a number of partners enabled us to produce a Geopark de Honsrug newspaper.
- A good example of active participation by entrepreneurs is the fact that the local authority of Haren is now a member. That came about directly from the pressure exerted by small businesses based in Haren.

- Increasingly we are receiving requests from schools asking what they can do in the Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark. As examples, schools have carried out research by soil boring and many have taken part in excursions with a guide.
- Discussions have been held with the Dutch nature and environment group IVN and the gas-drilling company NAM about launching a new educational project “Boulders”. An educational project about ‘Underground Drenthe’ has been produced for primary school groups 6, 7 and 8. Various other topics are being developed on subjects such as a fossil rainforest, how salt is formed, Drenthe under the ice etc. By means of challenging assignments and other methods, primary school students are undertaking journeys of discovery through a history of one million years.
- The Geopark week 2015 (Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 31st May) was launched at an exciting event at the Expedition Gateway in Het Arsenaal in Coevorden. Guests were invited to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of the Coevorden of olden times. During the week Geopark partners presented themselves through a broad range of different activities.
- The Geopark de Hondsrug Conference took place on Thursday 16th April in Exloo. The central theme was the drafting of a master plan which would provide direction to all activities in the region. Participants were given every opportunity to share their own ideas.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of two representatives at EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua (Finland).
- Participation in the initiative “Megalithic routes”, a joint attempt to develop a European project. Several Geoparks are involved in this initiative.
- Students from the Leisure faculty of Stenden University are investigating the feasibility of organising the Global Geopark Conference in the future.

Management structure and financial status

- We have begun drafting a master plan for the Hondsrug region. The Geopark Conference was a step in this direction.
- The Geopark office has produced a project plan for the concept “Streekeigen ondernemen” (Support your local business). The aim is to make available extra manpower to provide support to local entrepreneurs in developing new products.
- The Geopark office has been strengthened by a new colleague working 16 hours per week, focussing on the areas of education and ways to experience the landscape.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- The Geosites in the newly-added Geopark area around Haren and Groningen have been described and will be equipped with new information panels in the coming year.
- Working with a number of other parties, including the University of Utrecht, a research project has been launched to study the many collapsed pingos in our region.

Strategic partnership

- Together with Geopark Terra Vita and Nature Park Moor in Germany we are working on a cross-border project to create and promote cross-border routes.

Marketing and promotional activities

- A new Geopark promotional brochure to hand out at tourism fairs and place in hotels.
- Redesigning and adding new content to the website.

- A new tourist map of the Geopark on the website and in the brochure.
- Further development of the concept of geopark safaris. A range of safaris can now be booked. A new booking system is being trialled in co-operation with Marketing Drenthe.
- Global Geopark Hondsrug has produced its own newspaper. The full-colour special edition was devoted entirely to expeditions, hotspots, safaris and other activities offered by our Geopark. The print run was 25,000 copies.
- On Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May Global Geopark Hondsrug appeared in the ANWB television programme “The Land of...” on the Dutch RTL4 channel. This was repeated in September.
- A Geopark promotional team consisting of volunteers has been set up and was formally launched on 21st June with an appearance at the Day of the Landscape held in Orvelte. Since then the team has promoted the Geopark at 35 events.
- Talks and presentations about Global Geopark Hondsrug have been given for many organisations. This has usually also included showing a short film which we have produced about the region.
- We have devoted a great deal of time and efforts to the promotional activities due to the UNESCO status for Geopark de Hondsrug. This included producing 5,000 biscuits stamped with the message “Geopark de Hondsrug, UNESCO Global Geopark” which were distributed throughout the region. Press articles were sent out and interviews given to newspapers, radio and regional television.

Sustainable economic development

- The Geopark aims to strengthen the regional economy by attracting larger numbers of visitors.

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IDRIJA GEOPARK (SLOVENIA)



Children visiting digital planetarium during the EGN Week (Astronomy week)

Major achievements in 2015

- Celebration of the European Geopark Week, 6th to 30th May – altogether 13 events with a very successful Astronomy week and Weekend of experiments.
- Themed day in the frame of Network of schools in Idrija Geopark.
- The leaflet with pedagogical programmes for the school year 2015 / 2016, distributed to all elementary schools in Slovenia.
- Involvement of Idrija Geopark in different events (Idrija Lace Festival, Holiday activities for children, European cultural heritage days, Eco day etc.).
- Inauguration of new interpretation point “Gravel is a playground”.
- Development of Idrija Geopark brand (“Geruš” traditional drink).
- Five new information panels in Geopark Idrija (3 boards in Idrija, one in Črni Vrh and another in Godovič).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the representative in the 35th EGN CC meetings in Paris and two representatives in the EGN 36th meeting in Rokua Geopark.
- Participation of the two representatives in the 13th EGN conference in Rokua Geopark and poster presentation in the APGN conference in Japan.
- Participation of the National coordinator of National forum on the 1st technical meeting in Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark (Portugal).

- Contribution into the 4th and 5th EGN Newsletter.
- Contribution into the EGN Magazine.
- Contribution to The book on the Fossils in the European Geoparks.
- Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark info sheet and Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark ID card for UNESCO.
- Visit of Bakony - Balaton Geopark, hosting Papuk Geopark and meeting with Magma Geopark in Idrija – all with the purpose of project cooperation.

Management structure and financial status

- Improvement of the partner network.
- Increasing the Geopark financing through the IGCP programme (Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO).

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Marking a Idrija Geopark trails with the all sites, GPS tracks, photos.
- Part of the project “Feldbahn” – revitalization of the WW1 history.
- Inclusion of Idrija Geopark Trails in different tourism portals (Geago.si, Smaragdna pot, Hiking & Biking Slovenia).

Strategic partnership

- Danube GeoTour (Danube Transnational Programme).
- ESTEAM – Enhancement of School TEAching Methods by linking between schools, experts and geoparks in the combination with outdoor activities and ICT technologies (Erasmus +).
- G.La.D museum: Geological Landscape Digital museum (Central Europe 2014 – 2020) – not successful.
- CEregion4P (Central Europe 2014 -2020) – not successful.
- Co-organisation a conference entitled “Interpretation of the geology for the general public” with Geopark Karavanke / Karawanken and Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Regular publishing news on the Idrija Geopark website (www.geopark-idrija.si).
- Social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).
- Media publication (Municipality newspaper, TV, radio).
- New promotional brochure about the Geopark Trail no.2 – Along the Rake – Following the Trail of Idrija’s Natural Scientists.
- Soft shells for Geopark workers, using a unified image of the Idrija promotional material with UNESCO Global Geopark logo (notebook, pencil, pen).
- Presentation of Idrija Geopark on the tourism fairs (Brussels, EXPOMeGo in Gorizia, EXPO Milano, Tourism and leisure in Ljubljana).

Sustainable economic development

- Involvement into creating the LAS strategy and proposing projects.

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KATLA GEOPARK (ICELAND)



Dyrhólaey, Reynisdrangar in background. Basalt rock formations and sea erosion.

Major achievements in 2015

- European Geopark Week with many activities for diverse interests (educative talks, free guided hikes and visits).
- Improved path and carpark in the popular Eldhraun moss covered lava geosite.
- Kick-off meeting of National fora of Icelandic Geoparks, Reykjavík, in August.
- Undergoing of Geopark's first revalidation with great involvement of municipalities, co-working bodies and individuals within Katla Geopark, May-August, 2015
- Kick off of GeoSchool project with funding from ministry of Education and collaboration of 3 Primary schools. Cooperation with UNESCO school project in Reykjavík.
- Ongoing work in building a network of scientific institutions to participate in educational output and events.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of two geopark representatives in the EGN meeting in UNESCO headquarters, Paris.
- Participation of two CC members in the EGN meeting Rokua Geopark, Finland.
- Participation in the 13th European Geoparks Conference hosted in Rokua Geopark
- Participation of two CC members in the fieldtrip in Rokua Geopark, Finland.
- Article in the 4th EGN newsletter on QR-geo art and Erasmus+ outdoor geo education program.
- Working in EGN working groups, Volcanic Geoparks, Coastal group and Fossil book.

Management structure and financial status

- New working staff: Marketing and Community and Events manager of Katla Geopark, Skaftárhreppur; Community- website- and manager of information and interpretation

centre, Vík. Marketing and community manager, PR, maps and newsletter of Katla Geopark, Rangárþing eystra.

- Close working relationship established for the promotion of the geopark with the South Iceland Marketing Office (www.south.is) for making Katla Geopark one of three distinct marketing zones of the south.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Important work being carried out for the local protection of internationally important geosites. Already protected by the Nature Law of Iceland.
- Drumbabót geosite has a status of local protection.
- New rules of the area accepted by board meeting of Katla Geopark to be implemented.
- Initiation of work for an all-inclusive map of the whole territory explaining the most important geosites, hikes and important museums and workshops.
- Grant for GeoProtection from Icelandic Ministry of Environment.
- Accepted revegetation and protection program of geosite Emstrur 2016-2020.

Strategic partnership

- Participating in the 8th International ProGeo Symposium, Reykjavík – Iceland, and co-hosting the 8th two day trip around the south, Katla Geopark 8-12 September.
- Collaboration and interactive public meetings for protection and awareness of intangible heritage in Katla Geopark. UNESCO, September-January 2015-2016.
- Cooperation and Geopark input on the work of Prime Minister's Office and Municipalities in Iceland about the making of ownership plan for Common lands (i.Þjóðlendur) and future cooperation.
- Publication of UNESCO press release on the visit of Iceland and France presidents to Katla Geopark Geosite Sólheimajökull global warming evidence. Correspondence with President's office for the article and greater awareness.
- Collaboration with new Tourist Management Agent of Iceland.
- Nora - grant for 3D filming in connection with ongoing international Drifting apart project.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Preparation and printing of geological poster in cooperation with the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the three municipalities and Vatnajökull National Park. Available in info centres and geopark website, August 2015.
- Preparation, printing and distribution of Katla Geopark flags, posters (including GGN poster) and info centre plaques, July 2015.
- Establishment of cooperation for app-based educational trails within Katla Geopark with "Wapp" (walk-app). December 2015.

Sustainable economic development

- Translation of the EGN rules, ongoing preparation of making contracts and rules for the cooperation and usage of Katla Geopark and EGN logo.
- Participation in the Geo-food project, for signage of local food in restaurants.

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LESVOS GEOPARK (GREECE)



New Petrified Forest Park in Nissiopi Island

Major achievements in 2015

- Opening of the Nissiopi Petrified Forest Park.
- Establishment of the new geotourism activity: Daily guided boat tours with a glass bottom boat the Marine Park of the Nissiopi Petrified Forest.
- Organization of the travelling exhibition “The animals of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos” Presentation in Lesvos.
- Organization of the travelling exhibition “The FOREST under the ROAD” presenting the unique findings of the excavations and conservation works of the fossil sites discovered along the new road Kalloni – Sigri. Presentation in Lesvos and Athens.
- Presentation of the exhibition “AEGEON · Birth of an Archipelago” at National Hellenic Museum in Chicago USA.

- Organizing the **International Intensive Course of Geoparks 2015** «GeoEducation in Action: Geo-conservation, Geotourism and Sustainable development».
- European Geopark Week with many activities for different public (speeches, workshop for children, free guided visits for citizen etc.).
- Cooperation with UNESCO Associated Schools Network AspNet and the Ministry of Culture and Education.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua Geopark (Finland).
- EGN Magazine № 12 publication and distribution.
- Participation in APGN Conference in Japan.
- Participation in 38th UNESCO General Conference in Paris to support UNESCO Global Geopark Nomination.

Management structure and financial status

- New working staff: 50 employees in different projects!
- Five projects were completed, creating Geoparks infrastructure, facilities and promotion (December)
- “LESVOS GEOPARK - Actions of labelling, digital promotion and projection” – Implementation of a Geopark promotion and interpretation project.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Many geosites protected along the new road Kolloni-Sigri.
- Many geosites protected in Nissiopi islet.

