A. GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface area in km²</th>
<th>256</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>24,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact person (name, position, e-mail)</td>
<td>Claude Petit, Nature Park Management Director. <a href="mailto:claudie.petit@naturpark-mellerdall.lu">claudie.petit@naturpark-mellerdall.lu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website (please provide URL)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naturpark-mellerdall.lu/en/">http://www.naturpark-mellerdall.lu/en/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media (please provide list of all channels used)</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE aUGGp Via UNESCO

- Evaluation letter
- Geopark application dossier
- Self-evaluation Document A
- Annex 2, a separate copy of section B, Geological Heritage
- Annex 3, Letters of endorsement and support
- Annex 4, A large scale map of the proposed Geopark
- Annex 5, 1 page geological and geographical summary
- Geopark Budget
- Letter of Intent, Luxembourg
- Mellerdall Contacts

Directly to the evaluator(s) during the mission

- Program for the Evaluation mission
- Presentations of the first day on the operating of the Geopark
- Presentation by the Regional tourism office (RTO)
- Geopark budget for 17 & 18
- List of attending persons
- A list of Visits & Conferences participated by the people behind the Geopark initiative
- a set of Geopark leaflets: 12XGeologie im Naturpark Mellerdall
- Berdorf Aquatower Manual in English
- Touristic and educational Brochures and leaflets about the Mullerthal region
- DVD: Loschbour-Dei Eischte Letzebuerger
- Book: Discover Ecthernach
- Educational game products for the local schools and visitors

C. MAP OF THE AREA

The Mëllerdall Nature & Geopark is located in Western Europe, in the Eastern part of Luxembourg - bordering Germany. The proposed aUGGp covers an area of 256 square kilometres in 11 Municipalities. The Nature and Geopark area has 24500 inhabitants.

Mëllerdall aUGGp is single unified area, clearly indicated on the map. There is no overlapping with other UNESCO site designations. The region of the Mëllerdall Geopark is the same that the Mëllerdall nature park.
Large scale map of Mëllerdall.

Geological map (Projection mapping in Information center.)
D. SYNTHESIS OF IUGS DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

Desktop evaluators agree that all different points of the Möllerndall geology are described in documents. And they recognize the Luxembourg sandstone is one of the more interesting formation and the Möllerndall is the place where it is well conserved. We agree with desktop evaluate and we recognize international importance of the Möllerndall geology. Especially Luxembourg sand stone is unique in the European continent.

E. VERIFICATION OF UGGp CRITERIA

E.1 TERRITORY

E.1.1 GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION

Luxembourg sand stone is most interesting geological features. Möllerndall Geopark is situated in the centre of the "Trier-Luxembourg Basin", a syncline structure of Triassic and Lower Jurassic sediments extending from the Paris Basin into the Rhenish Massif. In the centre of the syncline, the up to 100 m thick unit of the Luxembourg Sandstone Formation (a quartz sandstone with calcareous cement) of Lower Liassic age forms one of the most spectacular sandstone landscapes in Western Europe. Traditionally, local people used Luxembourg sand stone as building materials, which can be seen the church, castle and paving stones in the town.

The Möllerndall Geopark is characterized by the particular landscapes. Because of the alternation of relative thin strata of hard and soft rocks with an inclination of less than 10°, the area forms a small-scaled cuesta landscape. Escarpments and cliffs developed epigenetically by the incision of the rivers and creeks and the valley slopes were formed by gravitational mass movements like rockfalls. On the edges of the plateaus, where marly units are exposed below the hard sandstone and dolomite layers, processes of gliding or tilting opened up joints and created small passageways and caves. These and other geomorphological forms like fluvial terraces, a meander shortcut and mardels tell the geomorphological story of the region and illustrate the vividness of geological processes that were active especially during the Cenozoic. The two main escarpments limiting the plateaus are only about 10 km apart. On the rock faces, an abundance of sedimentary structures as well as weathering structures like honeycomb weathering can be seen. The continuous long-term discharge and the excellent filtering capacities of the Luxembourg Sandstone allows a nearly fully self-sufficient drinking water supply of the region today.
Outcrop of Luxembourg sand stone. Cross bed of Luxembourg sand stone.

The state of conservation and maintenance of the key geological heritage sites / areas:
Some objects directly related to geology (e.g. Haupeschbaach and Halerbaach, Champignon) are classified as national monuments and are therefore protected by law. These sites must not be destroyed or removed, neither in parts or in full without a ministerial authorisation. Some biotopes related to geology such as small ponds (mardels), springs, dry grassland, heath and peat bogs. These are protected by the Luxembourgish conservation of nature and natural resources act and must not be reduced, destroyed or changed. Furthermore, several areas covering a total of about 4.9 km² of the Geopark are designated as protected areas of national interest (“zones protégées d’intérêt national”). A further 40 km² are in planning, with 3.5 km² already in an advanced stage of the regulation procedure. Efforts are made to complete the designation process by 2021. Protection is primarily related to flora and fauna habitats, and thus indirectly to geology, but large parts of protected areas are identified under the aspect of landscape or the occurrence of rock faces.

Sites (or areas) of international geological significance (based on scientific value only):
The Luxembourg sandstone (The details are mentioned above)
Protection areas and sites of the Geopark

Recommendation: no

E.1.2 BOUNDARIES
Møllerdal aUGGp has a well-defined boundary. Nature park and Geopark are the same area. The boundaries are based on the municipality borders and objective criteria of heritage quality and nature protection. The limit is well defined even if the marking of the boundary in the field is not very apparent.

