

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: *Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark, Uruguay, Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network*

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: *2013 / 2017*

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)



November, 4th to 8th. 5th Latin American and Caribbean UNESCO Geoparks Meeting (Trinidad).

Opening ceremony.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: *18 technical and administrative staffs including 2 geoscientists.*

Number of Visitors in 2019

16500 visitors to Grutas del Palacio geosite; 325 visitors to "El Arenal" geosite; camping area with 3600 visitors in Bartolomé Hidalgo geosite; about 40000 people assistance to Music Show in Bartolomé Hidalgo site during three days in January; 7000 visitors to the city Museum; about 150.000 visitors to Talice Ecopark.

Number of Geopark events:

Latin American Geotourism Day

Geocinema

3rd Geotourism Week

“Geological heritage and Tourism as strategies to achieve 2030 SDG” Course

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

In primary and secondary public institutions classes and educational activities. About 20 events.

To university students were five events.

Number of Geopark press release:

The events were published in several press releases. About 15 different communications in local journals, TV and radios.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**Major achievements in 2019 – Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation**

- *Four internships of German students (six months each one) using a cooperation between both National UNESCO Commissions in Germany and Uruguay.*
- *Member of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network Coordination Committee (GEOLAC Network) (secretary and treasurer in charge).*
- *Going to 2030 GDS in UNESCO Global Geoparks- The new territories of 21st Century (during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of Montevideo UNESCO Regional Sciences Office)*
- *GeoLAC Network Coordinator Committee meeting in Trinidad*
- *Dr. Ivan Cortijo (Villuercas Ibore Jara UGG) conference and course*
- *Some visitors: Prof. José Selles (Argentina), ambassador of Japan; ambassador of United Kingdom*

Management and Financial status

During 2019 the income and outgoings amounts were U\$S 369.500 and U\$S 271.920 respectively. Positive balance: U\$S 97.580.

Geoconservation: *using a systematic approach during 2019 was done an inventory study to ensure strategies for conservation on three geosites. This work was done by Juan Pablo Caballero (geologist student) to obtain his geologist degree in 2020.*

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): *4th Geotourism National Week (April, 15th to 21st), during Easter days almost 750 visitors were reached in activities in different geosites.*

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

None

Promotional activities

Active participation en several fairs and events:

Buenos Aires FIT (International Tourism Fair)

Spain FIT through Ministry of Tourism

ExpoPrado (Rural Fair in Montevideo)

LATU Travel Agencies Fair (Montevideo)

Strategic Partnership

Savia Cosmetic Creams (Mrs. Manuela Urioste local entrepreneur)

Geopark´s cookies (Mrs. Julia Olarte local entrepreneur)

Geopark´s Christmas baskets (local entrepreneurs women)

4. CONTACTS:

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