

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network:

Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription: 2002 / Year of the last revalidation: 2016



*UNESCO Global Geopark Celebration together with all local communities, regional stakeholders and cooperation partners as well as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, First Minister of the State of Hesse, German UNESCO Commission and UNESCO Headquarters*

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 14 staffs including 5 geoscientist(s)

Number of Visitors: 40.000 (Messel Pit), 70.000 (Showcave Buchen), 200.000 (Sea of Rocks), Touristic numbers: > 5.000 000

Number of Geopark events: > 1000

Number school classes realize: Geopark educational programmes

Number of Geopark press release: hundreds

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### **Major achievements in 2016**

- Successful revalidation procedure of Bergstrasse-Odenwald Geopark as UGG
- Vocational training for Geopark Rangers and Geopark-on-site-guides
- Nature discovery workshops with Geopark Rangers at Geopark Entrance Gate West

- Continuation of the geo-workshops with Geopark rangers at WHS Messel Pit
  - Continuation of Farm Activity Days with the Geopark rangers
  - Implementation and training of new Geopark-on-site guide group (Breuberger Land)
  - Celebration of the European Geopark Week (71 events)
  - Cooperation with WHS Messel Pit and Odenwald Tourism
- Implementation of new Geopark Trail: "Trail of Diversity"
- Implementation of new Geo-Points
  - Presentation of the award "Geotope 2016" – "Heidelberg Castle"
  - Continuation of the common "Hessian Naturepark Hiking Day"
  - Cooperation with nature conservation associations (Streuobstwiesenretter, Großherbivoren)
  - Implementation of outdoor soil station in Heidelberg
  - Implementation of the celebration of the "Fruit of the Year" – activity day, tree planting and brochure
  - Revision and reprint of the comprehensive hiking map system with Geopark as publisher (21 single maps)
  - Identification and preparation of 32 touristic highlights for stakeholders and multipliers including field trip for touristic and gastronomy staff

### **Contribution towards the GGN**

- Participation in the International Tourism Fair (ITB) Berlin 2016: Global Geoparks booth and Common PPT Presentation of GGN during Morning Opening
- Member of the Editorial Board of the EGN Magazine (J.W.)
- Publication of contribution in EGN magazine No. 14
- Collection and publication of EGN Electronic Newsletters No 5, 6 and 7 (J.W.)
- Participation in the EGN spring meeting (Basque Coast UGG)
- Participation in the International Conference on UGG (Torquay, UK) with 2 oral presentations and participation in the Geopark Fair
- Regular meetings of the Forum of UGG in Germany (common activity of the 6 Global Geoparks in Germany)
- Workshop of UGG in Germany on SDGs in cooperation with the German UNESCO Commission and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Revalidation mission to UGG Carnic Alps (J.W.)

- Participation in EGN Week 2016 with brochure
- Cooperation visit of UGG Odsherred, Denmark: information infrastructure

### **Management and Financial status**

- Continued solid financial status, no change in management structure
- Change in staff: one new staff member part-time position

### **Geoconservation**

- Visitor mine “Marie”: winner of the award “Landscape on the move - Metropolitan Region Rhine-Neckar” and major achievements towards visitor service and light system

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Participation in several Tourism fairs (Mannheim, Stuttgart) New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

### **Strategic Partnership**

- Partnership with Global Geopark Mt. Lushan – intercultural peony project
- Partnership with University of Heidelberg, geoscience department – preparation for Symposium on Sustainable Development
- Partnership with the International Forest Art Association – International Forest Art Trail and Conference
- Partnership with regional fruit juice/wine company

### **Promotional activities**

- Extension of Geopark honey network for partners and information centres
- Presentation of several new brochures (Geopark Magazines, Newsletters, Geotopes, Geopark-on-site, hiking maps, Mountainbiking brochure)

### **4. Contacts:**

Manager: Reinhard Diehl ([r.diehl@geo-naturpark.de](mailto:r.diehl@geo-naturpark.de))

Geologist: Dr Jutta Weber ([j.weber@geo-naturpark.de](mailto:j.weber@geo-naturpark.de), GGN delegate)