They indicate location and boundary of geopark in maps, leaflets, panels, books, some educational products, etc.

Recommendation: no

E.1.3 VISIBILITY
Information of geological and geomorphological features are described in leaflets, panels, publications, etc., and, area map and/or site information are well described in leaflets, panels, publications, etc. They provide information of their activity for website, Facebook, leaflets, etc. Visitor can easily know location and boundary of nature park. And visitor can enjoy beautiful landscape and geological feature by walking along the good trails. Relationship between geological features, nature and culture is also describe in leaflets, panels, publications, etc. These information are described by English, German, Dutch and French.

But Visibility of geopark is not enough. Basically, visitor cannot know the area is an aUGGp because geopark logo and information of UNESCO is not enough in leaflets, panels, publications. Understanding of geopark by local people is not enough. Key member of geopark understand geopark concept, but local people could not understand what is geopark. All local people and local community should understand UNESCO concept and they should participate geopark activity.

Information of UGGps/GGN/Regional Networks doesn’t exist. They describe about “What is Geopark” in their website, but they do not explain about other UGGps/GGN/Regional Networks.
There are some old panels that need to be redesigned and improved to give the area a more unified look and more recent information.

Recommendation: yes
Description: Visibility of the geopark is not clear. The UNESCO Global Geopark should be positioned at least on the same level than the nature park.

*same recommendation E1.4

E.1.4 FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
The Geopark area, known also as “Luxembourg’s Little Switzerland”, has been attracting visitors for a long period of time and the tourism infrastructure in general is very well developed and organized. The first hiking trails have been installed already in 1879.

The Geopark area has 11 tourism information centres distributing information of the sites and services of the Mëllerdall Geopark region. The tourism information centres are also promoting and selling local products. From some of the tourist information centres the visitors can rent outdoors gear for free. The centres are offering hiking boots, jackets, back packs, binoculars and all sorts of basic equipment needed on the hikes for the tourists. This is made possible by the Best of Wandern – Testcenter Network to which the regions tourism bureau belongs. The hikers can have the gear for up to five days for free. The tourism info’s visited had a very limited amount of information on the Geopark, and no information (or knowledge) at all of the UNESCO Geoparks or the EGN or GGN. Otherwise there was lots of good quality information on the region. The Mëllerdall Geopark has produced a set of twelve printed Geopark brochures presenting the Geology of the region. These brochures are printed bilingual: French and German and can be found from the tourism info’s

The Mëllerdall Geopark is in the process of planning and setting up a Geopark exhibition, during the visit we visited the planned premises next to the Nature and Geopark offices in the city of Beaufort. For the moment the premises included only a topographic model of the Geopark area and a changing exhibition on soils. The topographic model of the area included many layers that were made visible by projecting different information on land use on top of the model. The model for operating the future exhibition and plans for building the exhibition were still in planning process. For example, it wasn’t yet decided, how the exhibition would be made open to public.

The new Berdorf aquatower has an exhibition on the relation of water and geology. The exhibition is very informative and describing in how water is formed, protected and distributed in the region. The tower has been designed and built from beginning with the idea of having the exhibition there. From the exhibition area visitors can view the landscape opening up to all around the tower. The exhibition is accompanied by a very good booklet on water, starting on how the water forms and is being used in the area and ending up to the use of water in historic times. The aquatower is a great asset to have for the Geopark, but during our visit there was practically no Geopark visibility present.

The trails of the region have been built over the years, as the first trails were installed already in 1879. Along the trails is some information on geology, nature and culture. The panels in the region don’t have one single Geopark or Nature park identity but have been placed over the years by many organizations. As mentioned new Geopark panels are being erected and 9 were already at place.

The proposed Geopark area has a significant amount of information panels placed around the area. The panels have been erected during the years by different
organizations operating in the region. All the organizations have their own identity and own layout for the information. At the time of the evaluation mission 9 information panels specifically planned and designed to the Geopark had been erected. The new Geopark panels had information on the area that was written in an easy enough level for all to understand.

Roadside signs informing on entering the Nature and Geopark are in place next to main roads entering the area.

The Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) of Mëllerdall region is the main partner for the Geoparks marketing. The tourism organization has multiple tasks in developing and promoting the Mëllerdall regions tourism, one of these is the training of certified guides for the Mëllerdall region. The training includes also a geological part operated by the Geoparks geoscientist. The length of the geology lesson is 3 hours. The geology/Geopark training doesn’t include information on the Geoparks and networks UGGp/GGN/EGN. During the evaluation mission the tourism organization had 60 certified guides. The RTO is coordinating the activities of the regions tourism information centres.

The information in the Geopark areas panels and leaflets is given usually in French and German, the new Geopark panels were also in English. In some products they used also Luxembourghish.

Recommendation: yes

Description: The Geopark needs to have a stronger presence and visibility in the area. A Geopark exhibition including and explaining the overall story of the area needs to be designed and erected as planned by the Geopark. The visitor information centres need to have the Geopark information at place for visitors. Information on the UNESCO Geoparks and EGN/GGN needs to be available for the visitors. The information personnel must be trained to know and understand the philosophy and operating of the Geoparks network. The information panels by the trails should have a more unified Geopark look and the information on geology and related topics should be updated.

