EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK

Geopark Annual Reports

2012
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**APUAN ALPS GEOPARK (ITALY)**

**Major achievements in 2012**

- “Apuan Geoday”: a special day for studying geological issues in depth with the presentation of the final draft of the Geopark geotourist map and a geoeducational event for helping Park Guides to teach Earth Sciences.
- “Apuan Autumn: the colours of the Earth”: local fair in Bosa di Careggine enabled people living in the Geopark and tourists to get to know the agricultural-naturalistic Centre, dedicated to scientific research and education.
- “Acta Apuana”: publication of a special issue of the scientific review of the Geopark, collecting more than ten years of studies and research and focuses on the archaeology of Apuan marble with nine articles and two reports written by several Italian and foreign experts for the cultural promotion of the historical Apuan Alps marble.

**Contribution towards the work of the EGN**

- Attendance at the 29th EGN Coordination Committee hosted by Sierra Subbeticas Geopark (Spain)
- Attendance at the 4th Italian Geopark Workshop hosted by Tuscan Mining Geopark
- Attendance at the 30th EGN Coordination Committee and the 11th EGN Conference hosted by Arouca Geopark (Portugal)

**Management structure and financial status**

- The management structure of the Geopark is made up of several offices and services for a total of 24 people. The Director implements the decision made by executive bodies and coordinates the staff of the board.
The operating budget for 2012 totals € 1,901,000, coming most of all from Tuscany Region’s resources, while the three-year capital budget totals € 816,000. The sum for the environmental education’s management, the economic activities’ promotion and the research and conservation’s management totals about € 250,000.

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**

- The Geopark Master Plan has been adopted in August. This instrument has the task of protecting the significant value of the natural resources, the ecosystems and the landscapes of a particular environment and it manages its sustainable use. The Master Plan splits the area into zones of different protection levels; it specifies types of usage and activities that are compatible with the Park’s objectives; it sets out admissible recovery, conservation, redevelopment and transformation operations. The Master Plan considers the geosites as “structural invariants”, that is natural element that ought to be protected from negative changes or overexploitation, which may pose a threat.
- The Rules for the management of the Geopark have been approved in June. They define the geopark’s aims, the government bodies, the activities, the relationship with the area and financial resources.

**Strategic partnership**

- Planning activities about “Geological: people, culture and territory”, in cooperation with Medina, Association for cooperation among peoples and in partnership with M’Goun aspiring Geopark (Tadla Azilal, Morocco)
- “STIGE” Solid Transport Impact on Groundwater Ecosystem: sustainable quarrying and water resource preservation; presentation of a Life+ Environment Policy and Governance project application in collaboration with the Earth Sciences Department of the University of Florence, Serchio River Basin Authority, the Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources of the National Research Council, Helmholtz Zentrum Munchen of the German Research Center for Environmental Health

**Marketing and promotional activities**

- Attendance at Festambiente, national fair together with Tuscan Mining Geopark and Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia
- Start up of an online reservation web site for guided tours in several geosites.

**Sustainable economic development**

- Experimental production of typical products by Apuan Geopark farm in Bosa di Careggine (honey, flour of Zea mays cv. “Formenton ottofile”, and jam)

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BASQUE COAST GEOPARK (SPAIN)

Guided Geo visits. Science education, culture and tourism

Major achievements of geopark in 2012
• Geopark interpretation Plan: Definition of main topics (geology, archeology and culture), proposal to build new interpretation centres and set up new routes.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
• Representation in EGN Coordinator Committee.
• Participation in Spanish Geopark Forum
• EGN magazine n. 9, “Creating a Geopark website” article
• European Geoparks Conference in Arouca: two oral communications “following the trail of the medieval iron industry in the basque coast geopark” and “Flysch the whisper of the rocks: a scientific documentary for the international promotion on the Basque Coast Geopark”.

Management structure and financial status
• New work structure for the management of the Geopark, a team of three people; The Manager, Scientific Director and Rural Development Agent.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
• Basque Coast Geopark Geosites Inventory
• Autoguided Georoutes Network
• Rescue of a giant “Saerichnites abruptus” from the cliffs

Strategic partnership
• UPV-EHU basque University to develop different lines of research

Marketing and promotional activities
• Guided Visits Program 2012, on line booking www.geoparkea.com
• Basque Coast Geopark promotional audiovisual

Sustainable economic development
• Promotion of local products. Partnership between restaurants and local growers

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During 2012 the Beigua Regional Nature Park (European and Global Geopark) continued his work to improve the geological heritage conservation activities within the frame of the wider and more complex strategy of conservation of the natural and cultural-historical heritage the protected area has. New projects and opportunities were developed.

Major achievements in 2012

- Launching the project about the “suggested lodging of Beigua Geopark” in May 2012; it is a circuit of farm holidays, bed & breakfasts, hotels and mountain huts which have agreed to collaborate with the Geopark Authority to promote sustainable tourism, which pays careful attention to local traditions and to environmental quality.

- Opening of the new Information Point in June 2012 along the sea promenade in Cogoleto; it is a new facility to emphasize the presence and the role of the Beigua Geopark in the district. The project has been carried out with a strong partnership with the Cogoleto Municipality.

- Educational programme specially dedicated to geological risks and natural hazards working with the Regional Authority for Civil Defence and involving local schools. The project has been developed to raise public awareness about the global changes, the natural risks and the alerting system for civic defence and protection.

- Editing and printing of two new guidebooks:
  - touristic guidebook (a double edition in Italian and English languages);
  - a geological guidebook (English edition) especially dedicated to the most interesting geological sites to visit in the Geopark’s territory.

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BOHEMIAN PARADISE GEOPARK (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Major achievements in 2012
• New visitors centrum in Nová Paka was equipped by software application for traffic monitoring system and is used as an official tourist information center

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
• 11th EGN Conference – participation and exhibition, September 19th-21st, Arouca, Portugal
• Participation on conference Rattvik, Sweeden at June and Dalhala, September

Management structure and financial status
• Head office of geopark has moved to address Vejrichova 539, 511 01 Turnov

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
• Maintenance of geo trails and information system repairs
• Research in volcanology, paleontology and mineralogy has continued, new program granted by National Geography Magazine New Mexico Highlands University, the Czech Geological Service and University Clermont Ferrand (France). The implication of geoinformation system of the Bohemian Paradise Geopark was launched with cooperation of the Czech Geological Service.

Strategic partnership
• Very active guidance of LAGs in geopark development.
• Assistance to some Italian and Swedish LAGs in their efforts to become geoparks.
**Marketing and promotional activities**

- Organization of International Conference “Geology for Region” on January 27th
- Organization of conference “7 years Geopark Bohemian Paradise - expectations and reality”, conference hall 31st - June 1st 2012
- 24 Geo Education Actions, 26 Geo Cultural action, 15 action Geo Kids were performed at different geopark attractions during the European Geopark Week in May and June and were attended by more than 15 thousand visitors.
- Regular press conferences on the geopark activity, television programs on Czech TV and broadcast on the radio about geopark and 3 new books, 16 exhibitions in the Czech Republic and Poland. 62 scientific and popularization articles, participation on ITB Berlin, Geopark was presented in GO and REGIONTOUR – the Central European tourism fair, 16 exhibitions in Turnov and Poland.
- In the school year 2012 new workshops and programs on the teaching for school classes in primary and secondary schools was implemented. Bohemian Paradise Geopark developed some fundamental educational packages for use in primary and secondary schools and what can offer was communicated to all schools in the Geopark area. For Universities was created programs for praxis and final works.

**Sustainable economic development**

- Geotourism actions for people from 26 countries

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Major achievements in 2012

- EU LIFE funding secured by the Geopark for a sustainable tourism and conservation project. This is a five-year multi-partner project, which will develop indicators, products, marketing, strategic policy as well as physical site works to promote sustainable tourism in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark.

- Formation of Burren Geology School at Caherconnell Fort, aimed at international students. This is a 6 ECTS credit field course supported by the Earth and Ocean Science Department at NUI Galway.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark presented four papers at the annual EGN conference in Arouca Geopark, Portugal.

- Attended the EGN Coordination Committee meeting at Arouca Geopark, Portugal.

Management structure and financial status

- The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark is managed and part funded by Clare County Council. The Geological Survey of Ireland provides direct financial support for the employment of a geologist. Failte Ireland (national tourist board) provides funding towards the operational budget.

Conservation strategy

- We work with the Council’s planning office, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the National Monuments Service and the Office of Public Works to develop good
conservation practice at key sites and monuments in the Geopark. We work with local businesses to develop good conservation practice in their business operations.

**Strategic partnerships**
- Under the new LIFE Tourism for Conservation project we continue to grow and strengthen our strategic partnerships with local and national conservation and tourism organisations.

**Marketing and promotional activities**
- We developed a new Facebook page and Twitter account. We had local, national and international press coverage. We had strong European Geoparks Week and National Heritage Week programmes.

**Sustainable economic development**
- The Geopark developed and funded the Burren Ecotourism Network, a group of 40 businesses in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark that are committed to the ethos of sustainable tourism and conservation. We have been working with the Network and tourism bodies to develop a measurable strategy of product development and marketing to stimulate increased revenue for these businesses. The Geopark helped manage and fund the development of a website (www.burrenecotourism.com) and free visitor guide to promote these businesses.

- The Geopark provided training and networking opportunities and quality standards and certification for local businesses.

*Local business people at a training seminar in March 2012*

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CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR GEOPARK (SPAIN)

Informative course for the Geopark’s collaborator enterprises

Major achievements in 2012
- Natural Park 25th Anniversary Celebration

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- Coordination of the Spanish Forum of Geoparks
- Collaboration with Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark EGN week
- GGN consultancy: “Grutas de Palacio” Geopark project in Uruguay

Management structure and financial status
- Synergies between the Geopark and the Reserve of the Biosphere

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
- Full Geosites review
- Environmental impact study in the Geopark
- Restoration of natural areas and new parking facilities at Monsul’s beach

Strategic partnership
- Workshop and close collaboration with the local federation of people with disabilities
- Close collaboration with Almería’s University

Marketing and promotional activities
- Natural Park steering committee Awards
- Promotional campaign for the collaborator enterprises: “Meet us, meet them and Enjoy”

Sustainable economic development
- Common action plan 2013 - 2017 with the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism

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CARNIC ALPS GEOPARK (AUSTRIA)

Major achievements in 2012
- Approval as the 49th member within the EGN in March 2012

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- Article for the EGN Magazine 10
- Oral presentation “Scientific research in the Geopark Carnic Alps – a never ending story” by Hans Peter Schönlaub;
- Participation at 11th European Geopark Conference, Arouca

Management structure and financial status
- The funding is secured till end of 2014

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
- Excavation of petrified trees, improvement of accessibility, protection measurements

Strategic partnership
- Elaboration of a partner contract with the regional touristic organisation (Karnische Tourismus Region); due to sign spring 2013
- Cooperation with cross-border Geopark Karavanke (Austria/Slovenia)

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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Major achievements in 2012

- Meeting: "The protection of Platanos orientalis from the disease of metachromatic ulcer" was held at the Environmental Education Center Kleitoria – Akrita, on December 19, 2012. The event was attended by students from local schools, teachers, parents and the local community.
- 423 pupils and 59 teachers from 17 schools participated in the exhibition of the Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Participation in the 29th EGN Coordination Committee Meeting - Geopark Sierras Subbeticas, 8th- 9th March, 2012, March 2012
- Participation in the 30th EGN CC Meeting - 11th EGN Conference - Arouca Geopark - September 2012

Management structure and financial status

- Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body’s actions are included in the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park" of the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development 2007-2013.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Creation of scientific library of Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body, in which there are many books on the geological wealth of our region. The action is included in...
the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park" of the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development.

- Implementation of the project "Inventory of water resources and promotion geodiversity of the protected area". The action is included in the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park" of the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development.

