

EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK



Geopark Annual Reports

2011

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Some teachers during the excursions in the Brenta Dolomites in the framework of the training course “Adamello Brenta Geopark and the Dolomites WHS” guided by a geologist and an Alpine Guide.

The Adamello Brenta Nature Park, consistently with its wider and more complex strategy of conservation of the natural, historical and cultural heritage, continues his work to improve the geological heritage conservation, geotouristic and popularization activities.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- The Adamello Brenta Geopark carried out a **training course for teachers** at the beginning of the school year titled “**Adamello Brenta Geopark and Dolomites World Heritage Unesco**”. In collaboration with the Science Museum of Trento and the Geological Service of the Autonomous Province, the Abg developed the hydrogeological aspects of the Brenta Dolomites and the geology of the Adamello Brenta Geopark, making teachers of the Park’s Institute more aware of the importance of it and letting them know the European Geoparks Network. The training course was carried on both with lectures and with guided excursions and field experience.

- On the 11th of November, in the beautiful Stenico castle, was organized the **final forum of the participatory path** for the revalidation of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and the new Socio-economic Plan, with the

involvement of more than 300 stakeholders represented by Park's Municipalities, cultural associations, local economy bodies, voluntary organizations, etc. During the forum were presented the numerous projects came out from the local forum, where also many projects about the valorisation of the Geopark were discussed.

- Signing of the **Agreement between the Adamello Brenta Nature Park and the Adamello Regional Park in Lombardia**: it is an act of strategic importance for the two Parks that protect two sides of the same mountain, Adamello, and that encompass similar territorial, historical, cultural and geological characteristics. The agreement provides for the realisation of a series of activities carried on together, as common promotional material, common signposting in the Adamello group, co-partnership in the activities of valorisation, collaboration in the monitoring activities and so on. It's been instituted a Technical Committee that will evaluate also the extension of the Abg to the Adamello Regional Park.

- The Adamello Brenta Geopark became a "Supporter" of the "Dolomiti-Dolomiten-Dolomites-Dolomitis UNESCO" Foundation, with the aim of contributing to the development of the management strategy and to the valorisation of the WHS. The Foundation is the representative of the Dolomites WHS at the World Heritage Committee and has the objective of promoting the cooperation among the Provinces and Regions for the harmonization of the management policy.

Roberto Zoanetti roberto.zoanetti@pnab.it
Vajolet Masè vajolet.mase@pnab.it



The peat bog area of Fociomboli, near Mt. Corchia

● **“Conservation and enhancing of apuan wetlands”**

This is a project, funded by the Ministry of Environment in the framework of the Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation Project, in a central area of the Geopark. The peat bog area was delimited by wooden bollards and, ad hoc experimental interventions, were performed in order to contain the natural silting process of the bog and extend the total area of stagnant water by creating as a small pond. The project envisaged the redevelopment of the vegetation adjacent to the marsh habitat by planting silver fir seedlings belonging to the only native Apuan population.

It also includes brochures in Italian and English, equipped paths and an application for Apple and Android mobile devices, that is a commented and illustrated guide to identify 130 plants of the Geopark’s wetlands.

● **Between Environment and tradition: knowledge, skills and actions**

This is a project for teaching and environmental education for students of different ages. The programme envisages initiatives on the tradition and culture of the Apuan territory as well as activities promoting the understanding and knowledge of landscapes and environments in the Geopark, for a total of 15 long stays.

This year the project has involved about 900 children, from six to fourteen.

● **Tenth anniversary of “Scientific and cultural enjoyment of the Antro del Corchia karst geosite“**

This is a series of initiatives to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the scientific and cultural enjoyment of a part of the largest Italian karst Complex inside Mt. Corchia.

Particularly, in collaboration with Viareggio Carnival Foundation, it envisaged the exhibition, inside the karst geosite, of the best ten cribs of the first ten years of activity. This is an example of the integration between working art and a geological site.

● **Walk of life**

This is a campaign to raise funds to support research into genetic diseases with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Environment, Federparchi-Europarc Italy and Telethon (National Foundation for the research).

The Geopark organized a series of guided tours in geosites/biotopes and meetings with national representatives of the project.

Alessia Amorfini aamorfini@parcapuane.it

Antonio Bartelletti abartelletti@parcapuane.it



During 2011, the Arouca Geopark has developed many activities in the Tourism, Education and Geoconservation areas. From all the work developed by the AGA team, the **International Congress of Geotourism - AROUCA 2011** was considered the highlight of the celebrations of the centenary of tourism in Portugal.

- The **certification of establishments, business and touristic activities and products with the Arouca Geopark label** was implemented during the year 2011. 14 applications were received from several AGA – Associação Geoparque Arouca – members and those applications were analyzed under the Standards book of the *Arouca Geopark* brand – registered on the INPI. This action, according to AGA Strategic Plan 2008-2013, aims to recognize the quality of services and economic or cultural products, which constitute a reference and add value to the *Arouca Geopark* classified territory, due to their characteristics and origins.

- The **Paleozoic carnival parade** took place on 4 March in the *Arouca Geopark*, which was organized by some schools of Arouca and the Arouca Council. The exhibition *Biodiversity in the Paleozoic*, promoted by AGA during 2010, under the International Year of Biodiversity, was the inspiration for some carnival costumes. Kids and adults dressed as creatures who lived during the Paleozoic Era, like *Anomalocaris*, *Trilobites*, *Fish Bone (Dunkleosteus)*, *Giant*

Dragonflies (Meganeura) and reptiles (*Dimetrodon*), a real trip back to million years ago. See pictures of the parade on <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?id=309440180460&aid=625138>

- ***This summer, take Science inside your baggage*** is the motto of the *Ciência Viva no Verão* 2011 edition, which *Arouca Geopark* has joined again. Between 15 July and 15 September, AGA and partner organizations encouraged weekly activities to publicize geosites, traditions, culture, monuments and even the stars, that can be observed from the *Arouca Geopark*. A total of 9 Geology activities were promoted during the summer.

- The Arouca Geopark received from 9 to 13 November the **International Congress of Geotourism – Arouca 2011**, held in the Arouca Monastery. For the 5 days of the Congress, international experts on Geotourism (an increasing segment of nature tourism that combines tourism with the surrounding landscape and science) discussed the subject and encouraged the knowledge of Geodiversity, Geoconservation and development of new synergies for the development of new destinations and new products related to Geotourism. Jonathan B. Tourtellot, National Geographic Senior Editor, and Guy Martiny, in representation of the European and Global Geoparks Networks, were the keynote speakers.

Artur Abreu Sá asa@utad.pt

Antonio Carlos Duarte aduarte@geoparquearouca.com



Many new guided tours were organised in the karst area of the geopark in 2011. Above, a guided tour in the Zinoa karst landform, Mutriku. Summer 2011.

At the end of 2011, the Basque Coast Geopark celebrated its first full year of operation. Many promotional activities took place during this time, carried out by the geopark or by its partners. The geopark has also developed many initiatives and carried out intense networking. A few of these activities are listed below:

- **The new geopark website** (www.geoparkea.com) was launched in May 2011. This website provides information about the geopark and has an online booking system that promotes and sells the guided tours offered by the geopark.
- Guided tours and activities have increased significantly in the inland areas of the geopark, known as the “**Karst Route**”. A total of over 200 scheduled geotourism guided tours were offered within the geopark in 2011, with a higher number of visitors than in previous years.
- “**The Coastal Flysch Route**” was named by the Basque Government as one of the Top Tourist Experiences in the Basque Country, and was the most frequently visited “experience” in its website (<http://turismo.euskadi.net/es/top-viajes/la-ruta-del-flysch/x65-12375/es/>). Moreover, a promotional video of the Coastal Flysch Route was produced by the Basque Government for TV-EUSKADI (<http://www.tveuskadi.net/32188/la-ruta-del-flysch>).

- Noteworthy mention of the geopark in the UNESCO publication, “**Tales Set in Stone. 40 Years of the International Geosciences Programme**”. This publication was preceded by the preparation of the material on the geopark for the UNESCO website (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/geoparks/members/spain/basque-coast-geopark/>)

Cristina Iturriagagoitia: geogarapen@geogarapen.com

Joan Poch: zientzia@geogarapen.com



Interpretative panel on geosite.

2011 was an important year for the Massif des Bauges geopark since this is the year of its creation. The activities were numerous and devoted for the first part of the year to the preparation of the expertise and in the second part of the year to the institutional inauguration with the presence of the GGN network.

● **Pedagogical activities**

Stakeholders and students took part to experiments of educational dye tracing. The aim of these experiments was to improve the knowledge of the flow pattern of groundwater and to raise the awareness of the public on the management of water resources. On the same way, every first class of the secondary schools on the territory took part to a role play in which the school boys and girls had to

defend or to be opposed to a (virtual) development project on the fragile area of the Creusate peat bog.

- **Development of a network of geosites**

Several geosites have been promoted this year by the installation of interpretative panels on the sites. Each promoted geosite refers to the others geosites thanks to a synthetic map of the 54 geosites of the Massif des Bauges geopark.

- The obtaining of the “**Vignoble et découverte**” label (a tourist label around wine and vineyard) involves together 22 wine cellars and 71 tourist providers in the development of a strategy of the wine tourism in order to make known the vineyards of the Combe de Savoie.

- A new geotrail has been created: the “**Chaos du Chéran**” geotrail recounts the geological history of the localities, piscicultural characteristics and tradition of gold washing of the Chéran river.

Jean-Luc Desbois. jl.desbois@parcdesbauges.com



The new Geopark information and interpretation facility in Sassello

During 2011 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.

