

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark

Spain, European Geoparks Network. 2011 / 2015

Day of the geopark educative community "Geoconvivencia 2016". Village of Castañar de Ibor, 25th May.



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5, including 3 geoscientists

Number of Visitors: 90,000 visitors per year.

Number of Geopark events: 12.

Number of Geopark press release: 5

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016:

- In geoconservation: Technical projects for geosites' management.
- In education: Publication of the Geopark activity book.
- In geotourism: Geodisea 2016, see below.
- In networking: Twinning activities with several geoparks in China.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:

- 7th European Geopark Week. 20th-29th May.
- Meeting with Shennongjia UGG and visit to Wangwushan-Daimeishan UGG, Sanqingshan UGG and Yandangshan UGG. China. 15th-25th April. Twinning Geoparks Agreement signed.
- Revalidation Mission of Beigua Global Geopark by José María Barrera.
- Meetings and activities with Rio Coco Geopark Project, Nicaragua. 7th-10th June.
- Visit of a delegation of the Sanqingshan UGG, China. 24th-25th September.
- Assistance to the 37th EGN CC (Basque Coast Geopark, Spain) and the 38th EGN CC and 7th UGG International Conference 2016 (English Riviera UGG, UK).
- Assistance to the 1st Forum of Shennongjia UGG, China. 10th-13th October.
- Collaborative research about the ichnofossil *Daedalus* with Naturtejo UGG.
- 3rd Open Seminar of the Spanish Geoparks Forum.

Management and Financial status:

The management is held by the Provincial Council of Cáceres. The final report of the accounts of 2016 is not yet finalized. The 2016 Action Plan has been carried out.

Geoconservation:

- Technical projects of 4 geosites granted by the Regional General Directorate of Rural Development to improve their accessibility and security.
- Technical project for the management of the geological paths.
- Studies to open 2 new geological paths.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):

- Geodisea 2016: special promotion about geology, adventure, cultural heritage and gastronomy; 22nd October- 6th November.
- A large number of activities carried out by the tourist companies.
- Several speeches/field trips carried by the geopark staff.

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:

The geopark support the activities run by the educative centers:

- Development of practical activities and compilation of those that follow the textbook of Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark. Publication of the Activity book.
- The Geoconvivencia 2016 in Castañar de Ibor, with more than 500 pupils from different schools of the Geopark: seminar, entertainment, and activities. 25th May.
- Field trips and geology workshops. 19 educative field trips organized by the geopark in collaboration with the Regional General Directorate of Education.
- Visibility of the Geopark at school. A sign to remember their membership in the "Geocentros Network" is installed on their facade.
- Contribution to the Regional Environmental Education Strategy.
- Several speeches/field trips about geology and paleontology carried by members of the Scientific Committee in/with educative centers.

Strategic Partnership:

Government of the autonomous region of Extremadura: Conservation and accessibility to the geosites. Participation on the educative project.

University of Extremadura: Research and Scientific committee.

Municipalities of the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara: Management of the Infocenters.

Participation in the European Week activities.

LEADER Group APRODERVI: Approval of the "Geostrategy", Geopark Local Participate Development Strategy.

Tourism Business Association –Geovilluercas: Participation in several tourist Fairs.

Geological Association of Extremadura: Scientific advisors.

Promotional activities:

- Assistance to FITUR, FIO and ITB trade fairs.
- New promotional brochures.

4. CONTACTS:

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Scientific Director: Teodoro Palacios. PhD in Geology. medrano@unex.es.

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