Strategic partnership
- Maintenance and enhancement of the path 'Kalavrita town-Ski Center "in the Geopark region, in collaboration with the Natural Mineral Water AVRA and ARKTOUROS non-governmental organization.
- The Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark participated in delegation of the Greek Geoparks Forum, which was met on September 9, 2012 in Athens, at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the office of the Greek National Commission of UNESCO Geoparks seeking support from the Greek National Commission of UNESCO.

Marketing and promotional activities
- The process of actions "Informing the public" and "Informational material" for implementing of the Project "Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park" which is included in the Operational Program Environment and Sustainable Development, is in the final stage in order both actions be implemented.
- On February 25th the Chelmos Vouraikos national park is promoted by the show "water fairy tales" from the nationwide state TV channel ET3 and Mrs. Koumoutsou Eleni, Project Coordinator of the Management Body spoke about the promotion and management of the area.

Sustainable economic development
- Participation in the meeting of the Development and Promotion of Tourism of the Municipality of Kalavryta and presentation of operational programs of the municipality Kalavryta.

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CILENTO AND VALLO DI DIANO GEOPARK (ITALY)

Boat field trip during International Workshop of geomorphology “Objective geomorphological representation models: breaking through a new geomorphological mapping frontier” organized by Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark and University of Salerno

Major achievements in 2012
Great response to all the activities that the geopark has made like:
• The program of environmental education oriented to the schools, connected to the themes of Geodiversity, Biodiversity, Landscape, sport and nature, nutrition education and sustainable development;
• The meetings with local community to promote geotourism;
• The number of tourists that have visited the Geopark;
• National and international cooperation for the realization of projects financed by the European Community;
• A new virtual museum on geodiversity

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
• Attendance all meeting, conference and workshop of EGN and Italian Geoparks
• Preparation, editor and print the Italian Geopark Forum Book ;
• Submission of the article for publication in European Geopark Magazine 10
• Submission of the article during 11th European Geoparks Conference in Arouca Geopark
• The Geopark is organizing the 12th European Geoparks Conference

Management structure and financial status
• The operative structure of the National Park - Geopark is divided into three areas: Technical of Preservation Nature, General Affair and Communication-Promotion, for a
total of 37 employees coordinated by a Manager. More specifically, the area Technical and Preservation of Nature has in its staff one geologists, an environmental engineer, an architect, a biologist, an agronomist, three surveyors, an agrarian expert and three administrative employees. After 2010 was created a specific structure only for Geopark with Geopark manager and his staff.

- The National Park - Geopark receives funds directly from the Ministry of Environment and obtains, with some project, funding from European Commission and Capania Region.

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**

- New catalogin of geosites in geoturistic key
- The general revision of the existing path network and facilities to visit the geosites
- The Geopark has obtained funding for € 26.000.000,00 to: improve some natural sites; create virtual museums, to print and produce publications for the promotion of the territory; create webgis and applications for iphone to promote geological and cultural heritage.

**Strategic partnership**

- Participation and obtain funding for LIFE project: “Forests of the Apennines: Good practices to coniugate Use and Sustainability” (FAGUS) € 1.244.038,00.
- We are realizing with Italian University research project on biodiversity and geodiversity

**Marketing and promotional activities**

- Parteciping some national and international workshop to promote the Geopark
- Partecipation in national programs televion as “Italia uno”, “Easy Driver RAI 2 “ – “Linea blu”, were we speak about the Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark and the EGN-GGN and hs published some articles ont the news paper
- Printed a Geopark book and some other publications

**Sustainable economic development**

- The Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark had consolidated the attractions of this area, favoring that sustainable tourism. The possibility to know the territory through a new key of reading, the understanding of the values that compose it, among which the geologic one had constituted an occasion of development for a sustainable tourism. The Cilento constitutes a real "living landscape" that, maintaining an active role in the contemporary society, preserves the traditional characteristics that made it in the past, in the organization of the territory, in the plot of the paths, in the structure of the cultivations and in the system of the settlements.

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COPPER COAST GEOPARK (IRELAND)

The newly refurbished Copper Coast Geopark Centre, which will host exhibitions, community events and act as a visitor information point with a café.

Major achievements in 2012

- The past year has seen the Copper Coast Geopark completing work on our heritage and community Centre, which used to be a church. It is now sound and waterproof with electric power and plumbing, and it is ready to host geological and mining exhibitions as well as explaining our other local heritage. It is also a source of information for visitors, a café and a meeting place for the local community.

- We continue to pursue and develop our education and learning remit – visiting and being visited by schools and colleges at all levels. We also provide courses, sessions and guided walks for adults and senior citizens. As the Copper Coast Geopark Centre develops it will become a very useful resource in our educational outreach programme.

- During the year a series of short films was produced which will be shown in the Centre. These give an impression of life for miners and their families at the peak of copper mining activity in Bunmahon. Also they show mining methods and the scale of the operation at those times. Many local were involved in the making of the movies, on both sides of the camera, developing interest in and awareness of the Geopark and its heritage. The films were shown in the Centre which was full for both showings.

- As part of our Ireland - Wales InterReg project - "Metal Links" - we ran an Archaeology workshop, which included a graveyard survey. We also hosted a waterpower seminar – particularly relating to its use in milling and in mining operations. A paleo environmental study was carried out on the impact of mining on the Geopark landscape. We are in the process of developing our first e-trail.

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Wood, the major resource of the Eisenwurzen, dominates the appearance of the new visitor center at the Wasserloch Gorge

Major achievements in 2012

- **New Visitor Centre.** A new visitor centre was inaugurated at the entrance to the Wasserloch Gorge, one of the most spectacular sites of the Park. The gorge is one of the touristic hotspots of the area and accessible through a magnificent trail. Because of its dangerous access, the large karstic spring which gave the gorge its name is not accessible to the public. It is presented in a video show at the visitor center. A flyer highlights the natural peculiarities, including geology.

- **Improvements.** A revised edition of the guidebook of the Geotrail Gams was published. Besides individual descriptions of the stops, it gives an overview on the objectives of the European GeoPark Network. An English text is available as enclosure. Furthermore, the access to one of the major fossil sites of the geotrail has been improved by constructing a new plateau and stairs. A new detailed tourist map and a brochure provide an overview on trails, the history and specific natural features of the region.

- **Educational activities.** During spring, 30 school groups have attended project weeks in the nature and geopark. Another 32 groups have booked one-day programs in Geology and 6 groups have visited the spectacular Kraus cave. All groups were supervised by strategic partners of the park. School groups constitute therefore an important sector in local tourism. Three hundred students and their teachers have celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity on May 22 at Gams. Organized by Irmí Auer, the local field guides, members of the Museum of Natural History, Vienna and the adjoining Gesäuse National Park demonstrated the fossil diversities of the Marine Cretaceous rocks of the area and the diversity of animals living in the Gams river. A pilot project for increasing the consciousness for the region was initiated in
2012 at the kindergarten of Altenmarkt. It is the overall aim to foster the awareness for local traditions and the preservation of the natural heritage.

- **Festival of Geology and European GeoParks Week.** The Festival of Geology 2012 which partly overlaps with the GeoPark Week offered a large selection of field trips ranging from visits to a scientific excavation of cave bear remains by a team of the University of Vienna, to the karstic springs which are a major source of the Vienna Water works and to the Wasserloch Gorge with its large karstic spring. The geology of volcanoes and the sediment transport by rivers were presented in oral communications.

- **Exhibition in the GeoCentre Gams.** In its annual exhibition, the GeoCentre Gams presented the diversity of pebbles from local rivers. The exhibition which was planned by Heinz Kollmann and performed in cooperation with the Museum of Natural History, Vienna, informs about the source, transportation and deposition of sediments along the rivers. Eye-catchers are polished stone bowls made by a local craftsman from stone pebbles in a “stone mill” of rotating blades. The exhibition was inaugurated on 24 May.

- **New hotel.** The opening of a “Nature Hotel” in a former château has great impetus on regional tourism.

- **Scientific activities.** Research by the Russian Academy of Sciences on the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary localities of the Geopark are going on. In cooperation with the Austrian Geological Survey, Heinz Kollmann has finished a geological map of the Cretaceous/Palaeogene Gams basin located in the Park. Excavations of Pleistocene mammal remains in the Arzberg Cave of Wildalpen by palaeontologists of the University of Vienna are going on. Besides skeletal remains, mainly of cave bears, they have yielded human artifacts, 20.00 to 26.000 years in age which are the oldest witnesses of human activities in the region. A Master’s thesis in the frame of the University of Vienna and a Bachelor’s thesis on the communication of geology to the public are ongoing.

### Contributions towards the work of the EGN
- **As delegate of Eisenwurzen,** Heinz Kollmann has attended the Meetings of the EGN Coordination Committee.
- **Thomas Drechsler** represented Eisenwurzen at the common EGN booth at ITB in Hamburg.
- **Heinz Kollmann** has served as one of the revalidators of the Balaton-Bakony Geopark, Hungary
- **Heinz Kollmann** is a member of the editing board of the Geoparks Magazine
- **Irmi Auer and Heinz Kollmann** attended the 11th Geoparks Conference in Arouca and gave a presentation under the title “Precious times: Happy spending in the geopark”.
- **Irmi Auer and Heinz Kollmann** contributed to the EGN Magazine with the paper: Celebrating the International Day of Biodiversity at Eisenwurzen.
- **For exchanging ideas,** a large delegation of the aspiring transnational (Slovenian-Austrian) Karawanke GeoPark visited Eisenwurzen on 23/24 April. It was guided through the park. Thomas Drechsler and Heinz Kollmann gave oral presentations.

### Management structure and financial status
- The management structure is the same as before. Financial support is provided by the Nature and Geopark communities, the provincial government of Styria and the ELER promotional program of Styria.
- Forcibly, the reduction of financial obligations taken up by the former management has priority in the current expenditure policy.
Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
- Beginning with December, public workshops on conservation measures and their implications on the population have started and will be ongoing in 2013. These may result in new objectives for the Nature- and Geopark.
- As a part of this program, Heinz Kollmann was entrusted with the compilation of a geotope data bank.

Strategic partnership
- There are cooperations with earth science departments of the Universities of Vienna and Graz, the Mining University of near-by Leoben and the Austrian Geological Survey.
- Media cooperation. Besides cooperations with the local newspapers, the geotouristic offer of the village of Gams was presented in the Ennstal TV which specializes on the touristic programs of the region. The Austrian TV presented the nature- and geopark in a short account with special emphasize on local partners.

Marketing and promotional activities
Folders highlighting the top destinations of the region were distributed among travel and transport organizations. The Eisenwurzen GeoPark has participated in the common booth of EGN at the ITB, Berlin.

Publications
- Auer, I. & Kollmann, H. A. Celebrating the International Day of Biodiversity at Eisenwurzen.- European Geoparks Magazin, 9
- Kollmann, H. Geopfad Gams. Guidebook (with English enclosure)
- Map of hiking trails of the Gesäuse region, including a booklet of 62 pages by Th. Drechsler

Sustainable economic development
Irmi Auer has installed a booth offering products by local partners in the Nature and Geopark in the centre of St. Gallen. Furthermore, she has organized seminars which communicate the extraordinary diversity of local herbs.

Further information:
- Thomas Drechsler, drechsler@gesaeuse.at
- Heinz Kollmann, heinz.kollmann@nhm-wien.ac.at
Major achievements in 2012

- **Paignton Geoplay Park** This fantastic community lead project opened with a spectacular event attended by over 3000 local people. Funded through £500,000 Lottery Community Spaces the geologically themed park now provides a free facility that is open all year for local families and visitors to enjoy. It has been a huge success and is already starting to kick-start further regeneration in the area and attract further funding to spread the benefit of the park to the surrounding area.

- **Geoquest goes to Unzen** The Geopark has continued to work with dynamic and innovative artists, to engage and provoke interest in all ages inspiring them to think more widely and creatively about the world around them. Thanks to Arts Council England funding it was possible to share the Geoquest model with the community and staff of the Unzen Geopark and the delegates of Global Geopark Network at the 5th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks. The GeoCollective artists, performed on local Unzen radio and ran workshops for local groups and children. On returning to the UK these new songs were shared with the children of the English Riviera Geopark at the launch of the Geoplay Park.