Strategic partnership

- Close cooperation with the Greek National Commission for UNESCO.
- Close cooperation with the UNESCO Associated Schools Network AspNet.
- Lesvos Municipality applied for the European Capital of Culture (for 2021).

Marketing and promotional activities

- New promotional brochure of the Geopark in 6 languages.
- New Geopark map in 2 languages.
- New Geopark Magazine in 2 languages.
- New Geopark guide in 2 languages.
- New Geopark book in 2 languages.
- New Nissiopi guide in 2 languages.
- New Nissiopi leaflet in 2 languages.
- New Nissiopi Brochure in 2 languages.
- Redesign and new contents of the Geopark website.

Sustainable economic development

- Agritourism Festival 2015.

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LUBERON GEOPARK (FRANCE)



Lithophone workshop during the European Geoparks Week

Major achievements in 2015

- European Geopark Week with many activities for different public (concerts, workshop for children, free guided visits for citizen etc.): about 5000 visitors
- Scientific excavation on the mammal footprints slab of Viens: more than 30 artiodactyl footprints found.
- New brochure about the Geological Nature Reserve.
- Educational program: about 200 education projects about geology, cultural heritage, ecology, history etc. addressing more than 4.000 pupils proposed by the Geopark to the territory's schools.
- "My secondary school in Luberon": the goal is to offer to all students a secondary school educational background which crosses the curriculum of several disciplines and resources of the territory. This education career, which takes place through the intervention of experts in classroom, on-site visits or trainings for teachers, is evaluated by a test organized at the end of secondary school curriculum. Two secondary schools are engaged in the operation (more than 1400 pupils).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN CC meetings in Paris (UNESCO) and Rokua Geopark.
- 2 presentations at the European Geoparks Conference (oral one and a poster).
- Contribution into the EGN Magazine with the title "Rebuilding a Neolithic funeral monument: the dolmen of Ubac in the municipality of Goult".

- Participation in the French National Committee for Geoparks.

Management structure and financial status

- Service provider engaged to facilitate the network of geopartners, work on the EGN week and on the valorisation of the links between geology, lands and wine.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Management of the mammal footprints site of Saignon.
- Management plan of a protected area in the Aptian layers (scientific interest for the description of Aptian stage, close to the historical stratotype).
- Scientific excavation in Oligocene layers.
- Scientific publications about mammal fossils.
- Inventory of the Geopark fossils collection: more than 4000 record cards.
- New geosites data base.

Strategic partnership

- Work with local associations and public actors to develop activities around mineral resources and cultural heritage in the eastern part of the Geopark.
- Participation in the Festival of stone organized by a local association.
- Continuation of natural dyes production program: “Reseda luteola for yellow and red for Rubia tinctorum”.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New information facilities for tourists: former sulphur water baths, ochre place in Roussillon municipality, path for disabled people in the Cedar forest.
- New DVD about the Luberon Geology, in French.
- Creation of a mini-museum to explain some simple aspects of the local geology during events (panels, cross section, fossils etc.). 5 events in 2015.
- Regional Nature Park festival.
- “Samedis du Parc”: public events one Saturday per month to make people discovering aspects of the Geopark: water, geology, educational activities, cicada, lavender, Christmas traditions etc.
- Book: Ecological Knowledge of farmers linked to local cereals in the Luberon.

Sustainable economic development

- Creation of numeric space (fruitière numérique) in Lourmarin dedicated to the use of digital tools as a means of expression: free Internet consultation space, digital workshop (3D printer, laser...), co-working space, videoconferencing, sensory immersion space.
- Valuation of cherry blossoms for the cosmetic company “L'Occitane”.
- Support provided for local farming products and education to respect the food and its producers: actions against food waste.
- European Charter on Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: strengthening the qualification process, structuring and tourism providers’ valuation.

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MADONIE GEOPARK (ITALY)



Madonie Geopark at Expo2015

Major achievements in 2015

- The first performance of the new Madonie Geopark Orchestra Band, after a selection of 115 musicians living in Madonie (22nd March).
- Submitted on 22nd April, to the Territory and Environment Department of Sicily Government, the “Geo-Charter of Sicily” titled “Sicily MED Island Geopark – Where the Sun loves the Earth”. Principal aim of the Geo-Charter is to start the dream so that all Sicily or part of the instituted regional geosites can grow into Geopark and undertake, as an official recognized member, to the operating standards of working texted by the new GGN Statutes.
- Training for geologists, dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the geological and environmental valuable areas of Sicily. More than 200 geologists followed the oral presentation titled “*The Madonie Global Geopark next to be integrated into the UNESCO International Geoscience Programme (IGCP): a territory of real environmental value in the context of the Geo-Med Charter of Sicily Island.*”
- New Associations recognized by Geopark distinguished themselves for ecological and cultural activities and increased numbers of visitors and users in field trips.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Cooperation with Copper Coast Global Geopark regarding then letter of support sent on 11th February to the Governor of Sicily and regional responsible administrations. Copper Coast’s representative, as Madonie Geopark’s evaluator in 2013, expressed his own concerns at recent activities staff changes, believing this would have a significant negative impact on the operations and viability of Italy’s premier Geopark.
- Participation of five representatives of the Territory and Environment Department of Sicily Government, in the 6th Forum of Italian Geoparks, held in Rome on 17th February, to also discuss the recent staff changes at the Madonie Geopark. The National Forum, the EGN coordinators and GGN ExB gave support and sent their

letters to the Governor of Sicily and regional responsible administrations to avoid damaging further development of the rural protected area.

- A Madonie delegation visited in Rome the exhibition “AEGEAN: the Birth of the Archipelago” made by the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest.
- Participation of one representative of the Madonie Geopark authorized by the Territory and Environment Department of Sicily Government, in the 36th EGN CC meeting and in the 13th European Geoparks Conference (3rd - 6th September), held at the Rokua European and Global Geopark (Finland).
- Contribution to the EGN Magazine with an article “Madonie Astronomical Park in its advanced stage of completion. A key site for astronomy with links to Earth science”.

Management structure and financial status

- The inappropriate staff changes and the negative impact on the functioning and viability of the Geopark, activated by the Regional Government, involved five key workers being moved to work, three days a week and for all year 2015, from Madonie Geopark to Palermo town at the Environment Regional Department.
- The Environment Department of Sicily Government contributes to maintaining the Geopark budget for annual salary of all workers.
- The new ski-resort at Piano Battaglia geosite, after ten years, completed (December). It will revitalize ecotourism and winter sports activities in Madonie and Sicily.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- The three-year hybrid pig-wild boar control plan launched, to contain damages caused by wildlife to rural and regional development (December).

Strategic partnership

- Signed on 29th September, a memorandum of understanding between Sicily Regional Order of Geologists and Madonie Geopark, to impart knowledge and mitigation of geological risks to support specific information campaign, education and awareness in municipalities and schools.
- Signed on 12th November at the Minà Palumbo Museum in Castelbuono, a memorandum of understanding with Federparchi to start the project for protection and reintroduction of the Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in the Madonie Geopark.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New hotels and restaurants obtained the Madonie Geopark Quality Certification which now counts over 50 companies.
- The Haliotis' Association presented the proposal titled “*Madonie, a network of geological villages*” (19th October, Petralia Sottana). “Siciliaparchi.it” documented the initiative available in [youtube.com/watch?v=TC7cpA302to](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC7cpA302to).

Sustainable economic development

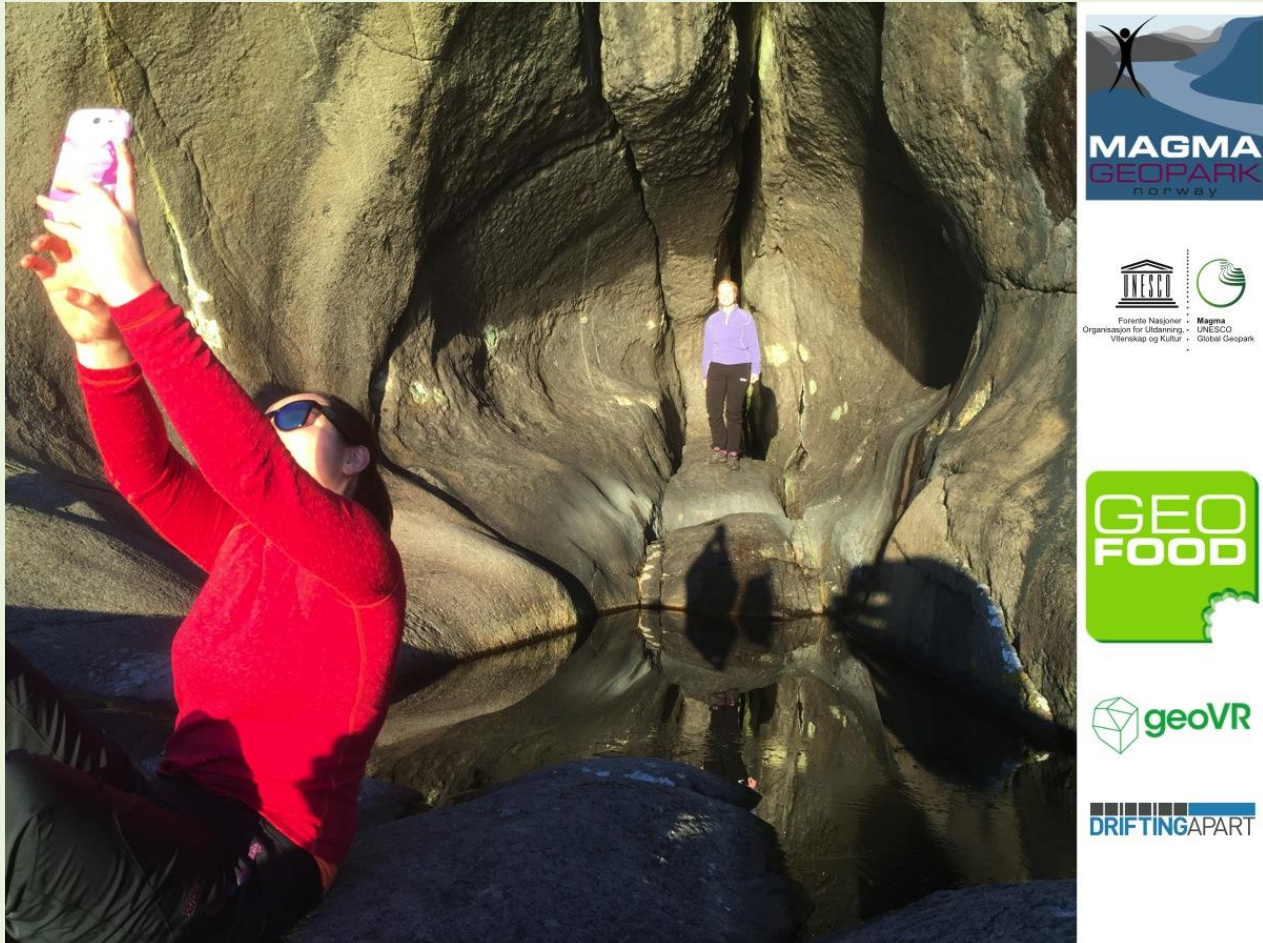
- Sustainable development was the general subject of the annual project “*Let's colour our Future – Mini-Mayors and Mini-Presidents of the Parks of Italy*”, involving over 2000 pupils from all the comprehensive schools of the Madonie Park.

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MAGMA GEOPARK (NORWAY)



Major achievements in 2015

- UNESCO recognized the Global Geoparks as official UNESCO Program, MGP become a UNESCO Global Geopark and member of IGGP.
- MGP open new office and info centre in the city centre of the Egersund.
- Drifting Apart EU project financed. MGP is responsible for Work package Virtual Learning. Project aims to promote geological routes that link territories from Canada to Russia and tell the lapetus and Atlantic Ocean.
- Launch of the GEOfood brand.
- Launch of new MGP web page.
- Launch of the geoVR brand.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN meetings in Paris and to the EGN Meeting and Conference in Rokua Geopark- Finland with four of the MGP staff members.
- Contribution to the EGN Magazine.
- Financial contribution to the Paris meeting catering.

