

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2002 / 2024



Example of presenting one of the soil displays to the public (Miltenberg)



Celebration of award "Geotope of the year 2024" (Brohmfels, Frankenstein)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 20 staff members, including 4 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Selection of Geopark sites: Sea of Rocks: 200.000 visitors, Buchen Showcave: 70.000 visitors, UNESCO WHS Messel Pit 40.000 visitors, Treasure Island Kühkopf 30.000 visitors Geocentre Tromm: 20.000 visitors

Number of Geopark events: > 1000 events, usually planned in cooperation with partners of the regional Geopark network, documented in magazine "Geo-Naturpark aktuell"

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: ca. 150

Number of Geopark press release: > 1000, initiated by Geopark headquarters as well as by regional Geopark network partners in collaboration with the Geopark

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Numerous new Geopoint infopanels, Geopark trails (e.g. biodiversity trail in Obernburg-Eisenbach, "Trail of sandstone quarries" between Eberbach and Hirschhorn, restoration of fruit variety trail at Rimbach-Albersbach)
- Special soil display information points including childrens' discovery unit spread out in the

territory (Miltenberg, Amorbach, Weinheim, Schwarzach) with more to follow

- Awards “Geotope of the year 2024” (“Brohmfels, Frankenstein”) and “Fruit tree of the year 2024” (“Schöner von Wiesloch”)
- Cooperation with UNESCO WHS Messel Pit on the day of their first “Grubenfest” (pit festival) as well as Geo-Workshops with Geopark Rangers during the UN Days (Mother Earth Day, Day of Biodiversity, Day of Geodiversity, International Soilday)
- Cooperation with UNESCO WHS Lorsch Abbey and UNESCO Designations Metropolitan Region Rhine-Neckar: Common WHS & Geopark Day, especially highlighting the 20th anniversary of the GGN
- Further development on cooperation with UNESCO WHS Limes partners
- Further collaboration with UNESCO City of Literature Heidelberg (“The Greenhouse”)
- Climate Heroes: GIS Mapping project with school children
- Forest for the future: field trip with planting of climate resistant forest trees, activity for kids and outdoor exhibition about climate change in the forest
- Cooperation with International Forest Art Association: 12. International Forest Art Trail “Nature – Arts -Water “with 24 artists from 14 countries
- Cooperation with UNESCO City of Literature Heidelberg, UNESCO WHS Messel Pit & University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt: Author’s lectures & writing workshop
- Successful revalidation as UNESCO Global Geopark

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Several meetings of National Forum of UGGps in Germany (Forum speaker)
- Catalyst of the EGN SDG working group and compilation for Mother Earth Day 2024 activities
- Catalyst of GGN & EGN SDG Working Group with preparation of digital GGN SDG Workshop & tutorial, SDG Action Plan and organization & preparation of face to face EGN SDG Workshop during EGN CC meeting (spring 2024, Kula Salihli UGG)
- EGN-Week 2024: >50 events including brochure and media activities
- Catalyst of EGN Newsletter (issues 25 and 26, issue 27 in preparation), collaboration with D. Rocha/Portugal
- Expert contribution on SDGs: Lecturer of UNESCO Intensive Course for Geoparks (Lesvos, Greece)
- EGN Spring meeting (Kula-Salihli) & EGN Conference (Iceland): leading workshops & oral presentations
- Partner cooperation with Hongkong UGGp: online Ranger training and exchange
- Erasmus exchanges of Geopark School (Martin Luther School, Rimbach) and Agiasos Highschool (Lesvos): 1 week visits in both territories including Geopark field trips

- International conference hosted by Historic Mining Association / Geopark

Management and Financial Status

- Management solid, financial situation sound, budget 2,260,000 Euro (including member fees and funds from Hesse, Bavaria & Baden-Wuerttemberg)

Geoconservation

- Continuation of cooperation with Historical Mining Association, e.g. Grube Gnade Gottes, Marie in der Kohlbach (historical mines), Marbach Mossautal historical cultural landscape mapping project in cooperation with Hesse Archaeology
- Celebration of award “Geotope of the Year 2024” (Brohmfels, rock formation near Muehltal)

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Cooperation with destination “Bergstrasse-Odenwald”: lecturer participation in vocational training for new rangers and guest guides, brochures, visitor guidance, strategic meetings (marketing committee, tourism board...)
- Tourism round table of the Chamber for Industry & Commerce including Tourism Committee
- Tourism tours for multipliers from gastronomy to regional highlights in the Geopark territory
- Member of the Sustainability Board of Tourism destination

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

- Geopark ESD Academy for Rangers, Geopark o site teams and partners
- New SDG map explaining the SDG's in general and their relation to the region
- New brochure in cooperation with the Schulz Stiftung (Schulz Foundation) regarding biodiversity / ESD
- Development of strategic partnerships with schools in the territory to become Geopark Schools
- Geopark lecturer: Student seminars & fieldtrip workshops for Universities of Heidelberg (historical mining) and Frankfurt (landscape development and soils)

Strategic partnerships

- Partnership in national “NaBioKom” project as model region to communicating between nature conservation and forest authorities
- Preparation of partnership agreements with HessenArchaeology and Historical Mining Association

Promotional activities

- 2 Geopark Magazines, 12 Geopark Newsletters, several brochures, hiking and cycling maps, numerous media releases, advertorials, contributions to partner magazines and publications, new Geopark Rollups, branded pavillons, videos, new MTB website finalized, social media activities (facebook, instagram).

4. CONTACTS

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