

Major achievements in 2016

- ✓ The 2016 edition of the EGN Week, entitled “*Geo-Cooperation in the bottom-up approach*” with the motto “*Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining local Communities (UNESCO Global Geoparks)*”, was held from 14 May to 11 June in cooperation with about 20 local entities among public authorities, associations and private entrepreneurs offering gratis their services. The Regional Authority for Environment and Territory of all Sicily offered his legal aid because considered EGN Week, consistent with its own aims, deserving of the highest praise and useful for promoting our territory. Within the framework of an holistic approach each local entity run conferences, guided field trips, sport activities, educational activities and events offering local food. 8 of 23 days were dedicated to the Professional Continuous Updating (PCU) for geologists and credits were given by the Regional Order for Sicily’s Geologists involved. It was a success, not only because of the big number of participants of all ages, estimated to be not less than 3000, but also because of the holistic approach and the deep interest that the geological history of the Madonie aroused in the public. Emphasis was given to raise awareness on precautionary measure and mitigation of our territorial and social hydrogeological risk, facilitate dialogue among actors, and promote innovative solutions. One of the most interesting event was a scientific field trip guided by Palermo University to a new National geosite validated by the Regional Department for Territory and Environment. Final event on June the 10th highlighted best practices and the Madonie Geopark PPF Workshop was titled “Madonie Geopark: between Past that’s present and Present for Future”;
- ✓ Earth Day 2016, supported by Madonie Geopark, was held from 22 to 24 of April in Cefalù where a lot of initiatives were developed about environmental sustainability and education, tourism, sport, energy efficiency and renewable sources.
- ✓ On November 20 and 21, Madonie Geopark was present in many center of towns squares to celebrate the Three Day of 2016, in order to promot the project of "plantation of abies nebrodensis" a three very rare which is facing extinction. It was possible for the public to request a three adsorption, which is the landmark of Madonie Geopark
- ✓ Following the signature of the agreement with Italia Association of Naturalistic Guides (AIGAE) it started on the Madonie Geopark main office the training course for environmental excursion guide attended by many students from all sicilian provinces

Ente Parco delle Madonie

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- ✓ Presented on February 2nd the results of two projects: “Madonie in network” and “Madonie 2.0”. Both projects, realized under POR-FESR 2007-2013 and with the contribution of public and private institutions and the spin-off of the Camerino University. “Social Media Travelling” and the most innovative technologies were used to enhance environmental, cultural and artistic local heritage.
- ✓ The www.cefalumadoniehimera.it website, in Italian, English, French and German, summed up the project “Madonie 2.0” and contains 45 trails accessible through the App “Cefalù Madonie Himera” that can be downloaded for free from the App Store, Google Play and Windows Store.
- ✓ In 2016 it has been activated an information office in Palermo in managed in cooperation with the Foundation Sant'Elia.
- ✓ As part of the project "Reintroduction of griffon vulture in the Madonie Park" is in progress the construction of two thematic nature trails that lead to artificial feeding points for the carrion birds Carnac. A path will be made at Piano Farina in the town of Petralia Sottana, a distance of approximately 100 m, which is to follow the thematic course real on Aquila, it made a few years ago by the University of Palermo to account Ente Parco delle Madonie and near the area where it is planned the construction of the point of artificial feeding for birds scavengers (Carnaio). The second path will be made at the contrada Land of the Poor i of Isnell Municipality
- ✓ Legambiente Conference about Green Job and sustainable tourism, held on February 24th in Petralia Sottana.
- ✓ In July and August, tens of thousands of tourists visited the hinterland of the park furthest from the coast and the charming mountain villages that have proved able to offer rich cultural and entertainment programmes, also for geo-touristic enjoyment, regarding different paths, and participation in the 26rd Salt Festival, held on August 20th, supported and patronized by the Madonie Geopark.
- ✓ In September, a donation was made to support economically the people affected by the earthquake in the center of Italy and Amatrice
- ✓ PROJECT CO.BIO.SATT: It intends to respond to the risk of hydrogeological disruption of the Madonie Park through an intervention of recovering the ridge and fringed edges. In particular, it is expected that:
 - Experimentation of naturalistic engineering techniques on two areas identified within the Park (so graded and burned alive, sowing / hydrosemine, telemisuration stations for thermo-pluviometric monitoring);

