

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark 2016, Ireland, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription 2004 / Year of the last revalidation 2015



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 2.5 staff including 1 geoscientist

Number of Visitors: Circa 9,000 in 2016

Number of Geopark events: 14 in 2016

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 10

Number of Geopark press release: 7

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016

- Established the Copper Coast Festival with walks and talks promoting geological and environmental heritage in the annual calendar of events during European Geoparks to be run in 2017
- Secured funding from department of rural development to develop a path way connecting Geopark Visitor Centre to village of Bunmahon.
- Maintained existing grant from local authority.
- Completed a geology outreach and education program (Geoschools) with each of the local primary schools
- Established partnerships with other local social enterprise groups (Waterford Childcare committee and Treo) in promoting Geo heritage with preschool children and disadvantage youths respectively.
- Created Geological Guide to Waterford Greenway (major tourism infrastructural development) which runs nearby the Geopark

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Contribution Contribution to EGN magazine Issue 14 '*Geoschools primary education program*'
- Contribution to EGN newsletter no.7
- Hosted a visit from Zhangjiajie Global Geopark in November 2016

- Revalidation mission – Danxiashan G.G.

Management and Financial status

- The Geopark continues to be voluntarily run and administrated with limited funding from Waterford City and County Council and the Geological Survey of Ireland.
- A new part time Geologist was employed

Geoconservation

- Maintained and repaired existing network of Geological information boards and tables around the Geopark
- Created an interactive online map on updated website showing the location of Copper Coast Geosites and highlighting the Geoconservation issues at these

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Co-ordination of the development of themed guided tours through the Geopark promoting Ecology, Geology and local heritage sports (road bowling).
- Took part in West Waterford festival of food (local sustainable culinary heritage event)
- Put on a number of Geoheritage events for “Comeragh Wilds” festival to promote sustainable tourism in the area.

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

- Ran a primary schools geology education programme in local schools
- Finished Copper Coast Geopark biodiversity program with local community groups and schools
- Began a Copper Coast preschool geology program “Earth Sense”

Strategic Partnership

- Attended co-ordination meeting in November 2016 in Bilbao Spain to form part of Atlantic Geoparks application to INTERREG European regional development funding, contributed to application on part of education.

Promotional activities

- Copper Coast Live concert planned with a number of local bands
- Copper Coast Geopark Christmas fair ran in December 2016
- Maintained an active presence on social media

4. Contacts:

Manager: Robbie Galvin Robbie@coppercoastgeopark.com

Geologist: Robbie Galvin Robbie@coppercoastgeopark.com