

## **GEOPARK “PARQUE NATURAL CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR”**

### **Activities Report 2007**

#### **1) Environmental educational program**

##### **1.1 Protected Natural Area visit Program**

During may and october 2007, several activities and visits were organized from the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark:

- 1.1.1 *Rodalquilar's Gold mine route and art exhibition “El Chaparrón”.*  
Guided visit through the old mining town and painting-drawing exhibition of the famous artist “El Roto”.
- 1.1.2 *Cabo de Gata from the sea.*  
Boat route through the Geopark coastal area, along with free-immersions. The goal in this visit was to remark the natural values of the Geopark, enhancing the coastal geological formations as well as biodiversity and ethnographic features.
- 1.1.3 *Las Perseidas: San Lorenzo's tears.*  
The Geopark, due its extremely low luminic contamination and cloudiness, offers excellent conditions for star watching. For one night we became an astronomer and enjoy the meteor rain on San Lorenzo's day.
- 1.1.4 *Watercolour workshop in the nature.*  
The geological and landscape features are shown by painting artwork.
- 1.1.5 *Birds in Cabo de Gata-Níjar.*  
Visit to the most relevants scenarios of the bird fauna. We put in value the great natural and ecological assets of Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark that granted several international califications as Special Protection Area for Birds.
- 1.1.6 *Cabo de Gata-Níjar Didactic Itinerary*  
This itinerary crosses diverse points of the natural park so the participants enjoyed the terrestrial and marine area of the Geopark, with the objective of promoting positive attitudes related to the conservation.
- 1.1.7 *Know Cabo de Gata's Marine Reserve.*  
In this visit several elements of the architecture of the natural area and coastal geologic characteristics of the Geopark were recognized, fomenting its natural and cultural values and a greater sensitive attitude towards the natural surroundings of Cabo de Gata.
- 1.1.8 *The plants in Cabo de Gata*  
The Geopark collaborated and organized this visit within the program "nature for everybody" destined to disable people groups. They visited ecological, natural, landscaping values in the Cabo ed Gata-Níjar Geopark.

866 persons participated in this program

## **1.2 Geoenvironment education “Learning to read the stones” Program**

Environmental education program initiated in October 2007 directed to Primary, Secondary Education public centers, Loquacious and professional Modules related to the environment and tourism of all the province of Almeria. The program consists in a guided visit by the Geotourist center "the House of Volcanoes" and the accomplishment of a Geoambiental guided route of the Geopark. This program includes free transport and the geoguide-interpreters. Until December 2007 the Geopark have been in contact with five educative centers with a number of 45-50 students per center aprox. (about 240 participants).

## **1.3 Travelling Classrooms and Travelling Schools Program**

The Geopark Cabo de Gata-Níjar has been collaborating within this environmental education program developed from the Andalusia Government. Initiated ten years ago and specially destined for students who come from less favored social sectors, offering the opportunity to approach the student, in a practical and playful way, to their Community, its people, customs, earth heritage, history, cultural and environmental values. The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark has recently included the "the House of Volcanoes" visit. Here the students learn concepts as Geodiversity, Geoconservación and the Global and European Network of Geoparks. This activity started at the beginning of the present school year (october) and continues throughout the academic year.

## **1.4 Environmental education days in Níjar.**

The City council of Níjar organized these days in collaboration with the Geopark destined to the inhabitants of the municipality and the surroundings of the Geopark.

## **1.5 Botanical garden: El Albardinal: Activities and programs**

The botanical garden "the Albardinal" has developed different environmental education programs throughout the year: 4º environmental education course for teachers, guided days of EA of the Alquíán, visits and accomplishment of workshops, etc.

## **1.6 Summer Workshop and activities in the carps and beaches**

The Geopark organized in the different villages from the park, agreeing with its annual celebrations, environmental activities that included murals, games, workshops, environmental information, exhibitions, routes, etc.