- **UK Geoparks Forum** As Chair of the UK Geoparks Forum, Melanie Border worked throughout 2012 to secure a positive relationship with, and the support of, the UK UNESCO National Commission.

- **International Cooperation and Exchange** The Geopark hosted visits from Kalajoki Finland (fact-finding and exchange), from the University of New Brunswick in connection with collaborative research project with Stonehammer Geopark and from Hong Kong for further exchange and developing e-school. In addition Nick Powe and Melanie Border attended a roundtable conference in Hong Kong with Chinese Geoparks. This has led to a further three delegations from Chinese Geoparks visiting so far in 2013.

Further information: Melanie Border m.border@englishrivierageopark.org.uk
Nick Powe NickPowe@kents-cavern.co.uk
Major achievements in 2012

- **Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassador Scheme.** The launch of the Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassador Scheme. This training programme includes two one-day workshops over a year and, on completion, local business people will be awarded a certificate and provided with promotional material. The Geopark Ambassadors Scheme emphasizes Fforest Fawr Geopark’s role in collaborating with local businesses and residents to contribute to sustainable wealth creation by protecting and promoting its landscape for the development of geotourism. This training programme also focuses on the Geopark concept, the nature of Geoparks, 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.

- **Geopark Revalidation** Fforest Fawr Geopark was successfully revalidated in 2012. In their report the evaluators highlighted the success of the Geopark’s work with groups and communities and the proposed Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassador Scheme for local businesses. The Geopark’s goal is to continue with, and strengthen this collaborative process in order to sustain the success of the Geopark and protect its heritage for future generations.

- **Training for businesses ‘National Park & Geopark Knowledge’** Training courses for Abergavenny-based (October 2013), Brecon-based (February 2013) and Llandovery-based taxi-drivers (March 2013) included presentations on the Geopark’s geology and archaeology.

- **Lines in the Landscape** A circular trail developed together with Coelbren a community on the southern fringe of the Geopark, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the National Trust focuses on the local geology and history, particularly the Roman legacy and that of the Industrial Revolution.
• **Fforest Fawr Geopark General Guide (New Editions)** Improved and updated editions (in both English and Welsh) available from mid-March 2013.

• **Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival (Geoparks Week)** The 2012 festival - 26<sup>th</sup> May to 10<sup>th</sup> June included 21 events and attracted 289 participants. Brochures and fliers for the 2013 Festival were printed in March 2013.

**Contribution towards the work of the EGN**

• **EGN Committees** Representation on the EGN’s Coordination and Advisory Committees.

• **The EGN Magazine** Representation on the EGN Editorial Board. Edited and contributed the Foreword and articles on *The 90<sup>th</sup> Session of UNESCO’s Executive Board and Geoparks and Fforest Fawr Geopark Ambassadors: Ambassadors for Geo-conservation*.

• **European Geoparks Book, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** Editing articles for the new edition.

• **10<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference 2011 Norway** Guest editor for the Proceedings of the Conference Volume.


• **Messel Pit World Heritage Site** Presentation October 2012 – *Fforest Fawr Geopark: Von Geo-Ausbeutung zur Geo-Konservation* (Fforest Fawr Geopark: From Geo-exploitation to Geo-conservation).

• **Thematic Groups** Representation on the EGN Mining and Tectonic groups

**Management structure and financial status**

A well-established hierarchical structure oversees the development of the Fforest Fawr Geopark:

• The **Partnership Board** meets annually and endorses the vision for the future development of Fforest Fawr Geopark developed by the Management Group together with a set of objectives.

• A **Management Group** meets three times a year to consider strategic and policy matters regarding the development of the Geopark

• An **Implementation Group** meets at least three times a year to consider strategic and policy matters regarding the development of the Geopark e.g arising from decisions made by the EGN Coordination Committee and prepare an agenda of issues for consideration by the Management Group.

• The Geopark is funded on an on-going annual basis by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and which includes the employment of a full-time permanent Geopark Development Officer
Geoconservation strategy
Fforest Fawr Geopark brings together numerous bodies with expertise and both statutory and non-statutory geoconservation roles:

- Brecon Beacons National Park
- 4 Special areas of Conservation (SACs)
- 2 National Nature Reserves (NNRs)
- 29 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- 137 Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)
- Numerous sites across Wales and within the Geopark have been identified as ‘regionally important geological/geomorphological sites’ or ‘RIGS’.

Strategic partnerships

- British Geological Survey The British Geological Survey is currently producing a geological map of the Geopark.
- The Romans in Carmarthenshire Project A project involving the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, National Trust Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council. This project will introduce visitors to the history of the Roman conquest of the Silures Tribe and is linked with the only Roman Gold Mine in the UK.
- The CALCH Project A project involving the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Black Mountain Centre and the National Museum of Wales. This exciting project will enable visitors to discover how limestone quarrying and the lime industry contributed to the Agrarian Revolution and the Industrial Revolution

Marketing and promotional activities

Amongst others, the Geopark is promoted and marketed through the following websites:

- [www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/](http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/) (Fforest Fawr Geopark)
- [www.breconbeacons.org/](http://www.breconbeacons.org/) (Brecon Beacons National Park)

And through the following centres, amongst others Waterfalls Centre (Pontneddfechan), Llandovery Heritage & Information Centre and National Park Visitor Centre (Libanus)

In addition, the annual Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival is organised in celebration of European Geoparks Week. A general leaflet for the Geopark is published as is a visitors’ guide to enjoying it.

Sustainable economic development

The Geopark works increasingly with communities and businesses, key examples being the communities of Coelbren and Brynaman where events and circular walk leaflets are designed to encourage visitors to use local shops and facilities and thus assist the sustainable development of these communities.

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Tony Ramsay tonhel@btinternet.com
The first European and Global Geopark in Norway is situated in south-eastern Norway, in an area boasting outstanding geological features. The Geopark tells the story of 1500 million years of geology, a fascinating journey through time. The Geopark area encompasses seven cities, but also beautiful landscapes including a skerry coastline with low-relief fjords, agricultural land, forests and mountainous areas.

Major achievements in 2012
- New Geopark locality (the history of Norway’s first iron works) has been established, with new information panels.
- New Geopark map for web has been developed.
- CO₂ capture and storage: new locality with panels
- Project from the Ministry of Education and Research for children – Geologist meets artist
- Larvikite exhibition
- Dream mile. Developing historical, cultural and Geological attraction cluster in Nome municipality

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- Two delegates participated in the EGN -meeting in Sierras Subbeticas Nature Park - Andalucia, SPAIN
- Two delegates participated in the Global Geopark conference in Unzen Geopark Japan
• Evaluation of Oki Island Geopark, Japan
• Two delegates participated in the EGN-meeting in Arouca Geopark – Portugal
• Five delegates participated in the European Geopark conference in Arouca Geopark Portugal.
• Visiting Magma Geopark
• Presentation on Swedish geology conference (Geoarena) on geotourism in Uppsala, Sweden

Management structure and financial status
• Gea Norvegica Geopark is an inter-municipality company. The Geopark is owned by the 8 municipalities and 2 county councils. Board of representatives have 12 members, and meets twice a year, all members are politicians. The Geopark board have 7 members. The elected members have different background, from education, science, business etc. The board meets regulary.
• The Geopark is fully financed by the owners, according to a legal agreement.
• The Geopark have 4 full time positions, and 2 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 nature heritage. To be aware of the connections and the story geological attractions can tell.
• Places of special interest: notification procedures to different institutions; according to Norwegian law

Strategic partnership
• Fifteen partnerships with local enterprises.
• Strategic partnership with the organization for local food, and the organisation for cultural heritage in Vestfold county.
• Partnership with hotels, special offer for geopark tourists.

Marketing and promotional activities
• Regularly guided tours during the season (may-october). 30 guided tours between May and September with certified geopark guides on different themes
• New booklet about the Fen volcanic complex geopark locality has been written and designed by staff in the Geopark.
• New Geopark Book / booklet
• Geopark exhibition in two public libraries
• The manager of the Geopark has been in the Norwegian television, radio and in newspapers several times. Thematic programs and different interviews
• Science day – Field trip in the Fen volcanic area and talk.
• Geology day – 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.

Further information: Kristin Rangnes kristin.rangnes@geanor.no
Ingeborg Klepp ingeborg.klepp@geanor.no
The activities of the Geological, mining, historical and environmental Park of Sardinia focused, even in 2012, in the pursuit of its statutory objectives of research, preservation and promotion of the territory and of its tangible and intangible heritage. In the last year, following the appointment of the new Director, Dr. Francesco Usalla of 1.02.12 with a five-year contract extensible to ten, the Geopark increased the efforts towards a shared schedule with other stakeholders (other local authorities, such as Region, municipalities, provinces and IGEA, an in-house Society of the Region which owns most of the mine sites. Results achieved are important not only for concrete results but because there is finally a widespread recognition of geopark role.

Major achievements in 2012

- With regard to the management of the territory, carried out in collaboration with other organizations with similar mission, it has participated as leader to European calls financing projects on the promotion of the territory, the protection of biodiversity and excursions presenting six projects. These, in part, already approved for financing and other still sub judice, provide treatment for approximately € 5,000,000.
- Together with G.A.L. (Local Action Group) Sulcis, is running a program agreement signed on 20.04.12, carrying out interventions, for the protection, promotion and transnational cooperation (e.g. Youth and Rural Development, "MeDIETerranea", "smarTOURism", "Territorial Marketing and Communication Plan and tourism promotion" for a total of € 1,326,000. (Resolution no. 20 of 24.04.2012 and no. 64 of 12.05.12).
- Invested in the Mining Archives of Monteponi-Iglesias, one of the biggest in Europa, which houses all the mining heritage documentation, currently managed by the in-house companies of the region and the Geopark Consortium. In this Archive are preserved, valued and accessible all the documents and for implementation will be built the Museum of Mining Models and the exhibition of machinery for mining for a total investment of € 1,800,000 (resolution no. 2 of 1/24/13).
- Signed on 28.12.12, with the Regional Planning Center, an agreement aimed at the Development of innovative technologies for remediation and environmental restoration, land-use planning and sustainable economy paths in the areas falling in the Geological, Mining, Historical and Environmental Park of Sardinia. On 24.01.13 was presented the rough estimate of the first project agreed for an amount of €. 323,000 and concerning "Manufacturing industrial and environmental restoration - The opportunities of mining dumps in Sardinia." This project will test the possibility of pre-industrial scale recovery of minerals in economic value.
- Was officially named as one and only conversation partner of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia in planning, programming and monitoring four-year activities on the Geopark territorial jurisdiction financed with 25.000.000 Euros a year.
- Within the framework of cooperation with different public bodies subscribed a 3years treks network plan considering environmental, historical, cultural, industrial archaeology and economic subjects, included in the Park Programmatic Report and financed with 5.500.000 Euros. On December assigned the task of clearing and equipping to new paths in the areas of Buggerru and Domusnovas. On 2.1.13 signed with the Region of Sardinia, the municipalities concerned and the IGEA (in-house company of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia), a program agreement called "Intermunicipal Strategic Plan" for the territory of Guspine - Arburese, aimed to
implement a program of measures to protect and enhance the existing historical and cultural heritage of the former mining areas and at the same time create new economic opportunities. The role of the Park Consortium will be to manage the cultural and natural heritage, providing guidance on the constraints and objectives of its venue (resolution no. 5 of 1/30/13).

• With regard to the recruitment of permanent staff at the Park Consortium, the Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with other ministries, approved by decree (protocol 17320 8 .8.2012) the staffing plan agreed with the Consortium and have started the recruitment process. The slowdowns occurred because of the instructions issued by the Environment Ministry, who ordered to wait for the enactment of the agenda of the government provided for the reorganization of the national parks.

