

# EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK

## Geopark Progress Reports

*April 2008*



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**Reports not received from:** Kamptal, Mechlenburg, Sobrarbe, Hateg.

## **Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark**

### **Progress Report**

1. Successful support from HLF for Community Earth Heritage Champions project worth approximately £200,000 in the Geopark
2. Worcs GAP Audit (auditing geology of Geopark in Worcestershire)
3. Baseline data – audit of superficial deposits, soils and rivers in the Worcester section of the Geopark
4. Production of Kington and Hergest Trail Guide with funding from LEADER+
5. Huntley Geological Reserve: Purchase of site, research and development of publicity materials
6. Community Liaison Programme continues to deliver guided trails and talks within the Geopark on a regular basis.

## **BEIGUA EUROPEAN GEOPARK**

### **Activity Report, September 2007 – March 2008**

*During last four months Beigua Geopark staff continued his work to improve the geological heritage conservation activities within the frame of the wider and more complex strategy of conservation of the natural and historical-cultural heritage that the protected areas has.*

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

#### **EGN – GGN activities**

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

#### **Geopark events and progress**

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

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

### **Activities by others Organizations**

25. Stage in Beigua Geopark of a student from the Environment and Earth Sciences Department of the University of Genoa

26. PhD in Geoconservation in Beigua Geopark activated by the Environment and Earth Sciences Department of the University of Genoa
27. Geotourism activities and guided visits led by the "Geotourism Association"

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## **European and Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald Activity Report September 2007 – March 2008**

September - March: Participation in the elaboration of the Regional Development Programme (2007-2013) for the central area of the Geopark (as European Funds application document); member of the Regional Steering Group; Participation in the elaboration of the new Regional Tourism Concept; member of the Regional Steering Group; Participation in the working group for the development of the visitor information center, UNESCO world heritage Messel pit

September 2007: Annual meeting of the EGN, Northern Highlands; presentation of the Geotope 2007 (Pleistocene dune landscape in the Rhinegraben), cooperation contract with the Global Geopark Mt. Lushan (PR China) – visit and field trip; annual Geo-Naturpark day; workshop “regional marketing” with regional government; celebration of Geopark-focussed primary school; Geopark consultancy for the Westerwald territory; Field University, Lesvos

October 2007: presentation of the Geopark short movie for all Geopark information centers, entrance gates and member communities; “stone music” adventure day at the Felsenmeer; celebration of as Quality Nature park; presentation of the hiking map No. 18; certificates for Geopark on site and Geopark on the farm guides; participation in TAIEX workshop Sibiu, Romania

November 2007: 3 day workshop for a delegation of 25 teachers of the European and Global Geopark Gea Norvegica – geo-education, Ranger programme, school cooperation projects, field trips; preparation of “Forest Art 2008”; implementation of web-cam at the adventure trail “wine and rocks”

December 2007: meeting of the Geo-InfoNet (network of all Geopark information facilities in the territory), INTERREG meeting, Dublin; preparation and conception of “Geopark in Action” event 2008 in discovery area “High Odenwald”; Geo-working group – field trips, teacher tours; conception of the book “wine and rocks”; Christmas event with the Odenwald-Quelle (mineral water producer and sponsor of the Geopark) in the frame of a joint series of “adventure days”

January 2008: workshop “marketing and public relations” for regional farmers; preparation of the “Odenwald-Quelle” adventure days 2008; presentation of the new Geopark Information Terminals for Geopark entrance gates, information centers and member communities; presentation of the new Geopark overview map, preparation of Felsenmeer exhibition panels, meeting “Forest Art 2008”, registration and submission - international meetings 2008 (GGN meeting - Osnabrück; IGC - Oslo; Geotope 2008 Königslutter); preparation and conception of the EGN week 2008; contribution to the INTERREG IV C application of EGN

February 2008: meeting with sculptor for several projects “granite and sandstone”; meeting with the “Sparkasse-foundation”, conception of the Art-trail 2008, conception of the “sandstone year 2008” with webpage and

events; exhibition “climate change” in cooperation with the Museum Bensheim and the Bergstrasse wine growers; conception and meeting – Geotope 2008; participation in 4 Local Action Groups (entire Geopark territory) within the frame of LEADER+ follow up funding, development of framework for Geopark projects 2008-2013

March 2008: meeting with the city of Lorsch and the WHS Kloster Lorsch – development of touristic programme; annual meeting of all Geopark member communities; celebration: finalization of the Geopark hiking map collection (20 single maps, 1:20000) for the entire territory; conception and preparation of the project “Mediterranean garden” in cooperation with the Bergstrasse wine growers, the Hessian department of forestry and the climate network “Klaranet”; presentation of a new kind of Geopark information leaflet, presenting a Geopark Discovery Area

Claudia Eckhardt  
Dr. Jutta Weber



# **Bohemian Paradise- European Geopark**

Overview of the most important activities September 07 – March 08

## **1. Contribution towards the work of the Network**

- Participation in EGN Coordination meeting and 7th European Geopark Network Open Conference in Ulapool by two Geopark representatives (2 lectures).
- Bohemian Paradise Geopark has become a sought-after destination for introduction of thoughts on the network of European Geoparks, for representatives from the Slovakia and Poland. Consultancies were rendered to Slovak-Hungarian Geopark and Poland on their applications for membership of the European Network.
- Participation in International conference in prepared Slovakian-Hungarian Geopark, (lecture “European Geoparks Network”), 65 participants December 2007, Fil’akovo, Slovakia
- Participation in the International year of Earth – exhibition and opening ceremony in Prague – February 2008

## **2. Science and surveying**

- Research in palaeontology, mineralogy, the sandstone phenomenon, tectonics and volcanology has continued.
- Participation in 3<sup>rd</sup> congress of Czech Geological Society Volary 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007
- Participation in the National Workshop – Popularization of geology, September 2007 (lectures: Publishing house of Czech Geological Service – window to the world of geology, Popularization of geology on Czech internet, International year of Earth – new chance for geoscience in the Czech Republic, European Geoparks UNESCO as a tool for popularization of geology, New methods and forms of work for teachers)

## **3. Management structure**

- Bohemian Paradise Geopark Public Benefit Association Bohemian Paradise Geopark Public Benefit Association has established expert advice

## **4. Conservation (geoconservation)**

- Reconstruction of instructive path between Bitouchov and Podspalov
- Autumn cleaning of Bohemian Paradise 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007, 54 participants worked for 600 hours. Modifications against erosion on Vranovsky edge and in Besednicke rocks, disposal of disallowed waste disposal and cleaning of tourist routing in Maloskalsko, cleaning of Jizera river from the boat and cleanup of invasive pine-tree in Drabovna (Mala Skala)

## **5. Marketing and promotional activities**

- The exhibition “Geopark Bohemian Paradise – a chance for the region”, which introduces the idea and operation of European Geoparks with supporting films and lectures, took place in 12 places in the Geopark.
- Day of Bohemian Paradise Geopark UNESCO (20<sup>th</sup> September)
- Program for schools - we perceive nature by all senses

## **6. Participation in common activities**

- Power of plants (8<sup>th</sup> September)
- We recognize mushrooms of Bohemian Paradise (15<sup>th</sup> September)
- On bicycle from Lomnice to Kozákov (22<sup>nd</sup> September)
- Day of Bohemian Paradise Geopark UNESCO (20<sup>th</sup> September)
- Program for schools - We perceive nature by all senses
- temporary exhibition „Bohemian Garnet“
- temporary exhibition “Agates and jaspers”
- 28<sup>th</sup> Wenceslas neighbours meeting - presentation of the films with Bohemian Paradise, live music, celebration of 80 years of tramping in valley of Žehrovka (22<sup>nd</sup> September)
- Christmas, Christmas is coming (15<sup>th</sup> December)-production of decoration of birds from seeds and suet, singing of Christmas carols
- 3 new geopathes in Nová Paka surroundings
- new outside geological exposition at Tatobity

## **7. Geotourism actions**

- Day of Bohemian Paradise Geopark (20<sup>th</sup> September) Program for schools - we perceive nature by all senses
- Exploring geological history of the Geopark
- Bird watching
- February 2008 - 25 geotourists from Kazachstan

## **8. Educational activities**

- 3 students' final work was finished
- 128 hours of lectures for schools

## **8. Creation of promotional material**

- Four new postcards of the Bohemian Paradise Geopark
- Advertising of the Bohemian Paradise European Geopark in mass media
- Guide on Czech, Moravian and Silesia 2 – Bohemian Paradise – Turnov and Semily surroundings
- Guide on Czech, Moravian and Silesia 10 – Bohemian Paradise – Jičín and Nová Paka surroundings
- Book Nová Paka surroundings – East gate to the Bohemian Paradise Geopark

**Tomas Ridkosil and Martina Paskova**

# **CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR GEOPARK ACTIVITIES REPORT: October 2007 - March 2008**

## **1) Activities of Environmental Education**

- Geoenvironmental Program: "Learning to Read the Stones". The program consists in a guided visit by the Geotourist center "the House of Volcanoes" and a Geoambiental guided route through the Geopark.
- Travelling Classrooms and Travelling Schools Program. In these programs the students learn concepts as Geodiversity, Geoconservation or the European Geopark Network.
- Workshop of scientific experiences at the Geopark. This program shows, through plain and didactic examples, the geoenvironmental values of the Geopark.
- Environmental interpretation itineraries during course.

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

### **EUROPEAN GEOPARKS WEEK ON THE CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR GEOPARK**

They were organized together with RENPySA and the Environment Department of Andalusia Government. The activities consisted on the following events:

- Technical Journals realized in the locality of Rodalquilar.
- "House of the Volcanoes" inauguration. The first geotourist center of Andalusia.
- Presentations of the several European Geoparks, which illustrated over the educational activities, regional development and geotourism in its territories: Cabo de Gata – Níjar Geopark, (Spain). Parque Cultural del Maestrazgo Geopark (Spain), Naturtejo Geopark (Portugal), Vulkaneifel Geopark (Alemania), Marble Arch Caves (North Ireland, UK).
- Interpretation course for geological tourism. Addressed to environmental professionals and guides. Several conferences, a workshop and a geological route formed this course.

### **TRAVELLING EXHIBITION "THE MEMORY OF THE CAPE"**

Traveling exhibition focus in Geodiversity, GGN and EGN. This exhibition is travelling through the entire Almería province.

**- MATERIAL EDITION:**

- “Geology of Almeria’s desert environments. A field guide”.
- Several leaflets, maps and guides about the geopark.
- The book “The wind and the water in the construction of a landscape”.
- Quercus’s monographic article about the Geopark in its XX anniversary

**DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION IN THE NATIONAL TELEVISION (TVE2):**

This documentary programme tries to present the Geopark in Spain and its importance.

**-DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION IN PRIVATE TELEVISION (Channel +)**

This documentary programme presents the outstanding natural and geological values of the Geopark.

