



## Report from the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee – 2020

*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](mailto:klem@bgs.ac.uk))

Geological Survey of Northern Ireland / British Geological Survey

### 1.0 Members

Siobhan Power (Vice-Chair) – Geological Survey Ireland  
Grainne O'Connor – Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark  
Martina O'Neill – Marble Arch Caves 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  
Mike Sweeney – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark  
John Galloway – 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 2020, this meeting was held virtually on 12<sup>th</sup> November and was attended by over 70 people which is significantly higher than attendance in person.
- The Irish Geoparks Forum had the theme of 'Resilient Geoparks' and a keynote talk was delivered by Dr Kristin Rangnes, Coordinator of the EGN, Member of the GGN Executive Board and Director of Gea Norvegica UGGp, Norway.

### **3.2 Mentoring**

- Committee members are working closely with the Joyce Country and Western Lakes geopark project in Co. Mayo and Co. Galway.
- 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.