Highlights of the year included:

- Opening of the new information and interpretation facility at the entrance of the Deiva Regional Forest, in Sassello on 24th May 2011. Entirely renovated thanks to regional funds, it works as a multipurpose center able to host educational activities as well as to organize local events, workshops and meetings. The main hall offers 50 seats and is provided with multimedia equipment to support several uses.
- Carrying out of a new project about local governance and environmental/socio-economic values in the Geopark area with the collaboration of the Regional Administration. Well-structured activities with several stakeholders and specialists workshops has been organized

to involve local communities about new opportunities to promote shared and common projects on geoconservation, nature conservation and sustainable development.

- A pilot project for monitoring visitors attendance along the trails network of Beigua Geopark has been realized. Several sites has been equipped with special underground counters to monitor and to analyse the stream of visitors in the main areas of the Geopark. Very good results has been achieved after the first appliance.

- A wide survey of the geo-archeological sites in Beigua Geopark has been carried out. It involves an inventory of rupestrian inscriptions but also interpretation and educational activities for adults and children to increase public awareness on the geo-archeological heritage in the Beigua area. The project is developed with the collaboration of the Regional Archeological Office.

Maurizio Burlando direttore@parcobeigua.it

Marco Firpo firpo@dipteris.unige.it



Activity day during the EGN week with guests from the partner Geopark Mt. Lushan (PR China)

The diverse landscape of the Geo-Nature Park is characterised by over 500 million years of eventful geological history, a multi-faceted natural landscape, and a thousand year old culture. The Geopark Rangers offer a wide range of activities catering for visitors who enjoy delving into the past, the silence of the forests and hills or discovering the landscape and the regional delicacies.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- International Exchange Programme with Geopark Mt. Lushan, PR China for 3 scientists and practitioners. Contents: Botanical Garden and Landscape Planning, International Forest Association, geo-education, active participation of Geopark-Day and EGN Week, Geopark infrastructure and visitor service, development of two partnership panels.
- EGN week with participation of information centres and Geopark-on-site groups
- Geopark Day in the frame of the International Year of the Forest in cooperation with the WHS Lorsch Abbey with participation of local stakeholders, the Department of Forestry and the presentation of the EGN and GGN together with the Global Geopark Mt. Lushan

- Celebration of the annual Geotope of the year: Loess Locus typicus Heidelberg as Geotope 2011
- Opening of Geopark information centre Erbach and Geopark information centre “Buchen Showcave”, opening of 3 arts projects with rock sculptures and rock circle, together with Geo Sites and thematic routes (regional gardens)
- Qualification of about 60 local stakeholders for the performance of guided geopark tours in their local communities

European and Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald

Nibelungenstrasse 41

D-64653 Lorsch

Phone: 0049-6251-707990

Mail: c.eckhardt@geo-naturpark.de; j.weber@geo-naturpark.de

Homepage: www.geo-naturpark.de



Opening ceremony of a new outdoor Bohemian Paradise Geopark exhibition in Semily (June, the 1st 2011)

- **Visitor attractions and infrastructure:** development of new 3 new permanent geological exhibitions, opening of 22 new trails with 230 panels, 200 sites with photo on the website and building new Information Center in Nová Paka.
- **Education:** the educational program for primary, secondary schools and university with the participation of more than 3.000 students, 4 final students works, creating methodology and network geo-guides, training and certification of 30 geopark guides.
- **Promotion materials, actions and public events:** 10 exhibitions with attendance, EGN Week: 43 events and 9.128 participation, Jewellery Symposium and Mode Show with 78 participants from 5 European countries, 63 geotourism actions experienced by 982 persons from 17 countries, 33 public lectures with 621 participants, 3 new books, 40 new booklets, 29 articles in newspaper, database of 200 geotourist sites, inventory of existing trails and design 7 new trails.
- **Science:** an intensive activity concerning Bohemian Paradise Geopark scientific project – creation of geo-information system for regional development and protection of geological heritage, 4 geological maps in 1: 25 000 scale (sheets Semily, Turnov, Kněžmost, Rovensko p. Troskami and Lomnice), an

active attendance on the 10 conferences, 34 articles in professional journals with geopark topic, one English course on Geotourism and Ecotourism at Jihlava University, 14 and 62 minutes films made about Bohemian Paradise Geopark.

Tomas Ridkosil ridkosil@muzeum-turnov.cz

Martina Pásková martina.paskova@mzp.cz



2011 EGN week. Snorkeling with Geoparks collaborators enterprises

2011 has been a year full of challenges and as Geopark we face them strengthening our relationship between enterprises and local population.

More than ever, fostering employment through the responsible use of the Geological heritage has been our main goal.

- **“Environmental Educational Program of the Reserve of the Biosphere”**
The Geopark managed this educational program aimed to the local population through workshops, courses, field visits and much more, with more than 600 people participating in the activities. The Geotouristical Centre “House of the Volcanoes” play a major role in the meetings and activities of this program.
- **Geoemployment Project.** The main goals are to preserve the Geodiversity and Geological heritage, enhance Geotourism in the Iberian Peninsula and to create and support employment at local levels. The project is divided in two phases over a period of four years (2011-2014).
- **Spanish Forum of Geopark:** officialy created in december 2011.

- **EGN Week:** more than 1600 people attended 2011 EGN week celebrated jointly with the first Reserve of the Biosphere festival. Again, the collaboration with enterprises was a success.

Pablo Rivas pablo.rivas.ext@juntadeandalucia.es

José Manuel Quero josem.quero@juntadedandalucia.es



2011 was a year of interesting events that have raised the Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark as a beautiful place with geological landscapes that everyone can visit and understand the necessity of protection and conservation of geological sites.

- The 31st nationwide over the gorge of Vouraikos river was successful and participation of many organizations and clubs, on May 8th and the day before held a conference on renewable energy and the future of our planet. The Municipality of Kalavryta, the Chelmos-Vouraikos Management Body and the Kleitoria Environmental Educational Center organized events for the World Environment Day on June 5th in the central square of Kalavryta with informational material and plant flowers from children.
- On 5-7 October the Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark became the focus of global interest, as the town of Kalavryta was held the 9th International Hydrogeological Conference, emphasizing on management of the aquatic environment, and on October 8th a conference tour to the main geological geotopes took place.
- The first meeting of the newly established Committee on Tourism Development and Promotion of Municipality of Kalavryta took place on August 17th. The Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark involved in the committee through the Chairman of the Board, pointed out the need for further support of geotourism and sustainable development in the region.

- International Seminar - Workshop on "Biodiversity programs eTwinning» implemented successfully at Kleitoria Environmental Educational Center, aimed at developing the European dimension of biodiversity, education and awareness with experiential way of teaching about the importance of biodiversity and the need to manage protected areas. Workshops were held for the importance of biodiversity and ecological value of the Chelmos-Vouraikos National Park, the geology in the region and its importance as a Geopark, the fauna of the National Park and the role of the Management Body in Protected Area.

Eleni Koumoutsou e_koumoutsou@yahoo.gr
Nikos Topouzidis fdxb@otenet.gr



Beaches, with their cliffs, caves, rock-pools and pebbles make a natural and fun geo-textbook.

Towards the end of 2011 we at last saw the start of work on our Geopark Centre, which is in a former church. While we have curbed our ambitions, in recognition of these difficult times, the result will be a building which we can use all year round. We plan to set up an exhibition relating to the geology and history of the Copper Coast. It will also be available as a community facility. The building work should be completed by May.

- Throughout the year we are visited by students at all levels, from primary schools to third level and mature students. Last year we have seen architectural students, environmental scientists, secondary students conducting geographical investigations, tourism students and more. Each year up to 600 Italian students from Waterford Institute of Technology visit the Copper Coast – 150 every second Saturday during July and August. 3 coaches start from different places on 3 different itineraries.

- The Geoparks Week programme on the Copper Coast attempts to incorporate a diversity of event which will appeal to a larger audience with a wide range of interests including arts and crafts and science in the hope of introducing a greater number of people to the Copper Coast and all it encompasses. This year saw a Geology through Art Exhibition, involving 5 year

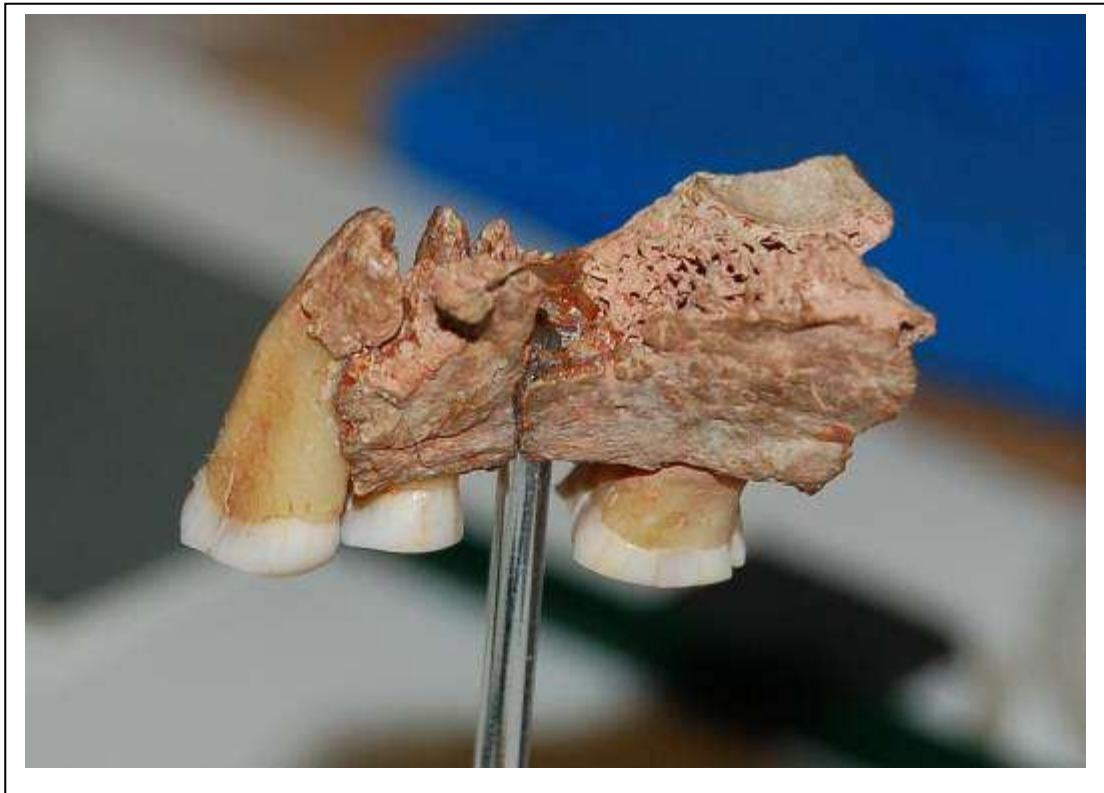
art students. A talk on Natural Navigation. A Basket Making Workshop. A Jewellery making Workshop, An evening demonstrating the whys and wherefores of earthquakes. A Gemstone Workshop and several guided walks.