Management structure and financial status

- MGP permanent staff increased to 4 people.

- MGP cooperate with several private sponsors. One is become official MGP sponsor: Nordan AS, local company.
- Norwegian UNESCO Commission fund for geoVR development.
- Financed by RUP – Regional Development Money for geoVR development.
- Financed by SR-Bank Foundation for building dancing-/view platform in Jøssingfjord Geopark locality.
- Financed by UNI Bank Foundation for securing two of MGP's visit mines that will be open to the public in 2016 with new information.
- Oil Directorate and NGU support geoVR advertising in the EGN Magazine.

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation with Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and the consortium within the EU project Drifting Apart. See: www.driftingapart.eu
- Cooperation agreement with Shetland Geopark and Locatify private Company for the GEORoutes App.
- Cooperation with Geopark Odsherred, Rokua Geopark and Rejkyanes Geopark project in the GEOfood project.
- Support to Faroe Islands Geopark project initialisation with a visit.
- Cooperation agreement with the Geological Survey of Norway.
- Membership agreement in the Norwegian Centre of expertise in tourism: Fjord Norway.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New MGP web page: www.magmageopark.com
- New geoVR web page: www.geovr.no
- One full-page article inside the EGN Magazine about geoVR virtual exhibition.
- Starting with monthly newsletters, one with projects and one with general news both in English and Norwegian.
- Presentation of the Geofood project and geoVR at the Rokua Geopark Conference.
- Development of new GEOfood leaflet, presentation of GEOfood at EXPO in Milano within Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Geopark and Sardinia Mining UNESCO Geopark.
- Development of new info leaflet about Magma Geopark inside the magazine GEO distributed to all the Norwegian geologists.
- Developing info leaflet on Gursli mine tourist project.
- Developing new leaflet for GEOfood restaurant.
- Planning the GEOfood web page.
- Sustainable economic development (see Management structure).

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MARBLE ARCH CAVES GLOBAL GEOPARK (UK AND IRELAND)



Filming for UTV's Lesser Spotted Journeys on the Cuilcagh Mountain Boardwalk

Major achievements in 2015

- Expansion of Geopark to include a number of additional sites such as Templeport Island, Dowra, Green Lough and Castle Saunderson.
- Successful completion of two major EU-funded projects through INTERREG IVA delivering infrastructure and capital investment as well as a variety of marketing products.
- The opening of the Cuilcagh Boardwalk to provide access to the summit of Cuilcagh Mountain one of the most iconic sites of the Geopark.
- Completely new interpretation for the Marble Arch Caves visitor centre reflecting the Geopark as well as the GGN as a whole.
- The launch of the new UNESCO Global Geopark designations by senior officials from both Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Cavan County Council as well as tourism representatives from both Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.
- Initiation of the INTERREG VB NPP Drifting Apart project with other UNESCO Global Geoparks and Aspiring Geoparks from the NPP area.
- The events guide was the most successful to date and included a vast range of activities including jeep safaris, canoe trips, solstice walks, and honey-making workshops.
- This year saw a significant increase in visitor numbers to the Geopark making it one of the most successful years to date.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in UNESCO (Paris) and one in Rokua Global Geopark (Finland).
- Advice to representatives from Finland Saimaa district of southern Finland.
- Contribution into the EGN Magazine.
- Continued management of the EGN Facebook and Twitter page.
- Participation in both the Irish and UK UNESCO Global Geopark Committees.

Management structure and financial status

- A number of new positions have been created including a new Geopark Ranger, a Geopark Administrative Assistant and a temporary Communications and Marketing Officer.
- Both Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Cavan County Council continue to provide core funding for the Geopark.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Work began on the new all-Ireland karst database aiming to help record all karst features in the Geopark to aid in conservation.
- Geopark staff continues to monitor all Geopark sites on a regular basis to assist with conservation.
- A number of new sites have been added and suitable infrastructure has been added to conserve and protect both these and existing sites.

Strategic partnership

- The Geopark continues to have strong relationships with the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) and Ireland (GSI) and has produced a number of products including education materials and the first ever cross-border geological map of the Geopark.
- Work has begun on a new Landscape Partnership Project being led by the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Marketing and promotional activities

- The Geopark website has been completely overhauled and includes information on all aspects of the activities on offer.
- Attendance at all major promotional events such as Taste of Cavan, Balmoral Show, Virginia Show, Ploughing Championships, Holiday World Shows.
- Attendance at Tourism Ireland networking event.
- Continued presentation in local and national papers including being named as one of 20 best days out in Ireland by the Irish Times.

Sustainable economic development

- Initiation of economic development project with local tourism businesses and marketing experts.

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MASSIF DES BAUGES GEOPARK (FRANCE)



Geopark office expansion

Major achievements in 2015

- Green card at the first revalidation. The mission took place in June carried out by Nick Powe (English Riviera Geopark) accompanied by Margarete Patzak (UNESCO).
- Validation of the 2015-2020 Massif des Bauges Leader program on local economy and tourism development.
- Garden exhibition in natural heritage interpretative centre, “Nature is making its circus”.
- Opening of the “Biel spring” geotrail.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Leadership of the French Geopark National Committee, lobbying to French institutions on UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Support for the organisation of the 35th EGN CC meeting at UNESCO headquarters, an official evening reception.
- Participation to the EGN conference in Rokua Geopark (Finland).
- Cooperation on the Geopark project in the Altai Republic (Russia), 2nd work visit there.
- Cooperation on Geopark project in Armenia on the hospice of the region.
- Contribution into the EGN Magazine with the title “A free caving trail, an underground and pedagogical adventure”.

Management structure and financial status

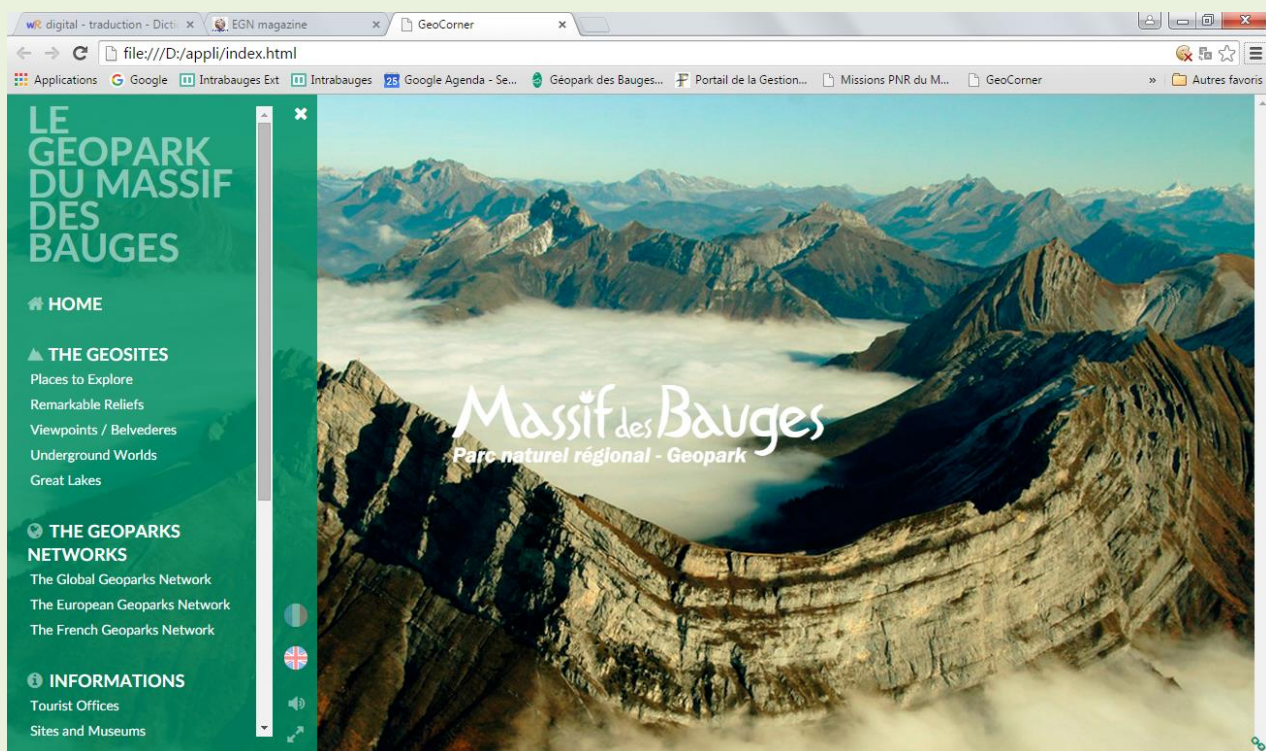
- New wing at the geopark office, local wood and passive building.
- 2015-2020 aims and financial agreement with the Region.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Study on preservation of travertine mineral springs.
- Edition of the Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark vertical activities guide book, information on environmental issues.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Implementation of the Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark digital geo-corner.



Sustainable economic development

- Validation of the 2015-2020 agricultural, pastoralism and forest development regional program.
- Validation of the Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark positive energy balance territory, application from the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy. Welcome of the French President François Hollande and the Ministry for Ecology Ségolène Royal to sign the agreement.

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Honour President: André GUERRAZ

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MOLINA AND ALTO TAJO GEOPARK



Contribution towards the EGN work

- Appointment Molina Alto Tajo Geopark as UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Participation of Geopark representatives in the EGN CC meetings in Paris, Rokua (Finland).
- Participation in “II Open Meeting of Spanish Geoparks Committee” on Sierra Norte Geopark.
- Assistance to Geoparks Intensive Course in Lesvos Geopark.
- Collaboration with Sobrarbe Geopark for conferences program.

Management

- Starting of activities program for Social and Economic Geopark Advisory Committee.
- Annual meeting of Geopark Scientific Committee.
- Opening and tourism management of “El Ceremeño” and “Los Casares” archaeological sites.
- Reinforcement of relationships with LAG as LEADER funds manager.

Geoconservation

- Creation of a working commission for Fuentelsaz GSSP protection.
- Administrative working and discussion on Regional Govern Courts for declaration of Fuentelsaz GSSP as National Monument.
- Celebration of First meeting about Fuentelsaz GSSP.
- Approval by Regional Government Courts of Declaration the Fuentelsaz GSSP as National Monument.

Education

- Students visits program of Museum of Molina.

- Collaboration and Geopark visit with international sciences teachers. Formation program between Alcalá University and Chile University.
- Hosting the VII Regional meeting of Geology.
- Participation on XVIII Geology Teaching Symposium.
- Hosting UNED University summer Course on conservation and dissemination of geoheritage: “Geoparque de la Comarca de Molina-Alto Tajo: La protección y divulgación del patrimonio geológico”.
- Nomination of Molina and Alto Tajo Geopark as hosting subject for XXXII meeting of Spanish Palaeontology Society.
- Inter-Red Project with the University of Granada and the Spanish Geological Survey.

Activities to Geopark Promotion

- Presence in the Regional Museum of Palaeontology of Castilla-La Mancha.
- Inauguration of first display for the Geopark hiking paths network in Milmarcos.
- Exhibition in the Human Evolution Museum of Burgos.
- European Geoparks Week activities.
- Hosting the Provincial Geoloday 2015 in Rillo de Gallo.
- Launch of Geopark and History Visitors Centre in Molina Castle.
- Appointment the Molina Alto Tajo Geopark as UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Editing of Molina and Alto Tajo Geopark Touristic Guide.
- Presentation on FITUR international tourism fair on Geopark Touristic Guide.
- Program of Museum of Molina itinerant exhibitions.
- LIFE GEOisNATURA Project.
- Program SIXTO for Geopark Signposting.
- Geopark promotional space in the Provincial Interpretation Centre in Torija Castle.
- Program of temporal exhibitions and lectures on Geopark.
- Participation in 3rd Permanent Seminar about Spanish Ecotourism.
- Launch of Geopark Lowrange Hiking Ways Network.