## **1.7 Activities in the nature classroom “El Bujo” and sea classroom “El Corralete”**

The following activities were developed by ECOALMERÍA INICIATIVAS AMBIENTALES S.L. in collaboration with EGMASA:

### **1.7.1 Camps**

1.7.1.1 “The sea in Cabo de Gata” Kids camp in “El Corralete” sea classroom. 16 participants

1.7.1.2 “Culture and Tradition in Cabo de Gata” juvenile camp in Rodalquilar’s nature classromm. 38 participants.

1.7.1.3 “Marine Biodiversity in Cabo de Gata” Environmental awarded juvenile camp. 35 participants.

1.7.1.4 “Nature’s singularities” and “smokeless classroom” juvenile camps. 16 participants.

1.7.1.5 “Living in the Nature” adult camp in collaboration with “Proyecto hombre”. 20 participants.

1.7.1.6 Juvenile camp in collaboration with ASAL, a gifted child association.

## 1.7.2 Exhibitions

1.7.2.1 Painting exhibition: Antonio Valverde and Pedro Gilabert.

1.7.2.2 Photographic Exhibition: Jesus Contreras and various artists

1.7.2.3 Craftwork exhibition « Artes de pesca tradicionales » in collaboration with PESCARTES.

## 2) Communication, Diffusion and Promotion Activities of the Geopark

### 2.1 Publication and edition of divulging material

During the last semester it has been published and reissued this publications:

- Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park Map guide, that includes 16 footpaths.
- Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park Map guide published by Environment and Public Works and Transports Ministry of Andalusia. Scale 1:45.000.
- Book publication “The wind and the water in the construction of a landscape”.
- Reissue “Geology of the Almería’s desert surroundings. Didactic field guide”.
- Leaflet “Sustainable diving in the marine-terrestrial Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park”.
- “Environmental Guide- The House of the Volcano”
- Reissue of leaflets about the Andalusia’s Geodiversity with special interest in “The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark”.
- Monographic of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark in environmental specialized national magazine Quercus, in the celebration of Cabo de Gata--Níjar Natural Park XX anniversary.

### 2.2 Cultural Activities

Like every year, during summer, the Geopark organized and collaborated in cultural activities in the population centers of the Geopark:

#### 2.2.1 **Cabo de Gata’s cultural week.**

The Geopark with the collaboration of Desalysol cultural association, public School “Virgen del Mar”, AMPA and PESCARTES association, organized visits to the most emblematic areas of the Geopark, with bird watching, sports, games, environmental movies, conferences and round tables about traditional activities, sustainable development, etc. in the Geopark.

#### 2.2.2 **Cycle of summer cinema.**

The Geopark collaborated with Friends of the Park association, by second year, in a summer cinema cycle. This initiative set a common ground for education and environmental sensibilización in areas with scarce leisure and culture.

#### 2.2.3 **Another glance: Carmen Pinteño’s oil landscapes exhibition.**

Paintings of Cabo de Gata landscapes exhibited in the Geopark’s hall, located in Rodalquilar, in the Natural Park XX anniversary. From 22th August to the 16th September of 2007.

#### 2.2.4 **“Costa Ágata” Geopark’s Photographic exhibition..**

Adolfo Olmedo and Miguel Angel Sasiain exposed an impressive collection of black and white photographs of the geologic Geopark and surroundings landscapes, in the Natural Park XX anniversary.

#### 2.2.5 **Third Flamenco festival.**

The Geopark collaborated with DIQUELA cultural association for

third consecutive year in this festival, celebrated in the San Felipe of the Escullos's castle.

2.2.6 **Music Course and Festival.**

Fourth edition of the " Rodalquilar's Valley Classic " course and "At the Park" festival, organized by the "Classics in the Park association " in collaboration and celebrated in the facilities of the Geopark, with violin, violoncello and camera music courses.

2.2.7 **"Playa del Arco" Cultural Festival.**

The "HAÍ MAS QUE CIRCO" association, with Geopark collaboration, organized a circus caravan with recycling factories, zocos craftsmen and artistic varieties.

