

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

## 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:** ~35

**Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 10

**Number of Geopark press release:** 10

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

- **Major achievements in 2017:** (i) 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) The engagement of a new part time administrative staff member in the Geopark and the reorganization of administrative procedures (iii) Beginning of a collaborative project with the local authority to develop Geopark thematic cycle trails (iv) A much larger EGN week which featured over 20 events from all the communities of the Geopark.
- **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:** Two representatives attended EGN meeting in the Burren Geopark in 2017, the

Copper Coast Geologist attended the UNESCO intensive Geoparks course in Lesvos in June 2017. The Copper Coast contributed towards EGN newsletters and directors of the Copper Coast were involved in revalidation missions during 2017.

- **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):** International tourists were received directly through the visitor centre in the Copper Coast Geopark as well as through tours operated by the Geopark.
- **New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:** The Copper Coast developed the Earthsense program for early years education in the Geopark which involved a local childcare NGO, a Geoschool education program was also run for local primary schools (Ages 6 to 12).
- **Strategic Partnership:** The Geopark continued to develop its formal partnerships with relevant local and national bodies such as Irish Geoparks Forum, Atlantic Georoute project. Through collaborative action, the Geopark has also sought to increase local participation in the Geopark through an informal body known as the Copper Coast Forum.
- **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.

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