

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2018



1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network:

Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:

2011 / 2017



Katla Conference in Vík regarding 100 years from the last eruption in Katla Volcano, 12th of October 1918

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs:

3 staff members full time, 3 staff members part time - among them are 2 geologists

Number of visitors:

Total number of visitors to Southern Iceland in 2018 is approximately 1.5 million.

Number of Geopark events:

At least 25 events. The Katla Conference in October 2018 (1), the Rainbow Festival (1), festivities related to the 100th year anniversary of the birth of the Skaffellingur trade vessel (1), various events during the Spring Festival (22 events, f.eg. : the trail run at geosite Hjörleifshöfði, treasure hunt with Vatnajökull National Park, hike with park rangers in Dyrhólaey Nature Reserve and geosite, various concerts by certified partners, hikes with a local trekking company, zipline adventure tour, photography and art exhibitions, etc).

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

Written agreements with two primary schools, Geoschools, operating within the Geopark.

Number of Geopark press release:

Approximately 10.

Regarding revalidation: 2

Regarding spring festival: 2-3

Regarding Whimbrel festival: 2-3

Regarding Katla conference: quite a few. Approximately 5-10 including a short presentation on the national news and radio.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**Major achievements in 2018**

- Receiving revalidation (green card) in January
- 350-400 participant conference about the 100 year eruption anniversary from last big eruption in Katla Volcano 1918.
- Spring Festival of Katla Geopark, 22 events during 30 days! – (an extended version of the geoweek)
- More signage being put up, nature signs put up through volunteer program
- First world migratory bird day celebrated on the 12th of May - Whimbrel festival
- Assisting partner organization with an event for the 100th year anniversary of the trading ship vessel Skaftfellingur. 150 attendees approximately.
- First published book in cooperation with a history professor concerning historical tellings of the Katla Volcano eruption history occurring between years 1650-1860.
- Funding acquired through grant program for the Geoschool project.
- Publishing of the Katla Geopark Destination Management Plan.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Ruritage project, cooperation project with many partners from many countries.
- GeoVR/Geomuseum project with Magma Geopark, Jarðfengi Faroes and Ilulissat Ice Fjord World Heritage Site.
- Drifting Apart – end of project in February. Conference.
- 2 articles in the newsletter EGN.
- Meetings GGN in Adamello and EGN Karawanken
- Welcoming visitors from Russia

- ASCENT project. Cooperation with The Icelandic Soil Conservation Service of Iceland and Mourne Heritage trust in N-Ireland
- Paper presented on 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (Climate Change and Geohazards)

Management and Financial Status

- Receiving annual funding from the 3 municipalities
- Receiving governmental funding (2017-2021)
- Receiving specific funds for specific projects (spring festival, publishing book, Geoschools)

Geoconservation

- Signage put up in multiple locations around the geopark (20+) for conservation of nature; fragile moss and nesting grounds.
- Closing and protecting of certain geosites (Skógaheiði and Fjaðrárgljúfur) due to fragile vegetation.
- Limitation of accessibility of the geosite Dyrhólaey due to protection of nesting birds in spring.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Destination Management Plan for Katla Geopark published and introduced.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Special program at the Katla Conference for the 2 formal geoschools and one additional school, educating students about natural hazards and monitoring of that.

Strategic partnership

- Written agreements with two new partner companies from Katla Geopark.

Promotional activities

- Participating in Mannamót, the largest tourism fair for Icelandic travel companies.
- Participating in Mid-Atlantic, Icelandair tourism fair intended for international travel companies.
- Great recognition and visibility through the Katla Conference in Vík.

4. CONTACTS

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