**- ATTENDANCE TO FITUR 2008.**

Fitur is one of the major International Fair on Tourism.

**- AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION OF GEOPARK WEEK**

Production of an audiovisual on the Geopark week of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark.

**3) Activities of Conservation, Investigation and Development in the Geopark**

**- EUROPEAN CHART OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM.**

Dossier preparation for the adhesion to the chart: the main developing subject is the geotourism in the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark.

**- XV BARCELONA AGREEMENT ON CLIMATIC CHANGE MEETING IN ALMERIA**

The Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark organized guided visits for the meeting’s participant.

**-COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITY**

Investigating and teaching activities from Spanish, European and American universities.

## **PRIVATED LANDS ACQUISITION OF HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE**

Andalusia's Government bought several privated properties of high

Geodiversity and biodiversity value, like the famous Monsul beach.

### **4) Activities related with the European Geoparks Network**

- Contribution on the European Geoparks Network (EGN) magazine, num. 5.
- Meeting of the Iberian Geoparks, for the preparation of a common project to the Interreg SUDOE program.
- Contribution to the Interreg IVc program.
- Contribution to the European Geoparks Network Table Coffee book.

## **Copper Coast Geopark, Ireland**

### **Progress Report: September 2007– March 2008**

#### Actions from Copper Coast Geopark Management Team:

1. Running of the Copper Coast Geopark (CCG) centre, information point and bistro at Annestown (up to Dec.07)
2. Twinning visit of Bunmahon (CCG) to Strohn (Vulkaneifel Geopark) (Sept.07)
3. Lismore Primary school fieldtrip with Sophie Preteseille (Oct.07)
4. Tipperary CBS Abbey Secondary School fieldtrip (geographical investigation) with Sophie Pr eteseille (Oct.07)
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> year Civil Engineer Students from University of Limerick on fieldtrip with Sophie Pr eteseille (Oct.07)
6. Mexican Day at the Bistro (Oct.07)
7. Fish cooking demo at the Bistro and book launch by local chef (Nov.07)
8. Community meetings in each of the CCG Villages held (Oct-Nov.07)
9. Printed CCG 2008 calendar (Nov.07)
10. Flower arrangement course (Dec.07)
11. Christmas Market (Dec.07)
12. CCG Centre provided as cinema for Irish premier of the life and works of New Zealand Artist Edith Collier incorporation with The Art Yard-Waterford (Dec.07)
13. CCG office & information outlet opened in Bunmahon (Jan.08)
14. Weekly Copper Coast Geopark News column in local newspapers
15. Presentation given by Mike Sweeney about the CCG at the 1st meeting of the Geopark Forum Ireland (Feb.08)
16. Visit of Fenor Bog by mature students from Waterford Institute of Technology with Copper Coast local guide Rita Byrne (Feb. 08)
17. Article feature in of the Earth Wise magazine of the British Geological Survey ( issue 25)
18. Completed ownership of Church for new centre (Mar.08)

19. Clonmel VTOS Secondary School fieldtrip (geographical investigation) with Sophie Préteseille (Mar.08)

Actions from other bodies beneficial to Copper Coast Geopark

1. Heritage Week 25<sup>th</sup> August –2<sup>nd</sup> September: Geology walks
2. Nomination of CCG for the County Waterford Community & Voluntary (CWCV) Awards 2007. Short listed for same. Certificate Issued (Nov.07)
3. Two communities from CCG were nominated for CWCV awards in different categories, both received top awards and one was the overall winner (Nov.07)
4. National TV coverage on RTE 1 “Eco-eye programme”, Sophie Préteseille interviewed about the geology of the area, why it is a Geopark and Fenor Bog was explored (Feb.08)

Actions to promote the EGN:

1. EGN corner with library available to the public for consultation.
2. Notice board with maps of all EGN members.
3. Pull ups permanently on display.
4. EGN leaflets in different languages on display and available.
5. All schools in surrounding area notified of “Meet your Geopark competition”.
6. CCG website with links and information on all EGN members’ websites.
7. Information stand and items for sale at community markets.
8. Presentation given by Sophie Préteseille about the EGN to the Irish branch of the Open University Geological Society AGM (Feb. 08).

## **Progress Report: Eisenwurzen Nature and Geopark**

The termination of the LEADER period and the definition of projects for a new period has put much strain on the Geopark officers. In close contact with the office for Central Europa in Vienna, Reinhard and Katharina have further initiated a new project in the frame of Interreg IVB. A definition of goals has been accomplished and contacts with potential partners are in an advanced stage.

After the very successful launch of packages together with the tourism enterprises, the Geopark has expanded its offer for this year considerably. In close cooperation with school authorities, new efforts have been made to promote one-day programmes for primary and secondary schools. The Geopark is fully integrated into Austrian IYPE activities and some of its projects for the public will be funded from these sources.

A remake of the GeoLine folder has been published in the beginning of the year. The Hieflau Snail Safari, a unique playful approach to the biology and palaeontology of the most successful mollusc group is proceeding well. The construction of the "snail house" is almost finished and the detailed planning together with scientists of the Vienna Museum of Natural History has come into its final stage. Also the Ice Age Trail is in the stage of realisation. After intensive discussion, an innovative 50 square meter geological model is currently realized in the Water Adventure Park of St. Gallen. It will demonstrate the course of water from (artificial) rain to springs, streams and rivers to marine basins. The visitor can interfere by increasing the water supply, adding sediment, building dams, manage inundations and much more.

There is currently much research activity of various groups in the area, especially on Cretaceous and Paleogene rocks. The investigations on the K/T Boundary together with Professor Andrei Grachev and other scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences is in the stage of writing up the results. Preparations for an international workshop on the K/T boundary in the Geopark in spring 2009 have begun.



# First Activity Report from the English Riviera Geopark

## 1 Geopark Administration

**1.1 How is our Geopark managed?** The English Riviera Geopark Organisation (ERGO) is managed by representatives from 15 local organisations from the voluntary, private and public sectors. Each organisation nominates a representative person to attend the ERGO Steering group meetings. This person is allocated to one of four action task groups. The four action task groups are, Geopark Administration, Education and Community, Conservation, Marketing & Tourism. Each action task group has a leader/spokesman who sits on the ERGO Executive group. The ERGO Executive group manages the day to day operations of the Geopark activity.

**1.2 How do local businesses and individuals participate?** Local businesses, organisations and individuals are encouraged to become members of ERGO. A membership fee is payable and each member signs up to the ERGO code of conduct, modeled from the EGN charta. In return members receive various benefits, the most important being a license to use the English Riviera Global Geopark logo. This logo is trademarked and we are attempting to strictly control its use.

**1.3 Patron of ERGO** We have a new patron, BBC TV presenter Dr Iain Stewart. Iain is well known in the UK and the States for his popular and award winning television series “Journeys from the Centre of the Earth” and “Earth the Power of the Planet”.

**1.4 Geopark Funding activity** Our new Geopark status is providing many new and exciting opportunities for the school children and students of the Bay. We have submitted a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), a UK national funding agency, to support 66% of the costs of a £74,000 (€97k) project to develop materials and coordinate a program of educational visits focused on promoting the geological heritage of our Geopark. Free coach transport is a key part of this project.

**2 Cross-border European Coordination Activity** We have supported a number of EGN activities and projects including; drawing up a 3 year project valued at €100,000 (£76k) as part of the EGN INTERREG ivC initiative; contributed funds towards the EGN’s association with the International Year of Planet Earth; supported the Art festival in Psiloritis Geopark in Crete by proposing artwork by a local artist; contributed text for the EGN magazine; and facilitated a team to represent our Geopark at the Osnabruck Earth Camp in June 2008. Furthermore a freelance journalist commissioned by UNESCO, visited our Geopark in February and has written an article for the UNESCO Courier online magazine on Geoparks, featuring our Geopark.

## 3 Education and Community

**3.1 Geopark national curriculum activity** The ERGO Education and Community task group has been developing national curriculum materials relating to the Geopark. An educational newsletter has been sent to approximately 50 primary and secondary schools within the Geopark explaining what the Geopark is and how it can help children understand and value the geodiversity of the area.

**3.2 Geopark Courses and Events in 2008** A programme of events is planned for the year including a packed week during Geopark Week in June 2008. These include; training 20 local Tourist Centre staff on a one-day training session on the Geopark concept; Geopark business development talks; Geopark coastal cruises; steam train Geopark rides; world sand sculpture festival; flint and fire demonstrations; dry stone walling courses; and a Conference at Torquay Museum in June will attract expert speakers on Geology and Palaeontology

**3.3 Geopark Traveling exhibition for schools** In collaboration with Torquay Museum, a traveling Geopark exhibition for schools is under development. This will be launched with a series of Geopark talks and activities at the schools hosting the exhibition.

## **4 Marketing & Tourism**

**4.1 Management of Tourism** The area tourism authority is run by the Torbay Development Agency, an body responsible for delivering economic regeneration in the area of the Geopark. The Director of Tourism sits on the ERGO Steering Group and has been actively promoting the new Geopark status. The new Geopark has appeared in numerous national advertising campaigns including the Radio Times magazine and the Daily Mail newspaper and the principle tourism guide is dominated with references to the new Geopark status. Many international journalists are attracted to the area each year, many drawn by Torquay's association with Agatha Christie and all press packs now include a strong focus on the Geopark.

**4.2 UK Parliamentary visit** The UK Government's Culture, Media and Sport Committee, made up of 7 cross-party Members of Parliament (MPs), visited the English Riviera in March as part of its inquiry into tourism in the UK. The visit coincides with British Tourism Week. The Committee held formal oral evidence sessions in public with local representatives of the tourism industry and visited Kents Cavern Caves. The new Geopark and its role in promoting geological heritage was well publicised during this visit.

## **5 ERGO Partner activity in the Geopark**

**5.1 Berry Head National Nature Reserve** An funding application has been made to the HLF for a £900k (€1.2m) grant as part of £1.8m (€2.4m) project to regenerate and protect this site. The project includes work on the Napoleonic defenses and forts, a new education and visitor centre, conservation of grazing areas and promotion of the Geopark.

**5.2 Limestone Grassland Project** Limestone vegetation in the Geopark is unique. The Squill-Spurge fescue grasslands are found nowhere else on the planet and only 22 ha exist. These can be considered one of the UK's rarest and most threatened vegetation types. Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Botanical Society of the British Isles, Plantlife and Natural England are working together to secure funding to restore and maintain Torbay's key Lowland

**5.3 New Residential Centre opens** A "linhay" barn and a "threshing" has been converted into a Camping Barn providing a residential experience for educational groups. The first group stayed in the Barn in October 2007 and bookings are strong for the coming season.

**5.4 New sustainable education centre** Constructed from straw bails, the new classroom/teaching kitchen will open at Occombe Demonstration Organic Farm, in the heart of the Geopark, in Summer 2008. Students from our local further education college are building this eco-friendly education centre from scratch, thanks to funding from the Learning Skills Council and a private charitable trust.