Currently by the various parties involved (Region of Sardinia, IGEA company, cultural associations) about 900 permanent employees are intended to initiate and carry out actions related to the Geomining Park of Sardinia whose activities will be planned and coordinated with the intervention of the Consortium of the Geominig Park.

The Geopark has strengthened its relationship with the territory also relating to the Council of Cultural, Environmental and Humanitarian Associations of the Geo-mining Park of Sardinia (which includes about 55 local associations) which, even in 2012, has contributed a large number of initiatives to promote the Park, even thanks to the ordinary and extraordinary contributions supported by the Consortium for a total of about € 90,000.

In addition, recognizing the valuable role of the associational also not adhering to the aforementioned Council, but anyhow strongly linked to the territory, the Consortium operationally and financially supported a number of initiatives of local and cultural and environmental associations in the construction of many valid initiatives and projects in the cultural sector, promotion, and environmental carried out not only in the 81 municipalities of the Consortium of Geo-Mineral Park, but also at national and international level by multiplying the visibility of the Geomining Park.

CULTURE and PROMOTION
Care of the new edition of the Thesis Scholarships Award. During the year, were presented in the municipalities of the consortium sixteen thesis on the Geominig Park in the presence of journalists, scholars and authorities. The award ceremony is scheduled for April 2013.

Cofinancing, coediting and presenting several publications of particular scientific and editorial quality which deal with issues concerning significant aspects of the Geopark heritage, e.g."Landscapes and Mines of Sardinia from above"; "When the bariloca played", "Work to live, not to die", "History of the School of Mining Iglesias", "Cesare Vecelli mining engineer", "The legendary Surfurarau", "80 years of football Rossoblu - Monteponi / Iglesias" etc.

• Promotion of cultural and environmental heritage of the Park Geominerario and publication on a prestigious tourism magazine "Sardinia Bell'Italia Special Edition". Participation in the International "Across The Vision Film Festival 2012". Of great interest the master in audiovisual production held in collaboration with the Chair of the History of Cinema at the University of Cagliari.

• Participation with several events in the XIV Culture Week April 14 to 22 organized by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture (MIBAC) to promote and enhance the Italian cultural heritage.

• Selection of 4 anthropologists and 1 coordinator for the continuation of the recovery of historical memory through field research and documentary films.

• Organization, in cooperation with the Association "Sardegnavapore" of a series of trips with the historic steam engine 740 423 with Centoporte of 1909 and a luggage van
of 1918, with facilities to the Mine of Monteponi. The project is implemented with the help of Trenitalia.

- Organization of the exhibition and the conference "Sardinia that you do not expect" in Bergamo that recorded a strong adhesion of public authorities and local tourism stakeholders.
- Supported the trip of the "Baudi of Vesme" High School in Mosbach (Germany) in the context of an important international exchange project between schools called European Comenius - Empowering Gender Equality.
- Co-organization of the Cultural Festival LiberEvento in Calasetta rich in literary events, musical and artistic works, as well as authors and guests winners of national literary awards, a photographic exhibition on the most beautiful Sardinian historical and natural places and the projection of documentaries produced by the Geopark.
- Adhesion and patronage to the project "The earth itself - Sardinia in Beijing" that will take place until 2016 and will have as its objective the transformation of former industrial sites in residential cultural centers meeting international artists.
- Co-financing to the Company IGEA for the purchase of storage and retention materials storage for the Mining Archive.
- Co-organization of the arts festival “Sea and Mines” to discover places and traditions of the Geopark coastal areas.
- Signing an agreement for the organization of the “Mines vertically” international event to achieve the objectives of visibility, promotion and enhancement of the territory through active tourism (free climbing, boulder, snorkeling, etc.).
- Framework Convention for activities of scientific collaboration between the Geomining Park of Sardinia and the GeoPark Colline Metallifere, both unique mining parks in Italy. This collaboration is the result of the invitation of the General Directorates of the Italian Ministry of Environment to collaboration between National Parks in order to achieve economies of scale, providing the sharing of scientific and technical knowledge developed in the context of environmental remediation, the study of industrial archeology and geological sites. Co-organization of the conference studies and documentary exhibition on the history of Sulcis Area former dominated by phoenixes from the modern to the contemporary age.
- Exhibition "The Island is there. Sardinia meets Roma 2012" in the prestigious Piazza Risorgimento, not far from the Vatican to promote the Sardinian excellences, with an exhibition of the market chain products, hospitality and culture, fostering the contact between supply and demand.
- Organization and financing of the serial “in progress” on the regional tv channel to promote the historical and environmental peculiarities of about 18 Municipalities of the Geomining Park. The serial was also sent on the Sky channel accessible from all over Europe.
- Renewal of the annual contract SOGAER for the promotion of the Geomining Park at the main airport of Sardinia through projections on LCD display screens in the arrivals and departures.

**INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE**

- Agreement with the Association of Industrial and Geotechnical Engineers for the collaboration with the Mining Museum in Iglesias of particular historical, scientific and educational value, housed in the second oldest of the four Italian Mining Institutes.
- Funding for direct interventions of restoration and enhancement of industrial archeology in the municipalities of Arbus (series of interventions in the former mining village of Ingurtsosu) and Narcao for the renovation and conversion of some buildings in the compendium *Rosas Mines.*
• Contribution to the Master of the HafenCity Universität Hamburg in reconversion and development of mining areas of the Geomining Park of Sardinia, Park Geominerario included in the official academic program of the Faculty of Architecture Fachgebiet Entwerfen und Baukonstruktion. The final papers of students were a constituent part of an exhibition and a publication in three languages on the themes of recovery and enhancement of historic mining artifacts to be divulged in the main international studies centers.

• Contribution to the Second Edition of the International Master in Mediterranean Landscape Urbanism by the Department of Architecture, Design and Urbanism of the University of Sassari, including field research and a Workshop on upgrading and revitalization of the areas falling within the limits of the Historical and Environmental Geo-Mineral Park of Sardinia and the realization of a documentary officially presented in Bangkok.

• Funding direct interventions of restoration and enhancement of industrial archeology in the Municipality of Guspini (for the implementation of visiting hours and greater usability of the Compendium of industrial archeology Montevecchio) and the Municipality of Arbus for the preparation of the detailed plan for the former mining village of Ingurtosu.

• Funding the Municipalities of Guspini and Arbus for the preparation of the detailed plan for the recovery of the mining village of Montevecchio.

• Co-financing the IGEA Company for maintenance former mining site Montevecchio hospital in the Municipality of Guspini.

• Funding for restoration work, development and usability of the mining sites in the Municipality of Lula (completion of the works of the mining site of "Sos Enathos") and the Middle Campidano Province (optimization of the mining complex Montevecchio and Sardara).

• Co-funding of the Regional Call for incentives for environmental remediation of abandoned mining sites – Communities of Arbus - Villamassargia Narcao.

• Co-organization with the Association of Industrial and Geotechnical Engineers of the second edition of "Iglesias Technical Sessions" eight lectures on a monthly basis, that will see the participation of renowned experts on technical, environmental and cultural issues.

ENVIRONMENT and LANDSCAPE
• Subscription of the agreement between the Agency Forestry Board, IGEA SpA and Park Consortium Geominerario to formally establish a partnership to create and consolidate a network of itineraries focusing on the main vocation of the area (environment, culture, gastronomy, cycle paths and bridleways) and for a joint participation in the call of the Local Action Group Linas – Campidano, size 313, PSR 2007-2013 Action 1 and 2 with the goal of introducing innovative services and promote networking systems for tourism in rural areas.

• Funding the Municipality of Domusnovas for interventions for the maintenance of good order and decorum of the natural monument called "Caves Domusnovas.

• Participation in the Workshop Reclamation, procedures and opportunities for development of disused mining areas held in Cagliari on 22 and 23 March organized by Environmental Council Department of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia.

• Assignment to the company "Naturally Sardinia" for the design and assistance in the implementation of n. 5 paths with low environmental impact that are conducive to hiking in the natural areas of San Giovanni Mine, Buggerru, Domusnovas, Nebida and between the towns of Siliqua and Narcao.

• Organization, in collaboration with the International Centre for Documentation and Research on Mine Caves, The Autonomous Region of Sardinia, the Province of
Carbonia-Iglesias, the city of Iglesias and the Italian Institute of Speleology of the 2nd International Symposium on Caves mine 26 to 29 April 2012 which was attended by scholars and experts.

- Coding with GAL Sulcis Capoterra Campidano and the Memorandum of Understanding for an effective and continuous cooperation, aimed, in general, to the establishment of an instrument of local governance as a system of integrated territorial quality, able to create synergies between the potential, resources and actors, including through a unique image territorial recognizable outside.
- Participation from 16 to 17 May 2012 to the 4th Geoparks Workshop Italy (Massa Marittima).
- Participation from May 29 to June 2 at the VII Congress of the Italian Parks Federation.(Grosseto).
- Co-financing and participation in 20 to 22 July at the Posidonia Festival 2012, an International Festival of Arts, Environment and Sustainable Development, held in the Sardinian island of San Pietro.
- Co-financing and organization, in collaboration with the Consortium Forgea International nd IGEA SpA of the Workshop "The management of contaminated mining and industrial areas" (July 16th to 18th) presenting a synthesis framework for the management and revitalization of contaminated sites.
- Co-financing the Forgea International Consortium for the organization of meetings with experts on issues related to the management of national parks.
- Participation in the call LIFE - Nature and Biodiversity with the project Exploitation of sustainable development: environmental adaptation of forest management and in abandoned mining areas of south-western Sardinia.
- Subscription in Brussels of the agreement involving tour operators and public authorities for cooperation between all winners of the European Community Eden Prize for the Best Practices in Sustainable tourism. Three sites of the Geomining Park were awarded in the edition 2011.
- Co-financing the municipalities of Arbus, Villamassargia and Narcao for participation in the regional call for environmental restoration measures in brownfield areas (€ 25,000. each).
- Co-financing projects for the Communitie of Narcao environmental education and sustainability for 10,000 Euros and the Community of Domusnovas for the consolidation works of the rocky ridge south-west of Monte Acqua for 30,000 Euro.
- Bidding for the adaptation and accommodation of two treks in the areas of the municipalities of Buggerru and Domusnovas.
- Co-financing the Miniere Rosas Association for the opening of an equipped camper service to improve sustainable tourism in the mining village of Rosas (Narcao).

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GEOMÔN GEOPARK (WALES)

The launch of Geopark rock clock by the Mayor of Llangefni at Geopark centre

Major achievements of geopark in 2012

- 1. Number of visitors to the centre nearly doubled from 1500 in 2011 to 2700, 2012.
- 2. The highlight was the completion and launch of the rock clock depicting all the major rocks of Anglesey arranged in geological periods and % of time
- 3. Completion of a 10week course of the geology of Anglesey for the public.
- 4. Running an international research conference on recent research attended by 40 scientists from Britain, Japan and Canada.
- Co supervising 2 M.Sc. Students with Bangor University and one gaining top award from the British Sedimentological Research Group for Best M.Sc. In Britain...

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Attending EGN meetings and presenting 2 papers at conference, plus creating display in UNESCO
- Advising and doing workshop for aspiring African geopark at Victoria Falls in RAC in Cirencester.
- Collaborating with Copper Coast Geopark (Ireland) on Metal Links INTERREG project and attending meetings in Ireland and Wales
- Producing articles for EGN magazine and the new Geopark Book...
- Working with other British Geoparks at the British Forum.
- Creating a database of EGN geopark photos and text for GeoMon website and for displays at marketing venues.

Management structure and financial status

- We are managed by a Board of 6, Chair, P. Gasson, MD, M. Wood. Dep. MD T. Beggs Interpretation. J. Conway, Treasurer G. Webb. Marketing J. Guerin. Finance advisor D. Jones. We have 10 qualified geoguides and 5 centre volunteers
• Grants received this year £43,383.34 to 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2012
• Money in bank to 31\textsuperscript{st} March £3,390.96
• This does not include the grant (£124,000) that is controlled by Anglesey County Council which is spending on our behalf over 3 years.

