

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Djerdap Unesco Global Geopark, Serbia, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2020/2023



Celebrating International Geodiversity Day; The Danube GeoTour Plus Project in Djerdap UGGp;

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: According to the official decision on the Geopark Djerdap team, during 2024, 15 employees were hired for the activities of the Geopark with a certain percentage of working time in the Geopark's work.

Staffs including: 1 director; 1 executive director; 1 lawyer; 1 tourism expert; 1 environmental protection analyst; 1 architect and spatial planner (design); 1 education; 1 information systems (website); 1 public procurement; 1 biologist; 1 surveyor; 1 guard; 1 guard; 1 guide and data analysis; 1 guide.

Number of visitors: As the manager of the Djerdap Geopark, the PE "Djerdap National Park" cooperates with the managers of natural and cultural protected assets located on the territory of Geopark Djerdap and which are attractive for tourism, so that the total number of visitors obtained for the year 2024 is 25,643 visitors. The total number of visitors in the area managed by the Djerdap Geopark is 15,643. and these include the Visitor Center of the Djerdap National and Djerdap Geopark in Donji Milanovac, the Geointerpretative Center in Tekija and hiking trails and viewpoints on the territory. The number of overnight stays in the Oreskovica Hunting House is 122.

Number of Geopark events: 4

Number of Geopark press release: 3

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 16

In 2024, the Djerdap Geopark carried out a substantial number of workshops and lectures covering various thematic areas, including the celebration of the International Geodiversity Day and the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. Numerous educational workshops and field-based

activities were organized, encompassing visits to the geological, natural, and cultural heritage sites within the territory of the Djerdap Geopark. Numerous lectures and educational workshops were held on the topic of biodiversity protection with different classes and ages.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- implemented the first project of installing informational and educational boards at the most frequent wildlife crossings to reduce animal casualties on roads. The installation of wildlife crossing boards contributed to reducing roadkill risk.
- An exhibition of „Geopark Djerdap—the first and so far the only Geopark in Serbia“ was presented at the Academy of Vocational Studies in Šabac.
- Geopark Djerdap hosted the participants of the world's largest sporting event, the Olympic Games, under the slogan "Sport and Nature," who cycled from Athens to Paris carrying the flag relay.
- In cooperation with volunteers from the Hațeg Geopark in Romania, on the occasion of the European Geoparks Week, the workshop "Back to the Age of Dinosaurs" was held at the Fetislam Fortress in Kladovo.
- Celebration of the International Geodiversity Day with an educational workshop featuring a volcano eruption experiment.
- Djerdap Geopark hosted the implementation of activities within the Danube GeoTour Plus project.
- Publication of two significant monographs: the photo monograph "*In the Realm of Risto the Lynx*" and the monograph "*Djerdap National Park – the First 50 Years*", in which Djerdap G is highlighted as a special section.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation-2024

- Participation on the EGN CC digital meeting.
- Celebration of important dates, such as: Mountain Day, Biodiversity Day, EGN Week, International Geodiversity Day, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction...
- Participation in activities marking the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network (Quote Posters).
- Cooperation with Geopark Hațeg in the realization of joint activities.
- Attendance at online meetings of the GGN Advisory Committee.
- Participation in the online workshop GGN Workshop on SDG.
- Participation of the Executive Director of Geopark Djerdap in the International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024.

Management and Financial Status-2024

The Public Enterprise “Djerdap National Park” has been the managing authority of Djerdap Geopark since 2020. The management structure consists of the Director, Executive Director, and three sectors (Legal, General and Tourism Affairs; Joint and Financial Affairs; Protection and Sustainable Development), with dedicated departments and a ranger service, while employees from these sectors form the Geopark Team. The Republic of Serbia supports and supervises the work of the managing authority through the Ministry of Environmental Protection. In 2024, a new work systematization was completed, foreseeing the establishment of a separate Geopark Department and a permanent position for a geoscientist, with the document submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection for approval. Financing is provided from the state budget, own revenues, donations, and subsidies, with part of the income of the PE “Djerdap National Park” directly allocated to the implementation of activities and operational needs of Djerdap Geopark (multiple sources of income and stable financial status).

Geoconservation

Regular cleaning and maintenance activities, upkeep of existing markers, and enhancement of visitor facilities at the Kovilovo Viewpoint, including the installation of three new information boards and a binocular telescope.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Cooperation with the German governmental development agency GIZ within the project ‘Donje Podunavlje – the Danube Inspiration’ resulted in the creation of a new bilingual tourist map of Djerdap Geopark, highlighting geological, natural, and cultural sites accessible to visitors.
- Promotion of hiking trails and viewpoints (geotrails) throughout the year.
- Traditional participation in the International Tourism Fair in Belgrade, where since its establishment the key focus has been on promoting the tourism potential and geotourism of Geopark Djerdap.
- Enhancement of visitor facilities at the Kovilovo Viewpoint, in cooperation with the cruise company, included the installation of three new informational-educational boards and a binocular telescope.

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

- Geopark Djerdap has developed a large number of programs for primary school students, as the most numerous group of pupils in this area. There is strong cooperation

with the primary schools within the Geopark, while a particular success has been achieved with the board game "*Djerdap Adventure*", which has proven to be an effective tool for educating the youngest generations.

- The "Young Rangers" section of Djerdap National Park and Djerdap Geopark, in cooperation with the Preschool Institution *Marija Munćan*, has introduced a greater number of activities through field classes.
- During 2024, Djerdap Geopark was visited by students of geography, biology, and forestry, who carried out their field classes, training, and research projects with the professional guidance of Djerdap Geopark experts.

Strategic partnership

- Participating as a partner in Danube GeoTour Plus Project.
- Cooperation with GIZ within the project "Donje Podunavlje – the Danube Inspiration" (EU for Cultural Heritage and Tourism), including the development of a new bilingual tourist map and joint promotion of the region, contributing to sustainable tourism and increased visibility of Djerdap Geopark.

Promotional activities

- Promotion through official web page, facebook, instagram and youtube.
- Cooperation and filming of TV shows and reports about Djerdap Geopark and the promotion of its natural, cultural, and geological values.
- By participating in the International Tourism Fair in Belgrade, traditionally every year.
- By printing promotional material (flyers, notepads, folders, bags, badges, calendars).
- Increasing visibility by placing new informative and educational boards and signposts (marking the territory)
- Promotion through published monographs.
- Promotion through the services offered to visitors of Djerdap Geopark.

These activities significantly increased the visibility of the Geopark within national media and improved the recognition of its values among visitors and local communities.

4. CONTACTS

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