**5.5 The Kents Cavern Jawbone** The Kents Cavern human jawbone continues to attract international scientific interest and recently featured in a 30 minute primetime BBC Radio 4 programme entitled "The Jawbone". This small piece of ancient human bone, excavated from Kents Cavern, is 35 – 40,000 years old and is Britain's rarest human fossil. A team of international scientists, working on the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain (AHOB) project in London, are convinced the bone is Neandertal and tests continue to determine if they are right. In the meantime a research team is planning to re-open excavations in the cave in search of Neandertal leaf-point flint hand-axes, more commonly associated with modern humans.

## **Fforest Fawr Geopark: Progress Report September 07 to April 08**

Following the Coordination Committee Meeting of the EGN in September 2007 Fforest Fawr Geopark has experienced seven eventful and productive months. Progress within the Geopark since the last EGN business meeting is presented below.

### **Fforest Fawr Geopark Activities**

**1. Website.** Considerable progress is being made in the development of the website. It now contains~ 190 pages dealing with a variety of topics. The geology section has been amended and expanded and 'Community' Pages are being given a new content and added functionality e.g. with links to local websites.

**2. Waterfalls Centre (Pontneddfechan Geopark & Information Centre) Geopark Centre.** The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) has appointed Bright 3-D (website at <http://www.bright3d.com/>) to refurbish the centre following confirmation in September 2007 of a £100K grant from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund for Wales. The work should be largely completed by May 2008.

**3. Fforest Fawr Geopark Newsletter.** The first issue, in 2008, of the biannual FFG Newsletter will be published in March/April 2008. The aims of the Newsletter are as stated in the July 06 – April 07 Progress Report.

**4. Working with Tourist Providers.** This has involved the following activities:

**Establishing new links.** The link established between the Geopark and the Carmarthenshire Tourist Association with the aim of developing geotourism in the Region continues to develop.

**Training in Geotourism for Tourist Providers.** The following fieldtrips were organised for tourist providers to introduce geotourism within the Geopark:

- 24 September 2007 'Black Mountain Circular' organized in partnership with Carmarthenshire Tourism Association and Gallu.
- 27 Feb 2008 'Carry on up the Usk' organized by BBNPA in partnership with Medrwn and the Fforest Fawr Geopark .

**Brecon Beacons Tourism Conference 20.2 08.** Included a workshop for 20 delegates

**5. Presentations and Fieldtrips.** Fforest Fawr Geopark uses presentations and fieldtrips to raise the profile of the Geopark in South Wales. Presentations delivered since September 2007 are as follows:

### **Presentations: 2007**

27 Sept. Brecon U3A University of the Third Age (U3A) group at Theatr Brycheiniog

1 Oct. Holiday Fellowship Walking Group

8 Oct. Holiday Fellowship Walking Group

15 Oct. Upper Tawe Ramblers at Abercraf Miners Welfare Hall

29 Nov. Gwent Mountaineering Club

3 Dec. Caldicot U3A

6 Dec. Brecknock Wildlife Trust

### **Presentations: 2008**

25 Jan. Abergavenny U3A

12 Feb Abercraf Historical & Heritage Society

**6. Educational Activities.** The geopark is actively involved in education at all levels and is a member of the Earth Science Educational Forum in Wales. The geopark has also been adopted as a training area for fieldwork by the School of Earth Ocean and Planetary Sciences, Cardiff University. Educational activities since September 2007 include:

- 5 Oct 07. Leading a training day in the Upper Swansea Valley for Year 1 students, Geology Degree Scheme, School of Earth Ocean and Planetary Sciences, Cardiff University.
- 10 Oct. 07. Cardiff University and the Geopark initiated an MSc project to investigate alkaline drainage in the Black Mountain area.
- 20 Nov.07. Presentation to the Earth Science Education Forum in Wales on 'Groundwater resources in the Geopark'.

**7. Partnership Projects.** Projects in which partners in the Fforest Fawr Geopark,

i. e. Members of the Management Group, have taken the lead:

**Direct Mail Project.** This project, which was initiated by Mr. Richard Hills of the Association of Bunkhouse Operators (ABO) to advertise the Geopark as an educational resource, continues to progress. In 2008 the geopark worked with the ABO to provide information on group accommodation within the Geopark.

### **The British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA) National Science and Engineering Week.**

Each year in March, the BA organises a week to ten days of events devoted to the national celebration of science. Cardiff University in partnership with Spadel UK- Brecon Carreg Welsh Natural Mineral Water and Fforest Fawr Geopark contributed to the programme of events. In a presentation entitled 'Water from the Hills', young people (7- 11 years) were introduced to the processes of science and technology involved in understanding groundwater through experiments, a visit to the Brecon Carreg bottling plant and a visual presentation.

**Water and Whisky:** Fforest Fawr Geopark, Cardiff University and The Welsh Whisky Company, Penderyn initiated an educational project in 2008 concerned with water extraction used for the production of whisky at Penderyn.

### **European Geoparks Network Activities**

**1. European Geoparks Week:** Fforest Fawr Geopark's contribution to this activity now involves sixteen days of events from Sat 24 May to Sun 8 June 2008 which are advertised as European Geoparks Fortnight. Currently there are 21 organized events and, in addition, the 'Beacons Bus Geopark Circular' tours is scheduled on Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday. Event details are posted at [www.breconbeacons.org/content/geopark/whats-on](http://www.breconbeacons.org/content/geopark/whats-on) - this webpage will be updated between now and the end of the Fortnight to incorporate changes to scheduled events and the inclusion of any additional events.

**2. The EGN Magazine.** Tony Ramsay is a member of the EGN Editorial Board. He edits and co-ordinates the submission of articles to the EGN Magazine and is involved with the production of the 'EGN Coffee Table Book'.

**Contact Details.** Jane Davies <[John.Cook@breconbeacons.org](mailto:John.Cook@breconbeacons.org)>  
Tony Ramsay <[Tonhel@btinternet.com](mailto:Tonhel@btinternet.com)>

# **GEA NORVEGICA GEOPARK**

Progress report, September 2007 – March 2008

The last six months has been very active for Gea Norvegica Geopark. Most of the current activity is focussed on development and preparation for the 2008 season beginning in May. For the first time we have been operating with a full staff.

## **1. Current situation.**

- Staff: Four full time positions, (one on maternity leave one year from last september) and two part time positions.
- Five active geopark committees, (Tourist map production, Education, Tourism, Local Enterprises innovation, Attraction development). Each group meets once a month.
- The board has held five meetings.
- One board of representatives meeting (12 politicians representing the geopark owners)
- A new Web site is under construction for launch in May.

## **2. EGN-activities / International networking**

- EGN-meeting Scotland + conference
- Visit to Bergstrasse-Odenwald Geopark with 20 teachers.
- Dublin, Interreg meeting NWE IVB

## **3. A selection of Geopark events**

- Guided tour in the geopark with the administration of the Telemark county council (appr. 200 persons)
- Local partner meetings at Jomfruland, Ulefoss and Langøy.
- Geopark presentation for the principals of all schools in the Geopark area.
- Several Geopark presentations for school teachers and various organizations.
- Presentation for Geoforum (people working with mapping and GIS in the Southern Norway)
- Several field events the public, schools and various organizations.

## **4. IGC and YIPE**

- Member of the national YIPE committee. Attended several meetings.
- Planning of the “Earth Heritage and Society” symposium at the IGC in Oslo in August.

## **5. Attraction development**

- One geopark tourist map is being prepared for printing this spring.
- Two geological maps (quaternary geology and bedrock) are also prepared for printing this spring.
- Several new geopark pamphlets and brochures (printed and in prep.).
- Cooperation with the Norwegian road authorities for production of large “Geopark Entrance Gate Panels” to be erected along the European highway and other major roads through the geopark.

- New panels are in production and will be erected at many of our geopark attractions throughout the year. All attractions will successively be “officially opened” with various ceremonies.
- Stone pavement at Stavern square using local moraine cobbles. Cooperation with the local organization “Friends of old Stavern”.
- Our annual Geopark workshop was held in Stavern in February. This meeting lasts for two days and includes all committees, the geopark administration, member of the geopark board and others. This meeting was the kick-off for all our arrangements during the 2008 season.

Mona, Sven and Ingeborg.



## **Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia September 2007 – March 2008**

### September 2007

- Production and free distribution of GEOMDIARIO (GEOlogical Mining Diary) to all the children belonging to the Primary school of the Park
- Establishment and starting up of the Italian Obsidian Centre. The Association concern a developing planning of the Arci Mountain Vulcan complex and it manages a small lithological and mineralogical museum.
- Organisation of the “1° Sailing Regatta of Parco geominerario” following the historical mining routes.
- Reporting activities for the “Alpi Cozie Geology International Meeting” hold in Piemonte.

### October 2007

- Publication of the “Geomorphosites and Geosites map about the island of S.Pietro” in partnership with the University of Cagliari and SIGEA.

### November 2007

- The Opening Rosas’ Mining Museum site with the participation of the Italian Environment Minister, the European Geoparks Network delegate and the local authorities.
- Meeting on the occasion of the “sustainable development education week” promoted by the Italian UNESCO Committee, APAT and Greenaccord
- Establishment and starting up of the Monte Linas Association for the development of the Geological and naturalistic tourism in the Guspinese area

### December 2007

- Starting organization works for a geological route between the Cambrian formation in the Iglesiente area.
- Palaeontology International Meeting in partnership with APAT and the Parcogeominerario Association.

### January 2008

- Planning project and actions for the creation of special interest routes inside the Park through the recovery of the old mining railway track.

### February 2008

- Project planning for the International Archive Mining Caves in Iglesias

### March 2008

- Establishment and starting up of the Gerrei Association for the development of the Geological and naturalistic tourism in the Sarrabus-

Gerrei area. The Association manages a small lithological and mineralogical museum.

- Start up project of the “Ecological Island of the Mediterranean Sea”. The project develop actions in the field of the sustainable development and renewable sources energies in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Environment, Sardinian Region and Municipality of Carloforte
- Gentlemen agreement with Beigua Geopark , Madonie Geopark and APAT for the enhancement of the Italian Geoparks.

# **Geopark Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen**

## ***Progress Report September 2007 to February 2008***

### **Current situation**

The main focus of our work was to prepare new editions of the landmark leaflets (partly in English) and to finish the geopark projects “50 Top!”, “Geosites in conflict between use and protection” and the new “Heeseberg adventure trail”.

Until now 1.3 million leaflets of the geopark landmarks 1 to 17 were printed, reprinted and delivered.

Additionally many field trips and events happened in co-operation with the several network partners inside our geopark.