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**
• We work entirely with the National Conservation Agency (NRW) that is the combination of CCW, EW and FCW) as a former regional officer with the conservation agency Dr M Wood works regularly with the agency in conservation. Currently Dr Campbell of the agency is monitoring the Angesey sites and so far has the documentation completed for Quaternary, Historical and igneous sites. The other topics are being monitored over the next 2 years. …

**Strategic partnership**
• Our official partner with employees for GeoMon work and finance is the Anglesey County Council led by the Business and Tourism Manager Mr Iwan Huws. NRW is also an official partner as the National Conservation Agency, Environment Agency and Forestry Comission with 2 NRW employees (Mr R Roberts and Dr Stewart Campbell) working on conservation matters, sites, monitoring and interpretation. Mentermon the Enterprise Agency (Owner Managers of the Heritage Hub where we have our centre).
• Other partners are the Bangor University, Leicester University, Tokyo University and the Tokyo Institute of Earth and Planety Sciences…Mr John Hedley our artist in residence, Llanbadrig Community Council and various retail outlets.

**Marketing and promotional activities**
• Dr J Conway for GeoMon has produced 2 new trail leaflets and written 2 articles,. The County Council is currently producing 13 new information boards, trails and signage at entry and exit portals
• We have given 6 talks and ith the Council put on national exhibitions in Manchester, Birmingham, Anglesey, Bangor University The rock clock has been excellent in promoting geoparks and we have permanent exhibitions in Amwch port. We have facebook, twitter and Linked in web pages and all is advertised on our own website.
• We are working with the Council and Llanbadrig Community Council on an educational dyke site with interpretation in Cemaes Bay and a heritage interpretation on St Patrick at Llanbadrig.

**Sustainable economic development**
• Apart from our geo walking trails (14) we have one cyle trail, 2 more nearly finished and 2 kayak trails that will be used with all the secondary schools in Anglesey this July. Dr M Wood is on the steering committee of the walking and cycling groups for Anglesey and events have been arranged for the summer including a display and activitie in Beaumaris by all the walking groups and organisations, a cycle weekend with 4 circuits of different lengths and difficulty and a time trial on the main runway of Anglesey Airport. A round the island yaght race is also planned.
• A new car park has just been constructed alongside the Britannia Bridge for Park and Ride and car sharing and is connected to the bus services.
• New windfarms, water turbines with waves and a new nuclear power station are all planned.

Further information: Margaret Wood college@btinternet.com Paul Gasson paul@associated-design.net
Major achievements in 2012
Beside our regular work in our Geopark management board, Geopark advisory committee and our two offices the most important activities were

- Opening of the new Geopoint “Clay pit Willershausen”, place of discovery of famous Pliocene fauna and flora (February)
- Presentation of the new info panel „Tal der Heiligen Reiser”, LM 17 (March)
- Opening of the West Gate at the Archeological Park ‘Imperial Palast of Werla’ with the prime minister of Lower Saxony, David McAllister (September)
- Presentation of the leaflet reprint and presentation of the new info panel at “Fuchshalle Osterode”, LM 11 (November)

Further information: Geopark Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen GbR
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Dr. Henning Zellmer   h.zellmer@geopark-braunschweiger-land.de
HATEG COUNTRY DINOSAURS GEOPARK (ROMANIA)

Major achievements in 2012
- Public debate on the management plan;
- Renovation of the new Information Centre in Hateg to be organised as visiting point and office for the geopark administration;

Marketing and promotional activities
EGN Week events (School Festival in Santamaria Orlea and Hateg)

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- International Symposium Recherche croisees en Dobrogea (Geologic Museum, National Peasant Museum, Grigore Antipa Natural History Museum, May, Bucharest;
- International workshop of the architect students on Landscape Architecture, Hateg 5-7 iulie (participants from Romania, Italy and Spain)
- Development of an International Leonardo Project In&Out dedicated to outdoor learning. Partners are from Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Romania;
- European Virtual Seminar Course (on-line course of 10 European Universities) on seven subjects and case studies, one of them being Geoconservation and geoparks;
- Two weeks Erasmus Intensive Program held in Sinaia, 28 students and 14 staff from eight European universities: Sustainable development and geoconservation;
- Development of MSc Program in University of Bucharest: Applied Geo-Biology in conservation of natural and cultural heritage (including geoconservation and geoparks);
- 7th International Symposium ProGEO on the conservation of the geological heritage, Bari, 24 – 27 September, Italy.

Sustainable economic development
- Printing promotional materials and a new booklet edited by Student Association (booklets);
- Participation in national tourism fair

Further information: Andrasanu Alexandru mesajalex@yahoo.com
Major achievements in 2012

Katla Geopark got accepted to a IPA grant from the European Union as a regional development project – it got signed in June 2012 and has the aim to enhance sustainable regional development in the Katla Geopark area and to create employment opportunities for the local population through the promotion of geotourism.
Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- KGP has taken part in different European projects – Northern Georoutes is a project that is designed to develop a high quality tourist offer and booking system for Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks in the North. Nordic GeoGuide School II is another project developing the guiding skills of people in Katla Geopark.

- Katla Geopark ran its second Geopark week on 23rd to 29th of April 2012. The theme that week was Sveinn Pálsson naturalist in Vík who got a monument raised due to his 250 years anniversary. All the municipalities and many local businesses offered a good program.

- Two people attended EGN meeting in March 2012 and two people attended EGN meeting and conference in Arouca in September 2012

Management structure and financial status

- Chief Operational manager and two educational experts are working full time for the Geopark – funded by the IPA grant until July 2014

- Board of directors meets every 3 months to oversee the running of the geopark.

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Katla Geopark has no conservation strategy further than the strategy of participating municipalities

Strategic partnership

- Katla geopark is working on a ownership plan for partners

Marketing and promotional activities

- Katla Geopark has been focusing on promoting businesses within the park and their activities.

- New website is being developed and a promotional video was produced

Sustainable economic development

- In partnership with the municipalities Katla Geopark is working on accessibility for 25 geosites over the next 18 months, with picnic areas and information panels.

- A management plan is being developed for economically sustainable running of the Geopark in the future with as little need for public funding as possible.

Further information:       Steingerður Hreinsdóttir       steingerdur@katlageopark.is
                              Sigurður Sigursveinsson       sigurdur@hfsu.is
Though the creation of the Madonie Park Nature only dates from 1989 and its recognition as a member of the European Geoparks Network from 2001, a long time ago travellers, naturalists and scientists began to take an interest in this mountain complex of 400 square kilometres that goes up to about 2000 metres above sea level. Here, among the oldest and highest peaks in Sicily, which sum up many of the geological characteristics of Sicily and the central Mediterranean, 60,000 inhabitants live and over 50% of all the species of flora on the island are present.

Major achievements in 2012

- The Sicilian Region, in adhesion to the aims of EGN, founds the “Network of reserve areas in territories with the presence of evaporitic rocks” (Official Gazette no. 10 of 9 March 2012) and with the Regional Law no. 25 of 11 April 2012, in art. 3 on the “European Geoparks Network”, declares that the Regional Government “recognizes the European Geoparks Network (EGN) as its institutional interlocutor for the policies of the regional system of geosites.”

- Teams of young experts reinforce EGN aims about formation and sustainability, forming three new cooperatives (PetraViva Madonie, Talete Madonie e NEA Soluzioni) in the International Year of Cooperatives. Others, forming a society, conceived and realized the Madonie Archeodromo, first Archaeologic Park in Madonie Geopark and Sicily, where everyone can run different activities for an extraordinary journey from before prehistoric time to the first and big discoveries.

- Villa Sgadari, a late Baroque noble abode built in 1750 with its big gardens, after careful conservative restoration was opened to the public on 12 May. The building, which belongs to the Park body and is in Petralia Soprana in the heart of the Madonie Geopark, is now a new centre for tourism and a big conference structure made available to the community.

- The landscape of Madonie geopark is a treasure of the utmost importance we have to preserve and for this, every year, it is exalted. The 3rd Edition of the Landscape Film Festival was held in summer. This is a unique event in its kind in the whole national panorama for the number of people participating, with an interlacement between literature and the cultural and landscape heritage of the Madonie Geopark.

Further information: Pasquale Li Puma ENTEPA10@parcomadonie.191.it
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MAGMA GLOBAL GEOPARK (NORWAY)

Guided trip to the Geopark locality: The Eigerøy Lighthouse

Major achievements in 2012

• In February 2012 and again in February 2013, Magma Geopark (MG) delivered the ICT4OL (Innovative and Creative Technologies for Outdoor Learning) application in the Comenius Multilateral Project, EU’s Life Long Learning program, for a total budget of 400,000 Euro.

• During 2012-2013 MG has been developing the GEO2NOR (Geoparks and Geotourism Northern Routes) project, through the NORA (North Atlantic Cooperation) Fund, obtained in June 2012. The project aims to develop packages and a common booking system for small and medium businesses and geoparks, to increase the tourism business in the Nordic Countries. The consortium set up a tailored need analysis in order to define the target group needs in the tourism field and provide to fill the gaps through the project development. Proper web page and social network accounts have been set up to disseminate the project results. A tailored browser will allow tourist to search tours through the partner’s areas. The future goals is to set up a Northern Association with: Magma Geopark, Katla Geopark, Shetland Amenity Trust Geopark, Stonehammer Geopark, Blue Ice Tourism Greenland Travel Company, Tora Faroe Tourism Travel Company, exploring the possibilities for the promotion and implementation of the Northern Georoutes, through sustainable geotourism practices. If the booking system and solutions are a success the aim is to exploit the system for the whole Geoparks network.

• During 2011 and 2012 MG has been carried on a Nordplus Fund project called: "Treasure Hunt Games", with Locatify and Katla Geopark from Iceland and Silurian Geopark project from Estonia. The project has developed apps that are now free to download from smartphones. There are some free games that can be played in the respective project partner’s areas discovering Geopark’s highlights and heritage in a funny way. More games will be developed in the future. Two schools in the MG area and Gea Norvegica Geopark have now bought the license to make their own games. Locatify presented the project at the EGN conference in Arouca Global Geopark September 2012.

• At the end of 2012 Magma Geopark obtained a grant on 800,000 NOK from The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development of Norway. The grant is address to develop a 2-years project called: "Business development and added values in Magma Geopark" with a total budget on 1.6 million NOK. The aim of this 2-year
project is to build up an overall strategy for value creation based on natural and cultural resources of the Geopark. The project shall collect information from stakeholders, local and regional companies through interviews, workshops and conferences. On this basis, it shall prepare a one-year program of actions and a longer-term program for actions inside the Geopark, which goal is to help to make MG a sustainable business. The project aims to develop cooperation between the park and local businesses. This collaboration is still at an early stage and has great potential for both the businesses inside the Geopark and for MG itself. Involved with partner Dalane outdoor organisation in the project the nature way – about learning outdoors.

- Initiative together with Gea Norvegica and Geological Survey of Norway about making a national Network of Geoparks and had a meeting on the subject with the UNESCO commission of Norway and in meeting with the organisation Norske Parker
- Magma Geopark, together with Næringssjefen i Dalane finished a preliminary analysis about the possibilities for implementing the Norwegian UNESCO Tentative List with a geological proposal choosing between the MG localities.
- Magma Geopark run the first food-research concerning the area, with the title: Developing of rural tourism in Magma Geopark – hunting for food! Partners were: the University of Stavanger, Visit Dalane and The County government. The project aim was to explore the food producers in MG through participatory meetings and a facilitator. The project ended in June 2012 and underlined the gap between local producers in working together.

