

GGN – Geopark Annual Report 2017

EL HIERRO GEOPARK, Canary Islands (SPAIN)

Member ship in the Global Geoparks Network: September 2014
Acceptance as UNESCO Global Geopark: January 2015

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2014 / 2018



"Geo&Sea" . Cancelitas Park
"The haunted legend, a mad chef"



Geoloday 2017
"A look inside the volcanic cones: the cliffs of El Hierro"

Number of Geopark staffs: 4

Number of Visitors: Taking as reference the two centers of interpretation of the Geopark, the Geological Interpretation Center, and the Volcanological, the number of annual visitors amounted to 7.718 people.

Number of Geopark events: During the year, El Hierro Geopark has organized a total of 20 events and has collaborated in the organization and celebration of another 8.

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: In the two interpretation centers of the Geopark a total of 850 primary and secondary school children, vocational training and universities were attended, from the educational centers of the Island of El Hierro, and others from other Canary Islands and other countries .

Number of Geopark press release: During the year 2016 there were a total of 30 mentions express of the Geopark El Hierro, to a monthly average of more than 2 news.

Major achievements in 2017

- International success of the 3 major sporting events of the El Hierro Geopark: Swimming across Mar de las Calmas, Magma Bike and the International Concentration of Paragliding.
- Star of the actions for the constructions of the building for the official headquarters of the Biosphere Reserve and Geopark El Hierro.
- Next Constitution of Fundacion of Reserva de Biosfera & Geopark El Hierro, with advisory bodies and new personal technical creation.
- Change of name of the Vulcanological Interpretation Center for Geopark El Hierro Interpretation Center.

Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation

- Participation at the 39th EGN Meeting-Burren And Cliffs of Moher Geopark.
- Participation in the Meeting of the Spanish National Committee of Geoparks.
- Co-development of the project "Young ambassadors of the Geopark", between the Geoparks of Molina de Aragón and Alto Tajo and El Hierro.
- Participation in the working group for the edition of the Volcanic Geoparks e-book.

- Participation in 14TH CONFERENCE European Geoparks and 40TH Coordination Committee Meeting Ponta Delgada, Azores.

Management and financial status

- Coordinated management of the activity of the Geopark between Manager and Geoscientist for the planning of activities.
- Recruitment for review of Geosites and geozonas terrestrial
- Recruitment for review Geosites and Geozonas marine.
- The Conservation Area of Cabildo de El Hierro provides special budget to support El Hierro Geopark during 2017 and Foundation Reserva de Biosfera & Geopark El Hierro of own funds to reinforce the geopark El Hierro.
- The management structure is maintained and is continuous with a budget for 2018 environment to 41.368,72 €, starting from 2017 .
- Continuation of multidisciplinary work group, formed by technical staff of the Insular Cabildo of El Hierro (Investment Manager of the Geopark) belonging to the Planning, Tourism, Heritage, Environment, Local Development and Management Biosphere Reserve areas, for project development for the next 4 years.

Geoconservation

- Closure of uncontrolled landfill in volcano, Montaña El Tesoro“
- Getting underway for the ecotourism project : ECO-TUR. Conditioning of trails and viewpoints
- Home, training course on the interpretation of geological heritage . Lead guides and tourist entrepreneurs.
- Removal of invasive species throughout the island of *Pennisetum setaceum*

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Contribution to the joint promotion of the Spanish Geoparks in the International Fair FITUR, with the motto "Geoparks, the most innovative destination of sustainable tourism".
- Getting underway for the ecotourism project : ECO-TUR. with meetings, support and training to companies in ecoturismos on the island.
- Improvement (Web) and creation of new social networks: Facebook, twitter, histogram of Geopark El Hierro.

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

- Provide information talks to students, teachers and visitors of the Interpretation Centers (Geological and the Geopark, Volcanological and El Julian Interpretation Center) on geoconservation and its importance for the sustainable development of the Island of El Hierro.
- Development of the dossier annual of environmental education to educational groups, people with disabilities and the island asociones.

Strategic Partnership

- Coordinated strategy between the Geopark and the 3 municipalities of El Hierro for the organization of the international sporting events of the Geopark
- Presentation of the “III Fototrek Isla de El Hierro, SENDEROS 2017”,
- Celebration of World Environment Day, 100 hours of clean and renewable energy generated by the Hydroelectric Power Plant of El Hierro by de Insular Company Gorona del Viento El Hierro (Partner).
- Celebration of the 2017 Geolodia in coordination with the Geological Society of Spain, Geological and Mining Institute of Spain, FECYT and the University of La Laguna.
- Public presentation of The European Geoparks Week 2017 .
- The World Geopark El Hierro commemorated the III European Week Geoparks 2017

Promotional activities

- Promotion campaign of Spanish Geopark as innovative destinations for sustainable tourism FITUR 2017
- Projection for the first time in El Hierro, of the feature film “Telesforo Bravo, the man who spoke to the stones”.
- Celebration of the Sustainability Festival "La Raya Azul", Show fusion of culture and environmental education for sustainable tourism.

- Launch of the annual GEO & SEA festival, a meeting space between sustainability and culture, an outdoor art and nature festival where the landmarks of the Geopark are the protagonists.
- Promoting the Geopark in touristic fairs: TOURNATUR (Düsseldorf), UNIBIKE (Madrid), WORLD TRAVEL MARKET (London), INTUR (Valladolid), VAKANTIEBEURS (Utrecht), CMT Stuttgart, Germany, FITUR (Madrid), NAVARTUR (Navarra), VELOFOLLIES (Courtrai), ADVENTURE TRAV SHOW (London), REISE MESSE (Dresden), DUKVAKER (Houten), DIVE TRAVEL SHOW (Madrid), ITB (Berlin), SALON MAP (Paris), SEVATUR (San Sebastian).

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February 2018