

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription: 2002 / **Year of the last revalidation:** 2016

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)



Cooperation visit of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark with participation in 2 activity days and an intercultural project

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 15

Number of Visitors: in visitor centres about 500 000

Number of Geopark events: in total > 1000 events, about 700 by Geopark on site guides (Geopark volunteer programme) and Geopark Rangers

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 108

Number of Geopark press releases: > 1200

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017

- Vocational training for Geopark Rangers and Geopark-on-site-guides
- Visitor mine “Marie” awarded as Geotope 2017
- Nature Discovery and Geo-Workshops with Geopark Rangers at Geopark Entrance Gate West and WHS Messel Pit
- Continuation of Farm Activity Days with the Geopark rangers
- Celebration of the European Geopark Week (81 events)
- Implementation of new Geopark Trail: “Trail of Diversity”
- Implementation of new Geo-Points (Fischbachtal, Seeheim-Jugenheim, Heppenheim)
- Continuation of the common “Hessian Naturepark Hiking Day”
- Cooperation with nature conservation associations (“Streuobstwiesenretter”, “Großherbivoren”)
- Celebration of the “Fruit of the Year” – tree planting of regional varieties with “Kühkopf Kids” and in member municipalities
- Continuation of revision and reprint of hiking map system (21 single maps)
- Global Nomadic Arts Project: Nature Art workshop, symposium and photo exhibition in cooperation with 24 international artists and the International Forest Association
- Implementation of new web-platform on SDG 2030 with examples from the Geopark
- Participation in Annual Conference of DGGV, “Geotope und Geoparks” with oral presentation
- Regular meetings of the Working Group of German Geoparks (vice speaker: J.W.)
- Publication of brochure on SDG 2030 in general and in the Geopark by the German UNESCO Commission

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the International Tourism Fair (ITB) Berlin 2017: Global Geoparks booth and 2 Press Conferences
- Member of the Editorial Board of the EGN Magazine (J.W.) and publication of contribution in EGN magazine No. 14
- Catalyst and publication of EGN Electronic Newsletters No 8, 9 and 10 (J.W.)
- Participation in the EGN spring meeting (Burren & Cliffs of Moher UGG, Ireland)
- Participation in the International EGN Conference (Azores, Portugal) with oral presentation and participation in the Geopark Fair

- Participation in the International Symposium on Sustainable Development (Porto Alegre, Brazil): convener of session on UNESCO Global Geoparks and keynote speech (J.W.)
- Cooperation with Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Participation in intercultural Peony project (Geopark Day, booth, oral presentation, planting ceremony)
- Cooperation with WHS Messel Pit and Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark: Geobaking Day in the WHS Visitor Centre with oral presentations and tasting
- Regular meetings of the Forum of UGG in Germany (vice speaker J.W.)
- Lecturer at 1st UNESCO Summer University on Geoparks, Sustainable Development and Healthy Lifestyle (J.W.),
- Workshops of UGG in Germany on renewable energy and education for sustainable development in cooperation with the German UNESCO Commission and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Revalidation mission to UGG Sardinia
- Participation in EGN Week 2017 with brochure and 81 events
- Catalyst of WG on SDG 2030 (EGN) and member of similar GGN WG
- Member of GGN Communication Committee
- Member in International Ruritage Project (Horizon 2020): Replicator

Management and Financial status: stable

Geoconservation: Continued cooperation with Historical Mining Association Odenwald

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): Cooperation with the touristic destinations Odenwald and Bergstrasse (hiking brochures, holiday maps)

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

Public oral presentations: Earth history and Earthquakes in the Geopark territory (related to the Rhine rift valley), development of new educational programme on the SDG's

Strategic Partnership: University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt (Communication, Sustainable Development Goals),

Promotional activities: > 50 thematic brochures, reprint according ecological standards, 2 Geopark magazines, 10 newsletters

4. Contacts:

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