**Contribution towards the work of the EGN**

Magma Geopark continue first of all through developing and run projects where other members of the EGN or new geopark projects are involved. In 2012 MG support the following projects:

- The Nordic Geo Guide School, first part has been finished and the second part started in November, MG developed the idea together with the University of Stavanger, Katla Geopark and Sareemaa Geopark project. The project goal is to developing, test and exchange a tailored Geopark-guide course for 30 local inhabitants through frontal lessons and visit tours March- April 2013.
- The application to Comenius, with ICT4OL project aims to develop an educational project that implement the outdoors activities through the use of new technologies at school. MG involved 12 partners including several members of the EGN both Geoparks and schools: Marble Arch Caves, Shetland Amenity Trust Geopark, João Afonso School in Portugal (working both with Naturtejo and Arouca Geoparks), Idrija Geopark project in Slovenia.
- MG ended the Treasure Hunt Games project together with ICT Company Locatify, Katla Geopark and Saaremaa Geopark project. The project aimed to make apps for smart phones with educational electronic games in 10 different subjects for different age groups. The project sustainability has been guaranteed with the involvement of other EGN members like: Gea Norvegica Geopark and Emilie Romagna Northern Apennine Geopark project.
- MGP is developing a booking system for 3 days tourist packages in the Northern region, with the support of NORA fund. Partners are: Katla Geopark, Stonehammer Geopark, Shetland Amenity Trust Geopark and two tourist associations in Faroe and Greenland.

**Management structure and financial status**

- MG employed Guro Aarre in a 50% position in 2011; from summer 2012 she had a contract working by hours. Guro has a master in tourism and she strictly collaborates with the Stavanger University. She is the responsible work for the administration and as
project manager. Magma Geopark have also made a contract with the project manager Sara Gentilini 1st January 2013 until the end of the year. She will work on hour basis with new project applications.

- MG gets 710,000 NOK in order to run the activities and staff for 2013. Rest is project money from different sources and income for activities. 2012 overturn 1.8 million NOK.
- Through the: "Business development and added values in Magma Geopark" project, MG aims to evaluate the marketing possibilities and the partnership that could support MG finance next years.

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**

- MG collaborated with the administration of the protected natural area in Flekkefjord, to develop a common conservation and business strategy in order to develop business connected to the protected area.
- MG carried on several activities through the local schools to promote among the new generations the awareness of the importance of the geological heritage and its conservation along the years.
- MG, through the Preliminary analysis for the implementation of the Norwegian UNESCO Tentative List, carried on in 2012 promotes and valorises the integrity of its geological heritage.

**Strategic partnership**

- Several strategic partnership have been set up at local level Pål Thjømøe get membership in the Regional County Tourist strategy group, the relationship with the University of Stavanger, the Tourism office of Eigersund Municipality have been strengthen. Through the work in the Regional strategy group the Magma Geopark is one of the tourism highlights in the tourism strategy of the Rogaland County.
- At National level important partnership have been built with the National UNESCO Commission, Norske Parker and the NGU: Geological Survey of Norway.

**Marketing and promotional activities**

- Several articles in the two Local newspapers.
- All the MG activities have been promoted trough the web page that has been renovated with new friendly-user layout, Facebook official page and twitter account.
- All the activities have been promoted through the local newspaper and one special happening in the National Radio NRK P1 with half a million listeners, fully address to present and promote the geo-tourism.

**Sustainable economic development**

Several activities have been carried on in order to support the sustainable development of the area:

- The Nordic Geo-Guide school will give, as main result, a group of 30 people from different ages ready to be involved as official guide in the Geopark area, some of them will have job opportunity in the Eigersund municipality tourist information office as sustainable MG guides!
- Through the GEO2NOR project several tourist packages will be set up based on low carbon emission policy, with the aim of supporting the sustainable way of transport for the tourism mobility in the area’s involved.
- The book “The Honest Guide” that present 36 geopark localities and 46 local businesses. The book are at sale in all the local bookshops, tourist information’s etc.

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The Olympic Torch In the Marble Arch Caves

Major achievements in 2012
- The Geopark became the first location for the Olympic torch to travel underground when it passed through the Marble Arch Caves during the Olympic torch relay prior to the London Olympics. This provided a huge amount of publicity and generated a great deal of awareness of the Geopark, not only locally but across the UK and Ireland.
- Visitor numbers at the Marble Arch Caves increased by 1.2% in 2012 compared to 2011. This was in contrast to the overall national decline in tourism numbers. The main reason for the increase in the visitors was a major influx in German visitors brought in by an Irish tour company who specifically requested a visit to the Geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- The Geopark is a partner within the FP7-funded GOSE (Geoparks for Observational Seismology Education) project application. This project aims to increase the awareness of seismic hazards across the European Geoparks Network through teacher training and includes 24 partners from 11 different countries including 10 European Geoparks.
- Representatives from the Geopark attended both of the EGN Coordination Committee meetings in 2012 in addition to the EGN Conference in Arouca, Portugal. The Geopark was also represented on both the Irish and the UK Geoparks Fora.

Management structure and financial status
- The Geopark Management Team has changed significantly within the past 12 months most notably with the departure of Patrick McKeever to take up post as Chief of Section of Global Earth Observation at UNESCO.
• The two managing authorities of the Geopark, Fermanagh District Council and Cavan County Council continue to work together and include the Geopark within their corporate and development plans.

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**

• A major karst area, known as the Marlbank, within the Geopark was designated as an ASSI (Area of Special Scientific Status). This designation offers national protection for this key area and will help to conserve this important geological region.

• A conservation plan was completed for Whitefathers Cave which is a NHA (Natural Heritage Area). This nationally protected site is an important part of the region’s karst landscape and home to a significant bat population. It is also a popular site for recreational users and this plan has helped to decide how the site will be managed in the future.

**Strategic partnership**

• The Geopark entered into a sistering agreement with the Hong Kong Global Geopark and has now both hosted delegates from and visited the Hong Kong Global Geopark to share expertise and learn from each other’s experiences.

• A new formal memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with the Irish semi-state forest agency, Coillte, who own the Burren Forest, one of the most significant geological and archaeological sites in the Geopark. This MoU will ensure the continued cooperation between the Geopark and Coillte regarding this flagship site.

**Marketing and promotional activities**

• The Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Ireland’s largest traditional music festival, was once again hosted by Cavan County Council. This 10-day event brought over 300,000 visitors to the area something that the Geopark took full advantage of by offering special events and having a presence at the main events.

• The Geopark continues to feature in both national and regional newspapers, and magazines on a regular basis. There have also been a number of high-profile features on national television programmes including Lesser Spotted Ulster one of the most popular programmes on UTV.

**Sustainable economic development**

• The INTERREG IVA-funded Harnessing Natural Resources project is well underway and so far has produced a number of new walking and touring routes for the Geopark as well as an extension to the existing Marble Arch Caves Visitor Centre and car park.

• The Border Uplands Project is another INTERREG IVA-funded project that began in 2012. This sees the development of new marketing and promotional material including educational resources and publications. The largest component of this is the construction a new interpretative centre within the Burren Forest, which is currently at the tendering stage.

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Old miners share their memories (recorded for an oral archive under the EU Project “Oralities”)

Major achievements in 2012
- Travelling exhibitions about mining tangible and intangible heritage with the record of the memories of almost 100 old miners from several mines spread by the Geopark
- Development of an annual calendar with monthly thematic fairs in the territory following the approach of the Landscape Festival/EGN Week

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- Organization of the 30m2 stand “Geoparks” together with other 4 European Geoparks and Messel Pit WHS in ITB Tourism Trade Fair in Berlin
- Participation in all the EGN Meetings and Conference, GGN Conference in Japan, and EGN Magazine

Management structure and financial status
- Management structure was kept the same from 2011 but there was a substantial reduction in the annual budget since the fee from the 6 municipalities was cut by 50%; compensation was partially resulted from the increasing number of tourism packages sold and the increasing participation in funded projects

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
- Development of a project to protect Serra da Gardunha as Protected Landscape
- After the important decision of changing place to save Portas de Almourão geomonument, the building of Alvito Reservoir was stopped before just starting without major impact upon the landscape
Strategic partnership

- Under the project “Taejo Internacional” with Diputación de Cáceres (including Villuercas Geopark)
- Partnership with Geopark projects in Brazil and Portugal was reinforced, as well as Villuercas (Spain) and Arouca Geoparks through projects (the last under the frame of Portuguese Forum of Geoparks)

Marketing and promotional activities

- Organization of the stand “Geoparks” in ITB Berlin, participation under Center Tourism Region in BTL Lisbon and FITUR Madrid Tourism Fair; participation in FIO International Birdwatching Fair in Extremadura (Spain) and several local fairs; promotional in Estoril Open International Tennis competition and Volvo Ocean Race Lisbon 2012
- Special article including a large-size map in “National Geographic – Portugal”

Sustainable economic development

- Opening of the companies Amo-Produto Local and Produtos da Terra (selling of local products), ActiveGEO (guiding tours), Geocakes (cake design) and GeoRural (tourism services)
- Opening of Monte Felipe (Alpalhão, Nisa) and Santa Margarida (Oleiros) 4 stars hotels and Callum Restaurante (Oleiros) under partnership with Naturtejo Geopark

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NORTH PENNINES AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY & GLOBAL GEOPARK (ENGLAND)

The North Pennines AONB & Global Geopark events and products link geology and landscape with the local community and visitor economy

Major achievements in 2012

- Three ‘Rocky Weekends’ were held in the three counties of the AONB & Geopark. These were weekend ‘packages’ of guided walks with evening talks and meals. The aim was to encourage people to book for a weekend of events and stay in local accommodation. The weekends were very successful.
- Several new panels and leaflets were completed. These included panoramic panels interpreting the landscape at Cow Green Reservoir, and panels in the Killhope Lead Mining Museum to celebrate local geology and the famous Rookhope Borehole. A new geotrail for Dufton was completed, focusing on geology, landscape, archaeology and mining heritage.
- Working with a local arts centre and a local photographer, QR codes were added to images in an exhibition of North Pennine views. These linked to geological information and geotrails on our website. The exhibition also included our publications and one of our educational rock boxes.
- Our heritage skills training project (supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund) allowed two apprentices to work with professional dry stone wallers and be trained in this important local skill. Recruitment for two new trainees is in progress.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- At the Arouca Geopark conference Elizabeth presented our successful new community archaeology project ‘Altogether Archaeology’.
- Peter and Elizabeth visited Geopark Shetland for a meeting of the transnational Leader-funded HINT project, which includes Shetland, the North Pennines, Chablais (France) and aspiring Geopark de Hondsrug (Netherlands). Each partner is researching and sharing the uses and benefits of new technologies in heritage interpretation.

Further information:  
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elizabeth@northpenninesaonb.org.uk
The Papuk Geopark has continued its actions in 2012 - improving the geological heritage conservation activities, continued the activities of education and geotourism development.

Major achievements in 2012

- Papuk Nature Park joined EDEN network. On 7 October 2008 during the European Day of Tourism in Brussels, director of Park signed a memorandum of understanding - the so called “Declaration on a European Network of Destinations of Excellence for Sustainable Tourism”. EDEN network today makes up 90 destinations from 26 European countries. Papuk Nature Park was the runner up in the national competition in 2008/2009. The theme of the competition was “Tourism and Protected Areas”.

- Mutual project with Hungarian Dunav Drava National Park and NGO Green Osijek - “Two rivers and one hill - new eco tourist products along Drava, Danube and Papuk” was approved as part of The Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme. Project was selected under third call for proposal, total project budget is 1.021.266 Euros and Papuk Geopark part is 160.000 Euros. Project will create new innovative eco tourism facilities/infrastructure and educational programs within the area of Papuk, Drava and Danube.

- Papuk Geopark started with educational project “Rupko’s geological school”. Rupko is children look-friendly mascot who named after Rupnica (geological monument of nature). Implementation of project have been started, we printed some materials (children workshops) which have been tested by several school groups. Also we set up a few educational panels related to some of important geological features.

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Major achievements in 2012

- **Annual educational program**: 220 education projects about geology, cultural heritage, ecology, history, etc. concerning more than 5,000 pupils.

- **Heritage discovery program for children**: as owner of "Chateau de l'environement", the Geopark provided educational support and received 53 classes.

- **"My secondary school in Luberon"**: the goal is to offer 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).

