

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Name: Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription: 2013 - Year of the last revalidation: 2017



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 4 staffs, including 1 geoscientist (e.g. GEOAÇORES Association)

Number of Visitors: 1.8 millions overnights stays; 250 000 visitors at Furnas Caldeira volcanic lake site

Number of Geopark events: about 70 events held by the management body and 260 though partners/cooperative organizations

Number of school initiatives done under the framework of the Geopark educational programs: 226 activities, with 6190 students and teachers

Number of Geopark press releases: 27 articles in the press

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017: i) several initiatives to increase and improve the Azores UGG visibility in the territory (to local population and visitors) and abroad; ii) revalidation mission to the Azores UGG, in July, by evaluators Manfred Kupetz (Germany) and Stephane Legal (France); iii) 14th European Geoparks Conference, in September, with

about 370 participants from 36 countries, from Europe, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, U.S.A., Iran, Japan and Mexico.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation: Participation in the 39th EGN CC Meeting in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGG, United Kingdom, March, 23th-25th; Participation in the 40th EGN CC Meeting in the Azores UGG, Portugal, September, 6th; Participation in the “14th European Geoparks Conference, held at the Azores UGG, September 7th to 9th; Several activities under the framework of the EGN and GGN Thematic WG’s “Volcanic Areas”, that the Azores Geopark Scientific Coordinator act as catalyst and vice-coordinator, respectively.

Management and Financial Status: The management of the geopark is made by the GEOAÇORES Association – Azores Geopark Association, a non-profit association, with headquarters in Horta, Faial island and established through a public deed on May 19th, 2010. The GEOAÇORES Association have an annual budget, approved by the General Assembly, the Management Board and the Auditor’s Committee, and supervised by an official accountant. At present the Association do not have debts.

Geoconservation: Partnership with the Project “TURGEO-Definition of carrying capacity for the touristic use of geossites: a tool for the sustainable use and valuing of the Azores natural resources”; this project is coordinated by the University of Azores and has the ATA – Azores Tourism Board and the GEOAÇORES Association as partner.

Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism): Enhancing and strengthening of the cooperation with the Azores Tourism Board (ATA), which established the Azores Geopark as the key player for the implementation of the Azores geotouristic promotion and qualifying policies; Production and emplacement of about 50 new wood poles in sites of special geological interest; Production and emplacement of 10 “panoramic pannels” in iconic Azorean geolandscapes;

New Education Programmes on Geoconservation, Sustainable Development and

Disaster Risk Reduction: Organization of the regional phase of the “Olimpíadas da Geologia/Portuguese Geology Olympics 2017”, in the Azores Autonomous Region, involving 24 students from 9 schools and from 7 islands of the archipelago. The 2 winner students participated in the “national phase”.

Strategic Partnership: Collaboration protocol with SATA (the Azorean airline company); Cooperation protocol with the Azores Government Regional Secretariat of Energy,

Environment and Tourism; several memorandum of collaboration with local stakeholders, being presently a total of 45 partnerships signed memorandum.

Promotional Activities: Collaboration with the “Açoriano Oriental” newspaper, by publishing a page every two weeks entitled “(Geo)diversidades”; Daily update of the Azores Geopark’s facebook, with activities, photos and news; Promotion of the radio program "Geoparque Açores em 5 minutos/Azores Geopark in 5 minutes", in the radio station “RDP - Antena 1 Açores”, twice a week; Implementation of the "geoparks corners" in the São Miguel and Terceira Island Delegations; Production of roll-ups and similar supports to harbour's terminals of several islands.

Implementation of the "geoparks corners" in the São Miguel and Terceira Island Delegations of the Azores Geopark; Production of roll-ups and similar supports to harbour's terminals of Terceira and Santa Maria Island;

4. CONTACTS:

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