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- the promotion of territorial animation activities with paths aimed at listening to the demands of the population and the involvement of citizens by adopting participatory logic and implementing relational and productive networks among local stakeholders;
 - the exploitation of the human and social capital existing in the territory through training courses aimed at the young population from the experimental paths of activated naturalistic engineering.
- ✓ Realization of the project "Network REM- ecosystem Madonie" for the production of information material on geopark geological sites; in particular the printing of 6,000 copies, of the brochure *Stones and Water*.
 - ✓ Realization of the Project for the Valorization of the Gorges on the river Pollina in C.da Tiberio of the Municipality of San Mauro Castelverde;
 - ✓ Redevelopment of an old quarry of inert materials, including buildings in the area of Portella Colla in the territory of Polizzi Generosa owned by the Madonie Park

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE WORK OF THE EGN

- ✓ Oral presentation titled "*The EGN for geotourism promotion trough geosites' appreciation. The Madonie Geopark experience on geosites*" in the frame of an event titled "*Villages and Landscapes, difficulties and promotion in the Monte San Nicola Geosite of international value*", held in Butera Municipality in southern Sicily from 13 to 14 May;
- ✓ Oral presentation titled "*Geoparks in the EGN for the best promotion and management of Sicilian geosites*" in the frame of an event titled "*Mines Parks and UNESCO Global Geoparks: territory management and improvement*", held in San Cataldo Municipality, Caltanissetta Province, from 27 to 28 May;
- ✓ Participation of one representative of the Madonie Geopark authorized by the Regional Ministry for Territory and Environment, in the 37th EGN CC Meeting (17-19 March), held at the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark in Spain.
- ✓ Participation of one representative of the Madonie Geopark in the 8th Workshop of the Italian Geoparks titled "*UNESCO Global Geoparks: protection, enhancement and management of geodiversity*", organized by Pollino UGG in middle-southern Italy from 4 to 6 July. Presented an oral speech titled "*Why UNESCO Global Geoparks are so useful to the sustainable development. Two positive denunciation example in the Madonie Geopark bottom-up approach*".

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- ✓ Participation in the mission, from July 30th to August 3rd, for the revaluation of the Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark in China.
- ✓ Participation to the Advisor Mission in the Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark in China, from 5 to 7 August, to offer together with Dr. Ibrahim Komoo suggestions on how to improve actions useful for next Wudalianchi's revalidation.
- ✓ Participation to the Advisor Mission in the Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark in China, from 8 to 9 August, to offer together with Dr. Ibrahim Komoo suggestions on how to improve actions useful for next Jingpohu's revalidation.
- ✓ Publishing one article in the European Geoparks Magazine, Issue 13, March 2016

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL STATUS

- ✓ On september 5th in Gratteri it was opened the Museum - Environmental Center of Madonie Geopark. At the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony attended the president of Madonie Geopark, the professors Rosario Schicchi e Maurizio Sara' of Palermo University, the mayor of Gratteri Giacomo Ilardo and many representatives of towns and region of the Palermo province area.
- ✓ Completed in December the new ski resort at Piano Battaglia geosite, expected after ten years. It will revitalize touristic activities and winter sports activities in the Madonie and Sicily.
- ✓ Because of the completed conservative restoration of the stucco, frescoes and wooden parts of the Palazzo Pucci Martinez, old residence and Madonie Geopark headquarters, Madonie Park Authority opened all the restored halls to the public fruition.
- ✓ Online training course of employees on: no corruption in public administrations

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- ✓ Signed on August 11th an agreement with AIGAE, the only professional Italian Association of Environmental and Walking Guides recognized by the Italian Ministry for the Economic Development, to provide group instruction and personal guiding at every level from easy trails, walks and treks to the most demanding hiking at the Madonie Geopark all year round. Also to offer instruction and guiding in mountain bike, canoa, donkey-hike, and other specialities as geo-tours. Most important aims are to develop new methodologies for environmental and cultural interpretation, environmental education, sustainable tourism, environmental communication and participatory formation.