### **Geoparks events and progress**

16/09/07	6. German “Day of the Geosites”: Public information-events in several quarries and gravel pits of the region.(e. g. “Field trip to the fossil seas of the Northern Harz Mountains”)
11/07	Presentation of the leaflet reprint of the geopark landmark 14 “Huysburg”
11/07	Presentation of the leaflet reprint of the geopark landmark 15 “Schloss Ballenstedt – Unteres Selketal”
12/07	Presentation of the leaflet reprint of the geopark landmark 7 “Kohnstein-Südharzrand”
12/07	Opening of a sanified geosite and a new information panel of the Geopark landmark 15 “Schloss Ballenstedt – Unteres Selketal”
12/07	Opening of the Geopark-Infopoint Quedlinburg
31/12/07	Ending of the integration project “50 Top!” for unemployed-persons in cooperation with the cities Salzgitter, Braunschweig and the district of Wolfenbüttel.
01/08	Presentation of the UNESCO/EGN-Geopark as a part of the series of lectures „Melanchthons heirs” at the adult education centre Quedlinburg
31/01/08	Ending of the three years lasting geopark project “Geosites in conflict between use and protection”.
02/08	Meeting of the geopark advisory committee with the election of a chairman and his substitute.

- 02/08                      Opening of the Geopark-Information Centre in the  
                                 „Oberharzer Bergwerksmuseum“ Clausthal-  
                                 Zellerfeld
- 02/08                      Presentation of the leaflet reprint of the geopark  
                                 landmark 4 “Brocken”
- 02/08                      Presentation of the English leaflet version of the  
                                 geopark landmark 8 “Schloss Wernigerode”

Geopark Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen GbR

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## **RESERVE GEOLOGIQUE DE HAUTE PROVENCE - FRANCE**

### **Activity report about EGN and GGN actions**

**September to March 2008**

#### **1/ COORDINATION UNIT**

- relations with various people who asked information to join the Network, mailing of documentation, follow-up of contacts
- transmission of messages received by the unit
- transmission of applications

#### **2/ ADMINISTRATIVE WORK**

- mailing to the different zones submitting their candidature to join the network (accepted or rejected)

#### **3/ PROMOTION - COMMUNICATION**

- Circulation of the Magazine N° 5 of the EGN and promotion of the Congres in june 2008
- Lecture : presentation of Réserve Géologique Geopark and new Geopark's actions in November 2007 in Malaisia in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting Unesco Asia Pacific Geopark Congres.
- Presentation of the exhibition of the EGN in the city of St André les alpes
- Presentation of European Geopark Network and Reserve Geologique Geopark Experience in a meeting organised in october 2007 in Paris by IUGS with Unesco Partnership to french protected area in the aim of aware them about EGN and GGN.
- welcome a delegation from Andalucia and Scotland with 63 people working in Local Action group for 5 days to present the experience of Reserve Geologique Haute Provence Unesco global geopark and European Geopark
- welcome a delegation from Portugal (Arouca) and slovenia (Idrija) with 10 people for 2 days to present the experience of Reserve Geologique Haute Provence Unesco global geopark and European Geopark

#### **4/ EXCHANGES OF EXPERIENCE, .....**

- developing a Leader + C project with our French colleagues Châtaigneraie Limousine and Hateg Geopark concerning the creation of an exhibition for june 2008.
- Exchange of documents, photos, information, articles with partners of the Network, for posters, coffee table book, magazine, exhibition .....
- Welcome a student (thesis) for six weeks from Lankawi Unesco Global Geopark (Malaisia) to work on an educational programme for studiing our territory and management.
- Working with the European Geoparks partners to built and participate to the next INTERREG IV C project

#### **5/ Studies running or over about the geopark, new projects ...**

- Economic impact of the contemporary art on the territory of the geopark
- How to develop tourism on the geopark territory
- International Year of Planet Earth 2008 : Children monument, Fair of Earth, National Geological Congress.

## **LESVOS PETRIFIED FOREST - EUROPEAN GEOPARK**

### ***September 2007 – March 2008***

#### **EGN – participation**

- Participation in the 20<sup>th</sup> EGN - Coordination Meeting in the European Geopark North West Highlands in Scotland.
- Coordination and participation in the LEADER+ common project
- Editing and improvement of the EGN Website.
- Preparation and printing of the EGN Magazine No5 and Geoparks Book.
- Organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Intensive Course on Geoparks under the auspices of UNESCO during September 2007 in Lesvos Geopark. It was organized in collaboration with Aegean University, EGN and the IAG WG Geomorphosites with the financial support of LEADER+.
- In the frame of cooperation with Beigua Geopark, Genova University is collaborating with Lesvos Geopark with the support of Leonardo Project.
- Publication of an EGN advertisement in an alternative tourism guide
- Contribution in the Revalidation missions in 3 other Geoparks (Marble Arch caves – NI, Swabian Alb – DE, Mecklemburg – DE).
- Preparation of the 21<sup>st</sup> EGN - Coordination Meeting in the European Geopark Beigua

#### **Geoparks events and progress**

##### **1. Research, Protection and Management**

- New findings from micropaleontological research
- Broad conservation works in all important fossil sites
- New fossil site protection constructions
- **New fossil and geosite data base**

##### **2. Exhibitions and Events**

- Temporary exhibition “From Trilobites to Man” in Sigrí Museum June-November 2007 Guided tours – Educational Programmes. Continue till November
- Temporary exhibition : The petrified wood from Bohemian Paradise geopark March – September 2007
- New temporary exhibition on the Petrified forest for kindergarten in Mytilene

##### **3. Educational activities**

- **Cooperation Agreement with the Center of Environmental Education of Lesvos**
- Educational Programmes for Autumn 2007
- Environmental education programs with the Environmental Education Center of Lesvos
- **Special programs for kindergarten in Geopark’s information center**

##### **4. Creation of promotional material**

- New museum website [www.lesvosmuseum.gr](http://www.lesvosmuseum.gr) in GR,EN,DE
- Preparation of the new Educational CD on the LPF
- Preparation of a DVD on Lesvos PF and Museum
- Publication of the new Magazine
- Preparation for publication of the new book for the Lesvos petrified forest in english

#### **5. Events - Presentations**

- Presentation of the Annual report 2007 in January 2008 to the public

#### **6. Projects**

- Realisation of a project for the creation of the Petrified forest data – base, educational material and the new Museum web-site
- Realisation of project for the creation of new multimedia presentations
- Research Project coordinated by the Museum for earthquake geology – seismology and protection of the North Aegean islands
- INTERREG III B MEDOCC for tourist development

#### **7. Common Projects with EGN partners**

##### **INTERREG IV C**

- Preparation and submission of a new application – January 2008

##### **LEADER + “Geoparks: Environmental education and Alternative tourism destination”**

Communication with the partners – Realization of actions

##### **INTERREG IV B Med**

Preparation of a new proposal

*Nickolas Zouros*



## **LOCHABER GEOPARK ASSOCIATION – March 2008 UPDATE**

*Following the success of Lochaber Geopark being awarded membership of the European Geopark Network work continues to establish the organisation as a contributor to the understanding of Lochaber's earth heritage and to the development of its economy. The following outlines some of the recent activities:-*

### Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust

The production of interpretive material, including an exhibition and poster of geological information is being undertaken for the Trust.

### Corrantee Mine

A scheduled 'Ancient Monument' mining area near Strontian has been assessed by Historic Scotland and the Forestry Commission has commenced to make a new path to the area making it easier for visitors to walk to it.

### Geological course

A series of regular day time geological training courses has been taking place for the University of the Third Age.

### Geotrails Leaflet

Four new Geotrail leaflets were produced to complement the existing four Geotrail leaflets.

### Interpretation Boards

Geological information has been exhibited on a number of new interpretive boards being erected in Lochaber.

### Kilchoan Workshop

Lochaber College ran a visitors centre exhibition which included a geological interactive PC information system.

### Launch Event for EGN

The launch of Lochaber Geopark took place at the local Kilmallie Hall, with a marquee, Highland & Classical music. Demonstrations were given by Memo of Agreement supporters and SESEF. The "rock circle" in the Hall grounds which demonstrates a number of large geological specimens was renovated and cleaned.

David Sedgwick, a local surgeon, whose antecedent was Adam Sedgwick the famous geologist, opened the event together with local MP Charles Kennedy.

There was also a book launch for the new Ben Nevis & Glencoe Landscape fashioned by Geology series.

### Lochaber Life

A series of articles explaining the geological and geomorphological events that have occurred at specific locations in Lochaber's local scenery are appearing in 'Lochaber Life' a local monthly magazine which is distributed to each household in Lochaber.

### Mobile Phone Interpretation System

The project to produce an innovative mobile phone interpretation system has been set up with a local software systems company. Funding for a new member of staff has been obtained as well as working with the University of the Highlands and Islands on the method of producing the interpretive material.

### Mountain Festival

The "Making Mountains" exhibition was held at the National Trust for Scotland's Glen Coe Visitors Centre during February.

### Nevis Range Ski Area

Two interpretive Boards have been fitted at the end points to walks from the top station of the Gondola uplift system at Nevis Range Ski Area. These include aspects of the local geology.

### Poster

A 360° panoramic poster taken from the top of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, has been produced and is being sent to local schools together with a geological explanation of the caldera and processes which made the mountain. Copies are also for sale in the local Tourist Information Centres.

### Teacher Training

Working in conjunction with the Scottish Earth Science Education Forum, training courses for local teachers were undertaken which are designed to support the Environmental Studies curriculum for 5-14 year old pupils.

### Website

Lochaber Geopark's sophisticated website was made live in October. It includes an interactive map with geological overlays, and information on local heritage, archaeology, tourist visitor information locations together with accommodation, travel, restaurants, and activity providers.

Keith Hoole, Noel Williams. March 2008

## **LUBERON GEOPARK, Progress Report, August 2007 – March 2008**

### **1 - A new museum of geology at the centre of the Geopark**

The new museum of geology, located in the visitor center of the Luberon geopark, was inaugurated on Thursday, October 25th. It replaces the paleontology museum created 20 years ago at the same location. At the centre of the town of Apt, close to the Museum of Industrial Adventure, it is a new place of discovery for visitors, tourists and residents.

Through a various collection of fossils from the Luberon area, a rich illustration, playful manipulations and explanations tailored to the general public, it offers a new geological look at the Luberon landscapes and long history.

The opening of this museum fits into the political recovery of the territory and local development led by the Geopark for 20 years in the field of geology.

Finally, it aims to discover and understand the geological phenomena to the younger, elementary school to high school, responding to the programs of National Education.

Total cost of the operation (study and achievement): € 180,500 HT.

Funding: State, Region, Department of Vaucluse, Geopark (23%)

### **2 - A new person in charge of tourism and agriculture**

Following the departure of Jacques Decuignières, a new agent, Mylène Maurel, has been hired to implement the tasks of Tourism and Agriculture enshrined in the Charter of the Lubreon Regional Nature Park. It will continue to implement the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and follow up collaborations initiated with the tourism stakeholders of the Territory (accommodation, tourist offices, guides...). She will also continue the development of the area's products and boosting agriculture.

