

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, UK and 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: 12 staffs including 1 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: 531,851 across all Geopark sites Cavan and Fermanagh including Marble Arch Caves.

Number of Geopark events: 30 face-to-face events with a comprehensive virtual engagement programme delivered to general public in accordance with Government Covid 19 regulations when required.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 300 Students via virtual engagement programme

Number of Geopark press release: 16

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in Transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks Working Group
- Presentation delivered on Transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks at the Intensive Course on UGGp, held online and hosted by Lesvos UGGp.
- Attendance at EGN Digital Meetings (June and September)
- Attendance at the GGN Digital Assembly on 17 & 18 November
- Chair and Attendance at UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geopark annual meeting
- Chair, Attendance and Presentation at Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum, attended by approximately 70 people with keynote talk from Kristin Rangnes.
- Presentation and participation in online workshop organized by APGN.
- Mentoring for a number of UK UGGps including Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UGGp, Antrim Geopark Project and Arran Geopark Project. Initial discussions with other interested areas including North Somerset, East Yorkshire, Kent Downs AONB and Charnwood Forest.
- Active participation and sharing of knowledge with EGN Education Working Group

Management and Financial Status

- Significant embedding of new management and operating structure notably a new cross border

Geopark team, reporting to a Geopark Manager based in a central Geopark office.

- Strategic Development Plan, Business Plans, Business Continuity Plans all been formulated, approved and enacted.
- Financial and budgetary alignments on-going as Geopark team continue to manage significant core and project specific external budgets in both the UK/Ireland.

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.
- Actively facilitating research and developing partnerships with Geological Survey Ireland, Geological Survey Northern Ireland, and local hydrogeologists on groundwater research and monitoring within the Shannon-Erne Catchment.
- Development and implementation of fixed point landscape photography monitoring system across the Geopark ensuring cascading of data to relevant National Recording Centres. Strong public engagement and citizen science element to be developed.
- Contribution to Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) Science Strategy, UNESCO Global Geopark development now included within Science for Society science programme
- Significant contribution to new Geodiversity Charter for Northern Ireland, due to be launched in June 2021.
- Representation on the Geoconservation Committee of the Geological Society of London.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Completion of €1.8m INTERREG Atlantic Geoparks 'Geotourism' Project with both existing and aspiring Geoparks. Capitalization and Sustainability Plan developed to explore options to maximize outputs and strengthen legacy.
- On-going development of a collaborative cross-border Rural Development funded, 'Cuilcagh Mountain Experience' project to include for proposed a range of capital and resource developments including creation of new recreational infrastructure, visitor amenities and a Geopark business engagement programme.
- Successful progression of €3.5 million sustainable tourism project focusing augments existing tourism infrastructure and creation of new sustainable visitor experiences at Cavan Burren Park and Shannon Pot.

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

- Completion of Geopark Ambassador Programme in County Fermanagh (20 new Ambassadors) and on-going mentoring/upskilling of existing Geopark Ambassadors in County Cavan.
- On-going development and implementation of a number of community focused sustainable development educational initiatives projects; Cuilcagh 2 Cleenish (Pilot heritage based education programme 300 students), Forest Schools Initiative, Geoheritage inspired Geopark Poetry Map, Installation of Geohertiage Sculpture and associated geohertiage education programme.

Strategic partnership

- Agreement and implementation of new Governance Structures with a range of key stakeholders within the Geopark.
- Extensive consultation and completion of a Boundary and Branding Review for the Geopark.
- Formulation and management of multi-agency Stakeholder Groups including the development of comprehensive site management Plans for key Geopark sites including Lough Navar Forest, Castle Caldwell Forest, Lough Oughter and Tully Castle.
- Participation within two IGCP UGGp related projects – GeoFOOD and IUGS Geological Heritage Sites.

Promotional activities

- Extensive promotion of all facets of the Geopark's Management and Operation in a variety of Local, National and International Media.
- Virtual engagement programme delivered in partnership with key stakeholders hugely successful with audiences figures of approximately 170 for some events.

4. CONTACTS

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