Activities for sustainable development

- Inauguration of the Paleontological Museum of Maranchón.
- Program of Guided Geotrails for Geopark Stakeholders, visiting Aragoncillo Petrified Forest, Caldereros Natural Monument and Orea Range.
- Launch of Employment Workshop: “To make the Geopark Agent more Dynamic”.
- Exhibition of Martín Mendieta sculptural work in Museum of Molina.
- Collaboration program between Geopark Employment Workshop and Geopark stakeholders for enhancement of shooting of Game of Thrones TV series.
- Celebration of Haunting and Rural Tourism Fair in Molina.
- Celebration of the 1st Geopark Maranchon Handycraft Fair.
- Celebration of II Molina Gift Fair.
- Celebration of VII truffle Fair.

Scientific Research

- Archaeological research campaign on the Casares Cave.

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MONTS D'ARDECHE GEOPARK (FRANCE)



Hands-on training with a partner NGO – summer 2015

Major achievements in 2015

- Equipping the 51 geosites with geototems and interpretation devices (continuation), interpretation panel installed at basaltic lava flows geosite in Jaujac,
- Scientific communication given at the EGN Conference in Rokua (Finland),
- Launching of the *Volcanism contest*, targeting all schoolchildren of the Geopark,
- Guided tours (hands-on training sessions) organized throughout the territory of Monts d'Ardèche, targeting various audiences, and mostly co-organized with Société géologique de l'Ardèche,

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the 35th and 36th EGN Coordination com. & EGN Conference, Rokua (Finland), September,
- Participation in the national forum on geotourism in Vulcania complex, October,
- Participation in the GEOLE meeting (Société géologique de France) and general assembly of the national Committee of French geoparks (Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark),
- Communication at international Colloquium SGF GEOINV 2015 (Toulouse), 22nd - 25th September. The communication aimed at promoting the Geopark concept in France

(Monts d'Ardèche Geopark, a mainstreaming approach to the conservation and enhancement of the geoheritage.),

Management structure and financial status

- Geopark steering committee and scientific committee held at Maison du Parc,
- Drafting of a 4-years Geopark action plan, including a financial annex with a total budget of ca. 395.000 €,

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Writing of several articles for the SGA journal,
- First scientific fieldwork and research on dinosaurs footprints, in collaboration with Université de Bourgogne (MM. Gand & Fara),

Strategic partnership

- Partnership visit of an Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark delegation in Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal). 20th -23rd May. Development of a cooperation project including geo-twinning, chestnut cultivation (under LEADER initiatives),
- Signature of cooperation agreement with 1) Université de Dijon (Dinosaur's footprint research project) and 2) Université de Clermont-Ferrand (geo-archaeology research project),
- Training sessions organized about the geological history of Monts d'Ardèche and about volcanism, targeting the tourism sector (tourist offices & related structures),

Marketing and promotional activities

- 2 videos filmed and edited on 1) the dinosaur's footprints research project and 2) the conciliation of different uses of natural resources (incl. geological features),
- Project leader for the design of the brochure "Guide des géoparc de France",
- Number of interviews and articles on the Geopark in national and regional medias,
- Setting up of the second year of the exhibition "*Les 7 couleurs du temps*" at headquarters of Geopark des Monts d'Ardèche in Jaujac (Maison du Parc),

Sustainable economic development

- Implementation of the interpretation path at Geosite Roche de Gourdon, and publication of an interpretation guide,
- 2 dedicated conferences organized :
 - ✓ "Geology and wine in southern Ardèche", was chaired by Prof. Patrick Mc Keever, Head of Geology department at Museum national d'histoire naturelle de Paris. This conference was followed with a wine-tasting evening with local producers. A permanent photograph exhibition was organized in parallel of the conference ;
 - ✓ "The fabulous stories of landscapes", chaired by M. Laurent Stieltjes, in the frame of the music festival "Labeaume en musiques".

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MUSKAU ARCH GEOPARK (GERMANY, POLAND)



The Muskau Landscape Convention – the holistic view of the World Heritage Prince-Pückler-Park and the UNESCO Global Geopark - Area

Major achievements in 2015

- Declarations of the Muskau Landscape Convention - a regional contract drafted in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage “Prince-Pückler-Park” Bad Muskau to unite the regional municipalities, planning associations, business developments and give them recommendations for action for the handling with the cultural landscape for their communal and regional planning.
- Celebrating the Geopark Days in Muskau Arch and celebrating the European Geopark Week with different offers for guests and schools.
- Start of the kids ranger program “GeoRascals” with about 20 children.
- Successful revalidation of the European and Global Geopark title.
- Foundation of a new environmental education network.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Initiation of new co-operations with a Polish and a Czech partners and preparation of a grant application with the Czech National Geopark Ralsko.
- Participation in the EGN meetings in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and in Rokua Geopark (Finland) with two German and two Polish representatives.

- Presentation the Muskau Arch Geopark on the international final conference in the framework of the project “Partnership Network Program of Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark” in Hungary and successful completion of the common project supported by the International Visegrad Fund.

Management structure and financial status

- Preparation of an application for a joint German-Polish project, which connects the town of Weißwasser/O.L. (D) and the town Łęknica (PL) to link them closer with the future and sustainable development of the Geopark.
- Foundation of a scientific and a structural advisory board to support the strategic work in the Polish-German Geopark and to prepare the joint EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation).

Strategic partnership

- Start of partnership conversations and negotiations with the director of the administration of the landscape parks in the voivodeship Lubuskie.
- Deepening of co-operation with the Saxony State Foundation for Nature and Environment (LANU) and creation of new tourism offers such as the “Day of protected areas in Geoparks”.
- Presentation and exchange of experiences with the Saxon State Ministry of Economics and Labour; consultation regarding the future collaboration and support by the ministry.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Participation on Reisemarkt Dresden (tourism fair) with the regional tourism organisation, ITB Berlin (the world biggest international tourism fair) on the Global Geoparks stand.
- Award for the concept and the implementation of the “International Geopark Camp – Art meets Geology” with the advancement award of the foundation for mining, quarrying and environment.
- Nomination for the state Saxon “Environment Award” for the exemplary and lasting environment concept in our Geopark.

Sustainable economic development

- Presentation at the annual colloquium of the trade association for mineral building materials.
- Start of planning to create a landscape park south of the town of Weißwasser/O.L. as an after-mining-project in collaboration with Vattenfall Europe Mining GmbH and the town of Weißwasser/O.L.

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NATURTEJO GEOPARK (PORTUGAL)



Opening of the interpreted long trail "Grande Rota do Muradal – Pangeia, with more than 1000 participants

Major achievements in 2015

- Green card at the third revalidation. The mission took place in July carried out by Psiloritis (Greece) and National Committee (China) Geopark representatives.
- Landscape Festival 2016 – European Geoparks Week with many activities for different public (local products festivals, educational programmes, free guided visits etc.).
- New interpreted trail Muradal-Pangeia, a section of the International Appalachian Trail.
- Reinforcement of the Geopark signage and info-points central in the most tourism towns and villages.
- Integration as member in the European Route of the Megalithic Culture.
- Successful application of Idanha-a-Nova to the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities under the Category Music.
- National exam for teachers includes questions about Naturtejo Geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua (Finland), with active participation in the European Geoparks Conference.
- Contribution into the EGN Magazine.
- Translation of EGN and GGN promotional material to the Portuguese language.
- Coordination and representing EGN/GGN in major tourism fairs, FITUR, ITB, Paris.
- Revalidation mission to Katla Geopark (Iceland).

Management structure and financial status

- Regular, with the inclusion of the municipality of Penamacor in the Association of Municipalities Natureza & Tejo/ Naturtejo, E.I.M.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Intervention in Foz do Enxarrique Geosite.
- Dances of Lousa are now protected as National Intangible Heritage.
- Exhibition “Water Land” about the history and hydrogeological heritage of Termas de Monfortinho.
- Organization of the 16th FAPAS National Conference for Nature Conservation and Environmental Education for Sustainability.
- Exhibition “Ab Initio – Geologically” about the geodiversity of Penamacor.
- The excavations in the Archaeological work camp of Proença-a-Nova unveiled new construction techniques in megalithic graves unknown until now.
- Geosites included in the Municipalities’ Master Plans.

Strategic partnership

- Partnership agreement with Tianzhushan Global Geopark (China) and participation in a project of geointerpretation in the Geopark.
- The Intermunicipal Community of Beira Baixa, which integrates the municipalities from Naturtejo Geopark of the Meridional Meseta, and the Portuguese Society for Innovation, together with dozens of local entities and companies developed together the first action plan for the region.
- Visit from university students of Beijing to Naturtejo Geopark, in the scope of the Program “Study in Portugal Network” energized by the Portuguese-American Foundation for Development.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New Packages “Tours by Naturtejo Geopark” for tour operators in 4 languages.
- Implementation of a Digital Marketing Project for the regular use of social media.
- New tourist map of the geopark edited in Chinese with support of Tianzhushan Global Geopark.
- Clothing for guides, using a unified image of the Geopark.

Sustainable economic development

- Several local products festivals have attracted dozens of thousands of customers.
- Several nature sport events have attracted thousands of nature lovers, e.g. the Fossils. Running of Penha Garcia, the TransGeopark and the TransPangean Challenge.
- Development of Geoproducts together with partner companies.
- Monsanto GeoHotel was open.
- Organization of the 1st Conference on Nature Sport.
- Host of the European Orienteering Championship in MTB.
- The “Oscar of the Rural World” aims to award practices and projects that have stood out in the last years at a national and international level.

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NORTH PENNINES AONB GEOPARK (UNITED KINGDOM)



Shildon Engine House. Interpretation there completes the consolidation project

Major achievements in 2015

- Major new project submitted for national funding. The project, with around 1 million Euros, will provide new interpretation and trails, education services, public events and a series of youth camps, plus a wide range of community projects. It will also allow for the appointment of a new geoscientist to manage the work over four years.
- Successful second year of operation for our Visitor Centre.
- New interpretation marks the completion of the consolidation of Shildon Engine House, a pump-engine used to remove water from historic lead mines.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN meetings in France and Finland (including the EGN Conference).

Management structure and financial status

- The budget which underpins the overall management organisation for the Geopark has been protected by the UK Government from further cuts. The economic situation is still incredibly challenging for developing new projects.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- The team has been supporting the designation of a new geological Site of Special Scientific Interest in the Geopark. This is a phreatic maze cave and it is a very special location which has been extensively mapped by volunteers in recent years.
- The team is an active partner with the UK Coal Authority and the Environment Agency in a project to remediate water pollution from historic mining in the Nent, Tees and Wear Valleys.
- Funding has been secured for a new project which focuses on conserving and interpreting geodiversity, biodiversity and built heritage on a series of former lead mining sites across the area.

Strategic partnership

- The team is actively engaged in wide range of strategic partnerships, including a new cross-border initiative with southern Scotland.

Marketing and promotional activities

- A series of geotrails has been revised and reprinted / made available online.
- New interactive touch screens are being installed in our visitor centre, bringing to life a mineral display.

Sustainable economic development

- Our visitor centre has continued to develop this year, expanding its range of local products.

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NORTH WEST HIGHLANDS GEOPARK (UK)



Earth Science Week 2015

Major achievements in 2015

- Green card at revalidation. The mission took place in August carried out by Bergstrasse-Odenwald Global Geopark (Germany) and Madonie Geopark (Italy) Geopark representatives.
- Opened new visitor centre, the 'Rock Stop', containing café, craft shop and Earth Science Exhibition.
- Ran a full programme of events including 18 guided walks, 2 climbing days, 7 day-long Geobus tours, 7 road show events, the Geolinks festival, 1 week long Geotour and the inaugural Lochinver Climbing festival.
- Delivered a week long programme of educational events pre-Earth Science Week for all schools in the Geopark.
- Delivered a week long programme of Earth Science Cafés during Earth Science Week.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN Coordination Committee meetings at UNESCO HQ (Paris) and Rokua Geopark (Finland).
- EGN Magazine contribution "Could Social Enterprise be the future for Geoparks".

