

THE LAND OF EXTINCT VOLCANOES GEOPARK

REGULATIONS

Introduction

1. Geopark definition

Geopark is the area with clearly defined boundaries, comprising a geological heritage of international significance. A certain number of uncommon geological stations of high scientific value and outstanding educational or landscape qualities have to be located within the area of geopark. The all remaining stations could exhibit archaeological, historical, ecological or cultural value.

The geopark is not a kind of the legal form of nature protection. In fact, it has varied rank in terms of local and national to European and world significance. The geopark could be established, based on the idea of promotion of the geological heritage, by the local entities, who agreed to ensure sustainable development.

The aim of the geopark is:

- promotion of the geological heritage of the geopark area,
- development of the geopark tourism,
- coordination of operations of local government, economic entities, non-governmental organizations and individuals related to tourism on the geopark area,
- creating a system of promotion and information about the geopark,
- promotion and taking the actions aiming nature heritage protection, primarily geological on the geopark area,
- improvement of touristic infrastructure on the geopark area,
- development and implementation growth of tourism strategy on the geopark area, initiation and activation of scientific research in the field of Earth science held on the geopark area.

2. The name of the geopark

The Land of Extinct Volcanoes (LEV) covers the Kaczawskie Mountains and the Kaczawskie Foothills with a total area of 1790,2 km². Its hallmark is extraordinary geological diversity, especially the abundance of rocks and minerals of volcanic origin, hence its name.

From the administrative viewpoint the geopark extends over an area of towns, communes and districts. These are Bolków, Legnickie Pole, Jawor, Jeżów Sudecki, Mściwojów, Paszowice, Pielgrzymka, Ruja,

Świerzawa, Wądroże Wielkie, Wojcieszów, Zagrodno, Złotoryja and forestry services of Złotoryja, Jawor and Lwówek Śląski.

3. Managing unit of the geopark

Managing unit of the LEV is [Kaczawskie Partnership](#) which coordinates all of the actions related to the geopark operation, promotion and further development. The office of the Geopark is located in the facility belonging to Kaczawskie Partnership, [The Sudetic Educational Center in Dobków](#), which has necessary infrastructure to function as a science centre and tourist information point.

General principles

1. Nature protection

A protected areas that are located within the borders of the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark:

- a. The “Chełmy” Landscape Park established under [regulation of the Lower Silesian Voivode No. 24 of November 28, 2008 in the “Chełmy” Landscape Park](#). It includes the following forms of nature protection:
 - nature reserves (the Myślubórz Gorge near Jawor, the Lipa Gorge, the Siedmica Gorge, Nad Groblą, Mszana and Obłoga),
 - The Natura 2000 area (SPA - Special Protection Area (Birds), SAC - Special Area of Conservation (Habitats),
 - SAC - the Kaczawskie Mountains and the Kaczawskie Foothill.
- b. Nature reserves localised outside the Chełmy Landscape Park (the Miłek Mountain, Buczyna Storczykowa located on Białe Skały, Buki Sudeckie, Ostrzyca Proboszczowicka, the Wilcza Mountain), the Koskowickie Lake.

Within the Chełmy Landscape Park a protection and usage rules apply in compliance with the Protection Plan according to [Appendix No. 1 to Resolution No. XVI/332/11 of The Lower Silesian Voivodeship Regional Assembly of October 27, 2011](#).

In nature reserves within the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark a protection and usage rules apply in compliance with the Minister of Climate and Environment Resolution as regards the recognition of nature reserve rank according to [the nature conservation act of october 16, 1991](#).