- Other visits and events on the Copper Coast:- Joint excursion of the Irish Geological Association (IGA) and the Cork Geological Association (CGA). experiencing the shipboard surveying capability of the G.S.I. craft, RV Keary during a cruise in Waterford Harbour, and exploring the geological heritage and interpretation facilities of the Copper Coast Geopark. Heritage Week saw local children perform a dramatization of the conditions for children durin 19th century mining times; also an art exhibition entitled 'Every Picture Tells a Story'; a walk on Fenor Bog – 'Bog and Session', which finished with mellow melodies in Mother McHugh's!

John Galloway EGN rep annestowntoo@eircom.net

Mike Sweeney EGN rep mike_sweeney@hotmail.com

Paula McCarthy, manager, info@coppercoastgeopark.com



New research reveals secret of Kents Cavern Jawbone

- **Kents Cavern Jawbone research** A human jawbone, unearthed in Kents Cavern, is between 44,200 and 41,500 years old making it the oldest modern human fossil in north-western Europe and certainly in Britain according to research published in *Nature*, the internationally renowned science magazine. The Kents Cavern jawbone, a maxilla (upper jawbone), was found in 1927 and has been intriguing scientists for decades. In 1989 it was dated at 31,000 years old and tests were carried out recently to determine if it could be Neanderthal. This latest study was carried out by Dr Thomas Higham of the University of Oxford and Professor Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum in London. It confirms the jawbone is not Neanderthal but in fact the oldest anatomically modern human fossil ever to have been discovered in this part of Europe.

- **Geopark Revalidation** The work of the English Riviera Global Geopark team was recognised and commended by European Geoparks Network when they were awarded a Green Card revalidation result at the 28th Coordination Committee meeting in Norway, Sept 2011. This result followed the revalidation inspection that was carried out in June by Dr Elmar Heizmann, Swabian Alb Geopark, Germany and Prof Shafeea Leman, Langkawi Geopark, Malaysia.

- **Launch of new book** – *Walks along the South West Coast Path, Exmouth to Dartmouth, Featuring the English Riviera Global Geopark*. Designed to compliment the Geopark Official Guidebook each book is published in the form

of a beautifully illustrated 64-page full colour guide with new aerial photography showing the route of each walk. The book includes; 17 walks selected for their geological, social history and natural history, superb new aerial photography with overlaid route maps and full directions and what to look for along each walk. The spectacular scenery of the South West Coast Path is enjoyed by thousands of walkers every year, each location has a story to tell about the processes that have shaped it. These books which help people learn as they walk, gaining knowledge that can only enhance enjoyment will of course also help raise the profile of the Geopark and wider network. To complement the new walks book 15 new interpretation panels are now out on site along the route of the South West Coast Path through the Geopark.

- **Geopark Discovery Packages** With a focus on younger consumers and in line with the English Riviera Tourism strategy, Geopark partners have worked to develop some new Geopark Packages. These provide a new and exciting reason to visit and have been specifically developed to appeal to younger creativity and developing eco-friendly attitudes whilst providing opportunities to experience and enjoy all the Geopark has to offer, enlivening the senses with a bit of adrenalin thrown in. The packages are promoted through websites and the Geopark leaflet.

Melanie Border - m.border@englishrivierageopark.org.uk

Nick Powe – NickPowe@kents-cavern.co.uk



Carreg Cennen Castle is built on a crag of Carboniferous Limestone. This romantically situated site is a popular destination for tourists.

- **27th EGN Coordination Committee Meeting 28 March -1 April.** Fforest Fawr Geopark together with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority hosted this meeting in the beautiful market town of Brecon. Highlights included the field excursion on 30 March which provided delegates with a tour of the landscape, a visit to a recently restored geosite and an opportunity to meet with and experience the hospitality of the local people. A tour of Carreg Cennen Castle followed by a dinner showed how a local businessman makes use of this spectacular location to create sustainable employment.

- **Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival 21 May- 5 June.** The successful sixth annual Festival was delivered as a component of European Geoparks Week. Nine partner organisations helped to deliver 30 events involving 21 walks, 6 talks and 3 exhibitions over a 16 day period, the whole being enjoyed by over 1000 people. Information concerning the Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival 2012 can be found on www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/geopark-festival-2012/

● **Fforest Fawr Geopark Research Seminar 12 October 2011.** Supported by the British Geological Survey, Forestry Commission Wales and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the Seminar titled “*Fforest Fawr – Developing the Geopark’s Research Potential*” included nine presentations. These covered a wide range of topics which, in addition to emphasizing Fforest Fawr Geopark as an area of research potential, included presentations on i) Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in the Fforest Fawr Geopark – networks and distribution, ii) **Developing a Local Geodiversity Action Plan (LGAP)**, iii) Archaeological Investigations within Fforest Fawr Geopark: recent examples and future opportunities, iv) Modelling the Brownstones Formation of South Wales– Part 2, v) A sedimentological and palynological approach to the determination of the origin of the depositional land form at Cwm Llŵch, Brecon Beacons, South Wales and vi) Understanding Late Quaternary Marginal Glaciation in Britain – Investigating the Interrelationship between Climate, Topography and Glacier Dynamics, vii) Field Spectroscopy on The Black Mountain. A further presentation focusing on ‘The use of GIS, remote sensing and fire simulation modelling for assessing the damage from wildfires on moorland on the Brecon Beacons’ demonstrated that spread rate and fire intensity are far greater on mature heather heaths than other habitats and that GIS, remote sensing and fire simulation technology can aid in the planning of fire prevention measures. The programme of presentations including abstracts is available on www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/geopark-research-seminar-2011

● **Training for businesses.** The Geopark organized and delivered ‘*The Park Rocks*’ - a Geopark orientation day for local businesses on 5 May 2011 at Craig-y-nos Country Park’. It also contributed to a training programme on 27 June 2011 at Pontneddfechan for gorge-walking group leaders. This was very well-received by 24 businesses who provide activities in the Geopark. The Geopark continues to contribute to the now well-established Brecon Beacons National Park Ambassador Scheme. Funded by the EU Interreg IVB project as part of Collabor8, the new Park Ambassador Scheme is a series of free one-day training workshops designed to provide local tourism businesses with the information needed to engage and inspire visitors to explore the Brecon Beacons National Park and Fforest Fawr Geopark.

Julian Atkins Julian.Atkins@breconbeacons.org
Tony Ramsay Tonhel@btinternet.com



Steinvika Geopark site

The first European Geopark in Norway is situated in south-eastern Norway, in an area boasting outstanding geological features. The Geopark tells the story of 1 500 million years of geology, a fascinating journey through time. The Geopark area encompasses seven cities, but also beautiful landscapes including a skerry coast, fjords, agricultural land, forests and mountainous areas.

- **10th European Geopark Conference:** 2011 was an intense year for the Geopark. Preparations for the ENG-meeting and the 10th European Geopark Conference took a lot of time. In September 240 delegates from 35 countries participated in the conference and visited the Geopark. During the conference there were 100 72 talks in four parallel sessions, and two days with field trips in the Geopark. The conference involved a lot of people from the local community, from school children to politicians.

- **Attraction development:** New Geopark locality in Steinvika was officially opened during the 10th European Geopark Conference in September. A new Geopark book “Explore Gea Norvegica” was presented. Simonsodden Geopark site was opened this year.

- **Public events and EGN-week** - Regularly guided tours during the “tour-season”. 30 guided tours between May and August with certificated geopark guides on different themes. “Cultural evening” in November for children, in cooperation with Telemark Museum. Different Geopark activities, moulding and painting of fossils and growing crystals. These arrangements were free of charge and open to all.

- **Education** - Educational programs for high schools (including a special program for schools “outside” the Geopark). Regular events for schools focused on topics relating geo-diversity and biodiversity.

Gea Norvegica Geopark, Kjølnes Ring 30, N-3918 Porsgrunn, tlf. +47 35 57 40 00 post@geanor.no , www.geanor.no



Cemaes Bay, melange trail. This is part of the proposed 5 mile trail from Wylfa power Station to Llanbadrig Point. Precambrian melange is in the foreground and the stromatolitic limestone on the far side of the bay. This is the World type site for melange.

- **The move** into the Old Watch House in Amlwch Port as the GeoMon Centre. We renovated it and then created a visitor attraction with education materials, book and card sales, video and TV displays and trained volunteers who can explain to all the visitors, about Anglesey's geology and our role in the EGN and GGN.

- **The Metal Links** INTERREG project. This is now nearly at the end of its first year and volunteers have been working hard on collecting information on genealogical matters regarding the old miners and their families. They are also meeting with other partners to link our various projects.