Management structure and financial status

- New working staff: Business Manager.
- New chairman of the board.
- Funding secured from Scottish Government for core staff during 2016 - 17.
- Funding secured for a new interactive exhibition at the Rock Stop visitor centre.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Soils Research Project funded by Heritage Lottery and University of Stirling to examine soil fertility.
- Working closely with Scottish Natural Heritage on Geosite monitoring.
- Development of a guidebook and related conservation strategy approved for 2016.
- Contribution to Crofting Connections educational booklet for schools (soils and small scale farming).
- Promotion of the Fossil Code, Geologist's code and the Scottish Geodiversity Charter.
- Attendance at Scottish Geodiversity Forum meetings.
- Provided training for Scottish Natural Heritage and National Trust for Scotland staff and local businesses.

Strategic partnership

- Became a partner within the Coigach Assynt Living Landscape partnership.
- Closer working relationship with Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling and the Highlands and Islands.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Roll out of new Geopod interpretation booths at strategic sites in the Geopark, giving information, promotion and landscape interpretation. Sited in areas of good mobile phone reception.
- Development of 'Pebble Routes', driving routes designed to entice visitors off the main road and into the smaller communities. Contains information of the Geopark, communities and heritage and geological interpretation.
- Employment of a social media analyst for summer 2015.
- Publication of events leaflet.
- Familiarisation visits for tourism organisations.

Sustainable economic development

- Business enterprise workshop – beginning of ambassadors' scheme.
- Opened new visitor centre, the 'Rock Stop' as a hub for local crafts and businesses to exhibit their produce and advertise services, including partnership with local bookshop for sales at the Rock Stop.

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NOVOHRAD - NÓGRÁD GEOPARK (HUNGARY / SLOVAK REPUBLIC)



Guided trip to the geo-site Camovce quarry

Major achievements in 2015

- Project “Geo-Part - a systematic partnership aimed at integrated development of the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark”, financed from the Programme of the cross-border cooperation Hungary-Slovakia.
- Project “Programme of the partner network of the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark” financed from the Visegrad Fund.
- European Geoparks Week 2015 – educational programmes for kids of various age groups, art competition, hiking trips etc.
- Project LEADER Cooperation between regions – equipment for programmes, hiking trails indicate in GPS, information panels, bird watching houses etc.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Co-operation with the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark as well as with the Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark: study trips, exchange of experiences, conferences.

Management structure and financial status

- Execution the projects “Geo-Part - a systematic partnership aimed at integrated development of the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark” and “Programme of the partner network of the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark”.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Study trip of students from Geotourism Department, Technical University Kosice.

- Study trip of representatives of Hungarian Mining and Geological Bureau Budapest.

Strategic partnership

- Update of common strategic documents: Audit of geologic and other resources, Strategy of sustainable development - priorities and measures, Management plan, Marketing strategy, Sites database, Action plan, Strategy of tourism development.
- Creation the network of strategic partners and stakeholders with 4 working groups: Self-government, Economy, Tourism and Education, Environment, within the network several meetings, workshops and conferences were organised.
- Co-operation with the Local Action Group Partnerstvo Juzneho Novohradu in the process of preparation the CLLD Strategy 2014 - 2020 (Community Led Local Development Strategy).
- Co-operation with the local communities in the process of working out the local development strategies (linking the Geopark and the community targets, goals and priorities).
- Cooperation with the Lithosphere Fluid Research Lab (LRG), Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, and Faculty of Science Research and Instrument Core Facility (ELTE FS-RICF), Eotvos University Budapest (ELTE) – common projects, research (industrial history).

Marketing and promotional activities

- Opening the Educational tourist trail through the Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark (an educational tourist trail along the border of Slovakia and Hungary, with a length of 24,5 kilometres).
- Summer camp of Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark – trips, games, competitions, craft workshops etc.
- Occasional lectures for kids and youth.
- 6 guided trips to the Geopark sites for the general public.
- Participation in a Trade fair in Budapest.
- Travelling exhibition of pictures made during Geopark Photo-Marathon 2014.
- The Earth Day 2015: planting the trees, brigade-work.
- Participation in the Earth Science “Whirlabout”, at the Hungarian National History Museum, Budapest.

Sustainable economic development

- Networking of local economic subjects in the working group Economy within the project “Programme of the partner network of the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark”.

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ORE OF THE ALPS GEOPARK (AUSTRIA)



Welcome of a visitor group in the new Geopark visitor centre in Bischofshofen by the Geopark Manager Herwig Pichler (third from right) and the two new staff members (right)

Major achievements in 2015

- 2nd International Symposium “European Copper Road” in Salzburg. The aim of the meeting was a brainstorming for a future travelling exhibition „Prehistoric and historic trading routes of copper in Central Europe“, March 3rd, 2015.
- Hosting of the annual spring meeting of the Austrian Geopark-Forum in Bischofshofen, March 17th, 2015.
- Ceremonial opening of the Geopark visitor centre in Bischofshofen - ski jumping area, with the exhibition “The Sky disc of Nebra”, April 23rd, 2015.
- European Geopark Week with many activities for natives and guests (Bronze-Age-cooking, concerts, workshop for children, free guided tour on the copper trail...).
- Participation of Horst Ibetsberger (Geopark Geo-scientist), Herwig Pichler (Geopark Manager) and Josef Gantschnigg (Financial Director of the Geopark) at the Austrian Geopark-Forum in Vienna, Austrian Academy of Sciences, November 23rd, 2015.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of Josef Gantschnigg (Financial Director of the Geopark) and Horst Ibetsberger (Geopark Geo-scientist) at the 35th European Geoparks Meeting in Paris, FRANCE, March 30th - April - 01st, 2015.
- Publishing an article written by Prof. Clemens Eibner „The copper ore from Mitterberg - a hot spot in the European Bronze Age“ into the European Geoparks Magazine.

Management structure and financial status

- The management structure of the Geopark is the same as reported in the evaluation document 2014. The financial status of the association “Ore of the Alps” was examined and approved by the LEADER and INTERREG funding agency.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Detailed investigation of the Geosite 121 “Hot springs of Liechtenstein gorge”. Master Thesis, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Department of Geography and Geology, Prof. Sylke Hilberg.
- Initial consultations were made, if the Geopark Ore of the Alps and with it all geosites, would be protected by national nature conservation act in future.

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation meeting of the transnational LEADER Geopark partners: German National Geopark „Inselsberg - 3 Gleichen“ in Thuringia, German National Geopark „Porphyryland Sachsen“ in Saxonia and the UNESCO Global Geopark „Ore of the Alps“ in Salzburg. Meeting place: Friedrichsroda, April 27th – 29th, 2015.
- Fact-finding visit in the Mining UNESCO Global Geopark Sardinia; Excursion through the Geopark: Horst Ibetsberger (Geopark Geo-scientist), Markus Häupl (Physical Geography) together with Prof. Gian Luigi Pillola, July 2nd -3rd, 2015.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Several articles on the Geopark in the local, regional and national media.
- Publishing of a 12-side multi-coloured brochure of the Geopark in two languages.
- The Geopark website was completely redesigned and now offers a wealth of information and services.
- Live report of the ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) Salzburg about the opening of the Geopark visitor centre in Bischofshofen, April 23rd, 2015.

Sustainable economic development

- Initial consultations with the Paracelsus Medical University in Salzburg and the INTERREG funding agency, if the show mines in the Geopark will get an additional use as climatic health tunnels, during low season.
- Marketing of local Geopark products at farmer markets and baking bread with the Geopark brand at the old mill at Lehen.
- Two new jobs were created with the opening of the visitor centre (see picture page 1).
- Year-round presentation of environmental programs and programs for schools.
- Partnership contract between the Geopark Ore of the Alps and the University of Salzburg (Prof. Jürgen Breuste, Department of Geography and Geology) to develop new specific environmental programs, with regard to urban mining.

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PAPUK GEOPARK (CROATIA)



“Eco-point”- Jankovac

Major achievements in 2015

- We successfully finished implementation of EU Natura 2000 Integration Project – NIP. Through this project we invested around 530.000 Euros in the new building situated in the Park Forest Jankovac. This object is aimed to serve as main info point for all visitors of Jankovac which represent the most visited place in Papuk Geopark. Except info point for tourists, there is also souvenir shop, presentation / workshop room and wet units.
- The implementation of the project for increasing energy efficiency of Educational and Visitor Centre in Velika has finished. Result of renovation is lower energy consumption of the building. We achieved that aim by installing heat insulation and energy efficient windows and doors, increasing performance of the heating, cooling and ventilation systems, increasing performance of the lighting systems and electrical equipment (LED lighting systems).
- We have finished with all needed documentation of the largest tourist infrastructure project in Papuk Geopark – „Geo-info Centre“. This is a project whose total value is estimated at 6.300.000 Euros. Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection include this project in the list of priority projects.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua Geopark (CC EGN meeting + EGN conference).
- Participations in the volcanic and fossil working groups of the EGN.

Management structure and financial status

- No changes in the management structure of the Geopark. The funding is secured by the Croatian Government.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- We continued with new Geopark panels "Rupko's geological school". Panels were placed near Orahovica Lake.
- We conducted regularly clearance of few geosites in the western part of the Geopark.

Strategic partnership

- Papuk Geopark has strengthened cooperation with the Idrija Geopark and Karawanke Geopark. During study visit we exchange some ideas and done preparation activities of common future project under Interreg Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme.

Marketing and promotional activities

- We have published official photo-monograph of Papuk – "Beauty frozen in time" with around 300 photos.
- Three new publications have been released: "Papuk 4kids" – guidebook through Papuk, colouring book "Papuk" and children's book "Butterfly and ant".

Sustainable economic development

- Participation in local wine tourism festival in Kutjevo.
- Enhanced collaboration with the Voćin Beekeepers Association, common participation at fairs of agricultural food products.

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ROCCA DI CERERE GEOPARK (ITALY)



Press conference and Seminar inside of EXPO 2015 in Milan

Major achievements in 2015

- To realize the EGN week 2015 at the Biomediterranean Cluster inside the EXPO 2015 in Milan. Following the topic of EXPO "Feeding the Planet - Energy for Life" and the topic of the Cluster focused on Mediterranean diet, through different cultural events (show cooking, talk food, speakeasy, musical and theatrical performances, seminars, etc.) we have promoted the Geopark and its heritage, over to promote the EGN/GGN. Local and national experts, journalists, artists took turns every day to realize each single event. In particular, one entire day was dedicated to the promotion the Global Geoparks Network. The 20th August is started with a press conference in the morning sustained by Nickolas Zouros, as President of GGN, to the presence of national and international journalists. In the afternoon, an international seminar/debate was organized by the Rocca di Cerere Geopark with the participation of representatives from Lesvos Geopark, Apuan Alps Geopark, Sesia Val Grande Geopark and Magma Geopark. The presentation of the GGN was focused on Geo-Biodiversity resources as tools for sustainable development in rural areas;
- Implementation of a new cultural interactive multimedia visitor centre in Aidone town called "Rocca di Cerere Factory";
- Implementation of a new environmental educational and didactical centre in Calascibetta town;

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the representatives in EGN CC meetings (Paris and Rokua) and in EGN Conference in Rokua Geopark (Finland);
- EGN Magazine contribution with the title "Inventory of Geosites: A basic tool for managing the geological heritage in the Basque Coast Geopark";
- Participation in the 35th EGN CC meeting in Paris, France - April 2015;
- Updating and managing of the new official Italian Geoparks website (www.geoparchitaliani.it) in "responsive design" for different formats (PC, smartphone, tablet, iPad, etc.);

- Preparing on behalf of the Italian Forum of the new edition of the Italian Geoparks Book (new graphics and layout);
- Evaluation mission of Francesco Chiaramonte in Beaujolais Aspiring Geopark as evaluator, with Kristin Rangnes (Gea Norvegica Geopark) – 29 June/3 July 2015.
- Participation in the 36th EGN CC meeting in Rokua, Finland - September 2015.
- Participation to the 13th European Geoparks Conference in Rokua Geopark;
- Design and realization of the first cartoguide on the mining civilizations in Geoparks as a catalyst in EGN Mining Working Group. After the Paris meeting, there are 18 Geoparks as members of this group;