2. Tourism

The entire area of the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark is allowed for touristic and recreational purposes, unless separate regulations provide otherwise. Ways to use are defined:



- a. Permitted forms of tourism within the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark are as follows:
 - cognitive tourism: ecotourism,, geotourism, ornithological tourism,
 - qualified tourism, hiking, cycling, horse riding, skiing, speleology, climbing, water tourism - carried out along designed tourist trails,
 - holiday, residence, weekend break stay, agrotourism.
 - Camping is allowed only in designated places or after obtaining the consent of the landowner or the unit managing it, unless separate regulations provide otherwise.
 - b. Trails for hiking, cycling, educational routes, etc. have to be maintained.
 - c. It is allowed to establish new hiking trails, cycling, horse riding and educational routes etc., providing absence of degradation of nature and landscape values.
 - d. It is recommended to develop infrastructure including informational boards, landmarks, small architecture objects, parkings, providing absence of degradation of nature and landscape values.
 - e. It is recommended constant improvement of the technical standard of accomodation and gastronomic base, parkings and other elements of touristic infrastructure together with liquidation or modernisation of disharmonious objects degrading landscape values.
3. . Economic activity within the LEV Geopark

Economic activity within the LEV Geopark should be compatible with the concept of sustainable development, which was defined by [the enhancing and protection nature act of january 31, 1980](#). It is defined as “socio-economic development, where equal chances in access to the environment are created for individual citizens (both for todays and future generations), followed by a process of integration whether in political, social or economic terms with the nature balance concept and sustainability in the practice of using natural resources responsibly.

Sustainable development on the LEV Geopark should quarantine access to basic economic and social services and to the natural environment, on which these services depend, to all residents along absence of hazards towards ecosystems and socio-productive systems .

Economic activity should be provided in order to ensure enhancing and protecting the natural environment, organisation of community life, ensuring dynamic development of qualitatively new production processes and to improving and preserving a high quality of life in a competent way along with the responsible use of natural resources.

Sustainable development on the LEV Geopark requires continuous control and management, whilst preferring clean technology that protects the natural environment.

4. Promotion of the region

Promotion of the region is a very important mission of the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark. Website www.gorykaczawskie.pl is one of the promotion instruments which is regularly updated by Kaczawskie Partnership. It provides informational base about nature values (geo- and biodiversity) with a reference to accommodation, gastronomic base, craft workshops and cultural events within the region. Individuals who run touristic activity within the LEV Geopark may place information about their offer on the website free of charge after completing the appropriate form. Furthermore, interested parties can deliver their promotional materials to the LEV Geopark office: leaflets, business cards, folders, posters, etc. In addition, there are Tourist Information Points in the geopark:

- a. Tourist Information Point at the Sudetic Educational Center in Dobków,
- b. Tourist Information Point in Jawor,
- c. Tourist Information Centre in Złotoryja,
- d. Social Tourist Information Point in Wojcieszów,
- e. Tourist Information Point in the Centre of Culture, Sport and Tourism in Świerzawa.

The Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark has its own visual identification which is available free of charge when preparing materials promoting the region. The Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark logotype is a reserved symbol and therefore its use requires the consent of the coordinator ([Kaczawskie Partnership](#)) each time. The visual identity book is available [here](#).

Entrepreneurs and other entities running tourist activity may apply for [the Quality Certificate of the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark](#).

Rules of qualified tourism

1. The safety of tourists and residents of the LEV Geopark as well as animate and inanimate nature protection are the most important issues concerning practicing various forms of qualified tourism.
2. The LEV Geopark area is used for relaxation and active recreation, and also for conducting educational classes in designated areas.
3. On the LEV Geopark area it is prohibited: environmental degradation; scaring, capturing and killing birds and other wild animals (unless separate regulations provide otherwise); touristic infrastructure degradation; setting fire and smoking cigarettes, use of open fire, except in designated places, noise pollution, leaving garbage, taking fragments of rocks or plants.
4. The following forms of qualified tourism are distinguished in the LEV Geopark:

a. Hiking

Within the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark there are designated hiking trails and educational paths for hiking. Some of those are equipped with touristic infrastructure such as a shed, fireplace, benches, information board, etc. A very important aspect of spending active time safely in the LEV Geopark is good trip planning according to the actual physical condition of participants and having necessary equipment, including an actual touristic map. The trip, its route and length, has always to be adapted to every participant's skills and capabilities. There are no tourist hostels or shelters in the LEV Geopark.

b. Cycling

The LEV Geopark is a dense network of touristic bicycle trails and Single Track routes.

Kaczawskie Single Tracks are available from early spring to late autumn.

