

BEIGUA EUROPEAN GEOPARK

Activity Report, September 2007 – March 2008

During last four months Beigua Geopark staff 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 historical-cultural heritage that the protected areas has.

A sample of some of the most important initiatives is outlined briefly below :

EGN – GGN activities

1. Attendance at the 7th EGN Open Meeting in the North West Highlands Geopark (Scotland - UK) in September 2007
2. Attendance at the 20th EGN - Coordination Meeting in the North West Highlands Geopark (Scotland - UK) in September 2007
3. Submission of an abstract for the 3rd UNESCO International Conference on Geoparks – Terra Vita Geopark, Germany
4. Joining the INTERREG IVC project PLANET EARTH: Nature conservation, sustainable development, responsible tourism (lead partner Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark) in January 2008
5. Participation in LEADER+ project activities (lead partner Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark) : Beigua Geopark gave its contribution for editing the Common LEADER+ project leaflet realized by Vulkaneifel Geopark.
6. Contribution for editing n.5 EGN Magazine issue
7. Contribution for editing the Geoparks Coffe Table Book: Beigua staff organized and sent to the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest documents and photos necessary for the Geoparks Book
8. Contribution with a special report to Vulkaneifel in order to produce the total EGN week 2007 report to be published in the EGN web site
9. Presentation of the EGN week 2008 programme by the end of February 2008.
10. Organization of the 21st EGN - Coordination Meeting in Beigua Geopark 1st – 4th April 2008

Geopark events and progress

11. Regular programs of walks and guided tours were realized in Autumn 2007 and Winter 2008
12. Educational programmes about geology and geoconservation in Beigua Geopark.
Not only geology; others educational programs for school were realized in Beigua Geopark during Autumn 2007 and Winter 2008 about the following themes: wetlands, ornithology, water
13. Two new editions of the “Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark” newsletter (readable in the web-site too) has been published and distributed in October 2007 (Autumn) and January 2008 (Winter). They contain articles about projects, activities and future plans; special

- features were dedicated to the Geopark territory and his highlights, the European Geoparks Network, etc.
14. Organization and management of an open space laboratory about the paleontological heritage of the Beigua Geopark inside the national Science Festival of Genoa 25th October – 6th November 2007; information panels about EGN and GGN were exhibited. 2.473 people (1.749 of them were students) visited the laboratory during the festival
 15. Beigua Geopark Director was nominated co-ordinator of the “Geosites and Geoparks” Working Group established by the Italian Commission for the IYPE 2007-2007 in November 2007
 16. Meeting with the representatives of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO about projects and linked activities with the Italian Geoparks, Rome, December 2007
 17. Publication of several articles about Beigua Geopark and EGN-GGN on local newspapers/magazine and national reviews.
One special article was published in “Piemonte Parchi” n. 9 Novembre 2007 (national review about protected areas)
 18. Temporary exhibition “*Fossil coral reefs in Ponte Prina Site*” in the Natural History Civic Museum of Genoa from March 28th until June 30th 2008. The exhibition is organized in cooperation with the Environment and Earth Sciences Department of the University of Genoa
 19. Meeting with APAT (National Agency for Environment Protection and Technical Services) and the three Italian Geoparks (Beigua, Madonie and Sardinia Geopark) to launch a common project aimed to emphasize geoconservation and public awareness about geoparks; Rome, March 2008
 20. Editing and contributions for printing three new guide-book about Beigua Geopark:
 - a. *Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark Landscape Guide* (in Italian and in English)
 - b. *Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark Nature Trails Guide-book* (in English)
 - c. *Treasures of Liguria and UNESCO Guide-book* (in Italian and in English)
 21. Editing and contributions for printing the new “Trails map” about Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark
 22. Beigua Geopark strategies and promotional activities were well accepted in the Action Plan of the new established “Local Touristic System of the Province of Savona” (January 2008)
 23. Attendance at BIT International Tourist Fair in Milan, February 2008
 24. Setting up of two new interpretation trails and panels to increase interpretation facilities in Beigua Geopark territory (Prariondo-Torbiera del Laione nature trail; Gargassa Valley nature trail). Best practices from EGN members (Petrified Forest of Lesvos, North Pennines AONB, Vulkaneifel and Reserve Geologique de Haute Provence) were exploited.

Activities by others Organizations

25. Stage in Beigua Geopark of a student from the Environment and Earth Sciences Department of the University of Genoa
26. PhD in Geoconservation in Beigua Geopark activated by the Environment and Earth Sciences Department of the University of Genoa
27. Geotourism activities and guided visits led by the “Geotourism Association”

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