



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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Action Plan 2024-2025

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Proposed actions for the achievement of the Strategic Plan goals

STRATEGIC ACTION 1

GGN operation

1.1. Strengthening GGN Structure, Functioning and Communication with GGN members

Strategic goal	Action
Encourage the participation of all members in the GGN General Assembly;	<p>Improve their preparation in order to achieve effective participation.</p> <p>Encourage all the Members and their Representatives to read and be prepared on the dispatched agenda and the supporting documentation and the description of the points subject to decision.</p>
Strengthen the operation of the GGN Advisory Committee;	<p>Organize the GGN Advisory Committee meetings 4 times a year to discuss the implementation of the Strategic Actions and other important issues on GGN operation and activities.</p> <p>Obtain feedback from the Advisory Committee members on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the operation of the GGN; ▪ reception of good practices from national fora; ▪ new actions.
Strengthen the operation of the National Geoparks Networks;	<p>Encourage the creation of National Geopark Networks in countries with more than 3 Geoparks.</p> <p>Encourage the establishment of a National Geoparks Network Action Plan with the activities collectively organized at the national level</p> <p>Extract from the national Geoparks networks action plans the events and</p>

	other achievements that may be supported by the GGN in terms of visibility, promotion or complementarity.
Strengthening the operation of the administrative mechanism of the GGN bodies to support the effective functioning of the Global Geoparks Network;	Improve the administration mechanism of the different GGN bodies improving their operation by new software and human resources; Improve the communication mechanism between GGN and its members by improving the current digital communication by software and human resources.
Strengthening the operation of the GGN Secretariat;	Add new individuals in the GGN Secretariat personnel.
Support the visibility of the Global Geoparks Network by establishing a new strategy for the protection and the use of the GGN Logo;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve the coherence and combination in the use of the GGN logos in Geopark activities, services, and products; ▪ Create a marketing toolkit for the GGN logos.
Foster networking and continuous communication among all UNESCO Global Geoparks;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage the organization of National Geopark Conferences; ▪ Encourage participation and the organization of thematic workshops on Geoparks during International conferences; ▪ Other activities.
Encourage Geopark activities aiming at the better-connection between these territories and their communities to support the social understanding of the Geopark values;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geopark Week; (EGN Week, APGN Week, etc); ▪ Geopark Festival; ▪ Geopark Exhibitions; ▪ Exchange of Thematic Exhibitions among Geoparks; ▪ Events; ▪ Participation.
Implementation of a strategy for legal protection and security for the protection of the members of GGN in their duties in the Network.	Obtain Legal Advice.

1.2. GGN Working Groups

Strategic Goals	Action
Strengthen the operation of the GGN Working Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage the coordination of thematic activities in synergy with the Regional Working Groups and enhance collaboration between the GGN members; ▪ Encourage common realizations among the Global Geoparks Network members, such as the intangible heritage's common exhibition; ▪ Encourage regular activity on presentation of specific objectives and tasks and evaluation of the GGN Working Groups work; ▪ Encourage the participation of the different members in the GGN Working Groups; ▪ Encourage more collaboration between GGN Working Groups, ▪ Encourage more WG on line workshops; ▪ Encourage the development of good practice guides/toolkits by the GGN Working Groups; ▪ Create a tool kit for a better use of the GGN, UNESCO, Geoparks and Regional Networks logos.

1.3. GGN Communication mechanism

Strategic Goals	Action
Maintain frequent communication among members, their digital communication and improving the presence of GGN in the internet through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update the GGN Mailing List; ▪ GGN website; ▪ GGN social media; ▪ GGN Newsfeed.
GGN Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update the GGN calendar of events on the GGN website and avoid overlapping and duplications of Geopark events.

Promotion of Members events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GGN Members will be asked to inform regularly the GGN regarding their activities on conferences, workshops, and other events, which will have broader interests for the Geoparks community.
Promotional materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Produce GGN corporative videos for use and promotion of GGN activities in GGN Events, Press Conferences, Communication events, International Tourism Fairs, etc.; ▪ Produce Geopark common publications, brochures, maps, banners, posters and other promotional materials.