- **Rock Clock** We are now in the process of creating a 'Rock clock' that depicts all the rocks of Anglesey in a 24 hour clock divided up into geological periods. We secured the grants for this and the Aber Quarry is in the middle of constructing this 2m diameter clock that will lie on the slope up from our centre.

- **Signage and interpretation** We now have brown signs to important geological sites on the island and have produced numerous trails, papers and interpretive material. At last, we are working with the County Council on major interpretation from Wyllfa power Station to Llanbadrig Church, a 5 mile trail with interpretation and improved access along its route.

The Old Watch House, Amlwch Port, Amlwch, Anglesey, LL68 9DB,
Wales, UK. www.geomon.co.uk phone 0044 (0) 1248 810287 or (0)
1407 832 555



Launch of geological exhibits and booklet at the Old Haa, Burravoe, Yell with (inset) Inuksuk of Lewisian Gneiss.

With a geology spanning almost 3 billion years, Shetland is more geologically diverse than any similar sized area in Europe. Geopark Shetland is bringing to life the fascinating stories behind Shetland's rocks, and how they have influenced every aspect of life in the isles.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- Securing Leader and Scottish Natural Heritage funding to develop an app for Android and Iphone based around Geopark Shetland. Google maps accessed via the phone are being populated with information about geosites throughout Shetland. The project is a pilot that forms part of a wider transnational project with partners from several Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks. Geopark Shetland is lead partner in the cooperation project which aims to explore the use of new technologies in heritage interpretation (<http://www.hintproject.eu/>).
- Developing the social networking capabilities of Geopark Shetland through the launch of an updated website Facebook page and Twitter feed (<http://www.geoparkshetland.org.uk/>).
- Raising awareness of Scottish Geoparks nationally through a seminar 'Introducing Scotland's Geoparks' at the Scottish Association of Geography

Teachers annual conference. The seminar was delivered by Keith Turner, Geography Teacher at Anderson High School and member of the Geopark Shetland Working Group.

- Holding a launch for the Old Haa geological garden installation, museum display and project booklet which was attended by about 300 people on a beautiful sunny day in June. School pupils sang Inuit songs, musicians from the North Isles provided further entertainment, and the Burravoe Hall Committee laid on an enormous buffet.

Geology Project Officer, Shetland Amenity Trust, Garthspool, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0NY.

Tel: +44 1595 694688

info@shetlandamenity.org / www.geoparkshetland.org.uk



The new Geopark-Infocentre “Naturschutzzentrum Schopflocher Alb” is one of the three new Infocentres which were inaugurated in 2011.

In 2011 the GeoPark Swabian Alb could extend the network of GeoPark Infocentres from 14 to 17. The Infocentres make an important contribution to one of the main task of the Geopark: to give the necessary information on all relevant geological aspects to the visitors everywhere in the Geopark.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- In January the new map of geo-touristic highlights of the GeoPark Swabian Alb were released and presented at the tourism fair CMT in Stuttgart.
- In April the Geopark celebrated the second GeoPark-Festival in the Open-Air Museum Neuhausen ob Eck. Nearly all GeoPark Infocentres and guests like the European GeoPark Bergstraße-Odenwald presented themselves with various activities like barefoot-path, preparation of fossils and coral, reading of Stone Age stories and much more. More than 1.500 visitors attended the GeoPark-Festival.
- In 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 July and October two new Geopark-Infocentres were inaugurated. The “Naturschutzzentrum Schopflocher Alb” shows with a big model of the

Albtrauf the characteristics of the local landscape, Karst and the Swabian Volcano. The Infocentre “Schloss Brenz” is located in a beautiful old castle. It shows a big collection of regional fossils and gives information about the geology of the Swabian Alb and Geoparks.

Renate Schrembs, info@geopark-alb.de



Archeological and Landscape Park Imperial Palace Werla (Photo: K.F. WEBER)

- Beside our regular work in our Geopark management board, Geopark advisory committee and our two offices one of the most important activities was the move of the Geopark office in Koenigslutter into the Old Castle, Niedernhof 6.
- The projects “Experience trails Dorm” and “Archeological and Landscape Park Imperial Palace Werla, Part I” were finished and opened.
- The new brochure „Unterwegs im Natur- und Geopark - Harzer Pflanzenwelt erleben“ („Experience the Harz flora“) was presented.
- A new info panel „stromatolites“; Huy, LM 14, was presented at the National „Day of the Geotop” and a special stromatolite exhibition in Braunschweig with a exhibition booklet was opened.

Dr. Henning Zellmer h.zellmer@Geopark-braunschweiger-land.de

Dr. Klaus George rvh@harzregion.de



Participants in the Erasmus course on Sustainable development, Geoconservation and Geoparks.

● **Geopark development**

- Public debate on the management plan;
- New tourism strategy developed;
- Acquisition of a new building in Hateg to be organised as visiting point and office for the geopark administration;

● **EGN Week events**

- School Festival in SantamariaOrlea;
- “Cleaning day” in Geopark-children and adults involved in cleaning around the geosites;
- EGN Week in Bucharest: Exhibition of posters and photography from European Geoparks in the Museum of Geology from Bucharest.

● **Tourism**

- Opening of two new geological trails: „The volcan during the dinosaurs time in Hateg Basin” and „The trail around the tower”;
- Printing promotional materials (booklets);
- Participation in national tourism fairs;
- One of the Geopark`s trail „The dinosaurs valley” was selected as one of the „Seven best hematic trails in Romania”, following a national contest in which 20 trails have competed;

● **Promotion of geopark concept and EGN / GGNstructure in international events and educational programs:**

- 3rd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region, Bucharest, Romania;
- La 1ère Conférence Internationale sur les GéoParcs Africains et Arabes, El Jadida, Morocco;
- 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 11 European Universities) on seven subjects and case studies, one of them being Geoconservation and geoparks;
- Two weeks Erasmus Intensive Program held in Sinaia, 25 students and 16 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).
- Participation in the European Charter for Sustainable tourism in Protected areas, organized by the EUROPARK Charter, Serbia, Djerdap National Park;
- Media cover (Documentary film about Hateg Country on Romanian Television).

Alexandru Andrassanu aalex@geo.edu.ro



Lakagígar – Craters of Laki (1783)

2011 was the first year of Katla Geopark as a private non-profit organization, having been formally established on November 19th 2010.

- Katla Geopark took an active part in promoting the Geopark concept in Iceland during the year, taking part in two meetings and one conference with interested parties on the Reykjanes peninsula, and one seminar in the Snæfellsnes area. Both these areas are actively trying to initiate a Geopark in their respective areas.

- In February-March Katla Geopark ran a 36 hours course on “GeoGuiding in a Geopark” in cooperation with the University Centre of South Iceland and the Adult Education Network in South Iceland. The course was a big success, attracting 37 participants. The course used blended delivery; first day on site, six weekly video-conferencing sessions and last day on site on a bus.

- Katla Geopark ran its first Geopark week on 21-27 May 2011. The main focus was on the three schools in the area where teachers and pupils worked on assignments relating to the Geopark. In one of the three schools the school was actually closed during most of the week as the Grímsvötn eruption started on the first day of the Geopark week with heavy ashfall in the area.
- Following the evaluation mission of two EGN experts to Katla Geopark in July 2011 it was decided to publish a 30 page booklet on Katla Geopark (in English). It was ready for distribution at the EGN conference in Norway in September.

Vilborg Arna Gissurardóttir vilborg@hfsu.is
Sigurður Sigursveinsson sigurdur@hfsu.is



Though the creation of the Madonie Park Nature only dates from 9 November 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.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- The 3rd Workshop of Italian Geoparks, “*Legislative instruments for the protection and valorization of the geological heritage in Italy: reconnaissance at a national and regional level*”, held in Sicily in collaboration with the Rocca di Cerere Geopark, within the celebration of the EGN Week 2011, involved numerous people interested and the start of important political actions also aiming to recognize, with a specific regional proposal law, the value of the European Geoparks Network.

- Following the agreement stipulated with the Regional Department of the Environment, to strengthen the Sicilian ecological network and to favour the promotion of the areas of major natural value through the maintenance of the biodiversity and geo-diversity, the Madonie Geopark obtained financing of 8.5 million euros to enact its projects of sustainable economic and social development.
- The results of the research on the 'brand value' of the most famous Italian landscapes, based on the economic value of the territory, the possibility of obtaining knowledge and the flow of visitors, expenditure by foreign tourists, accommodation and the medium price of real estate (commissioned by the Ministry for Tourism) put the Madonie Geopark in the fourth place in the national classification.
- Inauguration of the Manna Museum at Pollina, a place of touristic and cultural enjoyment that guards the secret of cultivation that is unique in the world, and opening of the website www.vettedelgusto.it devoted to the e-shop of oenological and gastronomic products typical of the Madonie Geopark.

Pasquale Li Puma ENTEPA10@parcomadonie.191.it

Caterina Grimaldi k.grimaldi@tiscali.it



The official foundation of the Spanish National Geoparks Forum, with the national and local authorities.

- 3 march. The Regional Minister of Culture, M^a Victoria Broto, and the subdelegate of the State, M^a Victoria Alvarez, visited the Maestrazgo Geopark
- Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Crystal Caves in Molinos with conferences, expositions, publications, tributes to the discoverers, concerts, etc...
- July 24. Maestrazgo Geopark participated in the Summer Courses of the Teruel University.
- 16 december. Foundation of The Spanish National Geoparks Forum, in La Cañada de Verich (Teruel),

Other questions of interest are:

Interventions in national TV channels; collaborations in newspapers; Organization of Geolodia and European Geoparks Week; Participation in workshops, and in national and international forums...