E.1.5 INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Geoscientist is working in geopark management body. The staff of the Nature Park and Geopark offer guided tours for school classes and adults. Several stakeholders offer extracurricular learning activities in the region. The staff of the national Administration for Nature and Forest (ANF), the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) and some enterprises offer guided tours and educational programs for school classes. The Mëllerdall Geopark is committed to the further education of teachers and tourist guides, with the aim to provide them the geological knowledge to carry out tours by themselves. In Heringer Millen, local people start to provide education program about local foods, movement of water which related to natural hazard and so on for children.

Mëllerdall Geopark has a partnership with the Geological survey of Luxembourg. Geological survey strongly supports and offers academic information. Academic research is carried out by Geological survey, University, etc., several papers have been published in the past five years.

Information of geological and geomorphological features, relationships between geology, nature and culture are described in leaflets, panels, publications, etc., these are using at tourism and educational program.

* For more details of education, see E.5 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recommendation: no
E.2 OTHER HERITAGE

E.2.1: NATURAL HERITAGE
There are some rare plants and animals in the Mëllerdall. They can explain about relationships between geological feature and nature. The plant communities growing in the region are closely related to substrate, soil properties, and landscape (exposition, slope position) and thus to geology. For example, Ravine forest, where a great variety of ferns and mosses grow on the stony regolith in the deeply incised valleys of the Luxembourg Sandstone. The forests „Schnellert“ and „Saueruecht“ are forest reserves, where the natural development of the forests is supported. Orchids and dry grassland on marly and carbonatic subsoils can be found in different places in the Geopark. Orchids are didactically presented at the site „Deiwelskopp“ near Moersdorf, but occur at other places too (s. Hëlt). Sandy dry grassland are rarely developed on sandy soils of the Luxembourg Sandstone. Small bogs exist where marly substrates in flat slopes prevent infiltration or direct surface runoff of rainwater, as is the case in mardels on marly substrates or where marly interlayers in the Luxembourg Sandstone are exposed, as is the case at „Ripsmuer“. Orchard meadows are typical elements in the cultural landscape and often related to poor marly soils.

The conservation and protection of the natural heritage:
The Natura 2000 network, a network of nature conservation areas of the European Union (Habitat directive and Birds), comprises an area of about 42% (107 km²) of the Geopark region.

About 8.4 km² of the proposed geopark are designated or in an advanced stage of planning as protected areas of national interest ("zones protégées d’intérêt national") according to the Luxembourgish Conservation of nature and natural resources act (Loi du 19 janvier 2004 concernant la protection de la nature et des ressources naturelles). Lots of trees are listed in the "liste des immeubles et objects bénéficiant d’une protection nationale" (Loi du 18 juillet 1983 concernant la conservation et la protection des sites et monuments nationaux). The delimitation of drinking water protection areas is currently taking place (Loi modifiée du 19 décembre 2008 relative à l’eau)

Recommendation: no

E.2.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE
The Mëllerdall region has a rich cultural heritage that has been connected to the regions natural and geological heritage in the interpretation. A good example of the connected interpretation is the Mëllerdall regions guide book written in German: Naturpark Erlebnisführer für Luxemburg – Band 2, Naturpark Mëllerdall. The Guide book presents and connects the trails and different points of interest in the region: tourism, nature, geology and culture. For example the sites we visited during the mission like the Champignon geosite is presented from its geological and cultural heritage as are the Loschbour archaeological site and the Larochette castle built from the local sandstone. The 136p. guide book has been published in 2016 and is sold for 14€ throughout the area. The guide book doesn’t have Geopark info or visibility in it.

The name and overall story of the area is a very deeply cultural rooted. Mëllerdall means Millers valley as the area has had numerous mills producing flour. The mills have been operated by water power and using local sand stone for grinding stones. We saw the places where the millstones had been carved from already in Roman times, and later on we could see the mill stones still in their places in the mills. We also saw local kids grinding flour using local stones and later on baking local bread. This is a good example of the local sand stone geology working for the local people.

The visited cultural sites like the Loschbour site or the champignon are also connected through the wide trail network of the region. The visited sites had
information panels explaining the sites and their meaning. From Loschbour site we also got a DVD explaining the findings of the first man and woman of Luxembourg. The man dates back some 8000 years and the woman is a few hundred years younger. The DVD is in four languages.

The Natur and Geopark is also active in preserving and keeping alive some of the regions cultural elements, like the traditional dry stone walls. Dry stone walls are typical elements of the regions cultural landscape constructed from local stones. The work is done in an INTERREG VA project. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of this ancient building technique, to understand its past and origins, re-establish expertise and sustainably ensure its valorisation by embedding it again in the peoples ways of thinking and habits. The Dry stone walls project is a good example of the connection between nature, geology and culture.

The regions protected archeological and (pre-) historic sites are nationally designated and listed.

Recommendation: no

E.2.3 INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

The hopping procession of Echternach is recognised in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Dancing (Hopping) Procession of Echternach, belonging to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO since 2010 is located inside the Geopark area. Echternach is one of the 11 Geopark / Nature Park municipalities. The Dancing (Hopping) Procession of Echternach is founded on the cult of Saint Willibrord. It is a religious event, deeply rooted in regional traditions and is expressed through prayer, song and dance. Nowadays, the procession is supported by the civil and religious authorities and attracts an average of 13,000 participants each year from Luxembourg and the neighbouring regions.

