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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

DUSAR, Michiel⁽¹⁾, TRAN, Tan Van⁽²⁾, PHAM, Quang Hoan⁽³⁾, MASSCHELEIN, Jan⁽⁴⁾, BATE-LAAN, Okke⁽⁵⁾, SWENNEN, Rudy⁽⁶⁾ and WILDE-MEERSCH, Danny⁽⁷⁾

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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