2.2.8 **World-wide environment day.**

Activity made in collaboration with the fishermen of Cabo de Gata association and framed in the World-wide Environment Day. Consisted in a work day were students of the school "Virgen del Mar", fishermen and personnel of the Geopark participated to obtain the dock environmental cleaning of the area that the fishermen have in Cabo de Gata beach.

2.2.9 **Ulli Butz's Sculpture exhibition**

At Los Escullos's castle from 29/03/07 to 10/04/07 and at "El albardinal" botanical garden from 25/08/07 to 09/09/07.

2.2.10 **"Jesuschrist Superstar" play**

At Los Escullos's castle, performed by "Palma joven" cultural association, from 30/06/07 to 02/07/07.

2.3 **Geopark's Filmings and Enviromental Documentary.**

2.3.1 **Geopark Week 2007**

The Geopark made "Geopark week" documentary that includes the geoturistical center "the House of Volcanoes" inauguration.

2.3.2 **Natural program: "Caza y pesca"**

Channel +, made a documentary about the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark for a nature activities program. The program will be emitted in March of 2008.

2.3.3 **Educational public television program: "La aventura del Saber"**

Spanish public television filmed a series of documentaries dedicated to the spanish Geoparks. The program named "The knowledge adventure" is financed by the Ministry of Education. The show was emitted the 13 of February of 2008.

2.4 **Active tourism Technical conference**

Níjar city council organized, through its tourist plan and in collaboration with the Geopark, subaqueous activities in San Jose village. They were approached different subjects, from the Geopark geologic history, to the marine biodiversity.

2.5 **Specialized journalist Fan-Tryp in Cabo de Gata**

In the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park XX anniversary, guided visits and trips for environment specialized journalists and magazines were organized, to present the values and developed activities in this natural area. The visits ranged from geologic routes to ethnographic features, like traditional milling in a restored windmill, as well as visits to different establishments from restoration and lodging, boat route , etc.

2.6 **ONCE visits the Geopark**

In the occasion of ONCE (Spanish National Blind Organization) meeting celebrated in Almeria, the Geopark organized a guided visit for the assistants, taking care of a total of 500 people who crossed the Geopark and its facilities.

### 3 Conservation, Investigation and development activities in the Geopark

- 3.1 **European Chart of Sustainable Tourism Candidacy.**  
From July of 2007 to February of 2008 Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark made the required documents (tourist Diagnosis, Strategy of sustainable tourism, Action plan 2008-2012) by EUROPARC to obtain this certification. The Geopark has counted the Almeria, Níjar and Carboneras City councils, the industrialists of the Natural Park (ASEMPARNA) Association, Rural Development Group of Levante and the Tourism, Culture, and Innovation Science and company Ministry.
- 3.2 **Ecological agriculture Businessmen's conference**  
This meeting was held in the Geopark public facilities (Rodalquilar), with 52 certified companies in ecological production, debating subjects like the sustainable production and the promotion of these products.
- 3.3 **"Natural Park Trade Mark" Conference**  
First conference of the Natural Park Trade Mark, organized by the Geopark in collaboration with the Geopark industrialists, to promote the adhesion of new Natural Park Trade Mark products and elaborate sustainable development strategies. 63 participants attend to this conference.
- 3.4. **UICN's protected areas management categories Summit**  
The UICN celebrates in Almeria the International Protected Areas Management Categories Summit. Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park was analyzed as a representative space of an European and Mediterranean reality where the use of category V is common. The Geopark organized a day visit for all the participants.
- 3.4 **XV Barcelona Agreement on Climatic Change Meeting in Almeria**  
The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark organized guided visits for more than 80 environmental managers from several Mediterranean countries that attended the XV Agreement of Barcelona Meeting in January of 2008. These visits included the "the House of Volcanoes" Geotouristical center and some of the Geopark's most value geologic sites.
- 3.5 **Wetland's World-wide Day in the Geopark**  
The Geopark celebrated several activities (guided visits to salt mines, guided visit to marsh and wetlands, exhibitions et.) to increase the public sensibilización about the wetlands and the benefits that these areas offers.
- 3.6 **Privated lands acquisition of high environmental value**  
In february 2008 Andalusia's Government bought several privated properties of high Geodiversity and biodiversity value, like Mónsul beach, one of the most important and known geosites in the Park.
- 3.7 **Universities Collaborati3n**  
The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark is developing a continued investigation promotion to its geologic and geoenvironmental values. The Geopark counts with visits of Spanish, European and North American Universities, in activities as teaching and investigation. Granada University, Bonn University, Royal Holloway University of London, Nottingham Trent Universtity, etc. visited this Geopark among many others.

