

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark (European Geopark Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation 2001/2016

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 11 permanent including 1 Geologist & 53 seasonal staff

Number of Visitors: 340,000 across all Geopark sites in Counties Fermanagh & Cavan.

Highest visitor figures on record.

Number of Geopark events: 64

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 5,000

Number of Geopark press release: 10

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

On-going progression towards the completion of the €3.5million INTERREG VB Drifting Apart project, in partnership with a number of aspiring and existing Geoparks. MACUGG operational budget of €250,000.

- On-going participation and progression in €1.8m INTERREG Atlantic Geoparks Project with existing and aspiring Geoparks.
- Representatives from MACUGG attended the European Geopark Network Meeting in Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Representatives from MACUGG attended UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks Annual Meeting in North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark
- Representatives from MACUGG attended the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee meeting.
- Richard Watson conducted a Revalidation Mission, Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands

- Representatives from MACUGG attended the Korean Geoparks Network meeting and carried out pre-assessment visit to Meduengsan UNESCO Global Geoparks together with colleagues from the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network.
- Representatives from MACUGG visited from Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark as part of a number of visits to other European Geoparks.
- Dr Kirstin Lemon conducted revalidation missions to Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark and Toya Usu UNESCO Global Geopark in Japan.
- Dr Kirstin Lemon attended the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council meeting as part of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium in Zhijindong UNESCO Global Geopark, China.
- Dr Kirstin Lemon visited Jersey upon invitation by Jersey Heritage who are wishing to establish the island as a UNESCO Global Geopark in the near future.

Management and Financial status & Strategic Partnership

- On-going progression of a governance and management review of MACUGG with increased priority being given to areas such as community engagement, interaction with local business and sustainable tourism.

Geoconservation

- GSNI 70th Anniversary symposium with Kirstin Lemon and Patrick McKeever as speakers on Geoparks and sustainable tourism, with key examples from MACUGG.
- MACUGG is a strategic partner in an INTERREG VIA project 'Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN)' which focuses on a range of conservation and land management actions for Cuilcagh Mountain.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- MACUGG wins a 'Sustainable Tourism Award' at the Tourism NI Awards

- MACUGG continues to be influential in National Tourism Strategy being a key component in Fáilte Ireland's new tourism proposition 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' and in Tourism Northern Ireland's Tourist Vision for County Fermanagh.
- GSNI launched the NI Geodiversity Charter of which MACUGG is an example of good practice for responsible tourism.

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

- Development of new range of post-primary education materials and GeoVR capabilities as part of the Drifting Apart Project.
- On-going delivery of our highly successful formal and informal education programmes

Promotional activities

- Marble Arch Caves and Cavan Burren Park continue to be awarded certificates of excellence on Trip Advisor. Social media platforms continue to have significant reach and following.
- Geopark sites continue to be promoted in a variety of Local, National and International media in partnership with relevant statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

4. Contacts:

Manager: Ian Davidson; ian.davidson@fermanaghmagh.com

Derry Scanlan; dscanlan@cavancoco.ie

Geologist: Dr Kirstin Lemon; klem@bgs.ac.uk