- **New film**: Realisation of a movie telling the Luberon geological history. It will be presented at the "Maison du Parc" for general public and given to the whole Luberon's schools.

- **European Geoparks week**: Activities: International meeting on climbing (Escala'Buoux 2012), Guided tours, activities by Geoparks partners. Exhibition "Geoballade" (June to August).
• **Promotion of the day of the home cultural heritage** (16-17th June 2012). This event proposes to discover heritage sites or traditional know-how through many activities: guided tours, exhibitions, tastings ... Eighteen partners proposed activities on the Geopark area about the subject "Cooking, lands and know-how".

• **Festival of science.** Exhibition "Geoballade" in the village of Mirabeau and conference on local geology.

• **Exhibition "Geoballade"**. This exhibition, made of 17 panels, proposes to discover the Luberon Geology through water paintings illustrating landscapes, use of rocks, traditional buildings, fossils, tectonics ... It has been displayed in the la Tour-d'Aigues Castle, completed by other paintings representing paleo-landscapes and a collection of local fossils. Two conferences on geology and a fieldtrip were proposed in addition.

• **Exhibition "Regards et paroles d'habitants sur le Calavon-Coulon"**. This exhibition is the result of a photographic survey carried out by the Parc du Luberon with residents, schoolchildren and watershed experts around the themes of resource, water quality, natural environments, the heritage and flood risk and flood.

**Contribution towards the work of the EGN**
- Coordination committee meeting in Sierras Subbeticas Geopark (march 2012) and Arouca Geopark (sept. 2012)
- Geopark conference in Arouca Geoparc : presentation on Oeno-geotourism
- Meeting of the 4 French Geoparks in Luberon (june 2012)
- Revalidation mission in Danxiashan Geopark
- Meeting between cooperation partners (Arouca, Bauges and Luberon) to work on the LEADER project "Geotourism for sustainable development" (june 2012)

**Management structure and financial status**
- Change of director

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**
- Management of the Geological nature reserve
- Building of a new room for geological collections conservation
- Participation to the national inventory of geological heritage

**Strategic partnership**
- Organization of a first meeting with Luberon tourism actors to create a network of qualified partners in cooperation with Arouca and Bauges Geoparks (nov. 2012)
- **2nd meeting on Sustainable Tourism in Luberon.** The Geopark hosted the 2nd meeting on Sustainable Tourism in Luberon, in order to reaffirm its voluntary commitment to sustainable tourism development that combines economic development, enhancement of cultural heritage and environmental protection. 64 tourism stakeholders were present; labelized bed and breakfasts, touristic sites, museums, outdoor activities, tourist offices, guides, holiday villages. Several
councilors, elected officials and technicians also participated to the debates about tourism, oenotourism, geotourism, qualified touristic offer ...

**Marketing and promotional activities**
- Organization of the Parc festival on the topic: "Mediterranean farming, Luberon identity"
- 15 guided tours on geological, cultural and natural heritages proposed by the Geopark's staff.
- Organization of the 5th day of ancient fruits and tastes
- "Roues libres en Luberon". This successful event organized by a Geopark partner (Vélo Loisir en Luberon) and other public partners promotes travels by bike. This festive event brought together over 650 people on the local cycling route.
- Edition of guided tours booklet: "Luberon, rendez-vous nature" including 44 proposals of tourist service by 17 professionals through more than 1000 dates between 1st of April and 31st of October. The tours topics are geology, landscapes, nature, wine, cultural heritage by hiking, biking, riding or by air-balloon.

**Sustainable economic development**
- Enhancement of production of essential oils of hemp and cedar, dye plants
- Development and promotion of local farming : new website to enhance local producers, forum on local supply
- Promotion of Luberon wine with a "Parc" brand

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2012 was a year full of commitments and activities aimed mainly at strengthening policies in support of geological heritage in Sicily, to improve new methods and new projects for the expansion, enhancement and promotion of the Rocca di Cerere Geopark, the National Forum of Italian Geoparks and, of course, to reconfirm our territory as member of the EGN/GGN for the next 4 years.

Major achievements in 2012

- Following the work done in these last years from Geoparks and the Network for rural areas, the Sicily Region with a specific article in the new Regional Law on geosites in Sicily, has recognized the European Geoparks Network (for the first time ever in Italy) as institutional partner for the politics to the regional system of geosites (April 2012). At this, also it is adds the establishment of Sicilian Regional Network of the natural protected areas that involves areas with presence of evaporitic rocks established in January 2012 with the enactment of the Decree of the Regional Department for Territory and Environment setting up the network, which includes two representatives of the Sicilian Geoparks.

- Design, implementation, updating and managing of the Italian Geoparks website (www.geoparchitaliani.it) as a common instrument to promote and communicate the activities of Italian Geoparks, National Forum and European and Global Geoparks Network. The website was officially launched for the first time during the 4th workshop of Italian Geoparks in Tuscan Mining Geopark (May 2012).

- The work of the Rocca di Cerere staff was recognised and commended by EGN when they were awarded a Green Card revalidation result at the 30th Coordination
Committee meeting in Arouca in September 2012. This result followed the revalidation inspection that was carried out in June by Dr Andreas Schueller, Vulkaneifel Geopark, and Dr Nick Powe, English Riviera Geopark.

- The Rocca di Cerere Geopark during this year, has also consolidated the activities of environmental education with projects for primary and secondary schools, implementation of the first course of “Approach to the Sicilian Mountain” and the creation of a new educational game “Zig-Zagariando”. Finally, we also confirm, for this year, the success of the 9th edition of the EGN week. Few events but all characterized by great participation of visitors, enthusiasts and students (1,380 participants registered).

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ROKUA GEO PARK (FINLAND)

Major achievements in 2012
- RGP published a series of information products based on the laser scanning data from the Geopark area.
- RGP organised the biggest Adventure race in Finland in July 2012. Rokua Geopark Challenge gathered about 200 competitors to the race.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- RGP organised the first Geoparks seminar in Finland in June 2012. The seminar gathered about 50 persons from Finland to learn about the Geoparks network.
- Rokua Geopark personnel have been presenting the network in several meetings in Finland. Vesa Krökki has also been to Denmark to inform the aspiring Geopark in Lemvig about the network.
- The RGP personnel presented Rokua Geopark and the Geoparks network on the meeting of the Finnish UNESCO committee.
- In March 2012 Rokua Geopark offered to host the 2015 EGN conference. EGN CC agreed to this proposal.

Management structure and financial status
- The Geoparks management structure consists of several organisations operating in close cooperation to develop, protect and promote the area. The operating model operates in an efficient way.
- The overall financial situation of the Geopark is good. In addition to the basic funding coming from the founding partners of the Geopark, RGP operates several developing projects co financed by the EU’s regional development funding programs.
Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
• Rokua Geopark strategy was accepted in September 2012. The Strategy gives guidelines for the Geoparks operating until 2022.
• Rokua Geopark operates in an area where the main geosites are situated in protected areas.

Strategic partnership
• Partnerships are very important for Rokua Geopark, our organisation is based on cooperation between several organisations. The Geopark is founded and finance by five organizations.
• In addition to the founding organizations the Geopark operates in close cooperation with the Geological Survey of Finland and with the University of Oulu.

Marketing and promotional activities
• In 2012 RGP published a set of promotional products based on the laser scanning data. These products include new brochure, interactive 3d maps, panoramic map and new outdoor panels explaining the sites and services of RGP.
• The Geological Survey of Finland published the Geological outdoors guidebook of Rokua Geopark in May 2012.
• RGP has participated to several trade fairs in Finland
• RGP was presented in the Finland’s biggest breakfast tv show in July 2012

Sustainable economic development
• Nine small or medium sized companies operating in the area use the Rokua Geopark logo. The Geopark supports local sustainable economic development by cooperating with these companies and promoting their locally produced products.
• The Geopark also cooperates with the local schools in order to strengthen the knowledge of our unique area amongst the school children and students.

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Geopark Shetland is a founder member of the Scottish Geodiversity Forum. Geopark staff helped to develop Scotland’s Geodiversity Charter which was launched at the Scottish Parliament in June 2012.

Major achievements in 2012
- Developing the Geopark app for Android beta version and launching it for testing along with the HINT project website.
- Hosting representatives from Chablais Geopark, North Pennines AONB and aspiring Geopark de Hondsrug in Shetland at the 2nd partner meeting of the ‘HINT’ project, and presenting on the project outcomes at the Arouca EGN conference.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- Supporting Magma Geopark in the development of an application to Comenius for a transnational outdoor education project with Marble Arch Caves Geopark and aspiring
Idrija Geopark, and an application to the NORA fund for a transnational promotional project with Katla Geopark and Stonehammer Geopark

- Working with TERRA.Vita Naturpark to develop a draft position paper on Geoparks and renewable energy

**Management structure and financial status**

- Working with North West Highlands Geopark to build up support for Geoparks in Scotland and explore common funding opportunities
- Beginning an options appraisal to identify the best mechanism for the future operation of Geopark Shetland

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**

- Employing a geologist to develop Shetland’s geosite register, establish site boundaries where necessary and link to a photo archive to inform local planning officials.
- Collaborating with the Scottish Geodiversity Forum to develop Scotland’s Geodiversity Charter, launched in June 2012

**Strategic partnership**

- Working with the Scottish Geodiversity Forum to widen the profile of geodiversity and influence national and local policies.
- Working with the Shetland Environmental Education Partnership to seek new ways to support the delivery of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence in Shetland’s schools.

**Marketing and promotional activities**

- Liaising with local Council officials to develop Geopark signage at Shetland gateway sites.
- Employing an IT specialist to create an EGN corner in the Shetland Museum and Archives using touchscreen technology.

**Sustainable economic development**

- Developing a series of Geopark postcards and souvenirs
- Securing finance from the Heritage Lottery Fund to increase nationwide promotion of Shetland Nature Festival in partnership with European Geoparks Week.

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Major achievements in 2012
- It was widely spread the incorporation of the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark in the European Geoparks Network, with special emphasis on the Geopark geological values.
- It has been explained through multiple forums and platforms what is a geopark and what are the characteristics of the European Geoparks Network.
- Creation of several educational and informative resources.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- Paper about the recovery of a larger fossil trunk, at the 11th European Geoparks Conference, (September 2012, Arouca Geopark, Portugal).
- Article about the incorporation of Sierra Norte de Sevilla in the European Geoparks Network (into # 9 of the European Geoparks Magazine).
- Generation of the chapter on Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark for the new edition of the European Geoparks Book.

Management structure and financial status
- There has been a significant decrease in the resources available for promotion and dissemination, so the geopark use more digital tools and has increased the collaboration with partnerships.
**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**
- Updated the Geopark geosites, and generation of data sheets on each site, and design of several geological routes.
- Creation and installation of the exhibition "The Rocks of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark" in the Visitor Centre Cortijo El Berrocal.

**Strategic partnership**
- Organization of Geologic-Day 2012 (in conjunction with the Geological Society of Spain).
- Works for gathering information for the recovery and enhancement of ancient Azogue Real Road in Sierra Norte (jointly with the Environmental Volunteers of Geopark).
- Editing Geopark trails brochures (with the Seville Provincial Council).

**Marketing and promotional activities**
- Publication of 2012 Calendar with photos and comments about European Geoparks Network and Geopark geosites.
- Photographic exhibition on Geoparks of the European Geoparks Network.

**Sustainable economic development**
- Realization of the Course "Geotourism and Geoparks: Interpretation of geological resources of the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark ", for entrepreneurs, monitors and tourist guides.
- Revalidation of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

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Major achievements in 2012

- Organization of the XXIX Coordination Committee Meeting of the European Geoparks Network in Sierras Subbéticas (8th - 9th March 2012)

- Organization of a Forum for the enterprises of the Geopark, especially those adhered to the ECST and the Branding Natural Park of Andalusia, for the design of new Geopark products.

- Design of an urban geological route (“The petrified beings of the city of Cabra”), in collaboration with the town council of Cabra.