Ángel Hernández parquecultural@maestrazgo.org



- Jøssingfjord Architects competition was fulfilled with a total budget on 300.000 euro. 136 proposals from 18 countries across Europe, together with Japan and USA, delivered a suggestion on how they wanted the centre to look like. The Swedish architects, HultmannMagnusson, won the competition to design a new mining museum in Jøssingfjord. The 2000 m² museum will exhibit the history, geology and technology of the area, together with temporary exhibitions. The winner proposal was called Varde, meaning a manmade pile of stones common in this area of Norway.
- Together with Katla European and Global Geopark, Iceland, Silurian Geopark Project, Estonia, Locatify (an ICT company on Iceland) and Magma Geopark are developing Treasure Hunt Games for Smartphone's. The project is supported by Nordplus jr. The first games were produced in 2011 and many more will be produced in 2012. The games are in 10 subjects at different levels and there are possibilities for up to 10 teams to compete at the same time. There will also be developed guides and games suitable for tourists.
- Magma Geopark received a grant from Norwegian research fund for developing new food products in the geopark area together with small businesses. The partners are the County Rogaland, Visit Dalane and University of Stavanger. This is the first research project on tourism and food in the area.

- Magma Geopark received a 3 year grant from the County of Rogaland to develop Magma geopark as a business. The money has so far been used to develop a business plan, to development of a Nordic Guide School, there has been done mapping and documentation of Magma Geopark localities, the work on a visit guide has been started and there has been developed a sign plan for the road governments.

Pål Thjømøe: post@magmageopark.com



New tourism signs and interpretation panels being erected in the geopark

- Our geopark won first place in the prestigious 2011 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Parks and Recreation Category for Cavan County Council in November.
- Work is ongoing on the Irish cross-border Harnessing Natural Resources INTERREG IVA project that started in July. The geopark has been allocated €750K for planned works over the next three years including new office space, new exhibitions and trails. The second Irish cross-border INTERREG IVA project – the Border Uplands –will start in January 2012 and run through to 2015. That €1.6M project will provide additional visitor facilities, paths and walking routes in the geopark.
- We are working up various environmental education project ideas with prospective University partners in Ireland and in the United States, underlining the huge potential of the geopark.
- The Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, the world's biggest traditional music festival, took place in the geopark in Cavan town in August. Over 300,000 people from all over the world enjoyed the festival programme, which featured a host of Irish musicians and also included a number of geopark events. The geopark set up an information stand in the busy central information office for the Fleadh. We are hopeful that the national organisers of the Fleadh will vote to hold it in Cavan again in 2012 although other Irish towns are competing strongly for the honour.

Richard Watson richard.watson@fermanagh.gov.uk
Patrick Mc Keever patrickgsni@yahoo.ie



I GeoSchools Conference for national teachers was held in the Naturtejo Geopark, under the frame of a three year-EU Project, to discuss curricula and approaches in secondary schools

- **Landscape Festival 2011 – European Geoparks Week.** In this edition, the Landscape Festival summed 59651 participants, which contributed for the synergy of the tourism sector of the region, during almost two months.

- **CROSSINGS: International and Interdisciplinary Workshop on natural and cultural resources for the sustainable development of Naturtejo Geopark.** This workshop was organized in Idanha-a-Nova, with the participation of 29 students from the University of Califórnia - Berkeley, the Management School of Idanha-a-Nova, the University of Minho and the Fernando Pessoa University of Porto.

- **Signing project implemented all over the Geopark.** The main geosites of the Geopark are now signed and have interpretative panels; the EGN corner is now in several tourism offices and also private guest houses.

- **Naturtejo Geopark hosts the I GEOschools Conference for teachers -** Naturtejo Geopark organized the I GEOschools Conference: new approaches in Geosciences teaching, at the School of Management of Idanha-a-Nova, which was integrated in the 3-year European Project joining geoscientists from different universities, museums, geoparks and training schools for teachers, from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and Austria. The aim of this project is to define models with principles for literacy in Geosciences for all the European

citizens, which may be applied in the school curricula of the Secondary schools from the participating countries.

Information: Naturtejo, E.I.M.

Av. Nuno Álvares 30 6000-083 Castelo Branco, Portugal

Tel: +351 272 320 176; Fax: +351 272 320 137

geral@naturtejo.com; www.naturtejo.com.



The North Pennines AONB European Geopark continued its work this year, with the conclusion of a number of major projects linking the visitor economy, geology and landscape.

Highlights of the year 2011 included:

- In December we published our new book on the geology and landscape of the North Pennines. *Reading the Rocks, Exploring the geology and landscape of the North Pennines* offers readers an easy-to-understand overview of the forces that have shaped our landscapes and the human influences on the landscape through the ages. The book is for sale in bookshops around the region and is proving to be very successful.
- New exhibitions were completed at the Blacksmith's Shop in Allenheads and the Dufton Winery. The exhibition in Allenheads features a fully restored model of the different mining levels. The display at the Dufton Winery was opened by the local Member of Parliament in June 2011.

- We published a new geological trail for Low Force and Holwick in Teesdale. The 4 km walk introduces visitors to the Whin Sill, one of the special geological features in the North Pennines. There is also a video trail (MP4) which can be downloaded from <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/LowForceandHolwickgeotrailvideo.aspx>.
- We started our LEADER-funded transnational project with Geopark Shetland and aspiring Geoparks Chablais (France) and Hondsrug (the Netherlands). The Heritage Interpretation using New Technologies (HINT) project will allow the use of differing new technologies in the interpretation of earth heritage.

Peter Samsom, peter@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

Dr. Elizabeth Pickett, elizabeth@northpenninesaonb.org.uk



- **Wide range of projects**

The „visitor centre in Baglyaskő” (HU) was already in use, as the paleontological exhibition in the Castle of Fil’akovo. We started to work on educational materials for the territory of our geopark. These materials are about our cultural, natural, earth scientific, economical and society heritage. We renew the information boards of the study trail of Somoskő, which is one of the most important value by our geopark. We created a methodical guide and workbook, which presents the foundations of educating the NNG’s organic and inorganic natural values.

- **The most progressive initiative**

We very pleased about this organization’s founding is finished, and it received in funding for its operation work from the Hungarian Ministry of Public Administration and Justice. It’s very important for the Novohrad – Nógrád Geopark, because this organization wants and able to help us through a large scale in the geopark’s progress – it’s declared in its funding documents.

- **The most beautiful moment**

During the evening of 14th May 2011 more than 1400 people entered and spent four hours in the torch lit grounds of Fil’akovo Castle, Slovakia, during the „Night of Museums and Galleries”, an event organized for the fourth time this year. The programme concentrated on the values and contribution of the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark.

- **Hoping in the future**

Our geopark's organizations (HU: Novohrad – Nógrád Geopark Nonprofit Ltd., SK: Z.p.o. Geopark Novohrad – Nógrád) prepare two applications with a very hard work to the last circle of the Hungary – Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013.

János Lóska and Erika Anderková – Executives, and István Kéri – Office Manager of the Novohrad – Nógrád Geopark Nonprofit Ltd.

info@nngeopark.eu



Geopark square

The Papuk Geopark has continued its actions in 2011 - improving the geological heritage conservation activities, continued the activities of education and geotourism development.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- Situated in Velika, next to the Visitor and Educational Centre, a unique “Geopark square” has been built. An area of almost 1.000 sq meters has been arranged as a little park. We set up eleven educational panels and ten boulders which represent the most typical type of rocks from Papuk Geopark. The square is mostly dedicated to the European Geopark Network and Papuk geology.
- On the occasion of celebrating Earth Day 2011 Papuk Geopark and the Croatian Geological Association have organized a Geological symposium. This three-day event took place at Papuk Geopark’s Visitor and Educational Centre in Velika. The event had a big success. We managed to attract children from local primary and secondary schools. Through various workshops and lectures children could find out about geological features of Papuk Geopark or learn something about EGN, an organization which protects geological heritage all around Europe.

- We put up a new wooden house (12 sq meters) at the touristic area of Orahovica lake. This cottage will be used as information point for tourists who will visit that particular area of Geopark. Tourists will be able to get leaflets, brochures, souvenirs and other materials of Papuk Geopark.

Goran Radonic kontakt@pp-papuk.hr

Goran Pavic goran_pavic@yahoo.com



Guided visit with University of Salerno

During 2011 the National Park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano (European and UNESCO Global Geopark) continued its 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 of the protected area.

Highlights of the year included:

- Realization of the regular program of environmental education oriented to the schools, connected to the themes of Geodiversity, Biodiversity, Landscape, sport and nature, nutrition education and sustainable development. In 2011 the educational activities involved more than 3.000 students through workshops at school, field trips and exhibition visits.
- 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.

- The National Park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano- Geopark also manages two marine protected areas: “Santa Maria di Castellabate” and “Costa degli infreschi e della Masseta”. These are zones with exceptional biodiversity and geodiversity. Then the National Park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano- Geopark is the largest protected area in Italy.
- The Park Authority has worked as a national and international cooperation for the realization of projects financed by the European Community.

Aniello Aloia a.aloia@cilentoediano.it

Angelo De Vita direttore@cilentoediano.it



Guided visit of the exhibition Autour du galet (All about pebbles) by its author, Georges Bronner

• **Exhibitions & conferences**

The Geopark hosted an exhibition on natural hazards (earthquakes, floods ...) and organized a conference on the subject. Conferences were proposed including one on the ochres by JM Triat, geologist (100 people), and another one on volcanoes and earthquakes, by JM Bardintzeff, volcanologist, (120 people). Visits of the mill of Salignan and the mammal footprint slab of Viens were also proposed (220 people).

"Autour du galet" (All about pebbles) by Georges Bronner (Ste-Tulle, multimedia library). This exhibition deals with the life of pebbles from their geological origin to their use by people (tools, buildings...). It also shows how pebbles can be used for artistic production and how they inspire the shape of usual objects. A pebbles exhibition, realised by a local artist (Jacques Le Texier), was also presented for this event. 350 people visited this exhibition.

