

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network:

BEIGUA UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2005 / 2016

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year): Mare & Monti 2016 – September 10th-11th noncompetitive walks and trekking (more than 2.600 participants)



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 14 staffs (5 permanent + 9 by contract) including 3 geoscientists (1 permanent + 2 by contract); to be added 1 scientific coordinator + 4 researchers (geoscientists from University of Genoa through an official partnership/agreement)

Number of Visitors: about 450.000 (estimation of the visitors to the major geosites, trails, museums, visitor centers and information points).

Number of Geopark events: 45 events (33 held by management body and 12 held by cooperative organization)

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 100 classes (2185 students)

Number of Geopark press release: more than 30; in addition a big amount on websites and blogs.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation: 1. Attendance at the

37th EGN CC Meeting in Basque Coast Geopark (Spain) on March 16th – 19th 2016;
2. Evaluation mission (by Maurizio Burlando) in Lombok aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia, May 17th – 20th 2016; 3. Joining the European Geoparks Week 1st May – 5th June 2016; 4. Evaluation mission (by Maurizio Burlando) in Arxan aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, Chian-Inner Mongolia, July 26th – 29th 2016; 5. Attendance at the 38th EGN CC Meeting in English Riviera Geopark (England) on September 25th-26th 2016; 6. Attendance at the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in English Riviera Geopark (England) on September 27th-30th 2016.

Management and Financial status: The Beigua Geopark is managed by the Beigua regional nature Park Authority, that is a public equivalent body supervised by the Regional Administration of Liguria, founded in 1996 (Regional Law n. 12/1995). The Beigua Park Authority has the responsibility for all necessary actions towards the benefit of the area in combination with the protection of the nature park and the four Sites of the European NATURA 2000 Network (Birds Directive and Habitats Directive). The Beigua Geopark financial status especially depends on Regional Administration and on EU projects. During 2016 the financial status was stable (about 600.000,00 €).

Geoconservation: In 2016 Geopark staff has been supported by the University of Genoa to develop two new conservation projects: 1. the paleontological site in Maddalena – Ponte Prina (Sassello) to preserve the fossil coral reef and the best outcrops; 2. the geomorphological features in the Pratorotondo – Torbiera del Laione sites (blockstreams and blockfields especially) with a new information kiosk and interpretative panels.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): 1. Regular programmes of walks and guided tours have been realized in all the seasons (winter, spring, summer, autumn); 2. Monitoring visitors attendance along the trails network of Beigua Geopark; 3. Several activities have been carried out by local sports associations to enjoy some of the most interesting geological features of Geopark (canyoning, trekking, hiking, bouldering, mountain biking, orienteering).

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction: Regular educational programs for primary and secondary schools have been realized in Beigua Geopark according to specific agreement with local School Authorities (100 classes, 2185 students involved during 2016).

During 2016 the EVANDE EU project has been completed: the project (Enhancing

Volunteer Awareness and education against Natural Disasters through E-learning) aimed to create a new learning tool to educate and train civil protection volunteers and local authorities' staff through identification of best practices and knowledge, to develop a web platform to host e-learning courses and training activities, as well as to organize and implement local-based dissemination and training actions.

Strategic Partnership: The Beigua Geopark is strongly supported by local communities and stakeholders which are substantial part of the management body (Regione Liguria, Provincia di Savona, Città Metropolitana di Genova, n. 10 Local Municipalities, University of Genoa, Tourism Operators Associations, Agricultural Associations, Breeding Associations, Forestry Associations, Handicraft Associations, Environmentalist Associations, Hunters Associations, Sports & outdoor Associations, University of Genoa, Regional and Local School Districts.

Many others national and local bodies collaborate with the Beigua Geopark (Museum of Natural History of Genoa, Italian Alpin Club, Italian Federation for Hiking, Italian Union for Sports, Italian Federation for Parks and Nature Reserves, ISPRA National Institute for Environment Protection and Research).

Promotional activities: 1. Quarterly newsletter of the "Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark" newsletter (10.000 – 15.000 paper copies; downloadable also by the web-site) published and distributed in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. 2. Monthly electronic newsletter of the "Parco del Beigua – Beigua Geopark" (downloadable by the web-site). 3. New APP for smartphone (for Android and iOS) about the main features of the Geopark's territory (geology, biology, history and cultural heritage, trails, visitor centres and infopoints, meteo, webcam, etc.). 4. Several new road signs and interpretative panels in the field promoting the Beigua Geopark and the UNESCO recognition.

4. Contacts:

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