Management structure and financial status

- New management through the change of legal status of the Rocca di Cerere Geopark: from District to Consortium mixed no-profit composed by public shareholders (Municipalities of Enna, Aidone, Nissoria, Leonforte, Villarosa, Assoro, Calascibetta, Piazza Armerina) and private organizations which operate in the cultural tourism sector, for the enhancement of the local heritage of the geopark and of the environmental education oriented primarily to the student population;

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Elaboration of the new Geosites Inventory by the province of Enna, member of Rocca di Cerere Geopark;

Strategic partnership

- Rocca di Cerere Geopark continued the monitoring of European initiatives promoted by EU useful to develop common projects with the members of the EGN and other public companies. In this way and for example, there are been elaborated and presented two projects: (1) *"Rocca di Cerere Geopark: ideal destination for alternative naturalistic tourism"*, which included the collaboration of several Geoparks (8) and with the support of the Chief of Earth Sciences Section of UNESCO; (2) *"GEA – Geotourism: an holistic approach for sustainable development of rural areas and creation of green jobs"*, project under the EU COSME Work Programme, which included different european organizations and also one European & Global Geopark;

Marketing and promotional activities

- New urban and rural paths assisted by apps and audio-guides downloaded;
- New fast and slow mobility services to enhance the fruition of the territory (minivans, jeeps, bikes, donkeys);
- New net of info-points on the territory (Aidone, Calascibetta, Enna, Assoro, Villarosa and Nissoria towns);
- Redesign and new contents for the Rocca di Cerere website;

Sustainable economic development

- Through the EU funds RDP Sicily, the Rocca di Cerere Geopark Society financed over 50 new projects/initiatives, utilizing 5,000,000.00 euros, to support local enterprises.

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ROKUA GEOPARK (FINLAND)



The Opening of the 13th European Geoparks Conference

Major achievements in 2015

- Organizing the 13th European Geoparks Conference in Rokua Geopark. 408 registered participants from 37 countries, 107 oral presentations and 27 poster presentations. Conference theme: Responsible use of Natural and Cultural Heritage.
- Organizing the 36th European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee meeting in Rokua Geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua Geopark (Finland).
- Vesa Krökki joined the evaluation team and participated to the evaluation mission of the Grevena Tethys Aspiring Geopark in Greece.
- EGN Magazine (issue № 12) article: Rokua Geopark initiated the first Geopark schools in Finland.

Management structure and financial status

- 2015 was the first year of the Rokua Geopark cooperation and financing agreement for the years 2015 - 2018. This is the second financing period of Rokua Geopark. No significant changes in the Geoparks management structure.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- New Geopark information panels were placed in the Manamansalo Island in the Lake Oulujärvi. The panels were designed in cooperation with the Geological Survey of Finland.

Strategic partnership

- Rokua Geopark and Qinling Zhongnanshan Global Geopark of China signed a cooperation agreement in Rokua Geopark in September 2015. Rokua Geopark has now cooperation agreements with three UNESCO Global Geoparks, the other two are: Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark and Schwäbische Alb UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Rokua Geopark has strengthened cooperation with the other tourism areas in Northern Ostrobothnia, a project "Attractive Oulu Region 2018" gathers the areas together in developing and promoting the areas tourism products.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Promoting the 13th EGN Conference: website, facebook, newsletters and posters.
- Attending the "Matka 2015" travel fair in Helsinki in January.
- Membership in the Oulu tourism ltd as a Rokua Geopark tourism destination.
- New summer and winter videos promoting the tourism in Rokua Geopark released. The videos can be seen in youtube.
- Geofood project made a common promotional video of the Geofood products in the Geoparks of Magma in Norway, Odsherred in Denmark, Reykjanes in Iceland and Rokua in Finland. The video was first seen in the 13th European Geoparks Conference.

Sustainable economic development

- 42 local companies have applied and been accepted into the Group of companies operating with Rokua Geopark.

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SESA VAL GRANDE GEOPARK (ITALY)



The geo-pedological track at 3000 m a.s.l. on the Monte Rosa massif

Major achievements in 2015

- Geopark successful extended including 5 new municipalities.
- Implementation of the Geopark new website www.sesesiavalgrandegeopark.it
- Celebration the European Geopark Week.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN CC meetings in UNESCO headquarters (Paris) and Rokua Geopark Geopark (Finland).
- Contribution to EGN Magazine, issue № 12.
- Participation to the Italian National Committee in Rome.
- Organization and hosting of the 7th Italian Geoparks Workshop in Sesia-Val Grande Global Geopark (June).

Management structure and financial status

- New governance model under the implementation to strength both financial and management potential. Inclusion in the management body of the Regional Park presently acting simply as a partner.
- Solid financial status without any remarkable modifications.

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation agreement with the partner Rokua Geopark Geopark for innovative geo-educational program. The project was successfully financed under the Erasmus+ project.
- New partnership with local association and municipalities: potential for geopark expansion and visibility enhancement
- Strategic agreement with Torino and Pisa University for the development of new research activity in 2015 - 2016.
- Participation in the thematic network for the development of volcanic area and mining sites.
- Collaboration on special events (Italian Geopark Workshop and conferences) and development of new geosites and geotrail with the UNESCO World Heritage sites Sacro Monte di Varallo.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Many activities (guided tours, scientific conference, promotional conference, protocol signing, park promotions etc.) related to Milan EXPO 2015 with more than 10 events under the patronage of Geopark.
- New gadgets and brochures.
- Slow Food international congress: The wine and the supervolcano.
- Development of a monthly program to increase the activities and visitor at the infocentre.

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SHETLAND GEOPARK (UNITED KINGDOM)



*The International Year of Light event held at Sumburgh Head to mark the solar eclipse
An astronomical telescope being used to project an image of the eclipse on to a wall*

Major achievements in 2015

- Celebration of the UNESCO International Year of Light at Sumburgh Head Lighthouse during the solar eclipse. The event was collaboration between Geopark Shetland, University of Glasgow School of Physics and Astronomy, the Shetland Astronomical Society and the Institute of Physics.
- Completion of Business Plan as part of two year funding package from Scottish Government setting out future strategy for development.
- Meeting with new Minister for Environment and Climate Change and Land Reform at the Scottish Parliament to promote the case for additional financial support from Scottish Government for Scottish Geoparks.
- Additional funding secured from Scottish Government for a further 12 months
- Publish Geology Guide.
- Geopark Shetland secures funding from the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, for 'Drifting Apart' project.
- EGN Week/Shetland Nature Festival. This is the 6th year of the Shetland Nature Festival and combining the event is proving very successful. 2015 saw the focus of the event being the UNESCO International Year of Light. Geopark Shetland worked in collaboration with a number of agencies to deliver the event, including, Vision Mechanics, Our Dynamic Earth, RSPB, UNESCO International Year of Light, Scottish Natural Heritage and Shetland Arts.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the 35th EGN meetings in Paris and one representative in the EGN meeting in Rokua (Finland)

- Shetland Amenity Trust Deputy Manager took part in the Evaluation Mission to the Golden Geopark of Lapland in June.
- Supported resubmission of Lochaber application to EGN.

Management structure and financial status

- Management of the Geopark is still undertaken by Shetland Amenity Trust which provides the necessary infrastructure to administer the work of the Geopark.
- Core funding is currently provided by the Scottish Government and the Trust is actively seeking continued secure funding support from that source.

Conservation (Geoconservation) strategy

- Worked with Local Landscape Area Working Group on methodology for designating local landscapes
- Worked with Shetland Environment Team on Geodiversity Indicator for Local Authority Single Outcome Agreement.

Strategic Partnerships

- Scottish Geoparks
- Shetland Environment and Education Partnership (ShEEP)
- Scottish Geological Forum
- Scottish Geoparks (UNESCO Global Geoparks and Aspiring Global Geoparks)
- Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Visit Shetland
- Promote Shetland
- Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Marketing and Promotional Activities

- Worked with UK Global Geoparks and UK National Commission on securing UK wide Geopark publicity for the new UNESCO programme.
- Gave a presentation on UNESCO Global Geoparks to the Sharing Good Practice event hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Geodiversity Forum.
- Gave presentation to Shetland Tourism Association on UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Wrote article on UK Global Geoparks and UNESCO designation for Shetland Life magazine.
- Completed the Social Media Graduate Placement Scheme with North West Highlands Geopark and Aspiring Lochaber Geopark.

Sustainable Economic Development

- Continued to promote value of Geoparks locally and nationally.

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post vacant from 9th December 2015

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SIERRA NORTE DE SEVILLA GEOPARK (SPAIN)



GGN evaluators, Geopark team and local authorities at Cerro del Hierro geosite.

Major achievements in 2015

- First revalidation. The mission took place in July carried out by Cooper Coast Geopark (Ireland) representative and a geologist from Earth Sciences and Geohazards Risk Reduction unit (UNESCO). The Global Geoparks Bureau decided to revalidate the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Global Geopark for a two year period ("yellow card").
- Organization of the II Open Day of the Spanish Geoparks Committee, held in Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark.
- Opening of the Cultural Centre "New Schools" in the town of El Pedroso, which has a geological room where is explained the geology and miner history of the municipality.
- European Geopark Week with more than 60 activities for different public (speeches, workshop for children, free guided visits etc.)
- New interpretative exhibition at the Visitor Centre Cortijo El Berrocal, with the installation of large fossil trunk.
- Increase of visitors participating in the Geopark tourism enterprise.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the 35th Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network; Paris.
- Participation in two meetings of the Spanish National Committee of Geoparks.
- Participation in the 36th Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network, Rokua Geopark (Finland).
- Participation in the 13th Conference of European Geoparks, Rokua Geopark. Communication: "Ethnographic heritage recovery in Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark: limekilns restoring".

- EGN Magazine № 13: “New interpretative exhibition at Information Centre of Cerro del Hierro Natural Monument.”

Environmental education

- Publication of the “Guide for Environmental Education in Geodiversity”.
- Environmental education activity "Ecocampus", with the University Pablo de Olavide and the University of Seville.
- Course for Geotourism guides, Constantina.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Revision of the Natural Resources Plan of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark, to improve the protection of geological resources.
- Updating the Geosites inventory of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark.
- Journal about the Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla and the protection of geodiversity; Visitor Centre El Robledo, Constantine.
- Course for managers of protected areas in Andalusia: "European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: adherence of enterprises; certification of Natural Park of Andalusia Brand."; El Pedroso.
- Journal about financing European projects in natural areas; Santa Ana Interpretation Centre, Guadalcanal.
- XI National Meeting of the Geological Heritage Commission (Geological Society of Spain); Basque Coast Geopark.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Publication of the brochure "Geodiversity of Andalusia".
- Edition of the new “Guide of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geosites”.

Sustainable economic development

- Journal about financing European projects in natural areas.
- Two fairs of agricultural food products of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark, in spring and autumn.

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SIERRAS SUBBÉTICAS GEOPARK (SPAIN)



Revalidation of Sierras Subbéticas Geopark

Major achievements in 2015

- The Sierras Subbéticas Geopark has got the Green Card after the revalidation mission that took place in June. It was carried out by the experts Jane Fullerton (Stonehammer, Canada) and Henning Zellmer (Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen, Germany).
- Design of a Geological Menu “The Flavours of the Tethys Sea” in collaboration with the Rural Hotel Zuhayra (Zuheros).
- “Birds from the Iberian Peninsula” exhibition of Pottery Birds in the Mycological Garden, by the local association “El Barro Animado (The living mud)”.
- European Geoparks Week with many activities for different public (speeches, exhibitions, guided visits etc.).
- Design and installation of 5 new interpretive panels of the Geopark: „The Bats Cave”, „The Speleothems”, „La Campiña y La Subbética Cordobesa”, „Panoramic View of Santa Rita” (Santa Rita’s recreation area) and „Soil: from rock to life” (Mycological Garden).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Attendance to the EGN meetings in Paris and Rokua, as well as to the European Geoparks Conference in Rokua (Finland).