Recommendation: no
E.2.4 INVOLVEMENT IN TOPICS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL HAZARDS
Before the revalidation mission in June 2018 the region had suffered of very severe floodings. The floods had cut roads and trails and done damage to buildings. The damages caused to the buildings and trails were still visible in visited trails and also in the old mill operating as a visitor centre. In the visitor center Geopark partners provided education program about movement of water which is related to natural hazard in education for children.

Recommendation: No

E.3 MANAGEMENT
The Nature Park Mëllerdall is in charge of the management of the Mëllerdall Geopark. The Nature park was established in 17th March 2016. The Nature Park Mëllerdall is a recognized body under national legislation (Law of 10th August 1993 on Nature Parks). According to Luxembourg law, a Nature Park is an instrument of regional planning and focuses on regional sustainable development.

A geology working group has existed in the area since 2011, in which the activities of the Geopark were managed and coordinated before being included into the Nature park. The Geopark/Geology working group was operated inside the RIM “Regional Initiative Mellerdall” that was a predecessor organization for the Nature Park.

Birgit Kausch is the head of the Geopark as well as the Geopark Geoscientist. She is also practically the only person whose salaries are paid from the Geopark budget. The other management’s salaries are paid from the Nature parks budget. The Nature and Geopark is very well linked to other organizations in the area.

The resources for the Mëllerdall Nature and Geopark are on a very good level. The financing comes from the Government of Luxembourg and from the 11 municipalities in the area. The budget is decided annually depending on the needs of the Nature and Geopark. The Geopark has its own budget frame inside the Nature parks budget.

The Nature Park Mëllerdall has a master plan, “étude detaillée”, published in 2014 and which is valid for a period of 10 years. The Geopark is included in the Master plan as an aim for the region. The Geopark is shortly described in the chapter 4. A special master plan and a plan of action for the topic “Geology” has been developed with their main goals being the strengthening of regional identity through improving knowledge of the region, raising awareness on the value of landscapes, as well as strengthening of tourism and regional development.

1Introduction meeting with the Nature and Geopark personnel
The Mëllerdall Geopark is integrated in the structure of the Nature Park as follows:

**Committee / Executive Board**
20 members: local municipalities and governemental organizations with regional majority, represented by a

**Bureau / Executive Bureau**
5 members of executive board with regional majority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATURE PARK</th>
<th>GEOPARK</th>
<th>PROJECTS EU co-funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Biological Station NATURA 2000  
1 bioscientist | 1 geoscientist | Climate LIFE  
1 geographer |
| Regional Products  
Taste School  
1 forestry scientist | | Dry Stone Walls INTERREG VA  
1 architect |
| Water Protection (2018)* | | Education (2018)*  
LEADER |
| Business (2018)* | | Forest (2018)*  
LEADER |
| Urban planning and mobility (2019)* | | |

**Management**  
1 Managing Director

**Administration**  
offic staff (2 people)

**Communication**

* in preparation

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2. The Structure of the Mëllerdall Nature and Geopark

3. People from several partner organizations participated to the Evaluation mission. Berdorf Aquatower
The Geopark has its own budget inside the Nature Parks Budget. The Geopark budget is rather small, but then again most of the expenses are in the much bigger Nature Park budget. The Nature Parks total Budget for 2018 is 1,6 Million Euros, and for 2017 it has been one million Euros. And The Geoparks expenditure / budget for 2017 and 2018 has been approximately 100 000€.
The role of women in the Geopark and its management is on a satisfactory level, the Geopark geoscientist / manager is Ms. Birgit Kausch. Several other women are working in different positions for the Nature Park and operating in the working groups of Nature and Geopark.

The amount of personnel working directly to the Geopark is just one, the geoscientist / manager Birgit Kausch. But as this is a joint Nature and Geopark there are more people working on the shared goals and for the administration too. Basically the resources are on good level specially compared to the size and population of the Geopark, but the Geopark is not a strong operator in the area.

Recommendation: no

E.4 OVERLAPPING
The proposed Mëllerdall Geopark is operating under the Nature Park Mellerdall. The Geopark and the Nature Park share the same borders and same administrational structure. The Nature Park Mellerdall is a recognized body under national legislation. It was established in 17th March 2016. Luxembourg doesn’t have National Parks, but it has three Nature Parks.

Natura 2000 network, a network of nature conservation areas of the European Union (Habitat directive and Birds), comprises an area of about 42 % (107 km²) of the proposed Geopark region.

The hopping procession of Echternach is recognised in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Dancing (Hopping) Procession of Echternach, belonging to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO since 2010 is located inside the area. Echternach is one of the 12 Geopark / Nature Park municipalities. The Dancing (Hopping) Procession of Echternach is founded on the cult of Saint Willibrord. It is
a religious event, deeply rooted in regional traditions and is expressed through prayer, song and dance. Nowadays, the procession is supported by the civil and religious authorities and attracts an average of 13,000 participants each year from Luxembourg and the neighbouring regions.

Recommendation: no

E.5 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
The Geopark is currently involved in education mainly through giving guided tours to the public and by training the teachers and tour guides of the region on its geological heritage. The tour guide training includes three hours of training on geology. The training doesn’t include information on the UGGp’s/EGN/GGN.

Talks on the geology of the region, including scientific results are given, and will be planned on a more regular basis in the future.

A geo-box with experiments on geology (minerals, stones and their properties, sand as a water filter, the formation of the geologic strata and the landscape) can be borrowed from the Geopark.