- Celebration of the IV Earth Science Olympiad (territorial phase) in Sierras Subbéticas Geopark, held in Rute, in the Secondary School Nuevo Scala.

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SOBRARBE GEOPARK (SPAIN)

Geo-day. 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Sites Programme

Major achievements in 2012

- Enhancement of the World Heritage Sites inside the Sobrarbe Geopark (Pirineos Monte Perdido and the Prehistoric art of the Mediterranean Arc, through the activities organised by the Geopark.
- Creation of a gastronomic route throughout the Geopark.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN

- Network through the Spanish Geoparks National Forum
- Support to the new territories aspiring the EGN and the GGN

Management structure and financial status

- Maintaining funding and activities despite the economic crisis

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- Sobrarbe Geopark and the Spanish Geological Survey have ended the last update of the Geological Sites Inventory and the Management Plan of the Geopark.
Strategic partnership
• Sobrarbe Geopark has become a member of Spanish National Commission for the Teaching of Geology
• Cooperation Project with the LAGs of all the Spanish Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks

Marketing and promotional activities
• Edition of leaflet and an information guide concerning all the craft food enterprises of the Geopark
• Edition of Sobrarbe geological map and the stratigraphic column as promotional material for sale at the Interpretation Center

Sustainable economic development
• Promotion of craft food products: Participation of the Geopark in regional fairs to promote craft food products of the Partner Enterprises of the Geopark under the label “Products of the Sobrarbe Geopark

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In 2012 the GeoPark Swabian Alb could work for a new way of presentation: a new CD was developed, the popular and successful brochure of the GeoPark was released in a new design and the work on a new webpage could be started. Besides, the important events of the GeoParks Swabian Alb could be further established.

Major achievements in 2012
- In January the GeoPark Swabian Alb presented itself with some partners at one of the biggest tourism fairs, at the CMT in Stuttgart.
- In April the Geopark celebrated the third GeoPark-Festival at the Katzenstein castle. Nearly all GeoPark Infocentres and groups of guides presented themselves with various activities like preparation of fossils and corals, Ice Age hunting and much more. Again more than 1.500 visitors attended the GeoPark-Festival.
- In May/June the “Weeks of the European Geoparks” were celebrated with about 100 different activities and events such as guided thematic tours, cave excursions, museum activity days, adventure walking-tours about the art of the ice age and much more.
- In December the new brochure “Abenteuer GeoPark” with a lot of information and pictures about the geology of the Swabian Alb and its geo-touristic destinations was released.

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The opening tour of TERRA.trail 18 offered some spectacular autumn impressions

Major achievements in 2012

• Geo-Trail
  Cooperation with the spa Bad Laer about installation of a new Geo-trail focusing on the cretaceous marine period, soils and traces of the ice age. The trail runs about 5 kilometers through a Natura 2000 area and shows 10 partly interactive stations.

• New Image-catalogue
  A new Image-catalogue was published marking the occasion of the parks 50th anniversary.

• TERRA.info
  16 wide-screen Info-terminals have been put up all across the Geopark providing information on the area and sights as well as hiking and cycling routes.

• Upgrade of Geopark Centre
  Some Elements of the Geopark Centre have been upgrades such as the illumination and some exhibits.

• “Day of the little Researchers”
  A Childrens activity day on the issue of soil was organizes for the first time in the TERRA.park, the Geoparks open air museum. TERRA.vita was cooperating with the nationwide acting organization “House of little researchers”.

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• **Teachers training course on geology**
In the village of Westercappeln TERRA.vita lead a teachers training course on geology, integrating the TERRA.box, a media-set that was developed some years ago.

• **Video on website**
The computer-animated video “TERRA.genesis” was uploaded on the Geoparks website to give a detailed impression on the geological processes of the past.

• **50\(^{th}\) anniversary of the Park**
On the occasion of the 50\(^{th}\) anniversary of the park, a big festivity took part in a giant sand pit near Ankum in the northern part of the Geopark. Many activities for children were organized as well as information offers, archeological tours, music and local food. For two days the sand pit transformed to become a giant playground and festival area.

• **TERRA.trail 18**
The 18\(^{th}\) Bicycle-Route, that was worked out in 2011 was opened officially in June 2012 by the mayors of Lotte and Westerkappeln, followed by a public guided tour, lead by the local TERRA.vita Tourguide.

• **Lower Saxony gymn-festivity**
The gymn-festivity (Turnfest) of the federal state of Lower Saxony took place in Osnabrück. The Geopark participated with a number of Geo-activities such as Granite-boule and a geological town-rallye.

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TUSCAN MINING GEOPARK (ITALY)

Guides of Tuscan Mining Geopark at school of geolog. 
Teacher Prof. Armando Costantini - University of Siena

Major achievements in 2012

- Project “Gateways of the Park” Regular, guided museum tours were organized at all the seven Park Gateways and project "Summer 2012 – Proyect “Discovering the Maremma. Visits to the Park” with 17 different tour routes to archaeological sites and geological sites in the park. It 's been made a brochure with all the system of trails in the park for geotourism and a program of guided tours has been organized lasted all summer. Multithematic guided tours, (archeology, geology, mining, environment) are allowed to make easily accessible the cultural and geologica heritage and of the park;

- Project “know the Park” I and II edition (September 2011 – May 2013). The project is dedicated to the schools of the Province of Grosseto. The park has offered transport, service and free guided tour in 16 locations of geological, mining and natural, with the possibility of a play of theatre in the mine telling stories about miners and geological discoveries. 1,500 students have participated in every edition;

- During the year the Municipality of Follonica in collaboration with the Park has worked for the establishing of the MAGMA - Museo delle Arti in Ghisa della Maremma (Cast Iron Museum of Arts in Maremma) which will be inaugurated in 2013 and the Municipality of Gavorrano in collaboration with the Park has worked on the GEOMET - Museum of Geodiversity and Mines of the Colline Metallifere that will be inaugurated in 2013;

- 9th June 2012. Gateway of the Park of Montieri. Inauguration of a trekking route of geological, archaeological and silver mining interest in Montieri - Buca delle Fate
and 15th September 2012. Gateway of Gavorrano - Inauguration and opening of the open area museum of Ravi Marchi Mine - Gavorrano. The cultural offer of the park has increased for the opportunity to visit an important area for the mining history of the Colline Metallifere, where you can understand the formation of the mineralization and the techniques of extraction and processing of pyrite in the XX century. The site is included in the Gateway of the Park of Gavorrano;

**Contribution towards the work of the EGN**
- 2nd February 2012 - Participation of the Forum of Italian Geoparks in Rome by Alessandra Casini and Riccardo Cinelli;
- 7th – 9th March 2012. Participation in the 29th Coordination Committee Meeting of the European Geopark Network - Alessandra Casini and Riccardo Cinelli, members of the EGN Coordination Committee in Sierra Subbeticas Geopark - Spain;
- 16th and 17th May 2012. Organization of the 4th Geoparks Workshop in Italy, arranged by the Italian Forum of Geoparks at Massa Marittima, and supported by the Tuscan Region, the Province of Grosseto, Federparchi - Italian Federation of Parks and Protected Areas and by the Italian Company of Environmental Geology about "Geoparks and digital tourist communication" and it was attended by about 60 geologists coming from all over Italy, and by representatives from Italian Geoparks;

**Management structure and financial status**
- The Ministry of Environment has reduced by half the transfer to the park for the spending review. The Park has made a series of cuts to the activities while maintained unchanged the basic services (museums, guided tours, enhancement of geo-sites). It has launched numerous requests for funding and obtained a financing on the Piano Sviluppo Regionale – Metodo LEADER (Regional Development Plan - LEADER method);

**Conservation (geoconservation) strategy**
- Agreement between the Park and the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Siena for the enhancement of the geological aspects of the Park. Duration 3 years;
- Agreement between the Park and the Department of Urban Planning University of Florence for the enhancement of the aspects of mining and industrial archeology of the Park. Duration 3 years;
- Organization of the Course for Park guides and for the front office staff about "The geology and mineralogy of the Colline Metallifere" (80 hours of lectures and workshop). Teachers - Prof. Armando Costantini and Giancarlo Pagani - University of Siena;

**Strategic partnership**
- Agreement between the Park and Geomining Park of Sardinia regarding the scientific collaboration about research projects, mining reclamation studies, and training courses;

**Marketing and promotional activities**
- 31st January 2012 Participation in the Workshop organized by SIGEA and the Forum of Italian Geoparks in collaboration with the Region of Puglia in the 7th edition of Mediterre, Bari;
- 25th June 2012. Roma presentation of the publication, in both Italian and English, "Progetto EDEN 2007-2011" - Italian Destinations of Excellence – the Park is runner up in the Competition “EDEN European Destinations of Excellence 2011”;

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• 9\textsuperscript{th} – 19\textsuperscript{th} August 2012. Participation in FESTAMBIENTE (Italian environmental and sustainable tourism fair, organized by the 'Associazione Italiana Legambiente' which was attended by thousands of visitors. A stand was also organized with the Apuan Alps Geopark and the Geomining Park of Sardinia, entitled "Italian Geoparks in Tuscany and Sardinia". Inside, a EGN and Italian Geoparks Forum corner was set up;

**Sustainable economic development**

• Drafting project, funding application and obtaining financing for start-up of the participatory process of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas - Europarc Federation with the support of Federparchi - Europarc Italy that will be launched in 2013.

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The new Visitor Reception Center in Cañamero

Major achievements in 2012
- Adequacy of the ancient schools of Cañamero as new Visitor Reception Center of Geopark. Inauguration of this center.
- Completion of construction adequacy of Logrosán Costanaza Mine (Phosphorite Vein) and his laboratory. Installation of interpretation equipment. Logrosán.

Contribution towards the work of the EGN
- Communications for EGN Book, EGN magazine and Arouca European Conference.
- Reception of the Aspiring Geopark El Hierro (Canary Island) delegation. Information and observation of the management structure, geosites, and geotourism.

Management structure and financial status

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy
- Meeting of the Scientific and Educative Committee. 2012 scientific activities schedule. Enlargement of the geopark scientific papers and PhD works database.
- Design and development of new pedagogical materials: a collection of rocks, minerals and fossil replicas, and teaching aids for conducting workshops. Distribution to primary schools and secondary in the Geopark territory.

Strategic partnership
- Attendance at meetings of “Geoemployment” project (FEADER) with several partners.
Marketing and promotional activities
- Geopark promotion within the tourism promotion events of the County Council of Cáceres in Lisbon, Leon, Valencia and Santiago de Compostela.
- Geopark famtrip of Portuguese operators and of bloggers linked to the tourist site minube.com. Up to 60,000 people have been able to follow it through Twitter.

Sustainable economic development
- Certification criteria and training for the Tourist Product Club “Geopark” (Tourspain methodology for international promotion as Ecotourism Companies).
- Training certification on Tourism Quality for sixteen geopark companies, one museum and one Interpretation Centre.

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VULKANEIFEL GEOPARK (GERMANY)

Opening of new hiking trail

En route in the county of maars and volcanoes
More than 350 million years of earth history including the youngest volcanic activity in Germany. Volcanism has formed the landscape and is the source of more than 500 mineral water springs including a cold-water geysir. Many places offer fantastic insights to the origin of earth crust. Besides this Vulkaneifel is predestinated for recreation in a natural highland environment.

Major achievements in 2012

• Elaboration of a Master Plan: In an extensive process with the participation of stakeholders from the fields of nature conservation, agriculture and forestry, local government, economic development, tourism and regional economy is a comprehensive master plan has been developed for the region of the Geopark. 10 Fields of action have been defined, addressing various regional players, aiming at the sustainable development of Vulkaneifel.

• Vulkaneifel was recognized as “Hotspot of biological Diversity” by the Federal Ministry of Environment, valuing the geological and resulting biological heritage

• Opening of Vulkaneifel-Pfade: 14 hiking trails extend the network of hiking trails around the Eifelsteig by 372 kilometers and lead hikers into the heart of the volcanic Eifel region, across the natural and Geopark Vulkaneifel.

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