### **3 - Survey about the economic impact of bike tourism in the Luberon area**

Since 1995, the Regional Nature Park of the Luberon developed facilities for the development of tourism by bike. The three routes now in use ( "The Luberon by bike", "The Ocher massif by bike", "The Forcalquier and Lure Mountain area by bike") add up 350 km arrowed in both directions and crossing most of the municipalities of the territory.

In 2007, the Luberon Regional Nature Park commissioned a study assessing the economic benefits generated by tourism by bike.

The results highlight that the practice of cycling in the territory generates about 8.9 million euros annually. This study also highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the offer "bicycle" in the territory. To further improve this method of discovery of the territory, a working group, bringing together all those involved in tourism cycling, grew up around 5 workshops.

The stakes of the "Plan for the Development of Tourism by Bike" are:

- Organizing and developing sustainable and high value-added tourism
- Promoting networking players to better promote the Luberon, as a tourism destination by bike
- Promote sustainable development of the territory by the strengthening of eco-friendly (locals and tourists).

#### **4 - Revision of the charter of the Luberon Regional Nature Park Park**

The Luberon Regional Nature Park Park is in the course of revision of its charter. This procedure requires the agreement of the local authorities which make a commitment for 12 years to act in coherence with the charter. 75 municipalities, representing a 178.744 hectare territory where live about 166.000 inhabitants gave their agreement.

That increases the territory of the Park.

The Regional council also approved the charter of the Luberon Regional Nature Park Park. The revised charter must be again validated by the State and the Regional Nature Park Park Federation, then be subjected for opinion to the various concerned ministries, before the signature of the decree, which could occur as soon as possible before summer.

#### **5 - Soon " Bistrots de Pays " in the Luberon Regional Nature Park**

The "Bistrots de Pays" network in the Luberon Regional Nature Park gets organized around the partnership between the National Federation of the "Bistrots de Pays" and the Luberon Regional Nature Park, which is involved as the local administrator. Eleven potential "bistrots" are involved.

The "Bistrots de Pays" are ambassadors of their territory, multi-services offices, crossroads of ideas, places of cultural life. This original concept was born a dozen years ago and structure around four sectors with: a tourist information service, valuation of the local products, propositions of cultural and festive activities and, finally, intensification of convenience services.

## **Marble Arch Caves European Geopark Progress Report: April 2008**

### **Geopark activities**

- Fermanagh District Council's application to EGN/UNESCO in March 2007 to substantially expand the Marble Arch Caves European Geopark to 18,000 hectares - more than ten times its previous size - was accepted at the September 2007 meeting of EGN/UNESCO.
- Richard Watson has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the UK Field Studies Council commencing in April 2008.
- The ongoing €4M INTERREG IIIB project in co-operation with three other European Geoparks in North West Europe is nearing completion and has been a model exercise in co-operation between geoparks in three different European countries.
- In February 2008 a number of European Geoparks within North West Europe met at the headquarters of the British Geological Survey in England to plan a collective INTERREG IVB project application.
- Visitor numbers to Marble Arch Caves in 2007 were 53,280, which is our highest yearly figure since 1996 and an increase of 3% on 2006, which was itself a record year. The 2007 figure is 17.5% more than 2004 when we became a Global Geopark and 30% more than 2001 when we became a European Geopark.
- Lisa McManus, our former Education Officer, left us in October 2007 and has been replaced by Chris Reid who will be our Geopark Development Officer. Chris is a Geographer with several years teaching experience and he is also an expert snowboarder and rock climber.
- Chris Reid spoke about the Geopark at a major peatland conservation conference held in England on 13 –14th March 2008.
- Patrick and Richard attended the EGN meeting held in the North West Highlands in September 2007.
- Kirstin Lemon, the Geopark Geologist ran a number of excellent events in 2007 and in 2008 – lectures, walks and junior geologists events before going on maternity leave in January 2008.
- Congratulations to Kirstin who gave birth to a baby boy – Adam – in February 2008. Mother and baby are both well.
- Richard Watson's friends from the Raven Potholing Club in Dublin followed up their week's mountain walking holiday in the Madonie European Geopark in Sicily in March 2007 with a similar holiday in

Sardinia in February 2008 when they visited the Sardenia Geominerario European Geopark. Unfortunately Richard was not able to accompany them this time but it seems that they had a very enjoyable trip.

- A proposal to expand our Geopark on an international basis into neighbouring areas of the Republic of Ireland has been submitted to EGN/UNESCO for consideration at the April 2008 meeting.

### **Activities on behalf of EGN**

- Patrick McKeever continues to be a roving ambassador for EGN and has travelled extensively in 2007-08 representing the Network – he was in Australia in March 2008 working on behalf of the EGN/UNESCO and will report on this and other working trips to the CC at the April meeting.
- Patrick and Nickolas Zouros have been in almost daily contact dealing with the ever-increasing workload generated by the success story of European Geoparks.
- Richard Watson gave a presentation about the work of EGN at a seminar in Northern Ireland on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008 organised by the Special European Union Programmes Body and attended by 150 delegates.
- An inaugural meeting of the Irish Geoparks Forum was held at the headquarters of the Geological Survey of Ireland in Dublin on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Patrick and Richard both gave separate presentations at the Forum, which is intended to discuss common geopark actions and to assist aspiring geoparks in Ireland.

## **Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional – UNESCO European and Global Geopark, Portugal Report September 2007-February 2008**

In this report Naturtejo Geopark presents briefly the main activities developed directly by the Geopark staff. More information on every subject may be found in [www.naturtejo.com/conteudos/pt/conteudos.php](http://www.naturtejo.com/conteudos/pt/conteudos.php) (see Relatorios in the Portuguese version of the webpage despite the reports are in English(!): no one is perfect and we are still working on it!)

2007

September

1-2<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> September – **Geology in summer – The Fossils Trail: finding the remains of the sea from 480 My ago swarming with life.**

6<sup>th</sup> September – **Visit to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and the Boulders Trail of Monsanto.**

7-8<sup>th</sup> September – **15<sup>th</sup> Chopard Rally of Old Cars.**

12-14<sup>th</sup> September – **GEOITALIA: forum italiano di scienze della terra in Rimini, Italy.**

1-16<sup>th</sup> September – **7<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Network Conference in the NW Highlands Geopark (Scotland).**

12-15<sup>th</sup>, 19-22<sup>nd</sup> September – **Educational visit of English journalists to the Naturtejo Geopark.**

1-28<sup>th</sup> September – **Environmental sensitization in the Jumbo mall.**

25<sup>th</sup> September- 3<sup>rd</sup> October – **Intensive course “Geopark management and Geotourism” and workshop “Geomorphosites, Geoparks and Geotourism (Lesvos).**

28<sup>th</sup> September – **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on the History-Cultural and Archeological Heritage of Castelo Branco in Vila de Rei.**

October

October – **Courses “Guides for Leisure and Nature Programs” and “Ornithology in the Idanha-a-Nova municipality”.**

16-17<sup>th</sup> October – **Eureka Tourism Brokerage Event.**

22-23<sup>rd</sup> October – **Geopark Cabo de Gata-Níjar Week.**

24<sup>th</sup> October – **Subbeticas Geopark Week.**

30<sup>th</sup> October – **New Educational Programs run by Naturtejo Geopark.**

November

10<sup>th</sup> November – **Official opening of the International Year of Planet Earth in Lisbon.**

10, 21-22<sup>nd</sup> November – **Educational programs for national schools and the ones from the Geopark territory already online.**

12, 14, 20, 21<sup>st</sup> November – **Course “Guides for Leisure and Nature Programs”.**

**“Meet your Geopark” in the Alcains High School.**

18<sup>th</sup> November – **Gardunha Trail with the Louriçal do Campo village.**

19-30<sup>th</sup> November – **Exhibition “600 million years illustrated” in the Nuno Álvares High School.**

24<sup>th</sup> November – **Workshop “There is gold in Foz” about panning activity in Foz do Cobre and its valorization as tourist product.**

30<sup>th</sup> November – **International Seminar on Tourism in Natural Protected Sites.**

30<sup>th</sup> November – Terragaze mobile presented in the updated Terragaze website.

December

6<sup>th</sup> December – Geopark Naturtejo as example in Workshop Arouca.

8<sup>th</sup> December – Full day's walking in the long trail GR22-E7.

20<sup>th</sup> December – Project “Moving Holidays” brings students from Sertã to the Geopark.

27<sup>th</sup> December – Naturtejo starts tourist certification for local private partners.

28<sup>th</sup> December – The programme for European Geoparks Week 2008 is concluded.

2008

January

16<sup>th</sup> January – Naturtejo Geopark wins the Honour Prize in the Tourism of Portugal 2008 award.

16<sup>th</sup> January – Incentivos Outdoor and the national railway company presented new cultural programs in the Naturtejo Geopark.

22<sup>nd</sup> January – I Seminar on Social Economy in Castelo Branco.

26<sup>th</sup> January – The landscapes Nature – an inner travel.

26<sup>th</sup> January – Workshop “Tourism in the Naturtejo Geopark.

26<sup>th</sup> January – Naturtejo wins the Bronze Medal in the Telegraph's Portuguese highlights.

29<sup>th</sup> January – New promotional tools for Naturtejo Geopark.

30<sup>th</sup> January-3<sup>rd</sup> February – FITUR2008 – celebrating Iberian Geoparks from the European Geoparks Network.

February

February – Post-Graduation in Tourism Marketing.

11<sup>th</sup> February – Amato Lusitano High School invades Penha Garcia Ichnological Park.

16<sup>th</sup> February – Fundão High School visits geosites at Naturtejo Geopark.

18<sup>th</sup> February – Oleiros municipality discusses Tourism.

22<sup>nd</sup> February – Discussion meeting against the possibility of opening an Uranium mine in Nisa.

26<sup>th</sup> February – Welcome to the aspiring municipalities of Naturtejo.

29<sup>th</sup> February-2<sup>nd</sup> March – FIO2008 – International Tourism Fair on Ornithology.



# **NORTH PENNINES AONB GEOPARK**

## **Activity Report, September - April 2007**

*Work continues to further establish the North Pennines AONB as a European Geopark. Some of the recent activities include:*

1. 'Northern Rocks – the North Pennines Festival of Geology and Landscape 2008' (European Geoparks Week). A programme for the 2008 festival has been developed, with 35 events included in the 16 page promotional brochure. Our other programme of events for the area includes a further 8 geological walks / activities.
2. We delivered a programme of 10 evening classes on local geology, in September and October. 30 people attended the weekly classes and provided very positive feedback.
3. Work has continued on site based interpretation. New leaflets for the Frosterley Marble and the Stanhope Fossil Tree have been produced. Work funded and supported by the team continues at Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum and at Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre (where we are funding and advising on new touch screen interpretation and new geological trail).
4. 8 new geological trails are in production.
5. Elizabeth is continuing to work on a 60 page book on the geology of the North Pennines.
6. Work has continued on our major peatland conservation project (Peatscapes) in the Geopark. The quaternary geology of the Geopark is of international importance and our two Peatscapes staff have been mainly engaged in managing contracts for blocking draining grips on the moors (190km this winter).
7. Other project work includes the further development of our major drystone walling traineeships project and our ground breaking hay meadow conservation project, both helping to conserve important aspects of the Geopark landscape. New publications include further walks leaflets and training events, and more work on our new management plan. Our new £3.1million conservation and interpretation project, Living North Pennines, is now underway, with six new staff having joined the team. This is not geologically focussed, though some of the work arising out of the 'community interpretation' strand is likely to involve Elizabeth in supporting geological interpretation by local people; two of the four historic buildings which will be conserved are part of the area's lead mining past.

