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NATURPARK
NÖRDLICHER TEUTOBURGER
WALD, WIEHENGEBIRGE,
OSNABRÜCKER LAND E.V.

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3rd International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks

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Papuk's underground is the only habitat of small subterranean pseudoscorpion *Chthonius diophthalmus* in Croatia. Recently, here was discovered subterranean coleopteran species from genus *Bryaxis* - new species for world science. Tufa formed in Jankovac stream is habitat of endemic aquatic snail species *Graziana papukensis*.

Why Vietnam is likely to succeed in creating geoparks: the research-based geopark development program in the karst areas of northern Vietnam

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Key words: Geoheritage, poverty reduction, capacity building, transdisciplinary cooperation, Ha Giang province

Session: 8 New and aspiring Geoparks

Abstract: In order to offer sustainable development and an acceptable share of its national growth of standards of life to the inhabitants of mountain karst regions, the government of Vietnam considers the establishment of geoparks as a means to promote

economic development in combination with actions of nature conservation. The „Integrated capacity building through research-based geopark development in NE. Vietnam” project (2007-2012) focuses on the mountain karst of Ha Giang province (NE Vietnam) with the following objectives:

- improve research capacities on natural and social conditions of sustainable management of karst areas and reinforce abilities for transdisciplinary cooperation and for elaborating research-based development strategies;

- establish an integrated research methodology including development of references and criteria for describing and assessing natural and cultural values and for defining boundaries for well-defined areas of outstanding natural phenomena and their cultural characteristics, in need of active conservation measures;

- establish a research-based inventory and assessment of the geoheritage and the cultural heritage for the classification of the most suitable zones for Geopark creation, according to the principles set up in the methodology;

- execute one geopark in-depth case study, based on insight in current natural and socio-economic situation and on commitment by stakeholders;

- make feasibility study and development of a multi-stakeholder collaboration plan for the establishment of a geo-park;

- elaborate curriculum for high-level stakeholders involved in the preparation and implementation of the geo-park initiative, and a training and education programme for local staff and local people engaging in eco-tourism;

- outreach: implementation and institutionalising of training and education packages.

This methodology must be applicable beyond the specific targets of the project area and should be able to address the management of existing conservation areas.

**Management plan with integrated quality standards
- A sustainable tool for regional development in the
Global and European Geopark
Bergstraße-Odenwald, Germany**

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Key words: Participation, Integrated Quality
Management, Regional Development

Session: 5 Quality management

Abstract: The Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald covers an area of 3,500 km² in the south of Germany between the two European Metropolitan Areas Frankfurt Rhein-Main and Rhein-Neckar. Since 2002, the Geopark is a member of the European Geoparks Network, since 2004 a member of the Global Geoparks Network supported by UNESCO. More than 100 local authorities and many other stakeholders are actively involved in the regional development process that has been induced through facilitation and overall management of the Geopark administration.

In line with the GGN/EGN philosophy, the Geopark's contributions towards regional development have been focussing on the establishment of information infrastructure with visitor programs and on co-operations with regional economy. Another important pillar has been the development of outdoor education programs.

The Geopark strategy is based on the objectives of the GGN/EGN as the background fabric of the

management plan. The plan is containing core strategies, an action plan and an integrated quality management approach. The actions are related to the core strategies and are displayed on an annual base with implementation schedules, budgets and identification of responsibilities. The establishment of agreed quality standards and implementation procedures for each kind of action (e.g. information trails, guide training, visitor programs, co-operations, publications) ensures the consideration of ecological, economic and social aspects throughout all areas of activities. Quality management addresses all tiers of facilities and services and also contains criteria for for cooperation and communication.

The participatory establishment of a management plan with action plan and quality standards has proven to be an effective tool that facilitates the entire sustainable development process of the Geopark.

**Co-Operation within the Global Geoparks
Network: Development strategy with geotourism
action plan for Qeshm Global Geopark, Islamic
Republic of Iran**

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Key words: Global Network, Sharing Expertise, Local
Action Plan

Session:

Abstract: Qeshm Global Geopark is located in the southwest of Qeshm Island, the largest island in the Persian Gulf. As one of 3 Free Trade Areas of the

Key words: Czech-Bavarian Geopark, cross-border geopark, Eger Rift, Dynamic Earth

