

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2000 (EGN), 2004 (GGN) / 2023



The junior rangers with their certificates at the completion camp in 2024. The young people, aged between 9 and 13, underwent nine months of training. © Natur- und Geopark Vulkaneifel

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 7 staffs including 4 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Overnight stays: 2.544 million, day visitors: 5.6 million (numbers from 2024, presented in a study in 2025). Also: counting of visitors at the Daun Maars: 20,240 persons (counted on 44 days on weekends from spring to autumn)

Number of Geopark events:

650 guided tours by our geopark guest guides, eight guest guides evening lectures

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 8 Geopark schools and 11 kindergartens with contract: 90 courses in 2024

Number of Geopark press release: weekly announcements about events as well as 19 editorial press releases

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Completion of the Junior Ranger Vulkaneifel training programme 2023-2024 (29 children aged 9-13)
- Research project: Documentation and explanation of volcanic structures in active quarries in the West Eifel volcanic field with the aim of creating a new volcanological map of the Vulkaneifel and documenting the open quarries / partly in cooperation with the Rhineland-Palatinate Geological Survey
- 10 years of Nature and Geopark School: Pulvermaar School recertified
- St. Matthias Gymnasium Gerolstein certified as the first grammar school to become a Nature and Geopark School
- Recertification of the world's first nature and geopark kindergarten, Arche Noah Strohn
- Wooden barriers to guide visitors and combat erosion in the Dauner Maare nature reserve
- Launch of the new information concept in the Steffeln Volcano Garden Outdoor classroom

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Working groups of the EGN: geohazards, volcanic areas and education
- participation in EGN conference (Iceland) / EGN CC meeting (Kula-Salihli UGGp spring meeting and digital meeting in autumn)
- contributing with articles to European Geoparks Magazine and UGGp Newsletters
- Advisory Committee European Geoparks Network (EGN) (Andreas Schüller)
- Revalidation missions (Andreas Schüller)

Management and Financial Status

- secured by contract

Geoconservation

- maintenance of various geosites and biotopes
- EGN local stories book partaking

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Program with 650 guided tours – digital copy as well as printed (14,000 copies)
- Programme “The mysterious 13 – twelve maar craters and a crater lake” – series of guided walks
- Thematic Brochures e.g. about the maars, the landscapes, wild orchids, the local mineral water springs, ..., as digital copy as well as printed version (in total ~ 220,000 printed copies)

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

ESD module about climate change and human impact

Strategic partnership

New: Rhineland-Palatinate Geological Survey, Arizona State University

Promotional activities

- See above “Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)”
- Weekly announcement about events and digital & printed brochures
- Website & social media
- Public lectures
- Promotional press visits, e.g. German National Tourist Board (DZT)/ Tourism Agency of Rhineland-Palatinate (RPT) barrier free tourism
- TV, radio and web press accompaniment
- International interest about the UGGp and its management structure: visitors from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Vietnam

4. CONTACTS

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