

GGN/EGN Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: **Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark, Poland, European Geoparks Network.**

Year of inscription: **2024**



The conference of the European Geoparks Network in Iceland in 2024.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs

- 3 staff of Geopark office including: Geopark director/geologist, office manager/geologist, promotional staff member/geologist.
- 4 educators working at the Geoscience Center in Dobków - the main informational and educational center of the Geopark managed by the Kaczawskie Association, in which the geopark office is located.
- 1 receptionist.
- Scientific Council of the Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark (17 persons).
- Geopark Council - Mayors of 14th municipalities, 2 NGO representatives, 1 resident.
- Geopark Working Group - members are 14 representatives of local governments and 1 representative of the Local Action Group.

Number of visitors

Total number of visitors at the territory of the:

- Number of visitors to the geocenter: 18 000 .
- Data from other Geopark sites will be collected by mid-year. Each municipality is required to submit statistics to the Geopark office.

Number of Geopark events:

36 events held by the management body and cooperative organisations.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

- 3 classes implementing the Geoschool pilot program.
- 56 classes implementing the Geopark environmental education program.

Number of Geopark press releases:

- *On the radio:* 37.
- *On TV:* 7.
- *Facebook posts:* 120.
- *Articles:* 9.

GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Welcome Event to celebrate entry into the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.
- Successfully completed the project “We reduce emission in the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark” and environmental education program “Let's Take Care of Our Planet”.
- Receiving the Certificate of the Lower Silesian Tourism Organization and the Polish Tourism Organization for the best tourism product of the year.
- Series of posts to mark 20th anniversary of Global Geopark Network (24.08.24 - 10.09.24).
- Conducting a course for Geopark guides in the Land of Extinct Volcanoes - handing out 24 certificates. A major achievement is that the Certified Guides have banded together and founded the Geopark Guides Association.
- Organisation of the workshop on the implementation of the SDGs for Geopark's partners.
- Implementing a project entitled “Music in the Shadow of Extinct Volcanoes,” which involves holding instrumental music concerts in churches and other cultural sites in the Geopark area. In 2024, 4 concerts were organized, including the first inaugural one at the Evangelical Church of Peace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Organization of “The 3rd Kaczawski Travel Festival - Awakening Extinct Volcanoes”, during which Geopark residents talked about the region.
- Opening of the “LAWA” Local Product Center at the Geocenter in Dobkow. The center features local products made by Geopark residents, including facilities with a Geopark Quality Certificate.
- Participating in IX Forum Geo-Product in Poland.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Active participation of the Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark in actions and promotional campaigns organized by GGN, including, above all, EGN Week 2024, International Geodiversity Day, International Museum Day, World Cleanup Day, Mother Earth Day and International Tourism Day, International Soil Day

and International Mountain Day. Some of them with cooperation with the Holy Cross Mts. UGGp and Muskauer Faltenbogen UGGp as well as the Polish Geological Survey.

- Participating in the UNESCO/GGN INTERNATIONAL INTENSIVE COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS 2024 May 27th - June 3rd 2024. Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Participating in the technical session of the UNESCO Global Geoparks workshop organized by UNESCO and Geological Survey of India and Ministry of Mines.
- Participation in the European Geoparks Network conference in Iceland.
- Submission of the articles to “Geoparks going green” issue 2, “EGN magazine” issue 22.

Management and Financial Status

No remarkable changes related to management.

Increasing the membership fees of municipalities in the Geopark area for the support of the Geopark Office.

Geoconservation

- Participating in XXIV Conference of PhD Students and Young Scientists with lecture „Challenges and opportunities for the development of post – mining sites on the example of the Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark”.
- A geological and natural history guide to the Wojcieszow area - published by Geopark's partner, a non-governmental organization.
- Development of geosites in the Geopark area by local communities as part of the grant project coordinated by the Kaczawskie Association “Act Locally”.
- Development of a study by Professor Piotr Migon for the Chelmy Landscape Park entitled “Muchowskie Wzgórza and Czartowska Skała - heritage of ancient volcanism and the Ice Age”, an area that is largely located within the Geopark. These activities in the future are expected to lead to the creation of an educational path through the area.
- Sending a letter to the Ministry with a request to include Geoparks in the future in the Polish legislative law.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Implementation of activities with the title “Geopark Walks”, also in collaboration with the Geopark partners.
- Implementation of the geotouristic events: “Geopark Evenings”.
- Continuation of the project “Make a day in our Geopark” - proposals of trips and activities.

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

- Successfully completed the environmental education program “Let's Take Care of Our Planet”.
- Preparing a new environmental education program for 2025 “Earth awareness - environmental education and sustainable development”.
- Implementation of a pilot program of Geoschools in Geopark.
- Publication of the script about Invasive Alien Species on the Geopark website.

- Public consultations and meeting with member of fire service after the flood in the Geopark area which coincided with International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Strategic partnership:

- Collaboration with University of Wrocław.
- Collaboration with Silesian University of Technology.
- Collaboration with UNESCO Global Geopark Holy Cross Mountains.
- Collaboration with UNESCO Global Geopark Muskau Arch.
- Collaboration with UNESCO Global Geopark Bohemian Paradise.
- Collaboration with Polish Geological Institute National Research Institute.

Promotional activities

- Participation in the International Tourism and Leisure Trade Fair in Wrocław.
- Participation in the Opening of the tourist season in Głogów.
- Promotion in social media as part of facebook, instagram and YouTube channels.
- Promotion in local and national media (TV, radio, press).
- Promotion as part of international circumstances (including Earth Day, Sustainable Tourism Days).
- Promotion of the Geopark as part of local events (science picnics, field games, quests, trips, lectures).
- Promotion of the Geopark by the Lower Silesian Tourist Organization and the Promotion Department of the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship - close cooperation.

4. CONTACTS:

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