

UNESCO Global Geoparks for the future:

creating awareness and perspectives for sustainability in local communities

Sustainability will become the keyword for all issues and projects, which UNESCO Global Geoparks initiate together with their local communities. In the light of progressing climate change, loss of biodiversity and fertile soils, the need for creating awareness of the fragility of our planet and its environment is obvious. Learning from our Earth's history for the future and developing insights through sustainable projects are some of the core capacities of UNESCO Global Geoparks, which are visible in a series of good practices all over Europe. With regard to the worldwide pandemic, we have all learned, how important our natural resources are, and how we can use and develop them in a sustainable way for our health and resilience – a promising perspective for the future of our local communities.

Good practices in UNESCO Global Geoparks of Europe



Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Arouca Agrícola project won the 2nd prize of the Planetiers International Awards

The Arouca Agrícola project won the 2nd prize of the Planetiers International Awards, in the «Planetier Community» category. Arouca Agrícola is a project promoted by Arouca UGGp to encourage and enhance agricultural production together with the consumption of foodstuffs produced by farmers in the territory. It arises from the municipal strategy to improve agricultural practices in the territory, which aims to promote organic production, support the provision of distinct products (genetic heritage and regional varieties), creating dynamics in the educational sector (environment and food), therapeutic well-being and tourism (rural and agricultural). Currently, Arouca Agrícola produces an average of 16 tons of horticultural products per year and involves 65 local producers in the Arouca UGGp area.

Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): LEAVE NO TRACE

The Basque Coast Geopark, in collaboration with the DanobatGroup, a multinational company associated with the automotive industry and located in the Geopark, has launched an awareness campaign with the aim of improving the behaviour of visitors. Throughout the year the Geopark attracts thousands of visitors who come to walk the geo trails, learn about the geology of the coastal cliffs or admire the rich intertidal ecosystems, among other activities. However, visitors scattering litter, walking dogs off the lead, walking on unmarked trails or collecting rocks and fossils leads to problems with the agricultural community.

To contribute to correcting this behaviour, the Geopark has produced a video that promotes our landscape and aims to launch a message of environmental awareness and respect for the rural lifestyle.





Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): The Online Global Agenda 2030 Platform for local communities - learning from each other

In the light of the pandemic, interactive and digital tools are more in focus than ever. Where personal meetings and exchange had to be reduced, the availability of information and data regarding common goals and projects now have a higher priority. This corresponds perfectly with our latest project, the online Global Agenda 2030 platform for our local communities and counties. Starting from a comprehensive overview we display actions, projects and ideas from our member communities, highlighting, how they support the Global Agenda 2030 with its 17 life changing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The platform makes it easy to find activities and projects in close proximity with each other and a

search function allows the monitoring of all 17 SDGs. Besides the presentation of best practise projects, the online platform also provides a forum for local communities to learn from each other, promotes interregional activities and creates inspiration for new projects and common perspectives. Find out more at www.geo-naturpark.net/Nachhaltigkeit.

Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece): International Day for the Reduction of Natural Disasters in Social Media

Chelmos - Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece) contributes constantly to the promotion of alternative tourism, environmental education and the protection of the area, with multiple benefits for the local community. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Management Body of Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark, continues its work with digital activity. The celebration of the "International Day for the Reduction of Natural Disasters" took place through social media. Specifically, on the Facebook Page of the Geopark a video interview on "Landslides, a frequent natural disaster with a long history in the area of the Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark" was posted with the participation of Geology Professors from the University of Patras who presented and discussed the landslide phenomena in the Geopark.