Session: 8 New and aspiring Geoparks

Abstract: The cross-border Czech-Bavarian Geopark (in German: Bayerisch-Böhmischer Geopark) is situated in one of the most geologically unique areas world-wide. Due to the complex geologic evolution and structure of the earth crust along the northwestern margin of the Bohemian Massif the geopark area is characterized by a fascinating mosaic of geologic units. They represent nearly the complete time span from the late Precambrian until today. This situation is caused by plate tectonics (Paleozoic rifting and Variscan orogeny), late-Mesozoic intra-continental faulting (Franconian lineament) and Tertiary graben tectonics along the Eger Rift. Differential vertical block movement and fault activity along the Eger Rift system is still ongoing. A vast number of topographic and geologic features are related to the Eger Rift, e.g. the course of the European water shed, the orientation of the drainage systems on both sides of the regional slope of the rift flanks, Tertiary and Quaternary volcanism as well as the occurrence of mineral and thermal springs. The economic development of the region was strongly influenced by the existence of rich brown-coal and china clay deposits that are also associated with the Eger Rift. An important contribution to the economic meaning of the region – particularly during the middle age – came from the occurrence of rich orebodies. Most of the ore-bearing veins are related to important fault zones.

Based on the great importance of the tectonic processes for the geological structure of the geopark area and its economic and cultural development the motto „Bewegte Erde” („Earth in motion”) has been defined for the geopark.

The territory of the Czech-Bavarian Geopark covers 7,771 km² (55% in Germany, 45% in the Czech Republic). The economic and demographic development of the geopark area close to the border was strongly influenced by the closely-guarded boundary between two political systems after the Second World War until 1989. Therefore, the Czech-Bavarian Geopark project intends to also intensify cross-border cooperation in tourism and to support the coalescence of the region and its inhabitants. The project is co-financed by the European Union.

Geoheritage research and geopark establishment in Vietnam

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Key words: Geoheritage, Vietnam, UNESCO, research, experiences

Session: 8 New and aspiring Geoparks

Abstract: Vietnamese geo-scientists have been doing fairly well the geoheritage research and investigation. They have approached, identified, described and classified hundreds of geoheritages according to requirements of international integration exchange. Vietnam has many geoheritages sites, of which two have been recognized as World Natural Heritages: Ha Long Bay and Phong Nha - Ke Bang. Other sites will be studied and documented for affirmation by UNESCO in a near future. Geoheritage areas in Vietnam such as Ha Long Bay, Phong Nha - Ke Bang, Ba Be Lake area, Cuc Phuong - Ngo Luong and Dong

Van - Meo Vac highland meet all five criteria as geoparks (Geology and Landscape, Management Structures, Interpretation and Environmental Education, Geotourism, Sustainable Regional Economic Development). Therefore, they can be the potential candidates for international and national geoparks. Actually, the process of geoheritages research in Vietnam developed more slowly than in developed countries in the region and worldwide. Up to now, no geopark has been established in Vietnam. In this paper the author presents the status of geoheritage research and introduces potential candidates for geopark establishment in Vietnam, with the hope to have the opportunities for exchange of experiences and cooperation in research and investment to develop this field in Vietnam.

**'Northern Rocks' –The North Pennines Festival of
Geology and Landscape**
An Example of a European Geoparks Week Activity

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Key words: European Geoparks Week, festival, events, promotion, evaluation

Session:

Abstract: Each member of the EGN takes part in the annual European Geoparks Week, providing a range of events and activities across Europe at the same time. New and aspirant members of the Network often ask what is expected of them during EGN week and this presentation shows just one example of the kinds of things that can be done.

In the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Britain's first European Geopark, an

annual Festival of Geology and Landscape (known as Northern Rocks) takes place over European Geoparks Week. This two-week festival is now in its fifth year and this year included 35 different events such as guided walks, talks, rock climbing, underground mine tours, exhibitions, workshops, craft events and children's activities. The emphasis is on high-quality interpretation, fun and discovery, rather than on generating large numbers of visitors.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership staff team, managers of the area's European Geopark status, runs the festival with the support of a range of partners. A promotional brochure is produced to advertise the festival, and there is a central booking system for all the events. Visitor and leader feedback is sought each year and an assessment of the festival's economic impact is also produced.

This presentation highlights the range of activities, some of the issues surrounding promotion and organisation and finally the kinds of feedback provided by leaders and visitors. It is just one successful example of the range of events which runs throughout the EGN in late May and early June each year to jointly celebrate our geological heritage.

Geological, Mining, Park of Sardinia

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Key words: Geology, mines, history, recover, tourism

Session: 8 New and aspiring Geoparks

Abstract: Located in the middle of the western basin of the Mediterranean Sea, the Island of Sardinia represents a peculiar phenomenon: the geological, palaeontologic and mineralogical elements, biological rarities and endemisms, forests and wet areas, the