- Contribution into the EGN Magazine, issue № 12 with the title “Cabra, Jurassic City”.

Management structure and financial status

- Applications for new Geopark projects are being written.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Removal of anchors from non-authorised climbing routes that can damage natural heritage in Sierras Subbéticas Geopark.
- Continuation with the restoration of the Lanchares Quarries.
- Design of the Forest Fire Prevention Plan of the public terrains of Santa Rita, where the Geopark’s visitors centre and trail are located.
- Internal audit ISO 14001 to check the quality of the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park & Geopark facilities.

Strategic partnership

- Council of Cabra: collaboration for the design of a permanent exhibition on the Sierras Subbéticas Geopark (especially focused on fossils) in Cabra, very near the Subbética Green Way (the ancient railway).
- Council of Carcabuey: Collaboration with the Council of Carcabuey to update and improve its Historical Museum.
- University of Granada is carrying out two research projects in the Geopark.
- Different local enterprises and associations are crucial for the Geopark, this year, especially, the association “El Barro Animado” (local ornithologist and artisan), and Hotel Zuhayra, that has created a very special Geological Menu.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Updating of the Map-Guide of Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park, in collaboration with other regional ministries.
- Design of the Geological Menu “Flavours from the Tethys Sea”
- Geolo-day of Córdoba province was organised in Sierras Subbéticas Geopark.

Sustainable economic development

- Participation in the writing of Agenda 21 (a program of environmental sustainability) for the village of Doña Mencía.
- Contribution to the project GeoFOOD.
- 25 enterprises of the Geopark are adhered to the 2nd phase of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and 10 have the regional eco-label “Marca Parque Natural de Andalucía”.

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SOBRARBE GEOPARK (SPAIN)



Panels of one of the new geological itineraries of Sobrarbe Geopark

Major achievements of geopark in 2015

- Creation of 30 new Geological itineraries covering the 2.200 square kilometres of Sobrarbe Geopark.
- New education and training activities, like the Intensive course on geological heritage organised by the Geopark, together with and International University.
- New information panels spread all over the territory of the Geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the two EGN Coordination Committees and presentation on the Geological itineraries network of the Sobrarbe Geopark during the European Geoparks Conference in Rokua Geopark.
- Publication of articles using the different promotional tools of the EGN (magazine, newsletter, website).

Management structure and financial status

- Maintaining funding, activities and staff of the Geopark.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Development of a project to make several caves decorated with rock art accessible to public.
- Cooperation in the frame of palaeontological and archaeological activities with important findings, within projects like “Excavate with the Geopark”.

Strategic partnership

- Partnership of the Sobrarbe Geopark with the Spanish Geological Survey in several cooperation projects presented in the different calls for proposals of European programmes.
- Partnership with speleological organizations to carry out research projects in the Geopark.
- Partnership with the Group of High Mountain Archaeology of the Pyrenees to research and disseminate the archaeological heritage of the Geopark.

Marketing and promotional activities

- New promotional tools: Video of the Geological itineraries of the Sobrarbe Geopark, video “Guardians of History”, video of the geological history of the Pirineos-Monte Perdido World Heritage Site as a part of the Sobrarbe Geopark.
- Promotional activities as members of the Ecotourism Club of Spain.

Sustainable economic development

- Activities to promote the consumption of craft food products of the Geopark among the 150 partner enterprises of the Geopark.

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SWABIAN ALB GEOPARK (GERMANY)



Signing the partnership with the Building Material Association Baden-Württemberg

Major achievements in 2015

- Achieving the recognition of the status UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Completion the update of the Geopark masterplan.
- Starting a partnership with the Building Material Association Baden-Württemberg.
- Presentation the Geopark to all relevant political parties in the federal state Baden-Württemberg in view of the election campaign 2016.
- Inauguration of the new Geopark Info centre “Discoverer World” in Bad Urach.
- Sixth Geopark Festival in the shale adventure park in Dormettingen.
- Celebration the European Geopark Week.
- Celebration the “Day of the Geotope” in an outstanding remnant of the Swabian volcano.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN meetings in Paris, France, and in Geopark Rokua (Finland).
- Lecture about the benefits of a partnership with the Earth and Stone Industry at EGN Conference in Oulu (Finland).

Management structure and financial status

- Raising revenues in having the partnership with the Building Material Association Baden-Württemberg.
- Implementation of two Geopark steering groups in the counties Tuttlingen and Esslingen.

Strategic partnership

- Partnership with the Building Material Association Baden-Württemberg.
- Formation of the National Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Germany.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Participation in tourism fair CMT – Caravan Motor Tourism – Stuttgart 2015.
- Release of a new pocket guide presenting all show caves in the Geopark.
- Release of a new edition of the brochure “Adventure Geopark”.
- Handing over of two Geo-Suitcases to two schools in the Geopark.
- Presentation the Geopark on a prominent political festival in the capital Berlin.
- Special issues on the Geopark in the magazines “Sphere” “Picture of Science” and “Fossils”.

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TERRA.VITA GEOPARK (GERMANY)



New Shark Center HaiTec

Major achievements in 2015

- Green card for the fourth revalidation. The mission took place in July carried out by Goran Pavic (Papuk Geopark, Croatia) and Prof. Changxing Long (China).
- Three more workshops have been organized to finish the masterplan for TERRA.vita. It was adopted in November.
- The silversea gallery (opening in 2014) once again attracted 2500 guided guests. A new welcome and meeting point has been built and a new fairy-tale project addressed school kids very successfully.
- Hartmut Escher, the speaker of the German Geopark forum gave a presentation at the tourism committee of the German Bundestag (federal parliament), gaining a broad support for a new UNESCO Global Geoparks designation by all parties.
- Reception of a delegation from Russia, searching for first-hand information on Global geoparks.
- Opening of the new HaiTec information centre, offering interactive information on ancient sea life and especially sharks.
- Meeting with county managers, preparing them for the upcoming UNESCO decision.
- Coordination of an expertise on possible consequences (advantages, risks) of a new UNESCO designation for geopark regions.
- Participation in the process of coal-conversion carried out in the mining area of Ibbenbüren, closing down in 2018.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives at the EGN meetings in Paris (UNESCO) and Rokua Geopark (Finland).

- Participation in the 6th Global Geoparks Conference in Canada with two oral presentations.
- Participation at the 1st meeting of national fora of Global Geoparks in Portugal, chaired by Elisabeth Silva from the Portuguese National UNESCO Commission.
- Participation in the common presentation of the EGN at ITB Berlin.
- Contribution of an article for the European Geoparks Magazine, issue № 12.
- Timo Kluttig conducted a revalidation mission to the Copper Coast (IRL) and Hartmut Escher did another one to Geoparks Haute Provence (France) and Tianzhushan (China).

Management structure and financial status

- Stable situation and no major changes after staff increase of two in 2014.

Strategic partnership

- Strengthening of Partnership between Global Geopark De Hondsrug in NL and TERRA.vita: First preparation steps to establish a cross border hiking trail focussing on megalithic graves.
- Partnership with University of Osnabrück, start-up MindQ and TERRA.vita to develop a smart tool to monitor long-term changes in landscapes and geosites integrating local people (citizen scienceship).

Marketing and promotional activities

- Continuous information of members of parliament and stakeholders on developments concerning the new UNESCO designation.
- Broad media coverage about UNESCO decision in Paris in November on TV, radio and newspapers.

Sustainable economic development

- Broadened participation in regular meetings to promote regional products.

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TERRAS DE CAVALEIROS GEOPARK (PORTUGAL)



Educational programme in the Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark

Major achievements in 2015

- Organization of the First Meeting of the National Fora of Geoparks in cooperation with the Portuguese Forum of Geoparks.
- Participation in the Tourism and Hunting Fair in Macedo de Cavaleiros and organization of the seminar “Geotourism: Territorial Development Engine” there.
- Celebration of the 70th UNESCO anniversary with a mega school “Magusto” (popular festivity with chestnuts) with the participation of all schools of the geopark.
- Involvement of about 5,000 students in the educational programmes of the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark (TCGG) and other educational activities.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the 35th European Geoparks Coordination Committee Meeting at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.
- Participation in the 13th European Geoparks Conference (Finland).
- Celebration of the European Geopark week, with 1.515 participants.
- Collaboration with the Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark (Japan), with rock samples of the TCGG to expose at the Mt. Apoi Visitor Centre.
- Hosting visit of 14 members of the Monts D’Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Submission of an article for the 2nd Edition of the book about European Geoparks and participation with a text for the 4th EGN newsletter.
- Organization and promotion of the UNESCO contest “Water that unites us” with the Portuguese Geoparks Forum.

Management structure and financial status

- Successful project application “Treasures and Knowledge of the TCGG”, which allows to contract two technicians for a period of one year

- General Assembly of the Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark Association, where activities and financial plan for 2015 were approved.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Initiation of the management planning for eight geosites by the definition of the geosites protection area and buffer zone.
- Monitoring of the geosites and regular conservation.
- Awareness raising activities in six parishes of the TCGG.

Strategic partnership

- Establishment of partnerships with local tourism companies, like “Naturthoughts” and regional tourism companies like “The Getaway Van”.
- Participation in the Blue Flag Programme and Eco-Schools programme promoted by the ABAE (European Blue Flag Association).
- Partner of the project “Partners of the Mines and Sites of Geological Interest Roadmap”, with 31 partners in Portugal.
- Development of a documentary about the Murçós Mines geosite, in partnership with the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro and the University of Minho.
- Participation in the programme “Life Science in summer”, in partnership with the Centre of Life Science of Bragança, with 9 activities.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Exposition about the TCGG in the Maia Welcome Centre (North Portugal).
- Organization of the quiz “Challenge in the Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark wave” about environmental education, in cooperation with the local radio.
- Participation in the Lisbon Tourism Fair, and organization of a contest during the fair, named “Smile, you are at the Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark!” in partnership with the hotel industry, that financed the awards.
- Organization of a field trip with representatives of the restaurants, hotels, cafes and bars in the TCGG.
- Translation of the information about the TCGG into English and Spanish at the “Mines Roadmap” website.
- Publication of the Geopark’s monthly electronic newsletter.
- Participation in the INTUR – Valladolid Fair, with the participation of Caretos (a costume that is traditional of Carnival in the Geopark).

Sustainable economic development

- Lodgement of a section with local products for sale, such as handcraft products, olive oil, honey and liquors, in the Information Centre of the TCGG.
- Visits and promotion of factories located in the Geopark territory in the context of the tourism and educational programmes.
- Promotion of a gastronomic festival in the TCGG, with the dishes’ names related to the geology of the Geopark.

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TUSCAN MINING GEOPARK (ITALY)



Milan EXPO 2nd October 2015.

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the National Mining Parks and Museums Network. On the left the President of ISPRA (Institute for Environmental Protection).

Major achievements in 2015

- Project “Gateways of the Park”: Regular, guided museum tours were organized at all the seven Gateways to the Park (March – December).
- Participation in BMO Online Buy Maremma - project to promote innovation in tourism and in particular the excellence of the Maremma territory which includes the Tuscan Mining Geopark (10th and 11th March). Speech given by Alessandra Casini and Fabrizio Santini "Social" Governance in the Park; Organization of JMO in the headquarters of the Park, another step of BMO (27th October).
- Enabling collaborative project with the University of Cagliari. SIMBDEA (Italian Society for Museology and Demo-ethno-anthropological Heritage) and Park of Sardinia for a study on migration of miners from Sardinia to Mine of Gavorrano.
- Participation in Festival of Science Museums. Presentation of initiatives and workshops designed and made by science, nature and technology museums of the territory including the Tuscan Mining Geopark for issues related to geology and mineralogy (16th May, Siena).
- Montieri EGN Week – GTDAY – Day of Mines "The path of the mining trenches" Geological and mining excursion on the mineralization, karst caves and medieval mines of one of the most suggestive geosites of the park (16th May, Siena); Implementation of Video on the Tuscan Mining Geopark by ISPRA (30th May 1 of June). Environment Ministry to show on 2nd October at EXPO during a workshop on mining parks; Week – GTDAY – Day of Mines Festival “I Luoghi del tempo” (Places of Time), Mine Niccioleta (1st June EGN). Guided tour of the mine and theatre piece by Ascanio Celestini (an Italian renown actor) about the massacre of the miners of

Niccioleta by fascists; EGN Week – GTDAY – Day of Mines Festival “I Luoghi del tempo” (Places of Time), Mine Ravi Marchi (6th June). Guided tour of the mine, opening of the photo exhibition "From Fields to Workshops" (photographs of the 50s of the twentieth century) and then a concert.