Day of the home cultural heritage. This event proposes to discover heritage sites or traditional know-how through many activities: guided tours, exhibitions,

tastings... Twenty eight activities occurred in the Geopark area about the subject "Hidden heritage". (560 visitors).

The new guided tours booklet: "Luberon, rendez-vous nature" includes 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.

- **Education**

Annual program: 20 education actions about geology, cultural heritage, ecology, history... concerning 250 classes (more than 5.000 pupils). Support to projects : 33 classes.

Heritage discovery: as owner of "Chateau de l'environnement", the Geopark provided educational support and received 63 classes including 23 classes from the Geopark area: a total of 369 days of education activities.

"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; a third one is expected in 2012-2013.

- **Sismotour**

This itinerant exhibition carried out by the "Palais de la Découverte" aimed at sensitizing the general public to seismic hazards. It was presented for 2 weeks at the international school of Manosque, enriched with a regional component coordinated by the Park. The model of an earthquake-resistant house in reference to the new seismic zoning in France and the new rules of construction was carried out. The Park oversaw the visit of classes (630 people received) and organized a conference, opened to the public. In parallel, the Confederation of Crafts and Small Business Building organized a training session on earthquake-resistant construction rules.

Stephane Legal stephane.legal@parcduluberon.fr



School children participating in an education project in the Petrified Forest Museum. More than 2500 children took part in educational programmes this year

The Lesvos Petrified Forest European and Global Geopark was revalidated for the 4th time during summer 2011 and the result was the certification of the high quality standards of its operation and services. Due to the Geopark success local authorities decided to submit the application for the extended Lesvos Geopark last November.

Other highlights of the year included:

- A new project for the creation of the Nisiopi islet petrified forest marine park was financed by the EU and Greek Government.
- The Lesvos Petrified Forest European and Global Geopark participated in RACCE project and organized a series of events for the sensitisation of the young children on earthquake hazard with the participation of school classes during October.
- Organisation of the temporary exhibition: “Maritime heritage in the Aegean” followed by guided tours and special educational Programmes.

- European Geoparks Week 2011: Various events were organized in May and June, including a presentation on the European Geoparks Network and its members, guided tours in the Petrified forest parks, exhibitions, photo and painting competition, screening of documentaries and educational programs.
- Many scientific events took place within the Geopark (conferences, field visits) and the Geopark activities were presented in International Forums (10th European Geoparks Conference – Norway,).
- 15 events have been organised during the Geopark's summer festival under the title "Earth Feast", including lectures, traditional music, photo and painting exhibitions, book presentations, film screening and open air activities.
- Presentations of the Lesvos Geopark in Turkey in order to promote the Lesvos Geopark as quality geotourism destination (International conference Edremit April, Exhibition in Istanbul May, Collaboration with Turkish Universities and field excursions in May and July).

Nickolas Zouros: lesvospf@otenet.gr



Participants of National Tourist Guides Meeting in front of the monumental Crataegus monogyna at the Archaeological site of Zominthos.

2011 was a very difficult period not only for Psiloritis Geopark but Greece in general. The economic crisis affected many sectors of public and private activity resulting in a significant cut down of Geoparks budget. Local authority's contribution was minimized as well as other initiatives like LEADER+ or other national projects expected more than a year, present significant delay. Hence many of the planned activities of geopark have been postponed awaiting the initiation of these projects.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- Due to Local Administration changes, geopark contacted several meetings on January and February with officers from the new Municipalities informing on geoparks activities and discussing potential collaborations and projects on geotourism and geoconservation.
- Geopark Coordinator, C. Fassoulas presented geotourism activities in front of the General Assembly of authorised Tourism Guides and the Secretary General of Crete, and guided a group in Psiloritis Geopark, on the 15 of February, during the Annual Guides Meeting held in Heraklion.

- We successfully implemented the program for the EGN Week except for the cancellation of one talk. A lot of local people participated, whereas a close collaboration has been established with new Local Authorities for new projects implementation.
- We organised a crucial meeting in June 2011 with local authorities and services, with the presence of the Vice-General Director for environment of the Region of Crete and the directors of the Environmental and Forest services of the region of Crete in order to organise the efforts of the national nomination of Geopark as an official Greek Natural Park-Geopark. Several meetings with lower officers followed after.
- The geopark has participated and assisted the field work of two independent surveys contacted under post graduate programs for geotourism development and influence of geoparks in local economy respectively, in July and August.
- The second pupils' art context "Discover Psiloritis Natural Park" has been announced and is still open. We plan awarding ceremony for Easter period.
- Psiloritis Geopark participated in the National Tourist Guides meeting that was held in December 2011 in Crete, organising a field trip in Psiloritis Mountains and presenting EGN and geoparks initiative through a public talk.
- Geopar participated in January together with AKOMM Psiloritis S.A. and two Municipalities in a project proposal addressed to the Regional Environment Fund related with European Trail E4 and other trails in Psiloritis Mountains. Proposal in collaboration with municipalities under the Regional Funding Projects.

Dr C. Fassoulas

www.psiloritis-natural-park.gr



The aspiring geopark of Ganwon DMZ (South Korea) during the meeting in Rocca di Cerere Geopark (February 2011)

2011, an year for enforcement of geological heritage policies in Sicily.

2011 was a year full of commitments and activities aimed mainly at strengthening policies in support of geological heritage in Sicily, of Geoparks as a development model for rural areas and to implement new structures and new projects for the expansion, enhancement and promotion of the Rocca di Cerere Geopark. In particular it highlights:

- Organization of The 3° Workshop of Italian Geoparks, “*Legislative instruments for the protection and valorization of the geological heritage in Italy: reconnaissance at a national and regional level*” in collaboration with the Madonie Geopark, within the celebration of the EGN Week 2011, involved numerous people interested and the start of important political actions also aiming to recognize, with a specific regional proposal law, the value of the European Geoparks Network.
- Preparation to the constitution of Sicilian Regional Network of protected areas with Messinian Evaporites with several meetings in Santa Ninfa

cave Natural Reserve (TP), in Madonie Geopark and in Regional Department for Territory and Environment (established in January 2012 with the enactment of the Decree setting up the network, which includes Sicilian Geoparks, which recognizes the EGN as a cultural reference. This represents the first official recognition of the Sicily Region of the geoparks and the EGN after years of activity in preparation).

- Study Visit of representatives of Italian LAGs: “*European Geopark on the experience as a model of development for rural areas*” with the implementation of an informative DVD for the EU Commission and other LEADER territories (only the best 10 initiatives were selected within a number of 180 rural departments in the whole Italy). The demo video of this study visit was presented in September in “Expò Rurale” national fair in Firenze by INEA-Italian Rural Network, cellule of the European Rural Network. Also, in February we hosted the delegation from Ganwon realizing activities of sharing of best practices with the aspiring geopark of Ganwon DMZ (South Korea) and then we hosted representatives from aspiring Geopark of Valle del Crocchio, that includes the Sila National Park - Calabria region, Italy.
- The Rocca di Cerere Geopark, during this year, was enriched by several actions like: The opening of a new Laboratory of Environmental Education and Information in collaboration with the Province of Enna partner of the Rocca di Cerere Geopark; Preparation for the project “New researches about deep geology of Pergusa lake and paleo climate records in plio-pleistocenic lakes in the Rocca di Cerere area” (400,000.00 €); The project of final implementation of a Visitor Center inside the Natural Reserve of Capodarso and Imera River Valley (600,000.00 €); The project for the restoration and new finalization of old Marine House on Pergusa Lake beach (1,200,000.00 €); Design and implementation of the national forum website of Italian Geoparks (www.geoparchitaliani.it, www.geoparchiitaliani.it); Last but not least, inside the Villa Zagaria Center, during 2012 will be created the new multimedial museum of territory.

Francesco Chiaramonte chiaramonte@roccadicerere.eu
Giuseppe Maria Amato ass.territorio@provincia.enna.it



2011 was the first full year for Rokua Geopark to operate as an European and Global Geopark.

- The opening of Rokua Geopark was celebrated during the 2011 European Geoparks week. The festivities included raising the Rokua Geopark flag, publication of the Rokua Geoparks geological outdoors map, official speeches, music, product presentations and coffee. The opening gathered lots of people from the Geopark area and it was widely noticed in the media.
- The first Rokua Geopark Challenge Adventure race (photo) was competed on July 2011. The competition race gathered about 160 competitors to test their limits in the Geoparks unique terrains. The race included several sports: running, bicycling, roller-skating, orienteering, swimming, diving and climbing. The race was also shown in the Finnish television channel Four as one hour long summary. The idea behind the race is to make the Geopark area and its offerings better known to large public. The race will be competed again in 2012. The race can be viewed in YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BY2NXWYU1rM&feature=related>
- During 2011 we strengthened the relationship between the schools and Geopark. For example the Geopark organized a Geopark night for

the local high schools. The event gathered about 150 students and teachers from the three high schools of the area. During the night the students and teachers completed several Geopark activity related tasks in ten teams. The event began in the evening and ended in early morning. A Geopark course has also started in two high schools of the area.

- Rokua Geopark strengthened its visibility by opening a new website: www.rokuageopark.fi . The website presents the area and its activities in two languages, Finnish and English. The visibility was also enhanced by translating the Geopark brochure into new languages; the brochure is now available in Finnish, English, Russian and Chinese. The Chinese translation was done for the Hangzhou travel fair to which the Geopark participated as part of the tourism in Oulu region.

