

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, Ireland (EGN).

Year of inscription 2011. Year of the last revalidation 2015



Winners of National Geographic Destination Leadership Award ITB Berlin 2016

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 2 (1 full time manager, 1 full time geologist.)

Number of Visitors: 1.3 million

Number of Geopark events: Geopark management 2

Partnership events: 7

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 1

Number of Geopark press articles: 55

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016

- Winner of National Geographic Destination Leadership Award ITB Berlin 2016
- Shortlisted for Irish Tourism Industry Awards

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participated at September GGN meeting in Torbay UK
- Preparation for EGN CC meeting in Buren in March 2017
- Participation in EGN Meeting in Spain

Management and Financial status

- The Geopark continues to be administrated and part funded under Clare County Council with co-funding from the Geological Survey of Ireland, Failte Ireland and the GeoparkLIFE programme. <http://www.burrengeopark.ie/geopark-life/>
- In June 2016 Clare County Council employed to a permanent Geopark Geologist

Geoconservation

- Developed and printed new 'Leave No Trace' leaflets for coach, accommodation and other tourism providers.
- Developed outline plan for Fossil Collection Policy in collaboration with the Geological survey of Ireland.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Developed an online code of practice for sustainable tourism businesses.

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and

Disaster risk reduction

- An Integrated Catchment Management Project was launched at Lisdoonvarna Secondary School as part of the GeoparkLIFE programme with NUI Galway to promote and disseminate local awareness of local water catchments.
- Launched a new Heritage Interpretation Course for Geopark activity providers.

Strategic Partnership

- The GeoparkLIFE programme (2012-2017) is designed to strengthen strategic partnerships between local and national agencies, businesses and community groups.

Promotional activities

- Launched a promotional video with the Burren Ecotourism Network on Facebook which has had over 100,000 views to date.
- Printed and distributed a new Geopark informational map for local tourism businesses.
- Published Geopark newsletters in hard and soft copy
- Korean Broadcasting Systems visited the Geopark to make a documentary for broadcasting in South Korea.
- Held free public events at Geosites for National Heritage Week which were promoted nationally.
- Promotional event in Dublin showcasing the Geopark.

4. Contacts:

Manager: Carol Gleeson; cgleeson@burren.ie

Geologist: Dr. Eamon Doyle; edoyle@clarecoco.ie