

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, (European Geoparks Network)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2017 / 2024



**Revalidation**

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 5 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** Petroleum Museum 4.008 (November). Cave of French 11527 (closed in September for renovation works). Villadiego visitors Center: 2.600. Cueva del Agua: 57.000

**Number of Geopark events:** EGN Week: 9 activities: talks, field trips and workshops were held, but this year documentaries were also screened (Women of wind, land and cattle – Women Livestock farmers in network) and a party with activities in Terradillos was supported to preserve its cultural heritage. But there was also a special event, the first "Cretaceous Meetings" with 160 children from 5th and 6th grades from the Geopark schools where they presented their work on the Geopark to their classmates and then enjoyed an afternoon of activities with workshops on fossils, crafts, caving, rappelling, environmental activities, etc. Educational program: 20 schools and Cole-Geo, Erasmus schools. Visiting programs: Discovering the Geopark (every month at least one activity). 5th research grant and other research activities (biology and paleontology). 4nd year of the Test Field of organic potatoes seeds. 3rd Tasting of organic potatoes in 11 collaborating entities. 3 local products markets and exhibitions. Training courses for local tourism companies. New panel and sings in a new routes-Sustainability plan. Agroecological project and Gad-Ex laboratory. New collaborating entities-celebration and accreditation. Activities related with the National Ecotourism club (seminars and workshop). Geofest. One a month Radio Program. Las Loras Magazine (every 4 months). Talks for other entities (6). Support and dissemination of cultural and sporting initiatives and projects- bike races, archaeologic and cultural activities, field trips and workshops organized by the municipalities

and other local organizations. All the activities during the Revalidation process

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** school year 2023-2024 and 24-25 we had 40 solicitudes each year but only place for 23 centers each year, some of them with not only one class (2 or 3)- 3 activities in each one, talks at the school, scape-room and fieldtrip. Also work with students in vocational training and interchange with schools of other Spanish and International geoparks. Several workshops with students in other events. International internship students.

**Number of Geopark press release:** 38 just during the revalidation process and many others the rest of the year. 10 Radio programs. More than 300 posts in FB and Instagram. Publication of articles in specialized magazines and research ones

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2024**

Revalidation during July

2 participatory projects: a Tourism sustainability plan and a project to recover biodiversity through extensive livestock farming in the Geopark, which have been successful. The first to develop until March 2026 with 1.8 million euros and the second until December 2025 with 1.5 million.

Works on the new Aguilar Visitor Center, Cave of Frenchs and other sites, Stable educational program, monthly Radio program and edition of Las Loras Magazine.

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

EGN Magazine 21, Geohazards book, draft of GGN Tourist publication. Participation in IGCP programs: 726,730, 746. Participation in the EGN meetings and conferences of 2024. Participation in the WG Youth forum and Tourism and Education. Received the visit of Namibia-Erasmus + project. Vice coordination of the National Fora. Participation in the activities and projects of the National Fora (meetings, Open days, etc.). Helping new national and international candidacies. Celebration of the GGN Common days.

#### **Management and Financial Status**

Executive Committee: 2024 action plan, meetings of 4 working groups. Two collaboration agreement with the two-provincial government (120.000€). Collaboration agreement with other foundations (31.000€). Other investments of local and regional administrations: council of Burgos and Palencia in their municipalities. Natural Protected Areas-Regional government (forestry work and signaling maintenance), Potatoes test field (9.700), Gullon research grant (4.000), local development groups (12.400), research agreement Salamanca University (6000€, Palencia and Burgos councils).

Gad-Ex Laboratory (24-25): 1,5€ million. Sustainability Plan managed by ADECO GAL (24-25): 1,8€ million

#### **Geoconservation**

Continue working with Universities (Salamanca, León, Burgos, Basque Country, Vigo and CENIEH

and Salas de los Infantes research centers) on heritage conservation issues, especially everything related to the Geopark's fossil flora and fauna. We have obtained funds for the study of the tuff buildings and the recovery and enhancement of one of them that was deteriorated. This work will be developed in 2024-2025.

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

We belong to the National and Regional Ecotourism Club to develop sustainable tourism products. Also, to the European Chard of Sustainable tourism. Participation in the National Ecotourism seminar. Working with local travel agencies, signposting routes and autoroutes, Geosites and roads. During 2022-2023 we developed, in collaboration with the local action groups and the council, the Sustainable development Plan and the subsidy for it development have been approved, this means that during the next 2 years we have to develop many new routes, signals, touristic products...

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

Cole-Geo: 3-year pilot project to integrate the Geopark into all courses and subjects of a school of 18 children in the Geopark with the participation of the different actors of the territory with the objective of promoting social participation from the beginning and so that they can then take part in decision-making about their territory and heritage.

First "Cretaceous Meetings" with 160 children from 5th and 6th grades from the Geopark schools where they presented their work on the Geopark to their classmates and then enjoyed an afternoon of activities with workshops

In the Sustainable development Plan, we are going to develop a new action: Scientific tourism: Launch of a pilot project related to the development of a paleontological/archaeological work field. In the agroecological project there are several training and actions related with sustainable development.

### **Strategic partnership**

Collaboration agreements with foundations and associations, local (specially with Local Development Groups) and regional, for developing environmental and participation projects and also projects for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage. Collaboration agreements with local tourism companies for their promotion, artis and artisan. Collaboration agreement with Gullon biscuit company for an annual research grant.

### **Promotional activities**

FITUR, Program Discovering the Geopark, monthly Radio program, Las Loras magazine, social media. First Geofest: Geofestival of performing arts

## **4. CONTACTS**

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