Vesa Krökki vesa.krokki@humanpolis.fi
Jari Nenonen jari.nenonen@gtk.fi



Determining rocks with the park's educational material in the new workroom

- **Change in Management.** 2011 brought a change in the Nature- and Geopark Management. Reinhard Mitterbäck and Katharina Weiskopf have left the Park and the board has entrusted Thomas Drechsler who is Managing Tourism Director of the “Alpine Region National Park Gesäuse” with the management of the Eisenwurzen Nature and Geopark. It was one of the major efforts of the new management to put the financial performance of the park on a sound base.
- **Dissemination.** Major efforts were made to attract visitors for the geology programmes. An workroom was added to the GeoWorkshop of Gams . A newly designed information leaflet and an additional workshop informed school teachers about programmes and the Geo-Workshop has opened its facilities in the summer for individual visitors. The Nature- and Geopark has hosted 15 student groups from all over Austria for one-week programmes. A newly opened family and nature hotel has improved the housing facilities considerably.
- **Museums, Exhibitions.** In September, the completely overhauled Museum of the Vienna Water Works in Wildalpen which is one of our partners, was re-opened. The natural history of the area and especially its karst phenomena are key aspects of its exhibition. The GeoCenter Gams has presented its annual

special exhibition in cooperation with the Vienna Museum of Natural History under the title “Fossils- Illusions and Reality”.

- **Biodiversity.** Together with the Styrian Nature Park Academy, the park is actively engaged in improving the knowledge on biodiversity. Seminars in all its communities have communi-cated the wealth of wild herbs. Some 250 students of all the park´s communities gathered on 22 May in St. Gallen to celebrate the International Day of Biodiversity. Together with the local forest authorities, Irmi Auer has organized a spectacular programme on Forest Biodiversity and Forestry which was highly acclaimed by the participants.

Heinz Kollmann h.kollmann@eisenwurzten.com



Delivery of diploma accreditation of the European Geoparks Network to municipalities of Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark.

In September 2011 the Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla was incorporated into the European Geoparks Network, so then started his activities as a European Geopark. But last year the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark has made, prior to joining the Network, various tasks related to the promotion and protection of geological heritage and the promotion of geotourism.

- **Communication and Information**

Since the incorporation of Sierra Norte de Sevilla in the European Geoparks Network were generated and spread multiple reports, articles and press notes about the European Geoparks Network and the Global Geoparks Network for various media.

It has also make presentations about the Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla geological heritage and the European Network and the Global Network, to various stakeholders: this activity will be pursued in the coming months.

• **Updating information on the Geopark**

Following the declaration of Sierra North and European Geopark has begun a process of updating the information on this territory in the various media that give place: web pages (from the Ministry of Environment of the Regional Government of Andalusia, the European Geoparks Network and UNESCO), and paper editions (Official Guide to the Natural Park Sierra Norte de Sevilla, the new edition of the European Geoparks book.)

• **Geotourism**

During 2011 have continued performing several acts in relation to the Geopark Geotourism, among which should be highlighted: the celebration of GEOLODÍA 2011 (a diffusion geological trip organized by the Geological Society of Spain) and the edition of 2012 Calendar with photos and information from various geol sites of the Geopark, and texts about the European Geoparks Network.

• **Conservation, Research and Development**

During 2011 there have been several tasks, many of which have continued in 2012, to develop the Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla:

- Design and positioning of various interpretive panels on the geology of the Geopark.
- Study on "Geological evaluation of the suture complex and metamorphic core of Almaden de la Plata", end-degree project of the University Pablo de Olavide of Seville.
- Various tasks of conservation and restoration of places of interest of the Geopark: Second Annual Environmental Volunteer Network of the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark.
- Design of several geological routes in the Geopark.

Inmaculada Cuenca Bonila inmaculada.cuenca@juntadeandalucia.es

Alberto Gil Toja agil3@tragsa.es



- **Opening of two Geological Routes:** “El Río Bailón” and “La Tiñosa”, which include new Geopark interpretive panels and the edition of their respective guide booklets.
- **Revalidation:** Sierras Subbéticas revalidated its status as a European/ Global Geopark. It was awarded with the green card during the Coordination Committee Meeting in Gea Norvegica (October 2011).
- **Geolo-day:** The geoloday could be considered the national day of Geology in Spain. One Geoloday is celebrated in each Spanish province. The Geoloday of the province of Córdoba was organized for the second time in Sierras Subbéticas.
- **European Geoparks Week.** Two complete weeks full of activities were offered to the local inhabitants and visitors. These included activities with local artists, expert’s talks, geotourism courses, visits of the wardens to schools to promote respect to natural heritage, guided walks, visits to enterprises

Baldomero Moreno Arroyo: baldomero.moreno.arroyo@juntadeandalucia.es
Alicia Serna Barquero: asbarquero@yahoo.es

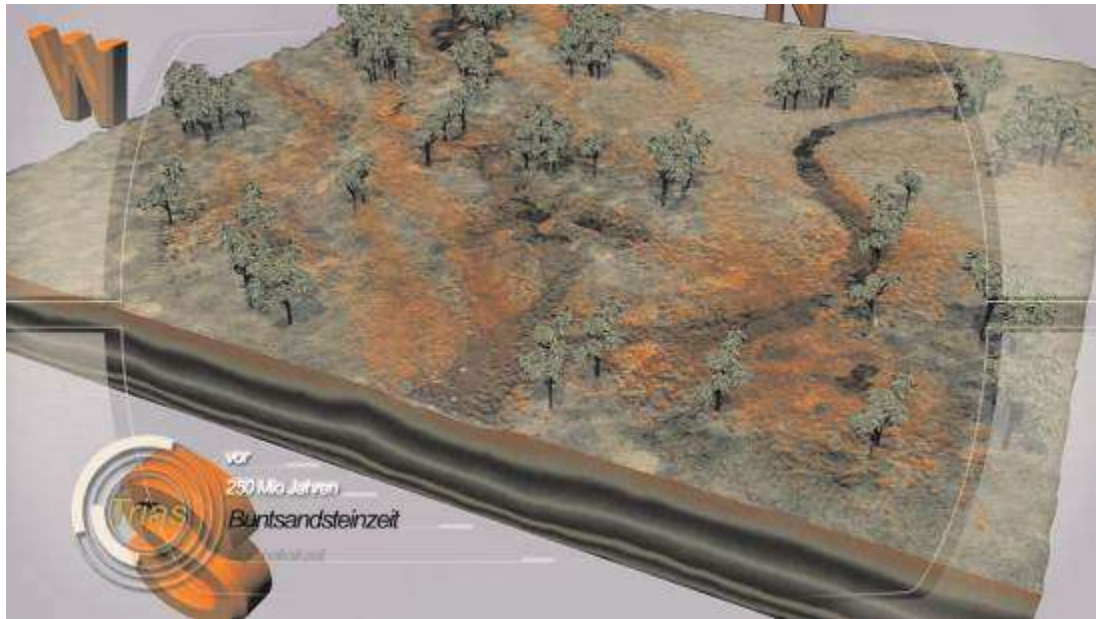


*2nd Intensive course on Geological Heritage. Glacier of Monte Perdido
Picture: Anchel Belmonte*

Year 2011 has been especially important for the Geopark area regarding paleontological and educational activities

- The Geopark has collaborated in the findings of Eocene paleontological fossils unique in Europe. They are the most important vertebrate fossils found in the Geopark and they are expected to be a great chance for scientific, cultural and tourism promotion of the Geopark.
- Participation of the Geopark in a National Commission created to develop the contents concerning geology in secondary schools in Spain.
- Organization of the 2nd Intensive Course on Geological Heritage, aimed to geologists and University students, with official recognition by several Spanish universities.
- Creation of 3 educational routes for schools, with specific guides for the teachers and for the pupils.

Anchel Belmonte anchelbr@unizar.es
Ana Ruíz gerencia@sobrarbe.com



A scene from the computer-animation TERRA.genesis, showing the change of Landscape in the Triassic age

Main activities:

- **TERRA.bike**

Installation of five E-Bike recharging station close to sights and/or restaurants in different parts of the Geopark. The stations work on the basis of solar energy. In parallel, 15 E-Bikes were bought to be rented at the Bicycle rental station in the center of Osnabrück.

- **TERRA.genesis**

Production of a 20 minute 3D Computer animation on the geological development of the TERRA.vita region, demonstrating the processes of sedimentation and tectonics of the past 300 Million years. The animation includes visualizations of processes in different scales as well as pictures of former landscapes, flora and fauna.

- **TERRA.natura**

Production of a new series of booklets on protected areas on European scale (Natura 2000). The booklets integrate detailed information on landscape history with the description of the protected parts of flora and fauna. Hiking routes are described in detail to offer the user a good way to get to know the area.

- **TERRA.vista**

Installation of a mobile phone based information system offering short stories and explanations on views from outlook towers and platforms all over the Geopark. The user can dial a special phone number to get specific information on different issues. In 2011 the system was installed in the central part of the park and will be extended to the west in 2012.

- **TERRA.trail 18**

Installation of an additional bicycle route in the western part of the Geopark (the communities of Westerkappeln and Lotte), filling up a gap in the existing network of bicycle routes. The route booklet provides detailed information of the natural and cultural history of the area. It completes a set of so far 17 routes.

Timo Kluttig kluttig@lkos.de



A group of students during “Know the Park” in the Mining Museum of Gavorrano

- 20th of January 2011 Massa Marittima (GR) Italy - Presentation Day of Tuscan Mining Geopark to local communities. The Conference, *“Il Parco Nazionale delle Colline Metallifere – Tuscan Mining Geopark. Primi passi nella rete”* (Colline Metallifere National Park – Tuscan Mining Geopark. First steps in the network), has provided the participation of Maurizio Burlando (National Coordinator Italian Geoparks), Vajolet Masé (Adamello Brenta Geopark) and Antonio Bartelletti (Park of the Apuan Alps). The President Luca Agresti and the Tuscan Mining Geopark staff presented geopark program and plan of action of the activities for the promotion of geological heritage in relation to sustainable economic development of the territory. Presentation of the new logo of the Tuscan Mining Geopark;
- Partecipation in the call for candidature for the selection of a "DESTINATION OF EXCELLENCE FOR TOURISM AND RECONVERSION OF SITES" European Community Project EDEN 5 - *European Destinations of Excellence* - 2nd place “Award Ceremony in Rome Department of Tourism 23 September 2011.
- Project “know the Park” (September 2011 - February 2012). 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.