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- ✓ Cooperation with Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark to share logos under the Conference titled "*Self-government and political representation in the European Countries*", held in Palermo city from 26 to 27 April. Sicilian and Basque Universities and important politicians of Sicily shared their points of views on how reinforce self-government;
- ✓ Shared a specific agreement on May 10th with the Regional Order for Sicily's Geologists in order to activate actions, programs and projects for the Professional Continuous Updating (PCU) of all Sicilian geologists. The agreement cements an alliance never interrupted and is addressed to optimize and relaunch geological professional formation in the Madonie Geopark. Madonie Geopark undersigned with some association as "Madonie a Passo Lento" and "Il Grifone" appropriate agreements in order to develop fruitful cooperation in promoting conservation, cultural, visiting and educational activities connected also to local and territorial geology, also to stimulate ideas and synergies for creating new job opportunities
- ✓ On August 20th the Madonie Geopark und signed an agreement with the Regional Environmental Guard in order to promote the conservation and protection of environment, of animals and citizen performing actions in order to preserve all areas of great naturalistic value
- ✓ Legambiente Conference about Green Job and sustainable tourism, held on February 24th in Petralia Sottana.
- ✓ Collaboration with the Confesercenti of Palermo in order to enhance the cultural, architectural and archaeological emergencies in the area of Madonie.
- ✓ Project Achievement "Job Alternation Paths" with the following Upper School Institutions:
 - Institute of Higher Education "Pietro Domina" of Petralia Sottana
 - Scientific Gymnasium "G. Salerno" of Gangi
 - Institute Alberghiero of Castellana Sicula
- ✓ Signed protocol Understanding with Legambiente for the realization and promotion of environmental education activities
- ✓ Collaborative relationships with voluntary associations for the conduct of vigilance activities in the Madonie Park
- ✓ Partnership with municipalities for the selection of an ENERGY SERVICE COMPANY ESCO for the "mixed concession of goods and services for energy reclamation and the management of public lighting systems

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MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ✓ On January 4th, the Regional Minister for Territory and Environment visited the Madonie Geopark headquarters in Petralia Sottana. He presented new point of views for development and revitalization of the protected area in accordance with the "vision" of the Sicilian Region which monitors and controls 5 regional parks, occupying an area of 185,824 hectares (7,2% of the regional territory) and 72 natural reserves with a total area of 85,181 hectares (3,3% of the regional territory).
- ✓ On december 9th at the Animal Protection Institute it was organized a convention on animal life where the Madonie Geopark presented its project on Griffin Volture of Madonie, project made possible through strong cooperation with the Italian Parks Federation.
- ✓ In order to promote the Re-introduction of Griffin Volture on Madonie park area, the Madonie Geopark staff made many activities of Enrico mental education to benefit the schools of first and second grade, but also made a program for high schools.
- ✓ Conference, held on January 31st at Villa Sgadari in Petralia Soprana, dedicated to the Mediterranean Diet with a presentation of the book "Spontaneous Vegetables of Sicily".
- ✓ Economic Support to the ONLUS Association "Commenda-Solart" by Polizzi Generosa for the implementation of a welcome project for immigrant families made in the Municipality of Polizzi Generosa
- ✓ Economic support to the Municipality of Castellana Sicula for the realization of Christmas manifestations 2016
- ✓ Economic Support to the Municipality of Polizzi Generosa for the realization of the "59° festival of the Hazelnuts" - August 18-21, 2016.
- ✓ Economic support to the Municipality of Cefalù for the event "The Look of the year".
- ✓ Economic Support to the Sicilian Equestrian Training Center of Castellana Sicula for the realization of the "Stage of Endurance F.I.S.E." regional event - Castellana Sicula 03-04 September 2016
- ✓ Registration to the Portal about Parks www.parks.it

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