

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark, ITALY, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2008 /2016

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

The geoturistic itineraries of the Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark were presented at the TTG Travel Experience in Rimini on 9-11 October 2019, the main Italian event for the promotion and marketing of the Italian tourist. The event was implemented in three days and engaged key



players of the main companies and buyers in the tourism sector from all over the world

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 6 internal staffs including 1 geoscientist. The company relies on the collaboration of the partners' staff through the "Steering Committee" and the Geopark staff

Number of visitors: If total number of the visitors to the geopark is difficult to estimate, show the number of the visitors to the major geosite(s), museum or visitor center.

Number of Geopark events:

5 Geotrekking with guided visits and interpretation training.

20 Geointerpretation training in public schools;

1 Wetlands day in Pergusa Lake Natural Reserve

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

10 classes from 7 schools

Number of Geopark press release: 3

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- Partecipation at the TTG Travel Experience in Rimini on 9-11 October 2019

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- The Geopark cooperates within various networks, both internal and external to the International Geoscience and Geoparks Program. The main activities developed within the Global Geoparks Network concerns the development and submission of common proposals in the frame of the cooperation programmes of the European Union
- RdC UGGp has been working on the creation and the management of the new official Italian Geoparks website

Management and Financial Status

- Placeholder text

Geoconservation

- As far as geoconservation, the work carried out by the UGGp in the study and definition of the geosites in the area led to the definition of the protected Geosite status of a large number of them. In particular, the scientific process has been completed for all of them and the legislative bureaucratic process to date have definitively recognized the geosite of the Mines of Grottaalda and Floristella, the geosite of the Macalube of Floristella, the geosite of the Triassic Basaltic Sill of Contrada Vignale (Geological type Paleotectonic - Petrological, with a degree of scientific interest worldwide NAT-4LE-0504). Others geosites are on the process to be recognized and are currently included in the Decree listing the sites of geological interest in the Sicilian region.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- In 2019, a study visit in the Geopark was organized engaging managers of 15 Italian LAGs in order to share knowledge and raise awareness about UNESCO's International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP).
- RdCG, in collaboration with the partner of the National Confederation of Crafts and Small and Medium Enterprises of Enna (CNA), has started a cooperation action aimed at building geo-tourism services and to make the tourist phenomenon more profitable through support to the creation of new geotourism services centered on the geological, naturalistic and gastronomic heritage of the territory.

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

- In 2019 RdCG developed a new educational course targeting primary schools and combining coding activities applied to the cultural heritage of the Geopark: in particular, a coding activity was applied to the myth of the "Rape of Proserpina" as an opportunity for the discovery of some important geosites such as Cozzo Matrice and Lake Pergusa.
- First course of phytoalimurgy for adults in Enna.
- A didactic course is being developed aimed at training and updating environmental hiking guides and tourist guides on the topics of geotourism and knowledge of the UGGp RdC and its European and global networks.

Strategic partnership

- A further agreement and cooperation was established with the Professional Association of Italian Environmental Hiking Guides AIGAE. Participants in the training courses coordinated by the AIGAE are engaged in the interpretation of landscapes within the UGGp area, in particular in the areas of the high river basin of the Dittaino-Crisa in Leonforte and the mining area of Floristella Grottaalda.
- the partnership with the University of Catania, Department of Earth Sciences, has been strengthened. Young researchers are working on different aspects of the geology of both the Messinian and the Pliocene related to the Geopark ("The response of coastal carbonate parasequences to relative sea-level change and evolving palaeoclimatic proxies").
- Moreover, the University of Siena, Department of Historical Sciences and Cultural Heritage, is carrying out in cooperation with RdC several researches on the territory of the UGGp, specifically a research one on the Enna acropolis (the eponymous site of the Rocca di Cerere), a research on the use of territorial information SITR in archeology towards predictivity and postdictivity;
- Other collaborations have been established with the ENNA "KORE" University, CIVITA SICILIA srl and the "DEA DI MORGANTINA Tourist District" to develop integrated policies and initiatives for the promotion and socio-economic development of the area that are based on geo-tourism, enhancement of the cultural, naturalistic heritage, promotion of food, wine and other local products.

- A cooperation has been established also with “CREA DC Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of the Agricultural Economy Defense” to strengthen synergies and cooperation between researchers and SMEs in the nutraceutical field. In the frame of the PAL Rocca di Cerere Geopark as well as in the project «Valorisation des espèces végétales autochtones siciliennes et tunisiennes avec un intérêt nutritif et bon pour la santé» co-financed by the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Italie-Tunisie.
- In the process of analyzing the territorial, infrastructural, cultural and environmental resources functional to the drafting and updating of the Management Plan of the UNESCO site "Villa Romana del Casale", RdCG was invited to produce a document entitled "The relationship between the Villa Romana del Casale, UNESCO WHL and the Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark "which will be integrated into the documents of the Management Plan.

Promotional activities

- RdCG will ensure the widest visibility to the Geopark through the Content Hosting & Services Agreement signed with the GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE in December 2019. Through the "Google Arts and Culture" initiative, RdCG will be able to showcase its geological, natural and cultural heritage, therefore making it more widely accessible to a global audience. Placeholder text
- Participation. oral and presentations, in the II Conference: "THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE OF SICILY: GOOD PRACTICES AND GOVERNANCE" organized by Steering Committee of the UNESCO serial site "Palermo Arab-Norman and the Cathedrals of Cefalù" and UNESCO Sicily Foundation

4. CONTACTS

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