Djerdap UNESCO Global Geopark (Serbia): Local initiative for protection of the Danube terrace geosite near Kladušnica village

Even with a number of geological, biotic and cultural heritage sites under legal protection, there are still many important localities in the Geopark's area without such a status. Nowadays, local communities are becoming more and more interested in tourism development and promotion of our common heritage. They are increasingly conscious of the importance and fragility of the landscape. Therefore, many local initiatives arise with the aim of obtaining legal protection and for promoting less-famous heritage sites. The ultimate goal is their effective incorporation in sustainable geotourism and educational activities. One such site is the Pleistocene river terrace downstream of the Iron Gates.need to

English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark (United Kingdom): Geopark In Focus

On UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development, the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark launched the first of a series of video-interviews with world leading scientists and experts to unravel the facts behind Torbay's UNESCO designation. Over the seven episodes, Geopark Patron, Prof Iain Stewart MBE, engages in relaxed discussions with fascinating people, each with a different insight into why this coastal area of England is so unique. From what the local rocks reveal about Earth's history and climate change, evidence of early human cultures, to how the landscape and communities of Torbay have influenced writers and artists. The series gives people of all ages and abilities, especially the older, more at risk and isolated members of the community, the opportunity to experience the UNESCO Global Geopark. One episode per week will be released up until Christmas via the [Geopark You Tube Channel](#) and in podcast form via the main providers. Ultimately, the series aims to creating wider engagement and encourage visits to key Geopark sites as social movement restrictions allow. Contact and information: m.border@englishrivierageopark.org.uk





Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Initiatives and strategies for sustainability

In the quest to establish itself as a territory of science, education, culture and communication, the Estrela UGGp has developed several strategies to promote this territory, by classifying more than 120 geosites and by demonstrating their relationship with the cultural, biological and landscape characteristics of a mountain that includes nine municipalities with approximately 150,000 inhabitants. These strategies are achieved in different projects, such as the Great Route, the Memories and Traditions, the EstrelaEduca and the Science and Education Network for Sustainability, among others. All these initiatives are part of the everyday life of the Estrela UGGp and intend to promote community participation in helping to solve and to raise awareness of specific problems in the territory.

Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark (Belgium): Eco-responsible practices and products

The Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark is active in using a bottom-up approach to address various local and sustainable projects in its territory. One of the most effective ways is to make professionals in the tourism sector, and in particular employees of tourism offices, aware of the importance of sustainable tourism development throughout the Geopark. A training module has been designed to enable them to become ambassadors for eco-responsible practices by visitors. Particular emphasis is placed on sharing the attributes and ideals of the Geopark, the promotion of eco-responsible products such as Geotrails and short-circuiting the process of engaging with the local producers who are Partners in the Geopark.



Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark (Romania): "The Geopark is here also!"

This is the message for the community and the visitors of the Hateg Country UNESCO Global Geopark in 2020. Teams of youth volunteers painted the message along with the Geopark's logo and map boundary in more than 20 key locations. Meanwhile, on-line, all the Geopark's friends and fans used the special Facebook profile photo frame "I am the Geopark too!" This was a creative way to show that the Geopark implies both the territory and the people. Even without the usual events, the Geopark keeps in touch, it is still there, working and preparing for the future.

Katla UNESCO Global Geopark (Iceland): Keeping our cultural heritage alive through art

The longest tapestry ever made in Iceland has just been finished. The tapestry depicts one of the Icelandic sagas, Njal's saga, in pictorial form in a 91.16 m long tapestry. The project started in early 2013 when Katla UGGp assisted two local women, Christina and Gunnhildur, to implement and fund the start of the project. The stitching of the tapestry was done in the Njal's Saga Centre in Hvolsvöllur, one of three villages within Katla UGGp, and will be exhibited there. Many of the Women's associations in Southern Iceland supported the project, both with funding and in stitching the tapestry.





