

UKGAP Theme 6: Sustaining resources for our geodiversity

UKGAP Indicator 14: Voluntary Involvement - the total number of people actively involved in geodiversity initiatives within Local Geodiversity Action Plan (LGAP) partnerships and voluntary geoconservation groups

Relevance

The total number of people actively involved in voluntary geodiversity initiatives gives an indication of the public's awareness of, and support for, such initiatives. It also provides a contribution to the wider objective of the four individual UK-country governments to encourage people to visit the outdoors to improve health and well-being.

Data Sources

A short email survey was completed in February 2012 of all existing local geoconservation groups within England. This included all groups affiliated to the Geology Trusts and all groups affiliated to GeoConservation UK. The email survey was sent to a total of 43 groups, of which 17 (40%) responded with data. One of these groups provided data discretely for four separate areas, giving a total of 20 data returns.

Background to the Data

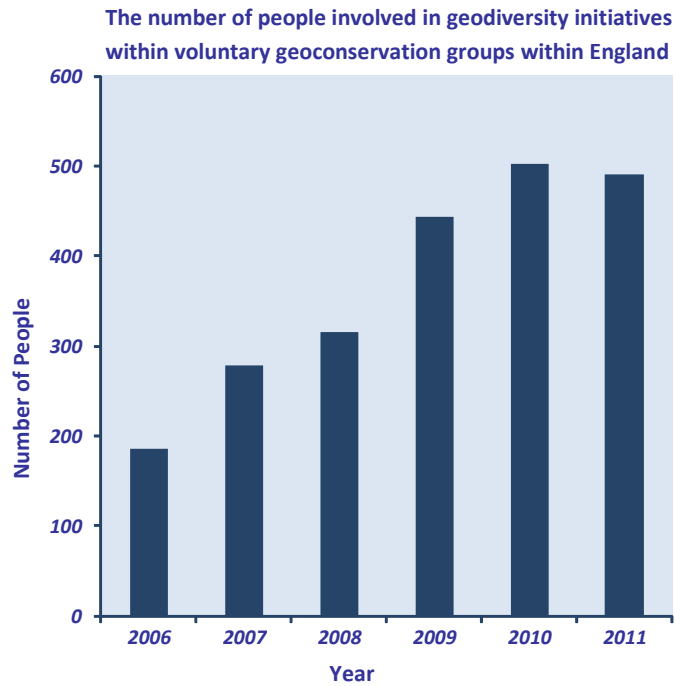
Total figures for the 20 data returns are reported. The local geoconservation groups within England were asked to provide an estimate of the number of people actively involved in geodiversity initiatives within their area annually for the period 2006 to 2011 inclusive. The figures reported include staff employed by the local geoconservation group and also those involved with the facilitation of specific projects or the wider LGAP partnership.

Data

The data shown in Table 1 and presented in the chart below show the number of people involved in geodiversity initiatives within voluntary geoconservation groups within England.

Table 1: The Number of People involved in Voluntary Geodiversity Initiatives within Geoconservation Groups within England

	Total number of participants involved in geodiversity initiatives
Year:	Total per year
2006	186
2007	279
2008	316
2009	443
2010	502
2011	491



Assessment of Trend within England

The groups that responded reported an increase in the number of people actively involved in geodiversity initiatives between 2006 and 2010, with the total number of people in 2010 more than double the total for 2006. A flattening off of the number of people actively involved in geodiversity initiatives is observed between 2010 and 2011.

Data Limitations and Future Recommendations

Although the data are limited to those groups who responded to the survey, the response rate (of 40%) is good for a survey of this type. It might be more useful in the future to show how the number of people actively involved in geodiversity initiatives compares to the overall trends of people involved in outdoor initiatives.

Appendix: Questions Asked in Survey

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<p>What were the total number of participants involved in geodiversity initiatives within your group for each of the following years? Figures may be your best estimate.</p> <p>Note: participants include both employed staff and others who have perhaps been involved with the organisation or facilitation of a specific project or LGAP partnerships.</p>						