The Nature and Geopark and its partners have developed some educational game products for the local schools and visitors. The products include a geological jigsaw puzzle of Mellerdell region, Old Maid (Schwarzer Peter) playing cards of Mellerdell Geology, a memory game cards of Mellerdell regions geology, culture and landscapes. And jointly with the three nature parks in Luxembourg, playing cards of Luxembourg’s animals.

An exhibition on geology and water is installed inside the Aquatower in Berdorf and can be visited by itself or on a guided tour to the area.

The three Nature Parks in Luxembourg have applied for a LEADER-project “Naturparkschoul – héich 3”. The purpose of this project is to implement the concept of education for sustainable developments in the schools of the three Nature parks. The project starts in September 2018.

E.6 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
The Regional Tourist Office (RTO) Mullerthal Region – Luxembourg’s Little Switzerland, is a non-profit organization founded in 2007. It is the main marketing partner for the Mëllerdall aUGGp. The Tourist organization is responsible for developing and promoting the Mullerthal Region and the Mëllerdall Geopark as a tourist destination. It is also responsible for developing a regional tourism concept and creating new tourism products. Furthermore it is also responsible for protecting and improving the visibility of the natural, cultural and historical heritage of the region.

In 2017 the Mullerthal region had a total of 447 000 overnights by visitors. The visitors stayed in the region for an average of 4,4 nights. Most of the visitors come from the neighbouring countries, 56% Netherlands, 18% Belgium, 10% Germany. 10% of the visitors are from Luxembourg. The main marketing themes for the region are Culture, Nature and Culinary. Geopark and sustainability are transversal themes.

The tourism in the Mëllerdall aUGGp area is very developed and has long traditions. The area has a diversity of accommodation, restaurants, themed trails, information centres, trained guides, events and local culinary products. Also the marketing of the area is well coordinated and has clearly good resources. The area has received awards for its tourism. In 2008, the Mullerthal’s regional center Echternach was awarded by EDEN (European Destination of Excellence) status.
Echternach was rewarded with this EU-award because of its quality in the field of sustainable tourism. In 2017 the European Ramblers’ Association granted the Mullerthal trail with a “Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe” - label. The label has a special system of criteria that takes care of the needs of hikers, makes the attractiveness of trails tangible and thereby guarantees a high standard.

The sustainability of the tourism has been taken care in many ways. The trails are well sign-posted to keep the visitors on the trails to prevent erosion. The Regional Tourist Office publishes annually a mobility guide on how to reach the sites with public transport. The published media is printed on FSC-certified paper. A Code of Practice for appropriate behaviour in the forests has been developed and communicated in the area; Däi Bësch – Mäi Bësch, “my forest – your forest”-code of conduct was awarded with the 2nd place of “Eco award” of the European Ramblers’ Association in 2014.

E.7 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

E.7.1 Sustainable development policy
According to Luxembourg law, a Nature Park is an instrument of regional planning and focuses on regional sustainable development. During our visit it came clear that the Nature and Geopark is the key operator in its region when it comes to sustainable development. The Nature and Geopark has several projects that support sustainable development in its region. Topics of the projects range from supporting and saving the Traditional fruit orchards to supporting regional products and protecting the climate.

Dry Stone Walls INTERREG VA project is a project in which the Mëllerdall Nature Park and its four partners from greater region are working on the topic of dry stone walls. Dry stone walling is a building technique using natural stone, without mortar or other binder, to construct high-stability walls. Nowadays, this way of building, which can still be observed in old vineyards, on agricultural land, and even private properties is recognized for its high ecological, landscape and agronomic value. The goal of the project is to work out common and cross border solutions to preserve and revalorize their shared heritage.

The Nature and Geopark is promoting the use of local wood in timber products & related craft in the “Holz vun hei” – Leader project. The aim is to increase the use of local wood in timber products and to get more local producers.

The Nature and Geopark Mëllerdall is participating to the LIFE Project ZENAPA - Zero Emission Nature Protection Areas. The aim of the LIFE-IP ZENAPA project is CO2 neutrality for large-scale conservation areas. Eleven national parks, biosphere reserves and nature parks from Germany and Luxembourg are grouped together in this project. Vulkaneifel UGGp is one of the project partners.

Recommendation: no

E.7.2 PARTNERSHIPS
The Nature and Geopark has a good connection to a strong network of different sector operators in the area. These operators and specially the Regional tourism office has a good connection and partnerships to the local tourism service producers. This partnership is used by the Nature and Geopark to distribute information to the tourism service producers and their customers. There are lots of printed information leaflets available for the tourists visiting the area through this connection.

The aUGGp itself doesn’t have a branding policy for the local products, but there is a regional brand for the same area. Mellerdaller Regional Produkter –brand gathers together the regional producers for fairs and other events. It’s more a
regional platform than a brand for products as there is no logo in use for the products. The local producers products were sold in many visited places starting from local shops and tourism information centres.

Recommendation: Yes
Description: The Geopark needs to make itself known among the tourism business and different partners in the region.

E.7.3 FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The work of the Nature and Geopark is coordinated and operated in a network of ministries, scientific institutions, tourism organizations, municipalities, associations and other operators. many people are involved to the operations through this networking. Still the aUGGp needs to do much more to inform the local communities and people on its aims, work and the regions special conditions.

During the mission we learned that the local population wasn’t very well informed on the aim of becoming a UGGp, or what a UGGp is. There seemed to be almost some kind of an informal strategy: if you don’t know about the goal you won’t get disappointed in the case the region doesn’t get the UNESCO label. We talked about this during the mission and made it clear that the aim of becoming a UGGp needs to be communicated widely, and that the local communities and people need to be involved in the operations.

