



Progress Report-Eamon Doyle

This report covers ongoing Geopark activities which includes elements of the GeoparkLIFE programme

April 2015

ITEM	PROGRESS
EGN/GGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted EGN Annual Report Submitted EGN progress report Co-partner on proposed Sustainable Coastal Tourism project proposal for EU funding lead by Basque Coast Geopark with 5 other Geoparks Geopark Revalidation inspection dates announced for 22nd-25th June 2015. Revalidation of Geopark status occurs every 4 years and this year we look forward to the Global Geoparks Network becoming UNESCO Global Geoparks as a formal UNESCO programme pending ratification.
Geosite signs [GeoparkLIFE]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Geosite signs are ready for installation. Following discussions at EGN conference in Paris, all Geosite signs will be re-branded with significant UNESCO branding. Installation will not be until November 2015 if formal UNESCO programme status for Geoparks is ratified.
Stone, Water & Ice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The publication 'Stone, Water & Ice' to be revised to include new Geosites and new Easy Read sections as part of our Universal Access Programme. Publication anticipated for end June
Education and Research Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geology Evening Course successfully completed for 2015. There were 12 participants this year with very good feedback from all. Lisdoonvarna Schools Groundwater Project to begin next week. Project to be submitted to UNESCO Eco-environmentalists competition. [GeoparkLIFE] Continued to develop strong ties with third level institutions including leading an 'Introduction to the geology of the Burren' trip for UCC geography students as well as assisting with a field course for students from NUI Maynooth.
Heritage Walking Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The four Heritage Trails are being prepared for submission to Planning next week. Draft outline plan for improvement of Lough Bunny pull-in area with Universal Access features and cyclist and parking spaces under review
Burren Rocks!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual Burren Rocks! festival will take place from 29th May to 1st June 2015 and includes a School Day, Activity day in collaboration with outdoor activity providers in BEN, Family Day at Michael Cusack Centre and Water Day in collaboration with The Burren Outdoor Education Centre and Earth and Ocean Sciences Dept. NUI Galway.
People Counters [GeoparkLIFE]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first few months of data from the 16 GeoparkLIFE People Counters has been downloaded. This is the first hard data on visitor numbers to most of the demonstration sites (Burren National Park being the exception)

