

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Name: Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription: 2013



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 4 staffs, including 1 geoscientist (e.g. GEOAÇORES Association)

Number of Visitors: 1.5 millions overnights stays; 150 000 visitants at Caldeira Velha Geosite Visitor Center

Number of Geopark events: 51 events held by the management body and 298 through partners

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 129 activities, with 3159 students and teachers

Number of Geopark press releases: 17 articles in the press

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major Achievements in 2016: i) The Azores was awarded in 2016 with the International Award “Top 100 Most Sustainable World Destinations”, obtained after an invitation launched on social media, followed by a selection of 30 sustainable tourism experts at international level; ii) Organization of the 14th European Geoparks Conference, which application was accepted unanimously by the EGN CC, and will take place at the Azores UGG in September, 2017.

Contribution Towards GGN - Networking and Participation: Participation in the 37th EGN CC

Meeting in the Basque Coast Geopark, Spain, March, 17th-19th; Participation with promotional material of the Azores UGG on an exhibition promoted by the Katla Geopark (Iceland); Participation in the 38th EGN CC Meeting in the English Riviera Geopark, United Kingdom, September, 26th; Participation in the “7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark”, held at the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, September 27th to 30th; Several activities at the aim of the EGN Thematic Working Group “Volcanic Geoparks”, that the Azores Geopark Scientific Coordinator act as Catalyst.

Management and Financial Status: The management of the geopark is assured by the GEOAÇORES Association – Azores Geopark Association, a non-profit association, with headquarters in Horta, Faial island and established through a public deed on May 19th, 2010. The Azores Geopark Association have an annual budget, approved by the General Assembly, the Management Board and the Auditor’s Committee, and supervised by an official accountant. At present the Association don’t have debts.

Geoconservation: Partnership with the Project TURGEO – “Definition of carrying capacity for the touristic use of geossites: a tool for the sustainable use and valuing of the Azores natural resources”; this project is coordinated by the University of Azores and has the ATA – Azores Tourism Board and the GEOAÇORES Association as partner.

Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism): Enhancing and strengthening of the cooperation with the Azores Tourism Board (ATA), which established the Azores Geopark as the key player for the implementation of the Azores geotouristic promotion and qualifying policies; Production and emplacement of about 50 new wood poles in sites of special geological interest; Production and emplacement of 10 “panoramic pannels” in iconic Azorean geolandscapes; Second edition of the workshop “Volcanoes, Geodiversity and Geotourism: A Trilogy of the Azores Geopark”, in partnership with the Regional Association of Touristic Activities Companies (AREAT), on the island of São Miguel, involving 15 participants from 13 private tourism companies, in March.

New Education Programmes on Geoconservation, Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction: Organization of the regional phase of the “Olimpíadas da Geologia/Portuguese Geology Olympics 2016”, in the Azores Autonomous Region, involving 19 students from 9 schools and from 7 islands of the archipelago. The 2 winner students participated in the “national phase”.

Strategic Partnership: Signature of the collaboration protocol with SATA (the Azorean airline company), March; Signature of the cooperation protocol with Secretaria Regional

da Agricultura e Ambiente/Agriculture and Environment Regional Secretariat, June; several memorandum of collaboration with local stakeholders, being presently a total of 44 partnerships.

Promotional Activities: Collaboration with the “Açoriano Oriental” newspaper, by publishing a page every two weeks entitled “(Geo)diversidades”; Daily update of the Azores Geopark’s facebook, with activities, photos and news; Promotion of the radio program "Geoparque Açores em 5 minutos/Azores Geopark in 5 minutes", in the radio station “RDP - Antena 1 Açores”, twice a week; Implementation of the "geoparks corners" in the São Miguel and Terceira Island Delegations; Production of roll-ups and similar supports to harbour's terminals of several islands.

4. Contacts:

Manager: Manuel Paulino Costa, manuel.ps.costa@azores.gov.pt

Geologist: João Carlos Nunes, joao.cc.nunes@uac.pt