Partly the lack of informing and communicating is due to the fact that there are no local newspapers to the area, but only national. This being the case, the aUGGp could do much more with social media, now they only have a facebook site.

Recommendation: yes
Description: The local people need to be informed and involved more on the regions intention to become a UGGp. The people need to be made aware of what is a UGGp and what are the goals of the program and its actions. Now the information has been very limited and based on some articles in magazines published by the Nature park and its partners. The region doesn’t have local papers, only national papers published in all of Luxembourg exist, so the Geopark needs to start using the different channels of social media. Now there is only a facebook page: Natur- & Geopark Mëllerdall, and it doesn’t have much Geopark information.

E.8 NETWORKING

The Mëllerdall Geopark is situated in the Middle of Europe, close-by to many existing European UGGp’s. Considering the geographical location the Geopark’s relations to the European Geoparks Network are very few. Since year 2006 some decision makers and parts of the people behind the Nature/Geopark have annually made a benchmarking trip to nature protection areas around central Europe. Based on a list they provided six of these trips have been to areas that now are UGGp’s. To UNESCO/GGN/EGN conferences they have participated only once, Azores 2017, when Birgit Kausch participated. Vulkaneifel UGGp is located about 50 kilometres away from Mellerdell, with Vulkaneifel region they participate to some common projects like Zenapa (climate protection with eleven other participants), but the projects are not directly Geopark related so that they would increase the knowledge on Geoparks networks.

The lack of networking can be seen in the way the Geopark has been developed, to some extent it’s more of building a national Geopark than a UGGp. The personnel didn’t know that they should have information on the UNESCO Geoparks or the EGN/GGN visible. And the general idea of the necessity of networking and learning from each other’s was missing. Also the people living in the area hadn’t been explained or included into the Geopark actions, other than
through the GEO working group. During the mission we asked the personnel if they had had someone from the EGN or GGN networks visiting them at the region and they didn’t know. They had met some Geopark people in the Berlin ITB 2018 at the GGN stand.

A good example on the lack of networking with other Geoparks is that the personnel didn’t know that European Geoparks week existed, and that being the case they hadn’t organised it. The general knowledge level of the functioning of the UGGp’s and GGN/EGN was low even with the key persons behind the proposal.

Recommendation: yes

Description: The Geopark personnel must start networking and participating actively to the activities of the Global Geoparks Network as well as the European Geoparks Network. This includes active participation to the annual Geopark conferences as well as working more with other Geopark regions. The Geopark needs also to start organising the EGN week events. Participating to the Geoparks intensive course in Lesvos would be a good idea to rise the knowledge level in the area.

E.7 SELLING OF GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

The Møllerød Nature and Geopark is not involved in the selling of geological materials.

Recommendation: no

F. DISCUSSION

The Møllerød Nature and Geopark has a strong potential for becoming a UGGp. Most needed things are already in place; the Geology, the Organization, the trails, and the information centres are already there. But this said, many key elements for a UGGp are still missing or underway. The most important thing missing is a full understanding of what a UNESCO Global Geopark is, and this is reflecting in many points.

The Geopark has been developed in isolation without proper networking and learning from other Geoparks. There has practically been no participation to the networks conferences, only one person participated to the Azores Conference in 2017, and this was the first time. As a result of this the knowledge level of the personnel on how the Geoparks function is missing. They didn’t really know about the GGN and EGN structures and functioning. This came up for example when we asked on participation to the EGN week activities – the personnel didn’t know anything of EGN week and the necessity to participate by arranging events. Furthermore they didn’t seem to know that they would need to join the GGN association and furthermore send people to the EGN Coordination Committee.

The lack of interaction to the Geoparks networks shows also in the way the area has been developed. The local people haven’t been informed on the process of becoming a UGGp, and this leads to low local participation to Geopark activities or developing. The lack of networking and understanding is somehow surprising as the Geopark is situated close-by to many existing European Geoparks.

The Geopark is also very much in the shadow of the Nature Park, even though many ideas of the Nature park are very much in line with the UGGp’s. Still the Geopark would need to show more own profile next to the Nature Park. The Nature and Geopark is a good basis on which to build the UNESCO Global Geopark, but this will take some more time and effort. The Nature Park has good and secure operating resources and very good connections to its region with different
operators. Lots of projects focused on sustainability are being implemented or planned.

The region has clearly a good potential on becoming a UGGp, but they should have taken some time to study the Geoparks and their operating systems, inform and involve local communities and build stronger local partnerships and visibility before applying. Lots of good progress is planned but is not yet visible.

G. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the application and our observations on site we propose to defer the application for a period of two years. The proposed Geopark area has good potential but it is clearly only in the beginning of a process of becoming a UNESCO Global Geopark.

- Main recommendations:

1. The Geopark needs to have a stronger presence and visibility in the area. A Geopark exhibition including and explaining the overall story of the area needs to be designed and built as planned by the Geopark. The information panels by the trails should have a more unified Geopark look and the information on geology and related topics should be updated.

2. The visitor information centres need to have the Geopark information at place for visitors. Information on the UNESCO Geoparks and EGN/GGN needs to be available too for the visitors. The information personnel and guides must be trained to know and understand the philosophy and operating of the UGGP’s, EGN/GGN.