### **Activity for the network**

8. We produced the compendium of Geoparks reports for the Beigua meeting.
9. Chris and Elizabeth supported Nikoloas in developing the Network's IVc bid and have been working on a VIb NW Europe bid with other partner Geoparks.
10. Chris gave a presentation on geotourism to a seminar in Lochaber Geopark.

Chris Woodley-Stewart, Dr Elizabeth Pickett, February 2008  
chris@northpenninesaonb.org.uk / elizabeth@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

## **North West Highlands Geopark Progress report – March 2008**

1. The EGN conference was an overall success
2. The contract for the Geopark Officer (Issie's job) has been extended until March 2008. Funding is in place for a further 12 months, this time for two posts. Issie will not continue as Geopark Officer and the Geopark has been recruiting a new Geopark Officer, who should be in place soon.
3. A Development Strategy was commissioned from a management consultancy. The Geopark is now trying to implement their recommendations to improve our management and make it more effective.
4. Final consultation report for the renovation of the Durness Visitor Centre has been delivered; we are now looking how to implement the recommendations.
5. SNH (partner and manager of the Knockan Crag Visitor Centre) has started a public consultation, inviting views and proposals how to improve and renovate the Visitor centre and Geological Trails.
6. The Educational CD: "People in a Glacial Landscape" – The North West Highlands Geopark has been finished and has been distributed to ALL secondary schools in Scotland. This was a co-production between the North West Highlands Geopark, British Geological Survey and the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers. We will bring a few to Beigua!

Issie MacPhail and Maarten Krabbendam  
info@northwest-highlands-geopark.org.uk

## **Papuk Geopark, Croatia**

### **Progress report: September 2007 – April 2008**

1. After Scotland Conference Papuk Geopark was featured in an exceptionally positive manner in many local and national newspaper and magazines
2. Representatives of the Papuk Geopark discussed the mechanism of applying for EGN membership with Mr. Lajos Seke from a prospective Geopark Fruska Gora, Serbia
3. Participation in TAIEX Workshop: „New Practices in Geodiversity for a Sustainable Development of the Regions” which was held on 8 to 10 October 2007 in Sibiu, Romania. Exchanging experiences in the fields of geological heritage protection and geotourism activities.
4. Dr.sc. Esad Prohic, Croatian ambassador in Iran, participated in the First Seminar on 'Role of Geoparks in Promoting Tourism' which was held in Qeshm Island and presented Papuk Geopark.
5. In local schools there were a few presentations to raise the profile of the Papuk Geopark  
24<sup>th</sup> December - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to Gymnasium school in Pozega  
18<sup>th</sup> January - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to secondary school in Orahovica  
31<sup>st</sup> January - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to secondary school in Slatina  
8<sup>th</sup> February - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to primary school in Velika  
11<sup>th</sup> February - Presentation on the Papuk Geopark to primary school in Vocin
6. Papuk Geopark participated in local touristic festival (Orahovica city) with stall and many visitors could be acquainted with Geopark and European Geopark Network through informative leaflets. Also Geopark staff spread information about Geopark and Network concepts to the visitors
7. Papuk Geopark is actively involved in current Geoparks projects (mostly youth projects) such as:
  - “Meet your Geopark” (TERRA.vita) – four local schools participate in this contest and prepare their projects
  - “Children of the Earth” (Haute-Provence) – local children have involved
  - “Earth materials and local arts” (Psiloritis) – exhibits of one local artist will be sent to Psiloritis
8. Submission of two abstracts (one poster and one oral presentation) for the 3rd International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Osnabruck
9. Papuk Geopark contributed with article about Park to the EGN Magazine No5

- 10.** At the six main entrances in Geopark boundary signs (“welcome Geopark wall”) have been erected
- 11.** Many guided walks through Geopark area have been organized especially for school children
- 12.** Preparation and printing of a new Papuk Geopark T-shirt with IYPE logo
- 13.** Preparation of new educational trail in the vicinity of Orahovica city. The trail is dedicated to famous Croatian geologist Josip Poljak and except geological features biological and cultural highlights will be encompassed.
- 14.** New geological souvenirs has been developed
- 15.** Work on arrangement geological exhibition in Park’s visitor centre is in progress – choosing fossils, rock samples, etc.
- 16.** One PhD project is in progress considering “Radlovac” metamorphic complex
- 17.** Scientific excursion of Croatian Geological Society to Papuk Geopark was organized
- 18.** Three public meetings with local authorities and other stakeholders considering Geopark boundary, common activities, definition of formal agreement were organized
- 19.** Process of Papuk Nature Park Management plan preparation continued with emphasises on importing geoh heritage conservation and geotourism development in all features of Management plan

## **Psiloritis Natural Park**

### **Progress report for the period November 2007 – March 2008**

Since the last meeting various actions took place on behalf of the Park. Some of them are listed below:

1. The construction of two **educational kits** has been completed. The first, which is a common action of the program demonstrates the procedures of the water cycle and is going to be translated in English and shared to the partners; the second deals with the biodiversity of Psiloritis Mountains.
2. A new **series of leaflets**, related with key subjects of the geopark (natural environment, history and archaeology and people and culture), has been published in two languages (Greek and English). A detailed **map of the geopark**, comprising all the spots of geo-tourist interest (geological, historical, archaeological, cultural etc), is at the last stage of designing and will be published soon. Moreover, a **field guide** for the geotops of Psiloritis Natural Park has almost finished. Finally, the geopark contributed to the implementation of the EGN coffee table book.
3. Four **hiking routes** with signposts have been formatted and established at selected areas of the park by the Natural History Museum of Crete. AKOMM is going to prepare signposts and outdoor infrastructure for the visitors of the routes.
4. A **database** of the geopark's local artists has been completed and the procedures of materializing a **natural and focal art exhibition**, at a central place in Heraklion, have begun.
5. A strategy of promoting the "**Land of Psiloritis**", a recently formatted network of local enterprises associated with alternative tourism (such as traditional hostels, restaurants, agro touristic cooperatives etc), has been **set and commenced**.
6. The geopark of Psiloritis **participated** at the 2<sup>nd</sup> exhibition of "**Tourism, Agrotourism and Alternative Tourism**" that was implemented at the International Exhibition Center of Crete, from 09 to 12 of November 2007, as well as at the 3<sup>rd</sup> exhibition of "**Kinds of Alternative Tourism**" that took place at the same time with the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference of Alternative Tourism, from 14 to 16 of December 2007, at the city of Florina.
7. The organization of the **EGN Local Art Festival** is at the final stages. The event will host exhibits from many European Geoparks and local artists. The event will take place during EGN week and is part of the activities for the celebration of the IYPE.

## **Geopark Swabian Alb**

### **Progress report from September 2007 until March 2008**

The Geopark has taken on board the respects of the revalidation concerning the structure and the long-term financing of the geopark. Major activities of the geopark office were put in the new organisation of a Public Benefit Association Geopark Swabian Alb. The long-term financing of the Geopark is assured, though human resources are still small; for the moment only one permanent position. Also the relocation of the geopark office is in preparation.

#### **Contribution towards the network**

1. Participating in the EGN Coordination Committee in North-West-Highlands
2. Presentation of the network at the Fair "Reisepavillon" together with 7 other European Geoparks in Stuttgart in January
3. Contribution for the EGN Coffee table book
4. Contribution for the EGN Magazine

#### **Geopark Events and progress**

5. Special Exhibition: The Upper Rhine Graben – Emergence, Stones and Fossils. Until middle of October more than 7000 visitors.
6. 16.09.07 Day of the Geotop: 15 Events (action days in queries, guided tours, speeches) all around the geopark
7. 16.09.07 Presentation of the Geopark and the Alb-Guides as well as the Geopark Information Centre Dotternhausen at the „Day of the Regions“ in Mannheim, organised by SWR4 radio station. Show-preparation of fossils of the oil shale. Children's action with oil shale. Several thousand visitors.
8. 22.-23.09.07 Shepherd Festival on the Raichberg, organized by partners. Presentation of the geopark. Several thousand visitors.
9. 4.10.07 Opening of the Geopark Information Centre at the Castel "Burg Katzenstein" by the District Administrator and the chairman of the Geopark board.
10. 6.10.07: Information centre activity day in Giengen: Hunting like the hunters of the ice age. About 130 visitors.
11. 6.-7.10.07 „Neuhauser Kirbe“ Festival in the Freilichtmuseum Neuhausen ob Eck, with performances about culture of the region.
12. 11.-13.10.07: Participation at the „Science Days“ in the amusement park „Europa Park Rust“ with show-preparation and children's action with oil shale.
13. 19.-21.10.07 Presentation of the ice Age Sculpture „Mammoth“ near the place, where it has been found in Niederstotzingen. Several thousand visitors
14. 25.10.07 until 30.03.08: Art exhibition by Claudia Hoffmann "Sculptures made with concrete and workings made with paper".
15. 28.10. 07 Inspection of the district council of Steinheim – planning of a loop road around the crater and of a geological trail.
16. 1.-4- 11.07 Presentation of the ice Age Sculptures „Mammoth“ and "Lion" in the Geopark Information Centre "Urgeschichtliches Museum" in Blaubeuren. Several thousand visitors

