



Report from the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee – 2021

The Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee (IUGGC) operates on an all-Ireland basis to allow for networking and exchange of knowledge from all those involved and interested in UNESCO Global Geoparks across the island. Membership of the IUGGC consists of representatives from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland (UK).

Chair: Kirstin Lemon (klem@bgs.ac.uk)

Geological Survey of Northern Ireland / British Geological Survey

1.0 Members

Clare Glanville (Vice-Chair) – Geological Survey Ireland
Grainne O'Connor – Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark
Martina O'Neill – Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark
Carol Gleeson – Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
Eamon Doyle – Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
Robbie Galvin – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
Sarah Gatley – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark

2.0 Aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks

2.1 Active applications:

- No current active applications

2.2 Interested territories:

- Antrim (Northern Ireland)
- Joyce Country & Western Lakes (Ireland)

3.0 Committee Activities

3.1 Meetings

- The Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee organises an annual Irish Geoparks Forum to allow for networking and engagement amongst all those interested in UNESCO Global Geoparks on the island of Ireland. In 2021, this meeting was held virtually on 7th December and was attended by over 70 people which is significantly higher than attendance in person.
- The Irish Geoparks Forum had the theme of 'Climate Change: Past, present and future' and a keynote talk was delivered by Sara Gentilini, Magma UGGp (Norway) and Director of the GeoFOOD initiative.

3.2 Climate Change Workshop

- In response to the call for information on climate change related activities within UGGps in the run up to COP26, a workshop was organised and delivered on climate change for all of the existing and aspiring UGGps in both Ireland and the UK. The workshop included information on climate change adaptation and mitigation and provided an opportunity for all of those in attendance to discuss what climate change activities they were delivering.

3.3 Mentoring

- Committee members worked very closely with the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Aspiring UGGp this year. A pre-submission evaluation visit was carried out and a comprehensive review of the application dossier was carried out. The application was approved by the IUGGC and submitted to UNESCO in November 2021.
- Committee members have also worked closely with the Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark. As this is an application in Northern Ireland it has been submitted through the UK National Commission for UNESCO so has not been included here as an active application.