STRATEGIC ACTION 2

Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks

Strategic Goals	Action
Continue to strengthen the collaboration with UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.	<p>Maintain the participation of Experts in Geopark evaluation and revalidation missions.</p> <p>Maintain advisory missions in aspiring Geoparks.</p> <p>Organize capacity building activities for Geopark evaluators.</p>
Support the development of territories in regions that are currently underrepresented in the Global Geoparks family, like Africa, Arab states, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).	Maintain initiatives such as the UNESCO / GGN Grant for Africa and Arab States and the UNESCO / GGN for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
Implement and support capacity-building activities on UNESCO Global Geoparks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize International Geopark Courses ▪ Support Geopark Seminars and Thematic Workshops.
Ensure the current operation, quality control and maintenance of the Roster of Geopark Evaluators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update Data Base; ▪ Organize Evaluator's capacity building activities (Evaluator's Training Course).
Support of the implementation of the Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation Missions.	Assist the implementation of Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation Missions.

STRATEGIC ACTION 4
GGN National Bodies

4.1. Operation of National Fora/ Committees, National Geopark Networks

Strategic Goals	Action
Strengthening the operation of the GGN National Bodies including National Representatives in countries with only one Geopark, National Fora or Committees.	Continuously support the Geopark activities organized at the National Level.

4.2. Creation of National Geoparks Networks

Strategic Goals	Action
The GGN will support the activities of the National Geoparks Networks, which will communicate the Geopark values and message to the local communities, as well as to national authorities and institutions using national and local languages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a Guide on best practices to support the National Geoparks Networks to rise Geoparks brand visibility to the broader public at the national level. This includes the organization of various activities (i.e. National Geoparks Conference, participation in tourist fairs with a stand, organization of a Geopark Day, open to the public national events, Exhibitions, Publications, and Volunteers Programs). ▪ Update the framework of the National Geopark bodies and provide an action plan model for the National Geoparks Networks according to the national conditions.
Promote the Global Geoparks Network at the national level as the mechanism to achieve global visibility for the UNESCO Global Geoparks and their activities and products.	<p>Facilitate the communication and collaboration with National and Regional Authorities to support Geoparks operation and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the organization of National Geopark Conferences; • Support the participation in National Tourism Fairs • Promote the Geoparks in events open to the public and organization of activities to raise the visibility of the Geopark concept and their results; • Promote initiatives to exchange good organizational practices between Geoparks and National bodies.

STRATEGIC ACTION 5

GGN Members

5.1. GGN Institutional members

Strategic Goals	Action
Encourage all institutional members to work consistently throughout each four years period to constantly improve their quality and service;	Develop a space in the GGN to share the relevant elements of this description that allows the Geoparks the discovery of good practices, models and cooperation initiatives. Obtain external information from the roster of evaluators in order to detect common elements that should be proposed for the improvement of Geoparks.
Provide a good practice guide for Geopark partners and a frame for the use of the GGN logo by Geopark partners;	Good practice guide for Geopark partners: for example, explaining how a partner can take advantage of the international cooperation catalysed by the GGN. Geopark partners that have participated in international activities through the GGN could be authorised to use the GGN logo in their promotion.
Encourage all institutional members to participate in GGN working groups (and Regional Networks Working groups) and contribute to the initiatives developed by working groups more actively;	GGN should propose a greater relationship between regional and global working groups, highlighting common elements and looking at pathways for global progress. Based on the results of this observation, it could propose specific meetings between similar working groups of regional networks or focused workshops on international conferences. The working groups of the GGN could be configured as analysts of the progress, concerns and initiatives of the regional groups. In some cases, it could detect topics of interest that must be addressed globally, seeking effective global results.

<p>Publicize the GGN philosophy, emphasize active participation and involvement of local residents and stakeholders, especially in the territories where local residents are poorly informed about the knowledge of UNESCO Global Geoparks or even neglected by local governments;</p>	<p>Geopark bottom-up approach requires the participation of the local stakeholders. Being one of the peculiarities of UNESCO Global Geoparks, the GGN should make available tools and participation models considered successful at the local level and that can be globally disseminated. Special collection procedures and workshops could be programmed for this purpose.</p>
<p>Encourage the GGN institutional members to continue to produce new outstanding and good practices, which can be shared by other Geoparks and can result in positive influences, benefitting all and contributing to the creation of a more cooperative and peaceful future for all.</p>	<p>UNESCO Global Geoparks should be understood as a Program for Peace: A program that affirms a great respect for the communities, for their heritage and their culture but that offers undeniable opportunities for mutual collaboration and recognition. Opening more paths in the GGN in this sense will always be positive.</p>
<p>GGN Executive Board has to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage all institutional members to participate in conferences in other continental networks; • Encourage all institutional members to develop partnerships and exchange projects with partners on Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 of UN. 	<p>Distribute information, select cooperation themes, catalyse preparatory meetings, support common expected results and propose dissemination tools for final reports and products.</p>