17. 15.11.07: Slightshow by Ulrich Sauerborn, Urweltmuseum Aalen (primeval world museum): "Vom Meteoritenkrater Steinheimer Becken bis zum Zeugenberg lpf. Landschaftliche und geologische Höhepunkte der Ostalb", 40 visitors.
18. 19.11.07: Panel discussion with the minister of environment in the Geopark Information centre in Dotternhausen. About 150 visitors.
19. 22.11.07: Concert in the Werkforum Dotternhauen with "The Swingle Singers", 250 visitors.
20. 24. November 2007. Symposium Verkarstung in the Geopark Information Centre in Laichingen organised by Höhlen- und Heimatverein Laichingen. 11 oral speeches and 130 attendants.
21. December: Mainly Preparation of the EGN-Week 2008, preparation for fairs and other preparing works
22. January: Production of a one hour film „Planet Wissen“(Planet knowledge) about the Geopark Swabian Alb in the with SWR (television of the state of Baden-Württemberg). Transmission at March 11<sup>th</sup>.
23. January: New Geopark Flyer “The Information Centres of the Geopark Swabian Alb”
24. January: Presentation of the Geopark of the biggest touristy fair in Germany CMT in Stuttgart
25. 27. 01.08, Tale stations in the „Museum im Kräuterkasten“, action for children
26. 28. Februar 2008, lecture by Dr. Michael Bolus, University of Tübingen, Abt. Ältere Urgeschichte und Quartärökologie: Neue Forschungen zur Altsteinzeit auf der Schwäbischen Alb
27. Continuously „Der Koffer aus dem Kräuterkasten-Museum“ (the suitcase of the Kräuterkasten Museum), History and Natural History lessons in suitcase for children.
28. Continuously: production of a movie about the meteor crater impact in Steinheim
29. Preparing the new Geopark Information Centre in the Fossil Museum in Aalen.
30. 06.03.08: architecture lecture "Energie im Gestaltwandel. Ein 100% regeneratives Einfamilienhaus im Schurwald - Integration von Technik in die Gebäudehülle", (Energy in morphogenesis. A 100 % regenerativ one family house in the Schurwald – Integration of technology in the building shell) 60 visitors
31. 13. 03 08, Lecture by Dr. Wolfgang Lissak, Nature protection Centre Schopfloch: The Schopfloch March – Gem on the Swabian Alb
32. 16. 03.08 Start of the Cave-Saison
33. End of March: Dedication of the Umeerpfad in Gerstetten (Trail about primal ocean)

Walburg Speidel and Elmar Heizmann



## **TERRA.vita**

### **Progressreport October 2007 - March 2008**

#### **A. Activities concerning the EGN and GGN**

##### 3rd International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2008 in Osnabrück

Preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> IGeoC were continued as planned. The conference website [www.geoparks2008.com](http://www.geoparks2008.com) provides information and is ready for bookings now.

The call for papers showed a tremendous success. About 180 abstracts and poster presentations have been sent and are under revision by the scientific committee now.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Global Geoparks Fair will be held on the marketplace in front of the historic townhall in Osnabrück the weekend before the conference (21. and 22. 6.2008). If all EGN parks will attend as promised, we will be able to present more than 50 Global Geoparks. 19 Chinese parks will be there plus parks from Malaysia and Iran. One of the new Chinese parks will bring 10 Shaolin Kungfu Fighters.

The student exchange project "Meet Your Geopark" will be supported by 15 EGN parks and will be held from 20.6.- 29.6.2008 during the IGeoC.

##### IYPE Activities

A huge array of oral presentations and excursions will be offered three months in advance of the IGeoC. We intend to support the outreach program of the IYPE. We will reach out to as many people as possible and will use this tool to raise the awareness for the upcoming conference. We are addressing local and global issues.

Dinosaurs are going to roam the Geopark from end of May until end of June.

At the "kids campus", special lectures for children will be held by the University of Applied Sciences, Osnabrück and will give answers to the question: "Why happened the extinction of the dinosaurs?"

All activities will be presented during a kick off press conference in Osnabrück on 31.3.2008. It will be attended by the Secretary General of the German Environmental Foundation Dr. Fritz Brickwedde, by the coordinator of the European IYPE activities Dr. Wolfgang Eder, by Dr. Lutz Möller of the German UNESCO Commission, by the managing director of the Alfred Wegener Foundation, Dr. Christoff Ellger and TERRA.vita representatives.

## **B. Activities by TERRA.vita**

### Economic effects of the Nature- and Geopark TERRA.vita

The project started in June. 20 students of the University of Osnabrück began a questionnaire of visitors at nine different hot spots on 13 days (representing holidays, weekends and workdays). The results: Looking at the selected 9 spots only, an annual turnover of net 9.1 million € has been generated. This leads to a job equivalent of 750 persons. The method will be explained by the University of Osnabrück in a workshop during the IGeoC.

### New sponsor membership

The first sponsor signed an agreement with TERRA.vita, adding 500 € annually to our budget.

### Certified tour guides

A second course to qualify volunteers as certified tour guides started in autumn after 16 candidates passed the first program in May 2007 successfully. They will help to raise the quality standards in TERRA.vita significantly. Exams hopefully will be passed in April.

## **C. Positive effects by others for TERRA.vita**

### State funding

TERRA.vita applied for 110.000 € in December 2007. The funding by the state of Lower Saxony (30 %) and the EU (50%) will be invested for a communication project, to introduce visitors to Lower Saxony's largest Calcite sinter terraces.

### New members

Two communities Lengerich and Westerkappeln joined TERRA.vita. Lengerich is already located within the borders of the geopark, while the new membership of Westerkappeln marks a first step for a planned extension of our geopark.

### TERRA.vita listed as National Geopark

Finally we have been added to the list of Germany's National Geoparks.

Hartmut Escher

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Timo Kluttig

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[www.naturpark-terravita.de](http://www.naturpark-terravita.de)

## **VULKANEIFEL EUROPEAN GEOPARK**

### **September 2007 – March 2008**

#### 1. Events/meetings

- Preparation of **Geoparks Week „terramaargica“ 2008**

#### 2. Funding programmes

- **LEADER+ contest** in the state Rheinland-Palatinate, Germany: **successful application**. Concretion of national LEADER+ projects for the Geopark in progress
- Participation in Interreg IV b, c

#### 3. Geopark marketing, promotional activities and public relations

- Representing Vulkaneifel Geopark and European Geoparks Network at tourism bourse: **Reisepavillion Stuttgart** in January 2008
- Representing Vulkaneifel Geopark and European Geoparks Network at tourism bourse: **Grüne Woche Berlin** in January 2008
- Preparation and print of **Vulkaneifel Magazine 2008**
- Print and distribution of **Flyer on LEADER+ project**
- Finalisation of **audio-reportages** (audio-tourbook) for selected sites in Vulkaneifel

#### 4. Participation in meetings

- **20<sup>th</sup> EGN Meeting** in North-West Highlands Geopark in September 2007
- International **Conference on Maars**, Zhan Gjiang, Guang Dong, China, 28.09.-01.10.2007
- **TAIEX-Workshop**, Sibiu, Romania 08.-10.10.2007
- Preparative meeting **Interreg IV b, c**, 04.-05.12.2007 and 08.02.2008

#### 5. Training for guides, geopark hosts and counter staff

- 2 field trips (Vulkaneifel, Osteifel) with guides, November 2007
- Field with geopark hosts and counter staff (Vulkaneifel) November 2007

## 6. Partners' contributions

- Finalisation of new trail „**Maarerlebnis-Route Daun – Maar experience route Daun**“ that connects all the maars in the southern part of Vulkaneifel Geopark
- Finalisation of new **trail „Vulkanerlebnispfad Strohn – Volcano experience trail Strohn“**, featuring the Wartgesberg-volcanism around the village of Strohn.
- **Refilling with water** of the recovered maar lake at Eichholz maar in December 2007.

Andreas Schüller

# **SUBBÉTICAS GEOPARK**

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT: October 2007 - March 2008**

### **1) Activities of Environmental Education**

- Classes of sport scaling for futures technicians in Active Tourism and Guides of Protected Natural Spaces.
- Interpretative Route for Formative Course of Medium Grade. Activity related to the formation of the pupils of these courses. Itinerary from the locality of Cabra to the locality of Zuheros.
- Camp of Environmental Volunteering for the recovery of the Natural and Ethnological Heritage of the Geopark (Favencia Association).

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

#### **- EUROPEAN GEOPARKS WEEK ON THE SUBBÉTICAS GEOPARK**

They were organized together with the Rural Development Group of the Subbéticas and the Environment Department of Andalusia Government. The activities consisted on the following events:

- Technical Journals realized in the locality of Cabra.
- Presentations of the several European Geoparks, which illustrated over the educational activities, regional development and geotourism in its territories: Cabo de Gata – Níjar Geopark, (Spain). Parque Cultural del Maestrazgo Geopark (Spain), Naturtejo Geopark (Portugal), Vulkaneifel Geopark (Alemania), Marble Arch Caves (North Ireland, UK).
- Several geotouristics, didactic and recreational activities: Geological Paintings Exhibition; Geological Photographs Exhibition; Guided-Route through the cultural points of the locality of Cabra; Activity of reconstruction in dry-stone; Route across the quince forest of Zagrilla.
- Two geological excursions inside the Geopark. The first one through the north zone of the Geopark, with an interpreted visit to the Canyon of the Rio Bailon, the Echo Museum and the Bats Cave. The second one through the central part of the Geopark, realizing diverse explanatory stops in the Lapiaz de los Lanchares, the Peak of Cabra, the beginning of the Polje of the Nava, and finishing in the Recreational Area of Santa Rita.

#### **- MATERIAL EDITION:**

- Book of Geopaintings; it contains all the paintings exposed in the European Geopark Week of the Subbéticas Geopark.
- Edition of calendars with landscapes and flora photographs of the Geopark.

- Edition of the 1<sup>st</sup> dossier of the interpretative series of “geologic landscapes”: the “Nava de Cabra”. There are planned others dossiers with more geological interest points of the Subbéticas Geopark.

**- DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION IN THE NATIONAL TELEVISION (TVE2):**

This documentary programme tries to present the Geopark in Spain and its importance.

**- ATTENDANCE TO FITUR 2008.**

Fitur is one of the major International Fair on Tourism.

**- AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION OF ANDALUSIAN GEODIVERSITY**

Production of an audiovisual on the geodiversity of Andalusia developed for the promotion and upgrade of the Subbéticas Geopark.

### **3) Activities of Conservation, Investigation and Development in the Geopark**

**- 1<sup>st</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD FUNGI:**

It was celebrated in Cordoba, 10 - 16 December 2007, with the participation of more than 30 countries. Several thematic papers dedicated to the sustainable tourism and development in the Geopark. There had been a visit to the Subbéticas Geopark where it was explained that the limestone constitution of the zone has caused the existence of unique mushrooms, fungi and truffles in the world. This meeting concluded with the first World-Wide Declaration for the Conservation of the wild fungi.

**- CONSTRUCTION OF THE FUNGI GARDEN**

It's the first Fungi Garden of Europe. It's located beside the spring of Zagrilla, one of the main geotouristics resources of the Geopark, and represents the different species of mushrooms that grow in different geological and edaphologic substrata. There are reproduced the edaphologic bases of the different geological units of Andalusia.

**- EUROPEAN CHART OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM.**

Dossier preparation for the adhesion to the chart: the main developing subject is the geotourism in the Subbéticas Geopark.

**- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Achievement of a project of regional cooperation sustainable on the development of the region and the geopark, with the main issues:

- Geodiversity: A sustainable rural solution?
- Degraded Mining spaces.

**- STUDY OF THE CAVE FAUNA OF THE SUBBETICAS**

Realized by the Priego's Group of Underground Explorations, it consists of a study of the colonies of bats, amphibians, reptiles and entomologic fauna of the caves, supported by specialists in taxonomy.

