

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, UK & Ireland, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2001 / 2015

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 18 staffs including 1 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: 474,545 (only at sites where data logging occurs)

Number of Geopark events: 80

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 3,000

Number of Geopark press release: 3

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- MACUGG representatives continue to be actively involved in both the Irish and UK UGGp committees, with Dr Kirstin Lemon assuming the role of Chair on both Committees.
- MACUGG representatives conducted revalidation missions in Madonie and Langkawi UGGp.
- MACUGG instrumental in the establishment in Transnational UGGp Committee, the first meeting of which was held in Muskau Arch UGGp.
- MACUGG representatives attended EGN CC meetings Swabian Alps UGGp, Germany and Sierra de Norte Sevilla UGGp, Spain
- MACUGG representative was speaker at 3rd International Summer University Conference on Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles.
- Dr Kirstin Lemon remains an active member of UGGp Council and Bureau
- MACUGG hosted delegations, provided mentoring & support to aspiring UGGps (Causeway Coast & Glens and Mourne Gullion Strangford). We continue to invest in our sistering with Hong Kong UGGp. Investigation of potential twinning arrangement with Naturejo da Meseta Meridional UGG, Portugal.

Management and Financial Status

- Significant progression of the strategic governance and management review of MACUGG with the appointment of a new Manager, restructuring/appointment of new staff all of whom will have a cross border remit and an increased focus on stakeholder engagement, community & business engagement, sustainable tourism and conservation.

Geoconservation

- MACUGG is a strategic partner in an INTERREG VIA Project 'Collaborative Action for the Natura Network' (CANN) which focuses on a range of conservation and land management actions for Cuilcagh Mountain.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- On-going participation in €1.8m INTERREG Atlantic Geoparks 'Geotourism' Project with both existing and aspiring Geoparks.
- On-going development of a collaborative cross-border Rural Development funded, 'Cuilcagh Mtn project to include for proposed a range of capital and resource developments including creation of new recreational infrastructure and a Geopark business engagement programme.
- Successful progression of €3.5 million sustainable tourism project augmenting existing tourism infrastructure and creation of new sustainable visitor experiences at key Geopark sites namely Cavan Burren Park and Shannon Pot.
- Successful progression of the development plan for Lough Navar as a key site within the Geopark

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

- Research observatory development together with Geological Survey of Northern Ireland as part of AGEO (Atlantic Geohazards Network) INTERREG VB-funded project.
- Development of Geopark Ambassador Programme in County Fermanagh and on-going mentoring/upskilling of existing Geopark Ambassadors.
- On-going development and implementation of a number of significant community focused sustainable development projects; Cuilcagh 2 Cleenish, Outdoor Recreation, Town & Village etc

Strategic partnership

- Strategic governance and Management Review Progression has augmented and strengthened existing strategic partnerships between our Local Management Authorities and key statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (e.g. Forest Service NI & Coillte).
- Significantly increased engagement with a variety of third party, private sector organisations to host and deliver significant outdoor recreation/engagement events e.g. Irish Orienteering Championships, FEARmanagh, Taste the Island, Gravel Grinder (approx. 300-400 attendees per event).

Promotional activities

- MACUGG forms a cornerstone of the proposed regional tourism proposition for Fermanagh Lakelands and Fáilte Ireland's regional 'Hidden Heartlands' brand. Consequently, Geopark sites continue to be promoted in a variety of Local, National and International media.

4. CONTACTS

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