3. The local people need to be informed on the regions intention to become a UGGp. The people need to be made aware of what is a UGGp and what are the goals of the program and its actions.

4. The Geopark needs to start communicating with local people on its meaning and goals. This includes and results into local involvement. This could be done by using more the different channels of social media. Now there is only a facebook page: Natur- & Geopark Mëllerdall, and it doesn’t have much Geopark information/activity.

5. The Nature and Geopark personnel must start networking and participating actively to the activities of the Global Geoparks Network as well as the European Geoparks Network. This includes active participation to the annual Geopark conferences as well as working more with other Geopark regions. The Geopark needs also to start organising the EGN week events. Participating to the Geoparks intensive course in Lesvos would be a good idea to rise the knowledge level in the area.
H. ITINERARY
Day-by-day itinerary. If you consider it useful, you may illustrate each topic/activity/locality, with a photo (not more than one per topic, reduced in size). Insert in the second a column the names of contact persons you met. If this is not possible, ask the aUGGP to provide a separate annex with people met during the mission with position, function in the aUGGP (for Geopark staff), e-mail and photograph (optional). The third column contains the primary findings and comments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Topics Activity/Locality</th>
<th>People met</th>
<th>Findings/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day 1, 8th July 2018</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrival Mr. Vesa Krökki and Mr. Noritaka Matsubara</td>
<td>Claude Petit management director (member of the staff of NGM) Birgit Kausch head of geopark (member of the staff of NGM)</td>
<td>➢ Arriving to Luxembourg City and drive to B&amp;B in Berdorf ➢ Dinner in Berdorf ➢ Walk to Geopark site in Berdorff Abandoned millstone quarry Huellee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day 2, 9th July 2018</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome and presentation of the Geopark, Beaufort Nature and Geopark offices</td>
<td>Camille Hoffmann president of NGM &amp; mayor of Beaufort Liette Mathieu vice-president of NGM &amp; member of the Ministry of sustainable development &amp; infrastructures Claude Petit management director (member of the staff of NGM) Birgit Kausch head of geopark (member of the staff of NGM) Mikis Bastian head of the ecological service (member of the staff of NGM) Elina Zepp scientific assistant of ecological service (member of the staff of NGM) Jo Goergen head of INTERREG VA dry stone project (member of the staff of NGM) Viviane Heuskin executive assistant (member of the staff of NGM) Anette Peiter head of LEADER Regioun Mëllerdlall Linda Salentin product management Mullerthal Trail &amp; Geotourism of ORT Mullerthal Robert Colbach head of the geological survey of Luxembourg Romain Meyer member of the staff of the geological survey of Luxembourg</td>
<td>➢ Welcome and round of introductions / overview presentation of the Geopark Beaufort ➢ Presentation of the planned Geopark exhibition in Beaufort to the Nature and Geopark offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch, Berdorf, Berdorfer Eck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquatower, Berdorf</td>
<td>Additional persons: Alain Faber director of the National Museum of Natural History Claude Oé executive assistant of the</td>
<td>➢ Visit to the Educational site Aquatower and seeing the exhibition on water and its formatting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Visit of the Aquatower surroundings | Additional persons: **Yves Krippel** head of the ecological service in the Nature Park Upper-Sûre (agronomist & botanist) & president of the “Commission de sauvegarde de la “Petite Suisse” et de la région du Grès de Luxembourg” **Jos Massard** member of the Commission de sauvegarde de la “Petite Suisse” et de la région du Grès de Luxembourg” (biologist) | - Visit of the Aquatower Surroundings  
- Forest cemetery |
| Visit to Tourist – Info Berdorf at Martbusch Camping site | Same participants as in the previous place | - Visiting the tourist information camping area  
- Exploring the trails of the sandstone landscape  
- Seeing the place for a forest school  
- The Information panels along the trails were old and partly the information was old too. |
<p>| Visit to Wanterbaach-Siweschleff – Sandstone landscape | - Dinner (Trail Inn, Berdorf) | - Dinner with geological science |
|  | <strong>Liette Mathieu</strong> vice-president of NGM &amp; member of the Ministry of sustainable development &amp; infrastructures | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 3, 10th July 2018</th>
<th><strong>Geotop Calcareous tufa spring, Consdorf</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cultural site Loschbour, Heffingen</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cultural site Castle Larochette, Larochette</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Claude Petit</strong> management director (member of the staff of NGM) <strong>Birgit Kausch</strong> head of geopark (member of the staff of NGM) <strong>Robert Colbach</strong> head of the geological survey of Luxemburg <strong>Romain Meyer</strong> member of the staff of the geological survey of Luxemburg <strong>Alain Faber</strong> director of the National Museum of Nature History</td>
<td><strong>Liette Mathieu</strong> vice-president of NGM &amp; member of the Ministry of sustainable development &amp; infrastructures <strong>Claude Petit</strong> management director (member of the staff of NGM) <strong>Birgit Kausch</strong> head of geopark (member of the staff of NGM) <strong>Anette Peiter</strong> head of LEADER Regioun Mëllerdall <strong>Linda Salentin</strong> product management Mullerthal Trail &amp; Géotourisme of ORT Mullerthal <strong>Robert Colbach</strong> head of the geological survey of Luxemburg <strong>Jo Goergen</strong> head of INTERREG VA dry stone project (member of the staff of NGM)</td>
<td><strong>Additional persons:</strong> <strong>Camille Feltes</strong> member of the municipal council of Heffingen &amp; in the committee of the NGM <strong>André Schoellen</strong> National archaeological research centre (Ministry of Culture)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting the Geotop Calcareous tufa spring in Consdorf</td>
<td>Visit to the Cultural site Loschbour, Heffingen the site for the first modern woman of Luxembourg dating some 8000 years</td>
<td>Cultural site Castle Larochette</td>
<td>Geo-Landscape Champignon in Nommern</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geo-Landscape Champignon in Nommern</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch (Epicerie am Duerf, Schrondweiler)</td>
<td>➢ Meeting the shop/ restaurant owner.</td>
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</table>
| **Geo-Landscape Hëlt – dolomitic landscape (Rosport-Mompach)** | ➢ **Geo-Landscape Hëlt – dolomitic landscape (Rosport-Mompach)**
➢ Nature and culture, ecotourism, geology and geomorphology, viticulture, orchard meadow, stone walls, regional products
➢ Seeing the Dry walls project, meeting with local winegrowers using the new dry stone walls |
| Additional persons: **Jo Goergen** head of INTERREG VA dry stone project (member of the staff of NGM) **Mikis Bastian** head of the ecological service (member of the staff of NGM) **Romain Osweiler** mayor of Rosport-Mompach & member in the committee of the NGM **Laurent Winkin** senior policy advisor with SEO (société électrique de l'Our) Georges Schiltz winegrower (Tudorsgeeschter) **Luc Roeder** organic winegrower |