Current Singles Tracks in the Kaczawskie Mountains:

- Single Track “Dłużek”, Wojcieszów / Dobków, 16 km,
- Single Tracks “Dwa Wąwozy” and “Pod Grzybkami”, Rzeszówek, 11.5 km,
- Single Tracks “Gozdno 1” and “Gozdno 2”, Gozdno, 14.5 km,
- Single Tracks “Okole” and “Okole Zjazd”, Lubiechowa / Chrośnica, 11 km,
- Single Tracks “Ostrzyca”, “Pod Ostrzycą” i “Zielonki”, Proboszczów / Belczyna / Twardocice, 13 km.

When riding a bike it is important to remember to always adjust your speed to your skills, terrain and traffic.

c. Horse riding

There are no marked horse trails in the Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark.

d. Skiing

There are no open ski stations in the LEV Geopark area.

e. Speleology

Few caves occur within the LEV Geopark, mostly near Wojcieszów on the Połom Mountain (667 meters above the sea). The caves are not accessible for tourism. For safety reasons, it is not recommended to explore the caves without a trained person.

f. Rock climbing

There are climbing rocks and rock walls in the LEV Geopark area. Some of those have a complete set of safety points. Climbing within the LEV Geopark could take place under its own responsibility with respect for animate and inanimate nature.

g. Water tourism

Basic kinds of water tourism are:

Motor sports, sailing, canoeing, and underwater are basic forms of water tourism. There are places accessible for water sport within the LEV Geopark, unless separate regulations provide otherwise:

- Mściwojów reservoir,
- Jawornik reservoir within “Jawornik” recreation centre in Jawor. Sailing, motor sports and canoeing is allowed after having obtained the agreement of the Sport and Recreation Centre in Jawor,
- Złotoryja reservoir in Złotoryja,
- the rivers: Bóbr, Kaczawa, Nysa Szalona.

Mineral and rock collecting rules

1. Rocks, fossils, minerals are integral parts of geological heritage therefore require protection and preservation no different than other elements of geological and nature heritage.
2. Mineral or fossil exploration and collection which are under legal protection is subject to the provisions specified in [the nature protection law from April 16, 2004](#).
3. Scientifically valuable mineral or fossil extraction which are part of national heritage is subject to applicable law.
4. Minerals and fossil extraction from quarries where exploitation is taking place for industry have to be carried out with the permission of mining administration, may not be contrary to the principles set out in point 3, 4, 7 and 8.
5. The Land of Extinct Volcanoes Geopark does not provide, mediate or promote extraction and turnover of rocks, minerals and fossils specimens. This regulation applies to both specimens from the Geopark area and specimens from areas outside the boundaries of the Geopark.
6. The Geopark supports extraction and collection of rock, mineral or fossil of educational and scientific value in accordance with applicable regulations and if it does not cause hazard for protection and preservation of geological, nature and cultural heritage or landscape.
7. Extraction of rock, mineral or fossil by a person who doesn't have sufficient Earth sciences knowledge could result in destroying or missing scientifically valuable specimens.

Therefore the Geopark offers consultation of any found specimen with the Geopark partners - specialists, employees of scientific institutions and universities.

8. The Geopark supports collections created for local schools or non-governmental organizations focused on kids and youth nature education.

Rules for running a business, including mining and agricultural activities

1. The Geopark area is not synonymous to any form of the preservation of nature, therefore economic activity, including mining, is not subjected to specific restrictions, unless separate regulations provide otherwise.
2. Any kind of mining within the Republic of Poland territory, including the area of the LEV Geopark, is subject to [the Geological and Mining Act of June 9, 2011](#), which determines rules and conditions of starting, operation and termination of mining activity.
3. Any kind of agricultural business within the Republic of Poland territory, including the area of the LEV Geopark, is subject to [the Act on Agricultural System Shaping dated 11 April 2003](#), which determines rules of the agricultural system of the State.
4. Any kind of economic activity within the Republic of Poland territory, including the area of the LEV Geopark, is subject to [the Business Entities Act of April 11, 2003](#), which determines rules of starting, operation and termination of economic activity together with business entities rights and obligations and responsibilities of authorities in this matter.
5. Regardless of activity, each economic entity has to respect the rules of sustainable development, as an element of global strategy to civilization progress.