

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2018

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark (United Kingdom, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription: 2005

Year of the last revalidation: 2015



**Figure 1: Gail Ross (Member of Scottish Parliament) using the newly installed Rock Stop Time Machine**

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 3 staff including 2 geoscientists

Number of Visitors:

Number of Visitors:	Rock Stop Geocentre	Knockan Crag National Nature Reserve	Smoo Cave	Durness visitor centre
2017	4114	3478	68,000	33461
2018 (to July end)	4084	9031	73,000	14091
Total	10573	12509	141000	47552

Number of Geopark events:

2017: 51

2018: 65

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

- Scourie Primary visit to Knockan Crag
- Gairloch Highschool fieldtrip to Rock Stop
- Ullapool Highschool Higher Geography projects on Geopark soils research
- Kinlochbervie Highschool AR sandbox workshop at the Rock Stop
- Kinlochbervie primary visit to the Rock Stop

Number of Geopark press release: 39

### 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2018:

- Installation of Rock Stop Time Machine exhibit
- Launch of Scottish Geodiversity Charter
- Completion of the Drifting Apart project activities
- Soil fertility research project activities
- Geopark business network set up

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Attendance at EGN coordination committee meetings in Azores UGG and Karavanke Karawanken UGG
- Participation in the NPA Drifting Apart project including final conference in Rekjanes UGG and Katla UGG

- Attendance at the UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks meeting, Forest Fawr UGG – our Geopark coordinator is now Vice Chair
- Organisation of Scottish Geoparks Partnership meetings with Shetland UGG and Lochaber aspiring UGG – Our Geopark coordinator is Acting Chair
- Submission of articles to the EGN magazine and newsletters
- Participation in the GGN General Assembly for Accounts

#### Management and Financial status:

NWH UGG is now a charity and a company limited by guarantee. It is solvent and project applications are to be submitted for 2019-2023 for new activities. We have also developed independent income streams through our visitor centre and commercial activities as we receive no core financial support from the public sector.

#### Geoconservation:

- Geodiversity charter developed for whole of Scotland – NWH UGG mentioned specifically

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): We are working with our partners in the Coigach Assynt Living Landscape Partnership, Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere, The Highland Council and Visit Scotland to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy.

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

- Program for Business owners under development
- Program on regional sustainable development (Food, arts & crafts trails and Geoheritage festival) under development

#### Strategic Partnership

- We are partners with the Coigach Assynt Living Landscape partnership
- We have set up a business network this year for Geopark businesses.
- We are working on a formal partnership agreement with the Scourie Community Development Company to deliver a £7million Geocentre project.

Promotional activities:

- Filming for BBC Landward TV documentary on the Soil Fertility project
- Geopark Crowdfunder – 700 new 'friends'
- Political lobbying to gain UK and Scottish government interest in UNESCO sites – meetings, multi-agency workshops and events
- Working with UNESCO National Commission on a UNESCO trail in Scotland
- Working with the Scottish Geodiversity Forum on a National Geoheritage Festival including 51 Best Places to see Scottish Geology publication and website
- Developing an EatDrinkGeopark label and an Arts and Crafts trail

4. Contacts:

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