

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark, France, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2004 / 2019



Protection of the mammal footprints slab in Viens by dry stone wall construction.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 3.7 full-time equivalent including 2 geologists

Number of visitors: About 1.600.000 tourists

Number of Geopark events: about 60 events held by the Luberon regional nature Park – UGG (training courses, public events, etc.) out of 90 planned because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 145 out of 329 planned because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Number of Geopark press release:

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements

- Scientific study of the Saignon mammal fossil tracksite: more than 1000 footprints including 19 perissodactyl and 10 artiodactyl trackways. 25 high-resolution photogrammetric records of individual trackways and footprints. International collaboration (University of Florence, Italy) and graduate student (University of Rennes, France) research project., Oral presentation at the Invertebrate and Vertebrate Paleontology (IVP) international congress (17-20 November 2020) and poster presentation at the Palaeontological Association's Annual virtual Meeting (16-18 December 2020).
- Protection of the fossil mammal tracksite of Viens: dry stone wall construction to reduce the water run-off and restrict the access to the site.
- Palaeontological fieldwork in Murs (Vaucluse): rich early Oligocene vertebrate assemblage.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- EGN magazine: Luberon Gratitude, an initiative from geopartners and tourism professionals from the Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark to thank the pandemic frontline worker, EGN magazine Issue 18
- Participation in the digital meetings of the European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee (5 June and 15 September 2020), and the Global Geoparks Network (17-18 November 2020). Participation in the general assembly of the French national geoparks committee (27 November 2020)..
- Writing of three articles for publication in the journal Geoconservation Research special volume: Fossils, Geosites and Geoconservation in UNESCO European Geoparks.

Management and Financial Status

- Management of the UNESCO designation Commission.
- Management of the Geopark monitoring group headed by the director of the Luberon Regional Natural Park.
- Revision of the 2024-2039 charter of the Luberon Regional Nature Park, the Geopark's management structure: diagnostic, consultation of elected officials and inhabitants of the territory, etc.

Geoconservation

- Monitoring of protected and sensitive sites, management plan of the Aptian protected area of la Tuilière
- Geological inventory in the Luberon-Lure Biosphere Reserve, partly overlapping the Geopark territory

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Participation in the Science Festival, Geology National Day and Cultural heritage European

Day

- Design and production of a new exhibition on the geology and palaeontology of the Geopark territory (12 panels) and creation of a rock collection: 20 samples illustrating the geodiversity (in its geological components: rocks, minerals and fossils) of Luberon.
- Development of a geotourism trip to be marketed by the company Escursia (<https://www.escursia.fr>).
- Involvement in the Massif des Ogres sustainable development project (Opération Grand Site) led by the community of communes and the Pays d'Apt - Luberon tourist office.
- Creation of the Espace VTT Provence Luberon Lure ®, a network of mountain bike tours: 63 itineraries, representing 1,061 km of marked routes and almost 30,000 m of vertical drop

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

- Reception of a secondary school class for a 5-day Geopark stay at the Château de l'environnement (Buoux, Vaucluse).
- Educational activities about seismic risks involving eighth secondary school classes.

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation with the Museum of Natural History in Basel and the Jurassica Museum in Porrentruy: visit of the collections and preparation of the Murs fossils from the previous excavations.
- Organisation of a geopartners digital meeting.
- Participation in the digital congress of Nature Reserves of France. Participation in the work of the Geological Heritage Commission of Nature Reserves of France (Biodiversity and geodiversity).
- Publication in collaboration with the regional climate expert group (GREC-SUD) of a territorial notebook about mitigating and adapting to climate change in the Luberon area, gathering more than 40 contributions and proposing concrete actions (<https://cutt.ly/GboEzB>).

Promotional activities

Promotion of the territory in the media: television, radio, newspapers.

4. CONTACTS

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