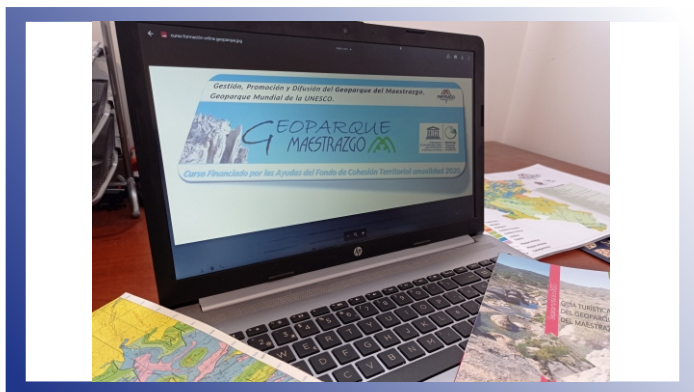
Lanzarote and Chinijo Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): The Cartoons “Ale, el Jameito and Liticoso”

The Lanzarote and Chinijo Island UGGp has thought of raising awareness about the values of our geological heritage for the children at home through the cartoons “Ale, el Jameito and Liticoso”. In seven chapters of approximately three minutes in length, the characters travel through the most impressive landscapes of our territory. From the dialogues between these two antagonistic friends the children get to know the Geopark better and learn to respect and develop a responsible behaviour towards the geological heritage. You can find them on our YouTube channel: “Geoparque Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo”

Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy): A series of new activities for local communities

During this time of great social and economic crisis, despite social distancing and apprehension concerning the protection of our health, there is the STRENGTH in believing that we can overcome the changes that the pandemic is imposing on us.

It is no coincidence that efforts are being made with new methods to support local communities whose tourism economy has suffered considerable losses with serious repercussions on the entire local area. The Madonie Geopark has started to plan its institutional activities in a different way. These include competitions for ideas, exhibitions, preparation of typical recipes and live video broadcasts on Facebook that provide knowledge about the demo-ethno-anthropological heritage and sites in the Geopark. Live streaming video broadcasts have, with the involvement of local communities, the ability to trigger a strong interaction with the public and responses in real time, or for a walk through our precious nature with your eyes open!



Maestrazgo UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain): Local people in action

During recent years, Maestrazgo UGGp has organized training courses related to the Management and Promotion of the Geopark's Geoheritage with the aim to create awareness and a perception of the sustainable development of the territory. The current situation imposed by Covid-19 has not prevented the importance of promoting its endogenous resources. In autumn 2020, the Geopark promoted the "Training Course on management, promotion and dissemination of the Maestrazgo UGGp" for local people with an entrepreneurial profile. The 55 hour online training course and the required feedback between teachers (including Spanish Geopark collaborators) and the 24 students was very helpful.

Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Be member of SmartFarmer platform to promote local producers

The e-commerce platform SmartFarmer (<https://smartfarmer.pt/>) is a social business of the NGO Oikos that aims to support small and medium producers. Naturtejo Geopark joined this platform during the first wave of the pandemic, as a Food Hub, a local management unit, in order to improve the digital marketing and to foster online sales of Geoproduct and GEOfood partners. SmartFarmer and Naturtejo Geopark organized municipal webinars, with the support of local stakeholders to raise awareness of customers to responsible consumption and to attract new members that shares common values related to the promotion of the local economy, nature conservation, sustainability and fair market access.





North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark (United Kingdom): An audio collaboration

The e-commerce platform SmartFarmer (<https://smartfarmer.pt/>) is a social business promoted by NGO Oikos that aims to support small and medium producers. Naturtejo Geopark joined this platform during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, as a Food Hub and a local management unit, in order to improve digital marketing and to foster the online sales of its Geoproduct and GEOfood partners. SmartFarmer and Naturtejo Geopark organized municipal webinars, with the support of local stakeholders, to raise customer awareness about responsible consumption and to attract new members that share common values related to the promotion of the local economy, nature conservation, sustainability and fair market access.

Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark (France): Exhibition on Sustainable Development Goals

Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark has initiated a new large-format outdoor exhibition on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that can be visited in the city of Tremp. It shows the eight SDGs selected by UNESCO and how geoparks contribute to them. It also showcases the interconnection between SDGs and the Geopark's territory, illustrated by local examples presented as short descriptions complemented by images taken by local photographers. The exhibition is accompanied by an informative leaflet and has been released in three languages: Catalan, Spanish and English.



Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): Catch the SDGs

The Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark includes the 17 SDGs in a playful setting with a geocaching tour. A pilot project is developed with local participants and can be transferred to other areas. The geocaches are located by mobile phone or a geocache device. They provide information about the SDGs, raise awareness of the issues and provide advice for a sustainable lifestyle. In addition to the geocaching community, the project addresses the local population, tourists and the Geopark schools. In view of the lock-down measures due to Covid -19, it is an attractive local outdoor facility. The pilot project is subsidized by 15,000 Euros from federal funds. The tour will open in May 2021 as part of the Baden-Württemberg Sustainability Days 2021.

Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal): Geofood for sustainable development

The Geoparks serve a very important role in the local communities and contribute to the sustainable development of their territory. Currently, the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark is collaborating with its GEOfood project partners. This collaboration aims to encourage the consumption of local products, thereby enhancing the local economy and providing the consumer with excellent products. It also appealed for a reduction in the use of plastic packaging and encouraged the use of ecologically friendly materials. Through these related activities the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros supports and encourages the development of sustainable communities.





Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway): Nordic youths meeting past and future climate changes

The coalition between the three geoparks Trollfjell (Norway), Katla (Iceland) and Rokua (Finland), three local upper secondary schools and one national park has established a Nordplus Junior-project. This aims to study the parallel and interactive development between nature, landscape and human cultures in Nordic rural regions within the framework of selected SDGs. The three-year project includes a student exchange programme with visits to all three countries. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Icelandic visit this autumn was conducted digitally with live-streaming and digital groupwork across the countries. The students worked with SDG 13 Climate Action. They focussed on the changing climate, how it can be seen in Iceland and the impact of climate change locally in all three countries.

Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (Cyprus): New electronic platforms

2020 is so far a very significant, memorable and indeed challenging year for Troodos Geopark. Despite the worsening of the pandemic and the associated lockdown measures, many exciting and, most importantly, informative and educational activities will continue to take place in the Greek – Cypriot Geopark's Network. Guests at the Geopark Visitor Centre have the opportunity to learn and experience the geological uniqueness of the Troodos area, the most complete piece of oceanic crust on earth. Promotion of Geopark products through new electronic platforms, geo-tourism and geo-educational exercises as well as pioneering exhibitions and conferences are some examples of the activities that will take place in the final months of 2020. The pandemic, as well as the weather, probably won't allow for our favourite outdoor activities such as hiking, traditional climbing and cycling to take place in our beautiful Geopark. However, we will continue to do our best by providing you with the unique experience of discovering and learning about our distinctive geological treasures, through online seminars, conferences and exciting e-activities. Visit our website and social media to begin the journey!



Vis Archipelago Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Croatia): New visitor centre

The Biševo Island will get a new visitor centre on the top of a hill. Biševo is an island specific in many ways: two famous caves and numerous sandy beaches, a small number of inhabitants throughout the year (9) and a high number of visitors up to 2000 daily, to the Blue Cave. The centre is being built to provide Biševo's visitors with additional services and a greater opportunity to explore the island, to relieve pressure on the Blue Cave and direct people to explore the interior of the island. Within the project there is an educational trail about nature.

Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany): A Tunnel from the Middle Ages connects two Maar lakes

The town of Ulmen wants to make, with 1.3 million € in funding, the tunnel between Jungferweiher and Ulmener Maar accessible to visitors. The 124-meter-long tunnel will create a direct footpath connection between the Jungferweiher, probably the largest maar in Vulkaneifel, and the Ulmener Maar, Germany's youngest volcano. The tunnel will be accessible, without barriers, for up to 23 metres. A barrier-free showroom will also be created. The circular path around the Jungferweiher lake, the viewing platform, pump house and the town centre will also be designed barrier-free. The viewing platform will be equipped with new information devices and an audio tour will connect eight points of interest within the town limits of Ulmen. This challenging project has now received approval for state funding and, after the intended completion by 2022, the tunnel will offer a unique view of the laminated maar tephra overlaying country rock and of late-ice age soil formation.