- Summer 2011 – Project “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 geological heritage and of the park.

Alessandra Casini parcominerario@comune.gavorrano.gr.it

Riccardo Cinelli r.cinelli@provincia.grosseto.it



The Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark was recognized in 2011 by the EGN and GGN. It was an important year for the educational project. In the picture, the children of the Guadalupe School in the commemorating act of recognition as an European and Global Geopark (including a Norwegian souvenir!).

- The Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark was recognized by the European and the Global Geoparks Networks during the European Conference held in Langesund, Norway. All partners agreed that the high degree of joint work, the good coordination between government and private institutions and the social consensus were the values that enabled this success.
- The “Geocentros” educational project was held in a large number of schools in the territory. The information given to the management teams and the teacher’s training made easy the organization of workshops and geosites’ interpretation paths with the students.
- The provision of Geopark’s facilities has continued. During the year it was opened the Interpretation Centre of the Castañar de Ibor’s Cave. Also the Costanaza phosphorite Mine was adapted for visit. New works began for new equipments such as the reception center for visitors and other interpretation centers.
- The campaign to raise Information and public awareness coordinated by the LEADER group Aprodervi (Geopark partner) was maintained throughout the year: Social support to the proposed Geopark lived moments of

brilliance. The facebook page added about 1400 enthusiastic adherents (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/Groups/165864893440526/>). The campaign “All with the Geopark” reached all the villages whose city councils put commemorative banners on the facades. The newsletter “Villuercas Ibores Jara” kept the geopark info updated. (<http://aprodervi.blogspot.com/p/periodico-comarcal.html>).

José María Barrera jmbarrera@dip-caceres.es
www.geoparquevilluercas.es



Evaluation mission 2011. Geopark experts Tony Ramsay and Heinz Kollmann visiting the thematical walking trail "Parcours of Senses" at Immerath together with Andreas Schüller, Vulkaneifel Geopark and representatives of the village council (Mayor Stefan Harbecke and Ekkehard Nau).

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 geyser. Many places offer fantastic insights to the origin of earth crust. Besides this Vulkaneifel is predestinated for recreation in a natural highland environment.

Highlights of the year:

- **Winner in the contest** "Clever in rural areas" in the frame of the regional LEADER activities with a submitted project focussing on the qualification of Nature and Geopark Guides. Extended qualification program to reveal additional income for people in rural areas
- The geopark was awarded one as one of the **winners of the contest "wirsind-heimat" (our home-country)** by the Volks- und Raiffeisenbank (an agricultural cooperative bank). The award was given for the development of an interregional network integrating municipalities and focussing on sustainable development in rural areas.

- **Membership revalidation** for the European and Global Geoparks Network. Following the revalidation mission of the EGN experts and recalling the progress reports during the evaluation period the Coordination Committee decided at its 28th meeting in GeoNorvegia Geopark in September 2011 to confirm the network-membership of Vulkaneifel for another four years.

Dr. Andreas Schüller andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de



The activities in the Geological and mining Park throughout whole 2011 and part of 2012 was devoted to the attainment of establishing objectives related primarily to the redevelopment of abandoned mining sites and the promotion and development of the Geopark. Among the priority needs of the internal structural order we highlight, in particular, the Geopark director new nomination, dr. Francesco Usalla. In addition, it has been provided to processing and approval of a new regulation for the granting of legal aid, economic contributions and aids offered by the Geological and Mining Park. Finally, are been begun procedures for the new Statute definition with the Park municipalities, with the aim to create a territorial system of the Geopark that considers the Geopark itself as a coordinator of image promotion and development of sites located into the municipality areas recognized as World Heritage by UNESCO. Regarding to cultural activity, promotion and development the initiatives performed have been several.

1. Within the recovery of industrial archeology was carried out an investment program that involved co-financing for direct action to recover assets of major geological and mining valuable.
2. the Cagliari-Elmas airport "Mario Mameli" 18 mini spots by title "The Geological-mining Park invites you to discover: Another Sardinia", have been initiated and dedicated to the main historical and natural sites present in the Geopark areas, in continuous projection from the 30 monitors located in different rooms of the airport.
3. With the active collaboration by the Department of the Tourism from the Autonomous Sardinia Region, the Mining GeoPark was present with own box in the 2011 edition of the prestigious International Tourism Exchange, at the Fieramilano in Rho.
4. In April there was the participation with own box to an important event the promotion of the tourism in Sardinia, organized by the Centro Servizi per le Imprese of the Camera di Commercio of Cagliari at the famous Mercado Colón in Valencia, Spain.
5. Between April and May there was the participation to the second edition of International Tourism Exchange Active in Sardinia (BITAS).

6. Sardinia Mining GeoPark participated to the Ring-around-the-rosey in Sardinia, scholastic Fair of the Tourism in Cagliari at the halls of the International Fair.
7. in February the ceremony of awarding the scholarships to the winners of Project Thesis mining GeoPark was held, a prestigious competition sponsored and maintained by the GeoPark in collaboration with the Consulta delle Associazioni per il Parco Geominerario and re-organized for this year 2012.
8. In April there was the visit of more than 50 students of the 3B, 4B and 4C classes from the Arbus Comprehensive Institute "Pietro Leo" for an interesting project in which students have assumed the role of young "Cicerone " for the event "Monumenti Aperti "now in its 15th edition.
9. With the support and contribution of Mining GeoPark and the municipalities of Arbus and Guspini, was held the LandWorks Sardinia 2011, II Workshop of Landscape Valorization organized by the Faculty of Architecture in Alghero regarding to the Master of Mediterranean Landscape Urbanism.
10. The Mining GeoPark of Sardinia has formalized with The Ente Foreste of Sardinia a triennial collaboration to establish a regional network of shared paths, connected, consistent, accessible by hiking maps made specifically for hiking and trekking also through the Web.
11. in cooperation with the IGEA SpA, the Italian Center of the Coal Culture-Carbonia and the collaboration of the Mining GeoPark Community, the Park has joined the event " Mines Open " during the 3rd National Day of Mines.
12. From 4 to 6 July 2011, at the Palazzo Bellavista in Iglesias and the Great Mine of Serbariu in Carbonia, took place the works of an International Symposium on Mining Landscape.
13. The mining GeoPark of Sardinia has long since entered into a memorandum of understanding signed and promoted by the Ministry of Environment, the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, the Carbonia-Iglesias Province, the Municipality of Carloforte for the realization in the San Pietro island of a pilot project entitled "Ecological Island in the Mediterranean" SPIEME.
14. From 16 to 19 August 2011 was held the visit of delegates of Geoparks Network of UNESCO aimed at assessing progress in the last four completed by mining Geo Park of Sardinia.
15. In September, in collaboration with the Municipality of Buggerru, the IGEA SpA and the STARTVL Ltd., the mining GeoPark has opened a new route called From Cala Domestica to Buggerru, in the South West of Sardinia
16. At the Mining Technical Institute "George Asproni" Iglesias the Geopark participated to the presentation conference of the Digital Library E-pistemec. This is a library network of scientific, technical and naturalistic of the Middle-Upper Tyrrhenian Sea. It is a project funded by the Operational Programme Italy-France "Maritime".
17. At the end of September the Mining GeoPark organized at its headquarters a study meeting between the University of Hamburg and the University of Pennsylvania focusing on Architecture Landscape.

Francesco Muntoni - francescomuntoni@parcogeominerario.sardegna.it
 Roberto Rizzo - robertorizzo@parcogeominerario.sardegna.it



2011 was the year the Burren and Cliffs of Moher was inscribed as a member of the European and Global Geopark Networks. The award was presented to our delegation from Clare County Council and the Geological Survey of Ireland hosted by the Gea Norvegica Geopark in Norway in September. This award recognised the range of quality initiatives and ongoing work in the Burren region carried out by the local visitor centres, ecotourism businesses, conservation groups, education groups, farming groups, government bodies, regional tourism development and state organisations, festival and event organisers, and individual Burren enthusiasts.

1. Since its establishment in 2007, the Burren Connect Project, which managed the application, has successfully developed a support network of local individuals, groups and stakeholders in the Burren, County Clare and nationwide. This foundation enabled the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark project to draw upon the advice and feedback from the network of community groups, businesses, advisors and state organisations, which altogether contributed to receiving the award of European and Global Geopark.
2. The Burren Ecotourism Network was launched in March 2011. The network of accredited ecotourism operators is a vital partner in the operations of the Geopark; providing sustainable tourism products in a range of nature-based activities and promoting local food and crafts within the Geopark.
3. A network of 9 publically accessible geosites with associated interpretation/educational materials and signage were opened in 2011 and Geopark interpretative and information panels were added to all 11 of the visitor and education centres in the Geopark.

4. A range of very high quality geological training and interpretative material aimed at schools and nature-based businesses was launched in February 2011. This was the outcome of an Interreg IVB Northern Periphery Programme project called NEED (www.GeoNEED.org) and provided the opportunity to create a network of learning environments and schools/local business learning and training partnerships in the Geopark.

Carol Gleeson, Geopark Manager cgleeson@burren.ie

Dr. Pat O'Connor, Geopark Advisor pjoconnor30@gmail.com

For further information on the Geopark please visit www.burren.ie