

GEOPARK “PARQUE NATURAL DE LAS SIERRAS SUBBÉTICAS”

Activities Report 2007

1) Infrastructural works and equipment

- Equipment for the Ecomuseum of the Bats Cave (Zuheros). Ending of the building of the Ecomuseum, centre of interpretation located in the north of the Geopark. It has been proceeded to design and implement the interpretive and informative equipment, planned in an integrated form, of all the dependences and thematic areas of the Ecomuseum.
- Topographic works in the “Cuarenta” cave. Beginning of the works, authorized to a research group, in relation with the "Project of actions in the Cuarenta Cave": realization of an exact topography of the cavity, microspatial exhaustive documentation, methodical and systematic withdrawal of all the archaeological materials and protection of the access and cleanliness of the cavity.

2) Activities of Environmental Education

- Environmental Voluntary Camp: "Ethnological Patrimony: Diagnosis and Recovery", organized by the “Asociación Juvenil Favencia” and the Environment Department of Andalusia.
- 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).

3) Activities of Communication, Diffusion and Promotion of the Geopark

IBERIAN GEOPARKS MEETINGS (EUROPEAN GEOPARKS WEEK)

Meetings of the Spanish and Portuguese Geoparks; “Parque Cultural del Maestrazgo”, “Geoparque Sobrarbe”, y “Geopark Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional”, realized from June 2 to June 5, 2007.

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:

- Leaflet, in postal type, of the View-Point of the Bailón River Canyon. This product relates the characteristic of the canyon and the route of access.
- Pocket leaflet with the whole regulation of Public Use and active tourism of the Geopark.
- 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 1st 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.

AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION OF ANDALUSIAN GEODIVERSITY

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

ARTISTIC ROUTE THROUGH THE PRINCIPAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

Guided route through the Geopark realized on July 19, 2007, by the Priego of Córdoba's Painting School.

4) Activities of Conservation, Investigation and Development in the Geopark

- 1st 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 geotouristic 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 Subbéticas Geopark Region.

- 2nd CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY OF ANDALUSIA

Collaboration in the organization of the event and preliminary works.

5) Activities related with sustainable use and sports in the Geopark

- “Sierras Subbéticas Raid”. I Andalusian Sport Challenge, organized by the sports club YUMAR RAID. This match forms a part of the Spanish League of Adventure Raids and took place in May, 2007. This activity consisted of a series of tests compatible with the natural resources.
- X Mountain Cross of Subbéticas 2007, organized by the “Grupo de Montaña Tiñosa”.
- 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.

6) 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.