- After three years of studies and research the Park in collaboration with the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Siena, has published three volumes on the enhancement of the geological sites and mineralogical heritage.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the FORUM of Italian Geoparks.
- Participation in the EGN Coordination Committee Meetings in Paris (35th) and in Rokua Geopark (36th).
- Contribution to the EGN Magazine on the minerals of the Geopark.

Management structure and financial status

- Park management team has been increased by a geologist, a researcher of the University of Siena to work to the arrangement of the cataloguing of the geological, mining and cultural heritage of the Geopark.

Strategic partnership

- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the National Mining Parks and Museums Network (ISPRA leader); 2nd October.
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Tuscan Mining Geopark, Val di Cornia and Mining Park of Elba (three mining parks in Southern Tuscany) to design and implement cultural activities in coordination (4th December, Campiglia Marittima).
- Support for the Festival of music, theatre in the Park (July – August, Festival Teatro delle Rocce – Gateway of Gavorrano ; Festival Lirica in Piazza – Gateway of Massa Marittima; Festival Jazz Grey Cat – Gateway of Follonica; Festival Nuove Figure Gateways of Monterotondo Marittimo, Montieri, Massa Marittima, Gavorrano, Follonica).

Marketing and promotional activities

- Restyling of the Park's website.

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VIKOS AOOS GEOPARK (GREECE)



Major achievements in 2015

- Inauguration of the Geopark Information Centre in Papigo village with the presence of local and regional authorities.
- Establishment and operation of a flexible operational model of the Geopark.
- Creation of the biodiversity interpretive route in the Geopark with 12 panels.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the EGN meetings: (a) 35th CC meeting in Paris with 2 representatives and (b) 36th CC meeting and 13th EGN Conference at the Rokua GG (Finland) with 1 representative.
- Contribution into the EGN Magazine, issue № 12: "Geotrails to the karstic geofoms of Astraka Plateau in Vikos- Aaos Geopark".
- Organisation and promotion of the EGN Week.
- Promotion of the EGN & GGN networks -as well as the UNESCO Global Geoparks - through the 2 Information centres and the Eco-guide book.

Management structure and financial status

- The Councils of the 2 Municipalities of the Geopark and the Regional Authority of Epirus decided to contribute to the Geopark budget for the 2016.

- Establishment of a flexible operational model of the Geopark. Redefinition of the members of the Geopark Management Committee and important decisions for its operation.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Creation and publication of a leaflet with map regarding the geotopes in the Vikos Aoos Geopark in Greek and English.
- Creation and installation of 8 panels regarding geological values and geotopes.

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation with the Regional Authority of Epirus and the Greek - German Assembly to establish a 300 km hiking network path in the Geopark and the wider area of Pindos Mountains according to the standards of certified trails in Europe.
- Cooperation with the Municipalities of Konitsa and Zagori for the operation of the Information Centres
- Implementation of a 3 days seminar with the cooperation of the Environmental Education Centre of Konitsa regarding the Vikos-Aoos Geopark with the participation of high school teachers of the area (Geopark Week). June, 27-29.
- Discussion with other Geoparks in the Mediterranean area to apply for common projects.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Distribution of the leaflet regarding the 5 interpretive thematic routes of the Geopark in Greek and in English.
- Distribution of the Vikos-Aoos Geopark eco-guide book in Greek and in English.
- Distribution of the leaflet regarding the Geotopes of the Geopark in Greek and in English.
- Release of a video to the local TV news regarding the Vikos-Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark and the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Press release regarding the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Redesign and new contents for the Geopark website.

Sustainable economic development

- Coordination of new farmers of the Geopark to establish a project regarding the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants in relation with other geoparks.

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VILLUERCAS IBORES JARA GEOPARK (SPAIN)



*“Geoconvivencia” Celebrating the Geopark’s Day in the educative community
Near 500 pupils in front of the Monastery of Guadalupe, UNESCO WHS*

Major achievements in 2015

- The geopark achieves its first Green Card after its first revalidation process.
- Course of Geopark Rangers: 32 participants (businessmen, journalists and students); 124 hours of training; 16 teachers of the Scientific Committee and the University of Extremadura (17th April – 25th June).
- The educative project “Geocentres” has its Celebration Day: “Geoconvivencia” in Guadalupe. 500 pupils from the Geopark High and Primary Schools participated.
- On 29th May the 6th European Geopark Week (speeches, workshop for children, free guided visits for citizen etc.) was held.
- Commemoration of the new UNESCO Global Geopark label and Green Card certificate. 300 participants.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation as vice-coordinator of the Spanish Geoparks Committee in several meetings with the UNESCO National Commission and other representatives of the Spanish National Administration.

- Participation in 35th and 36th EGN CC in Paris and Rokua Geopark and in the European Geoparks Conference.
- Twinning Geoparks Agreement signed between Sanqingshan Global Geopark of China and Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark.
- Participation in the meeting to generate a Spanish National Geoparks Committee as a working group of the UNESCO Spanish National Commission.
- Participation in the Spanish Geoparks Committee and 2nd Open Seminar in Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark.
- Assessment visit to Rio Coco Geopark Project in Nicaragua.
- Contribution to the European Geoparks Magazine, issue № 12.
- Collaborative scientific research on the Cambrian palaeontology in Canada conducted by Profs. Teodoro Palacios and Sören Jensen of Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark and the colleagues of Stonehammer Global Geopark (Canada).
- Participation in the EGN Stand at the International Tourism Fair of Madrid, FITUR, with Naturtejo Global Geopark.

Management structure and financial status

- Meeting of Geopark's Council with new members to make the 2015 Action Plan.
- Monthly meetings of Territorial Commission. Steering of the Action Plan.
- Incorporation of palaeontologist Iván Cortijo to the Geopark staff.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Several meetings and field work of the Geopark Scientific and Educative Committee and Geocentres Working Group.
- Redaction of a new Conservation Plan of the Geopark Geological Heritage by the Environment General Directorate (Extremadura Regional Government).
- New Fossil Interpretation Centre inaugurated in Navatrasierra.

Strategic partnership

- Educative field trips organized by the Geopark in collaboration with the regional Ministry on Education for Primary and High School of the Cáceres Province.
- Geopark Territorial Commission. Meetings with the Geopark tourism companies, the municipalities and the LEADER Group.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Participation in Tourism International Fairs and other promotional events.
- GEODISEA: Three weeks event to promote geotourism.
- Edition of the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark Touristic Services Catalogue.
- Several press trips and blog trips for tourism professionals.

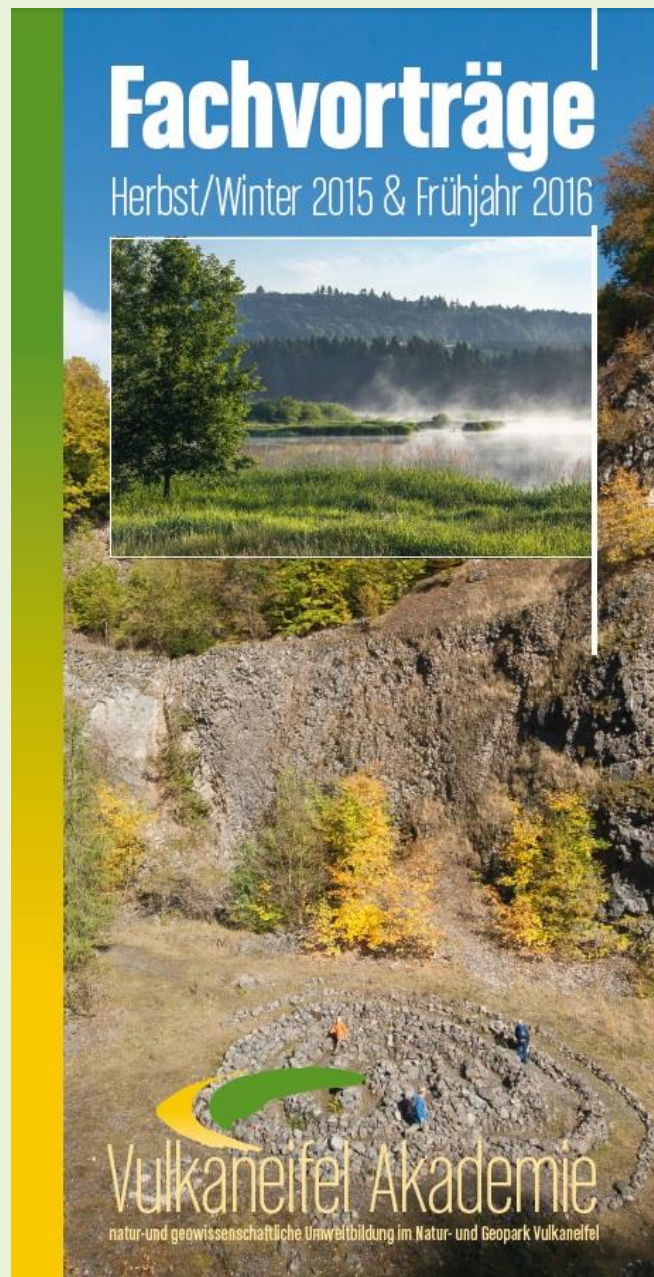
Sustainable economic development

- The geopark is awarded as Best Practice in Rural Tourism by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.
- Diffusion and social awareness events in different places.

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VULKANEIFEL GEOPARK (GERMANY)



Flyer of lecture series “Vulkaneifel Akademie”

Major achievements in 2015

- Revalidation passed successfully with a green card. The mission took place in June carried out by Richard Watson (Northern Ireland) and Noritaka Matsubara (Japan).
- Confirmation as an UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Continuation of environmental education (earth sciences), implementation of the environmental education concept, activities in schools and kindergartens.
- Continuation of the lecture series “Vulkaneifel Akademie” with various designated speakers from natural and earth sciences.

- Election of biotope and geotope of the year 2015 (biotope: juniper heath Uesser Berg, geotope: palagonit tuff at Gyppenberg volcano), including excursions to biotope and geotope and care measures.
- Ornithological and botanical monitoring at Trautzberg Maar, a maar that was recovered by us in 2014.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation of the two representatives in the EGN meetings in Paris (UNESCO Headquarters) and Rokua (Finland).
- Contribution to EGN Newsletter “Vulkaneifel Academy: environmental education at Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark“.
- Support of the Global Geopark booth at ITB (International Tourism Fair Berlin).
- Lobbying for the establishment of UNESCO Global Geoparks on national (German) level, addressing members of parliament, federal ministries and German UNESCO Commission. → The federal state parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate held a discussion on GGN and EGN and offered its full support.

Management structure and financial status

- Supervisory board meeting: ongoing financial support by our shareholders.
- We have succeeded to conclude sponsorship contracts with several quarry companies in the region.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Maintenance of various geotopes and biotopes, execution of care measures.
- Beginning of restauration of a historic mineral water well in Brockscheid.

Strategic partnership

- Key player of development of the LEADER-LAG of the Vulkaneifel region.
- Collaboration commitment with Applied University of Salzburg with the aim of geotourism development.
- Continuation of partnership with Styrian Volcano Land.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Participation in Vakanz 2015 – Tourism Fair Luxembourg with regional producers.
- Participation in ITB.
- Participation in the Tourism Day in Kröv.
- Participation in the Open House Day at the US air base in Spangdahlem.

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