#### 4 EGN related activities

- 4.1 **European Geoparks Network (EGN) magazine.**  
Contribution on the European Geoparks Network (EGN) magazine, num. 5.
- 4.2 **Iberian Geopark meeting**  
The five Iberian Geoparks met for the preparation of a common project to the Interreg SUDOE program.
- 4.3 **Attendance to FITUR 2008.**  
The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark attended the International Fair of Tourism of 2008 in Madrid in the space offered by the Geopark de Naturtejo. A work session of the five Iberian Geopark was celebrated to develop a common strategy for its promotion.
- 4.4 **Travelling exhibition "The memory of the Cape"**  
The Geopark elaborated a traveling exhibition focus in Geodiversity, GGN and the EGN. This exhibition is visiting educative centers, social city councils, centers and exhibition halls of the province of Almeria. The exhibition started in november 2007 and it is expected to be a recurrent element in the Geopark annually activities.
- 4.5 **Inauguration of the museum "The House of the Volcanoes"**  
In October 2007 the Geopark inaugurated the first Andalusia's Geoturistical Center: "The House of Volcanoes", located in Rodalquilar. This center has a permanent geodiversity exhibition constituted by informative panels with a lithotheque, a mineral collection, a geodiversity audio-visual, a volcano tactile model and the great Rodalquilar's gold mining model. Additionally this center has a conference and audio-visual room used frequently in the Geopark activities and courses.
- 4.6 **Coffee table book**  
Contribution to the European Geoparks Network Table Coffee book.
- 4.7 **Interreg IVc Program**  
Contribution to the Interreg IVc program process.
- 4.8 **Geopark Week 2007**  
Within the activities program, and in the occasion of the Natural Park XX anniversary, the Geopark developed the "First European Geopark Week". The activities consisted on the following events:
- 4.8.1 Inauguration of the museum "the House of Volcanoes".  
D<sup>a</sup> Fuensanta Coves Andalusia's Government Environmental Advisor, D. Guy Martini representative of the EGN, D. Andrés Sanchez Natural Park Governing Meeting President and D. Juan Callejón, Andalusia's Government Delegate among other personalities attended to the inauguration.
- 4.8.2 "Learning to read in the stones" a Geoenvironmental education program
- 4.8.3 "The memory of the Cape" a travelling exhibition about Geodiversity, GGN and EGN.
- 4.8.4 " Geodiversity's Conservation Workshop "
- 4.8.5 "Geodiversity and Geotourism in the UE Technical Conferences" where several representatives of European Geopark were invited: Dr Peter Bitschene of Vulkaneifel Geopark, D. Pascuale de Lima of Madonie Geopark, D<sup>a</sup> Kirstin Lemon of Marble Arch Caves Geopark, D. Net Carlos do Carballo of Naturtejo Geopark, D. Joan Poch of

Sobrarbe Geopark and Julia Escorihuela and Jose Manuel Salvador of Maestrazgo Geopark.

- 4.8.6 "Geologic tourism interpretation course"  
Addressed to guides and professionals of the environmental interpretation. The course was developed throughout in two days of conferences, workshop a round table and one geological route.