

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2018

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Ireland, Irish Geoparks Forum, EGN.

Year of inscription 2004 / Year of the last revalidation 2015



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: (4)1 full time, 1 full time seasonal, 2 part time.

Number of Visitors: 15'000 recorded at visitor centre

Number of Geopark events: 30

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 8

Number of Geopark press release: 12

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

- **Major achievements in 2018:** (i) Continued participation in Atlantic Geotourism Route interreg project with 11 other Geoparks across the Atlantic area of Europe. This nearly 2 million euro ERDF funded project is a collaborative effort towards the creation of an Atlantic Geotourist route which will become a thematic trail of Geopark discovery. (ii) Development of new outreach activities such as environmental art works and guide training activities (iii) Finalization of a collaborative project with the local authority to develop Geopark
- thematic cycle trails (iv) A successful EGN week which featured over 20 events from all the communities of the Geopark. (v) Longer visitor centre opening season (increase of 2 months in season length).

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- **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:** Two representatives attended the meeting EGN in Karawanke Geopark (Slovenia/Austria) in March 2018 as well as the EGN/GGN meeting in the Admallo Brento Geopark (Italy) in September 2018. The Copper Coast contributed towards EGN newsletters and directors of the Copper Coast were involved in several revalidation missions during 2018.
- **Management and Financial status:** The Copper Coast Geopark operates as a charity and social enterprise with a local management team and board consisting of local volunteers and community representatives. Financially, the Geopark is secure, receiving grant funding from the local authority, national Geological Survey and makes revenue from café and visitor centre operation.
- **Geoconservation:** Improved local Geopark interpretation signage was installed at geosites throughout the Copper Coast.
- **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):** Sustainable tourism activities such as sea weed foraging tours were promoted and ran during festival events by the Copper Coast Geopark.
- **New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:** The Copper Coast Geopark ran a number of school education programmes with local primary school students throughout the year 2018.
- **Strategic Partnership:** The Geopark continued to develop its formal partnerships with relevant local and national bodies such as Irish Geoparks Forum, Atlantic Georoute project. Locally the Copper Coast Geopark began formalising strategic partnerships with other community and non profit action groups.
- **Promotional activities:** The Copper Coast Geopark has engaged in self promotion as well as the promotion of the Geoparks network through increasing visibility of events related to the Geopark such as EGN week events as well by maintaining a presence in local and national tourism offices via leaflets. The Copper Coast Geopark has also grown its visibility in national and local press through press releases and features with journalists. The Copper Coast has also grown its social media following through active updates and innovative content.

4. Contacts: **Manager/Geologist:** Robbie Galvin, robbie@coppercoastgeopark.com