| Born (Rosport-Mompach) | ➢ Born (Rosport-Mompach)
➢ A factory for local cider production, the factory is using the fruits from local orchards. |
| Additional persons: **Paul guide of Ramborn** |
| **Claude Petit** management director (member of the staff of NGM) **Birgit Kausch** head of geopark (member of the staff of NGM) **Robert Colbach** head of the geological survey of Luxembourg **Romain Meyer** member of the staff of the geological survey of Luxembourg **Camille Feltes** member of the municipal council of Heffingen & their representative in the committee of the NGM **Sandra Bertholet** head of ORT Mullerthal |

| Day 4, 11th July 2018 | ➢ Dinner with local stakeholders (Reuland, Reilander Millen) |
| ▪ **Camille Hoffmann** president of NGM & mayor of Beaufort **Liette Mathieu** vice-president of NGM & member of the Ministry of |

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Day 4, 11th July 2018

Heringer Millen, Müllerthal, Waldbillig

Camille Hoffmann president of NGM & mayor of Beaufort Liette Mathieu vice-president of NGM & member of the Ministry of

➢ **Presentation: marketing (Heringer Millen, Müllerthal, Waldbillig)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable development &amp; infrastructures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Claude Petit</strong> management director (member of the staff of NGM)</td>
<td><strong>Birgit Kausch</strong> head of geopark (member of the staff of NGM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anette Peiter</strong> head of LEADER Region Mëllerdall</td>
<td><strong>Linda Salentin</strong> product management Mullerthal Trail &amp; Geotourism of ORT Mullerthal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Andrée Henx-Greischer</strong> mayor of Waldbillig &amp; member in the committee of the NGM</td>
<td><strong>Joyce Petry</strong> assistant in the Touristcenter Heringer Millen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Historical site Heringer Millen |  |
|---------------------------------|  |
| **Jo Goergen** head of INTERREG VA dry stone project (member of the staff of NGM) | **Mikis Bastian** head of the ecological service (member of the staff of NGM)  |
| **Andrée Henx-Greischer** mayor of Waldbillig & member in the committee of the NGM |  |

- Information point renting of gear for free to hikers
- Educational site, children learn of mill and baking tradition in their own hands.
- Seeing the damages caused by buildings and trails by recent (2018) severe floodings
- Visiting the geosite Scheissendempel. A historic site that is a landmark for the geopark. Also a location for the dry stone walls.

| Inspection of documents, final discussion, Maison du Parc, Beaufort |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|  |
| **Camille Hoffmann** president of NGM & mayor of Beaufort | **Liette Mathieu** vice-president of NGM & member of the Ministry of sustainable development & infrastructures  |
| **Claude Petit** management director (member of the staff of NGM) | **Birgit Kausch** head of geopark (member of the staff of NGM)  |
| **Anette Peiter** head of LEADER Region Mëllerdall | **Linda Salentin** product management Mullerthal Trail & Géotourisme of ORT Mullerthal |

- Inspection of documents discussion
- Short guided tour to see dancing procession in heritage locations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Echternach, guided tour</th>
<th>Same participants as in the final meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Dinner with local stakeholders and government representatives (Le Petit Poète, Echternach)

Additional persons:
- Françoise Bonert member of the executive board of the NGM
- Ben Scheuer member of the municipal council of Echternach & of the executive board of the NPM
- Carole Dieschbourg Minister of the Environment
- Guy Arendt State secretary of the Culture
- Catherine Decker general secretary of the Luxembourg Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
- Yves Wengler mayor of Echternach
- Luc Birgen member of the municipal council of Echternach & president of the executive board of LEADER Regioun Mëllerdall
- Marc Diederich member of the municipal council of Echternach & president of the executive board of ORT Mullerthal
- Jacques Krecké secretary of the advisory committee of the NGM

Dinner in Ecternach with minister of Environment and state secretary for culture, stakeholders.

Day 5, 12th July 2018

Departure Mr. Vesa Kröikki and Mr. Noritaka Matsubara