

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2018

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2001/2016

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 11 permanent including 1 geologist & 53 seasonal staff

Number of Visitors: 401,756

Number of Geopark events: 78

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 5,000

Number of Geopark press release: 2

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES (bulletize)

Major achievements in 2018

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- MACUGG staff responsible for the organisation of UK and Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks stand at GeoFair in Swabian Albs UGGp as part of EGN CC meeting in March 2018 and participation in aforementioned meeting.
- MACUGG representative attended the EGN Meeting and Global Conference in September 2018 in Adamello Brenta Geopark, Italy.
- Participation in the exhibition of human-made stone objects at the 8th International Conference on Global Geoparks – Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark
- Kirstin Lemon remains an active member of UGGp Council
- Kirstin Lemon attended and was keynote speaker at the Capacity Building Workshop for Geoscience Popularisation organised by Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark.
- MACUGG hosted a visit from the Hong Kong Lions Group who were touring various European Geoparks to find out more about education programmes in UGGps.
- Representatives of MACUGG attended the UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks Annual Meeting in Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Representatives from MACUGG attended meetings of the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee.

- Kirstin Lemon undertook a UNESCO Global Geopark revalidation mission to Longhushan UGGp in China and an evaluation mission to Toba Crater Aspiring Geopark iApron Indonesia.
- MACUGG led on the production of a leaflet for the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks

Management and Financial status

- On-going progression of a governance and management review of MACUGG with increased priority being given to areas such as community engagement, interaction with local businesses and sustainable tourism.

Geoconservation

- MACUGG is a strategic partner in an INTERREG VIA Porejct 'Collaborative Action for the Natura Network CANN' which focuses on a range of conservation and land management actions for Cuilcagh Mountain.
- Geological Survey of Northern Ireland presented at the Geological Society of London's geoconservation committee focusing on UGGs in the UK and Ireland including MACUGG.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- On-going participation in €1.8m INTERREG Atlantic Geoparks 'Geotourism' Project with existing and aspiring Geoparks.
- Successful completion of the INTERREG VB Drifting Apart geotourism project, in partnership with a number of aspiring and existing Geoparks.

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

- On-going delivery of our highly successful formal and informal education programmes.
- On-going progression of the Geopark Ambassadors Project via the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership and upskilling/mentoring of existing Geopark Ambassadors.

Strategic Partnership

- Research observatory development together with Geological Survey of Northern Ireland as part of AGEO (Atlantic Geohazards Network) INTERREG VB-funded project.
- Participation and representation in a number of externally funded initiatives at

International, National and local levels.

- MACUGG hosted a multi-agency emergency planning exercise involving 10 external stakeholders focused on a series of underground rescue scenarios.

Promotional activities

- Marble Arch Caves and Cavan Burren Park continue to be awarded certificates of excellence on Trip Advisor. Social media platforms continue to have significant reach and following.
- Geopark sites continue to be promoted in a variety of Local, National and International media.

4. Contacts:

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