#### **- ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY IN THE CUARENTA CAVE**

Exact topography of the cavity, situation of the archaeological rests, micro space disposition and dispersion, and protection of the cavity.

#### **- INVENTORY OF THE ETHNOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE SUBBETICAS GEOPARK**

Accomplishment of an inventory of the ethnological patrimony linked to the environment of the Subbeticas Geopark Region.

#### **- 2<sup>nd</sup> CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY OF ANDALUSIA**

Collaboration in the organization of the event and preliminary works.

### **4) Activities related with sustainable use and sports in the Geopark**

- XXVIII Cycle Ascent to the “Virgen de Araceli” Sanctuary.
- Sport activities of Schools and Institutes, making visits to different geological points of the Geopark: Pico Tiñosa, Nava de Cabra, Barranco de la Hoz, Sima de Cabra, etc.
- X Route through the Subbéticas. Activity organized by the “Association of Young Adventurous”, across the path between the localities of Zuheros and Zagrilla Alta.
- Preparation of the Subbéticas Ranges Raid. In this activity is realized a series of events compatible with the natural resources and the sustainable use of the geodiversity.

### **5) Activities related with the European Geoparks Network**

- Contribution on the European Geoparks Network (EGN) magazine, num. 5.
- Meeting of the Iberian Geoparks, for the preparation of a common project to the Interreg SUDOE program.
- Contribution to the Interreg IVc program.
- Contribution to the European Geoparks Network Table Coffee book.

**MADONIE EUROPEAN GEOPARK**  
**Progress Report, September 2007 - March 2008**  
**Main activities**

1. On **01.09.07** at the “Crystal” cinema in Polizzi Generosa Polisportiva Europa Junior showed the documentary “*The echo of the footsteps*”, which, starting from the first Madonie Eco-Marathon held in July 2007, narrates the landscapes, the colours, the culture and the traditions of the Madonie Park. The initiative aimed to give prominence to the spirit of Eco-Marathons, which are meant to stimulate knowledge of territories rich in natural beauties, culture and traditions, but also to contribute in a significant way to their economic development;
2. Participation of the official representative Pasquale Li Puma in the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Coordination Committee held from 11.09.07 to 13.09.07 at Inchnadamph in Scotland and in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Congress held from 14.09.07 to 17.09.07 in Ullapool at the North West Highlands Geopark in Great Britain;
3. Received communication from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department for Development and Competitiveness of Tourism, with protocol note 1547858/07/EDEN of **03.09.07**, referring to the “*EDEN Project: Excellent European destinations*”, for which the Madonie Park body is among the forty destinations selected as being most in conformity with the national criteria and those of the European Commission, and therefore among the best emerging rural destinations;
4. Set going, on **21.09.07**, the project “*From the Earth to the Stars*” conducted by the “Just for Fun” association, with the involvement of the teachers and pupils of the IV and V elementary classes and I, II and III junior secondary classes of all the Comprehensive Institutes in the Park (a class for each complex in each town or village in the Madonie). At the end of the first module, “*Let us build our sky*”, 800 pupils of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes of junior secondary school met the astrophysicist Margherita Hack on 27.10.07; at the end of the second module, “*When I grow up I will be an astronaut*” 600 pupils of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes of the primary school met the astronaut Umberto Guidoni on 29.02.08; at the end of the third module, “*Geology and myths*” 400 pupils of the first classes of junior secondary school met the geologist Dino Ticli, a writer and great popularizer of geology;
5. Participation, from **22 to 24 October 07**, of the official representative Pasquale Li Puma in the Week of Andalusia Geoparks, Cabo De Gata-Níjar Geopark Week and Parque Natural de las Sierras Subbéticas Geopark Week, with presentation of a talk with the title: “Geotourism in the Madonie Park: to long, difficult and fascinating holistic approach from the natural patrimony to the cultural patrimony toward the future “phase II”;
6. Presented at Castellana Sicula, on **09.11.07** the “*Competition for entrepreneurial ideas for valorisation of the Madonie Park.*” The contest aims at the diffusion of entrepreneurial culture and the creation of new firms, above all young ones, in the territory of the communes in the Park, through the provision of services for information, orientation and technical support for the presentation of entrepreneurial projects to be financed with EEC, national and regional funds. Prizes for four of the best entrepreneurial ideas are contemplated within the sphere of Tourism (tourist services in support of enjoyment of the Park with exclusion of accommodation services), Agriculture and Craft;
7. Presentation of the project “Youth Camp: Meet your Geopark” to teachers at senior secondary schools in the Madonie Park within the development of the project “(At) School in the Park”, regarding “*Discovering, protecting and promoting the resources and the naturalistic natural and historical patrimony for a project of socio-cultural development.*” So as to prepare young students to



compete with works of their own, a week of exchanges among young people from all the geoparks, in concomitance with the Third UNESCO International Geoparks Conference 2008 (Osnabrück - June 2008), first of all there were days of training and updating for the teachers on 14.12.07, 08.01.08, 16.01.08, 22.01.08 and 22.02.08;

8. The "Insecta" Entomological Exhibition organised by Vittorio Aliquò, at Palazzo Pottino in Petralia Soprana from 15.12.07 to 14.01.08. Organized by the Madonie Park, by Petralia Soprana Council and by the Palermo University Consortium. "Insecta" allowed observation of a mysterious world, small but full of secrets and curiosities, and rich in biodiversity;
9. Planning of the part relating to the Madonie Geopark of the INTERREG IVC project "*PLANET EARTH: Nature conservation, sustainable development, responsible tourism*", presented on 15/01/08 by the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark;
10. Two conferences held and various theme events, "*The value of the donkey. Let us recover the donkey, the donkey will recover man*" at Castelbuono, from 29 February to 2 March 2008. The initiative focused attention on the valorisation of the donkey and traced out pathways to improve its living and employment conditions also along geological paths;
11. Held in Rome, on 05.03.08, the first preparatory meeting between APAT and the present Italian Geoparks belonging to EGN (Madonie Park, Beigua Park and Geo-Mineral Park of Sardinia) for setting going the common project "*Promotion of Italian Geoparks in EGN: tools to support enjoyment and the popularization of geodiversity*", promoted by the national APAT (Agency for the Protection of the Environment and for Technical services – Defence of Nature Department – Tutelage of the Geological Patrimony), headquartered at Via Curtatone 3 00186 Rome.

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## **MAESTRAZGO CULTURAL PARK**

### **Progress Report, September 2007 - March 2008**

#### **Main activities**

Maestrazgo Cultural Geopark attended at the Andalusian Geopark European Week . There, it presented a paper about Maestrazgo Geopark in Rodalquilar ( Cabo de Gata Geopark – Níjar) and in Cabra ( Subbeticas mountain range Geopark).

Our involvement in Rodalquilar took place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> , and in Cabra on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> . As a representative from Maestrazgo Geopark were Julia Escorihuela (an engineer from Aliaga Geopark) and José Manuel Salvador ( he is an engineer from Maestrazgo Geopark).

Luis Alcalá, ( Dinópolis) a member of member of Maestrazgo Geopark scientific committee, he presented a paper in Rodalquilar too.

The event was organized by the Environment Cabinet from Andalusia, because two Geoparks depend on it.

The result was very positive, we have to emphasize the treatment we received, the conference development and the accommodation.

We note down some questions we consider interesting:

- Most of the Geoparks do not have any protection figures, because of that they have to struggle with other economic interests in order to keep their geological resources, ( reservoirs, industries that are polluting, electrical cables...)
- The European Geoparks chain is chasing the excellence and the quality in their territories and it is increasing the demands in their periodic assessments. As a conclusion of this we mark the next questions:
  - 1- There is a debate about how many Geoparks should exist in each country.
  - 2- In order to keep the status of the Geopark, we have to invest in it and give it the necessary infrastructures ( geological museums, geological routes...)
  - 3- Geoparks assessment is going to be constant and more demanding every time: selling geological material is banned, this demands a specific organizative structure and it raises shared criterions about the celebration of some activities and about the chain visibility.

The most developed activities in Geoparks are:

- 1- Education; educational school trips, museums about environment, educational notebooks, postgraduate courses and master´s degrees.)
- 2- Geological tourism; geological routes, interpreted paths, establishments with quality ( gastronomy)
- 3- European Geoparks Week; standard activities for all the territories, conferences, guide tours...
- 4- Products; linking local products with Geoparks trademark, merchandising...

#### **VISITORS CENTRE IN MAESTRAZGO GEOPARK**

We follow some objectives with the visitors centre creation ;

- Emphasizing the whole cultural heritage of Maestrazgo Geopark in suitable facilities.
  - Including Maestrazgo Geopark in the European Geoparks chain, it means excellence and advertising.
  - Getting that Maestrazgo Geopark will be a tourist reference.
- We think that the best place for the visitors centre is Ejulve and we can give many reasons about why the visitors centre has to be in Ejulve;
- Ejulve has got a special location because it is connected by road with many nearby villages like Aliaga, Pitarque, Molinos, and Castellote, it means that Ejulve can be the perfect 'door' for the Geopark.
  - Ejulve Town Council agrees with this proposal. Town Council is going to adapt an old building ( the old hospital) as s visitors centre and it is going to llor for the suitable staff.

### **IMPROVEMENTS IN ALIAGA GEOPARK**

- Protecting and signpostin the places with geological interest (P.I.G.)
- We hope promotion and help from the state institutions ( D.G.A, D.P.T...) to spread the wonderful scientific interest of this Geopark like other countries do with their Geoparks.
- Another one idea for the improvement in this Geopark is a cable car. It would make of this Geopark a very interesting place to visit. If we add a lookoutom the highest place of the tunnel we will see the twist geological folds. From there we can imagine the past time of Aliaga, the past way of life in the mines in the last 20<sup>th</sup> century, In 1950 the coal wagons followed this route and they were unloaded at the power station. The cable car will cover a distance between 900 metres and 1000 metres more or less. The height difference from the start point until the lookout would be between 200 metres and 250 metres.

### **GEO DAY 07, ON JULY THE 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Villarluengo and its area recived the Geo Day 07 celebration again. The event was organized by Turolenses studies Institute, Maestrazgo Geopark, Maestrazgo area, Palaeontology Studies from Teruel and Zaragoza University. We have to emphasize the high participation. Peoploe could see in situ the amazing Maestrazgo geology , that was on showed in a very interesting way. The trip began between Ejulve and Villarluengo. After a short presentation about the geology of the area by José Luis Simón and the French geologist J. Carenot, the group covered different geologic places that were planned before. There, people could see the different history periods in the mountains and in the rocks. This was an amazing experence for all of them. Showing the history of our land, the evolution of our territories and their constant changes was the main objective that we followed with the celebration of the Geo Day 07. These activities are inside the promotion and advertising activities that some state institutions and non-profit making institutions are doing for this Geopark.

**ALL TOGETHER FOR GUADALOPE RIVER** , on August the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> .

The conference was about Guadalupe River and its importance inside the ecosystem.

There were guide tours around the river.