GEOCONSERVATION (GEOPARKS) CASE STUDY

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Summary

• Geoconservation - new concept
• Geoparks
• International Associations & Networks
• Key elements of a geopark
• Hateg Geopark - Romania
90` - New words & new concepts

Geotop / Geosite
Geodiversity
Geological heritage
Geoconservation
Geoeducation
Geoparks

The Stein Family - GeaNorwegica

The forgotten part of nature conservation
Milestones in concept development

• **Up to 1991** – Subordinated to other activities related to nature conservation


• **2000 – 2004** – Geopark - Global concept
  - Development of EGN
  - Setup of Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

• **Since 2004** – new area of applied geology
  - CE Recommendation 3 / 2004 (Geologic heritage)
  - IUCN (2012); / Worldwide activities
  - UNESCO (program ?)
Geoconservation development

Scientific publication
GEOHERITAGE - ProGEO publication
(Wimbledon. W., & Brilla, J.) (edts)

Books
Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation
(Wimbledon, W., Smith – Mayer, S.) (edts)

Research projects

Educational programs (EVS case study)

Geoparks development
Geoconservation is giving “life” to rocks, is telling stories about our planet to make people to understand and love it.
Why a geopark?

A geopark integrates geodiversity, biodiversity and local culture and strengthens local identity;

A geopark is a powerful tool for sustainable development (rural areas) - no other resources;

A geopark promotes Earth Sciences.
A Geopark INNOVATES
Each geopark has to bring something new (ex. RGHP & Lesvos Geoparks, EGN)

Innovation in site conservation ad promotion
Site museum, land art, Time Travel
Develops traditional and new local products
geo-products
local brands
A geopark promotes innovative projects and cooperation
INTERREG, LEADER, ERASMUS
Innovation in education and public awareness
GEORIUM, Geo-kids, Time Travel
Promoting geosciences
Școala din Sântămârie Orlea a găzduit evenimentele legate de Sâptămâna Europeană a Geoparcurilor. Au fost invitate toate școlile din Țara Hațegului pentru a prezenta de este valoros din punct de vedere a culturii și naturii, în Țara Hațegului.

Expoziția naturii
Înainte de evenimentele în aer liber, Școala din Sântămârie Orlea a devenit spațiu de expoziție. Școlile participante au adus seturi de imagini care ilustrează teme promovate în programele de educație ale Geoparcului. Este vorba de natură și cultura din comunități și percepția respectivă respecturii ei. De la grădini până la stânci cu povești locale, elevi și profesori au creat o expoziție „personalizată” a Țării Hațegului.

Tradițiile hațegane
Competiția de tradiții a fost punctul de maximă intensitate, mai multe școli pregătind momente de referință din viața satului, completează de dansuri, demonstrații și povești sătului.

Mesaje către Europa
În efect, de exprimare a apartenenței la rețeaua europeană a Geoparcurilor, în 2010 am continuat activitățile de comunicare pe on. Carții poștale ale geoparcului au fost așeze și completeate de către copii, completeate și trimise către celelalte Geoparcuri din Rețeaua Europeană a Geoparcurilor.
Could generate strong brands

Spain

Germany

Portugal

Germany

Romania

France

Brasil

Could generate strong brands
Refuges d'Art
Andy Goldsworthy en Haute-Provence
European Geoparks Network – a brand of quality / Charta 2000 – 2014 (from 4 to 58 geoparks) + hundreds of other initiatives
Chinese & global stories
Global Network of National Geoparks / UNESCO (100 geoparks) and 1000 projects

Margaret Patzak – UNESCO
Patrick McKeever – UNESCO
Key elements could be analysed by students (Research question)

- TERRITORY/RESOURCES - sustainability;
- PARTNERS and their ROLE (comparison with other territories);
- Commitment of the territory (STRATEGY vs BUDGET);
- REQUIREMENTS (MANAGEMENT / POLICY) (Evaluation / documents);
- Economic and social BENEFITS (ground zero and geopark impact);
- Specific PROJECTS. From plan to impact analyse.

EGN Charta (2000)

National framework

Local context
BUILDING AND MANAGING A GEOPARK

1. **Territory** – well defined borders (optimum territory) (administrative units;
2. Clear **structure in charge** with the geopark project
3. Geopark set-up – **Route map**;
4. **Territorial diagnosis**;
5. **Strategic documents**;
6. Administrative and scientific board;
7. **Territorial identity** (logo, ID, logotype, communication strategy);
8. Interpretation infrastructure;
9. **Projects and activities** for tourism, education, heritage conservation;
10. Geopark team, secured budget & Activity plan

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH
Optimal territory

A comparison between initial (light yellow) and final areas for the geopark (dark yellow)
- **Bottom up approach**
- Interdisciplinary research studies since 2001
- Close cooperation with local stakeholders
- Strategy for local development (LEADER Territory)

- **Partnership**
  - Association (county council, local councils, APM, universities)
  - National partners – Peasant Museum, Antipa Museum
  - Educational partnership (universities – local schools)
  - International partnership (EGN & GGN)

- **Education, research training framework**
  - Local curriculum development (Education for SD)
  - Educational projects
  - International area of research (ERASMUS, EVS Course)

- **Strengthening local identity, tourism promotion**
  - Cultural projects
  - Rebranding “Hateg Geopark”

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**GEOPARK DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT**

- **2004**
  - Natural park

- **2005**
  - Member EGN & GGN

- **2005 - 2015**
  - University of Bucharest
  - Management contract
Requirements & sensitive points

• Long term strategies
• Political changes / all levels
• Correlate all the activities of the territory: tourism strategy, physical planning, heritage conservation

• Active involvement of local communities
• Lack of experience in common activities
• Passivity of local population / lack of confidence
• Rural areas - lack of infrastructure for transport, tourism

• Socio – economic development
• Tourism impact on local communities
• Money flow (inside/outside)
The geopark is not about geology is about local community
A geopark has a cultural market value
A geopark is a tool for strengthening local identity