



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

WELCOME GUIDE

for **UNESCO Global Geoparks**

How to Get Started & Useful Information



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK WELCOME GUIDE

for UNESCO Global Geoparks How to Get Started & Useful Information



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Welcome | 3 |
| Global Geoparks Network structure | 4 |
| 2004-2024 Global Geoparks Network: 20 years of collaboration and networking | 5 |
| I. How to become a member of the Global Geoparks Network | 7 |
| II. Your responsibilities as a member of the Global Geoparks Network | 11 |
| (Networking and annual administrative actions) | |
| III. Stay Informed | 14 |
| IV. Stay Connected | 19 |
| A. Geopark Conferences - Common biennial activities | 19 |
| B. Capacity Building Activities | 21 |
| C. GGN Initiatives | 23 |
| D. Common Promotional Activities | 24 |
| E. GGN Logo | 26 |
| F. GGN 20th Anniversary | 28 |
| V. How to Contact | 31 |

CONTACT GGN

GGN Executive Board: info@globalgeoparksnetwork.org
GGN Secretariat: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org

Welcome

It is great to be able to welcome your territory as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Your territory is now one of the UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide which are members of the Global Geoparks Network.

As a UNESCO Global Geopark, you are invited to become the institutional member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

This guide will provide you with step-by-step descriptions of how to get started, how to continue and how to stay informed and connected with all the members of the Global Geoparks Network.

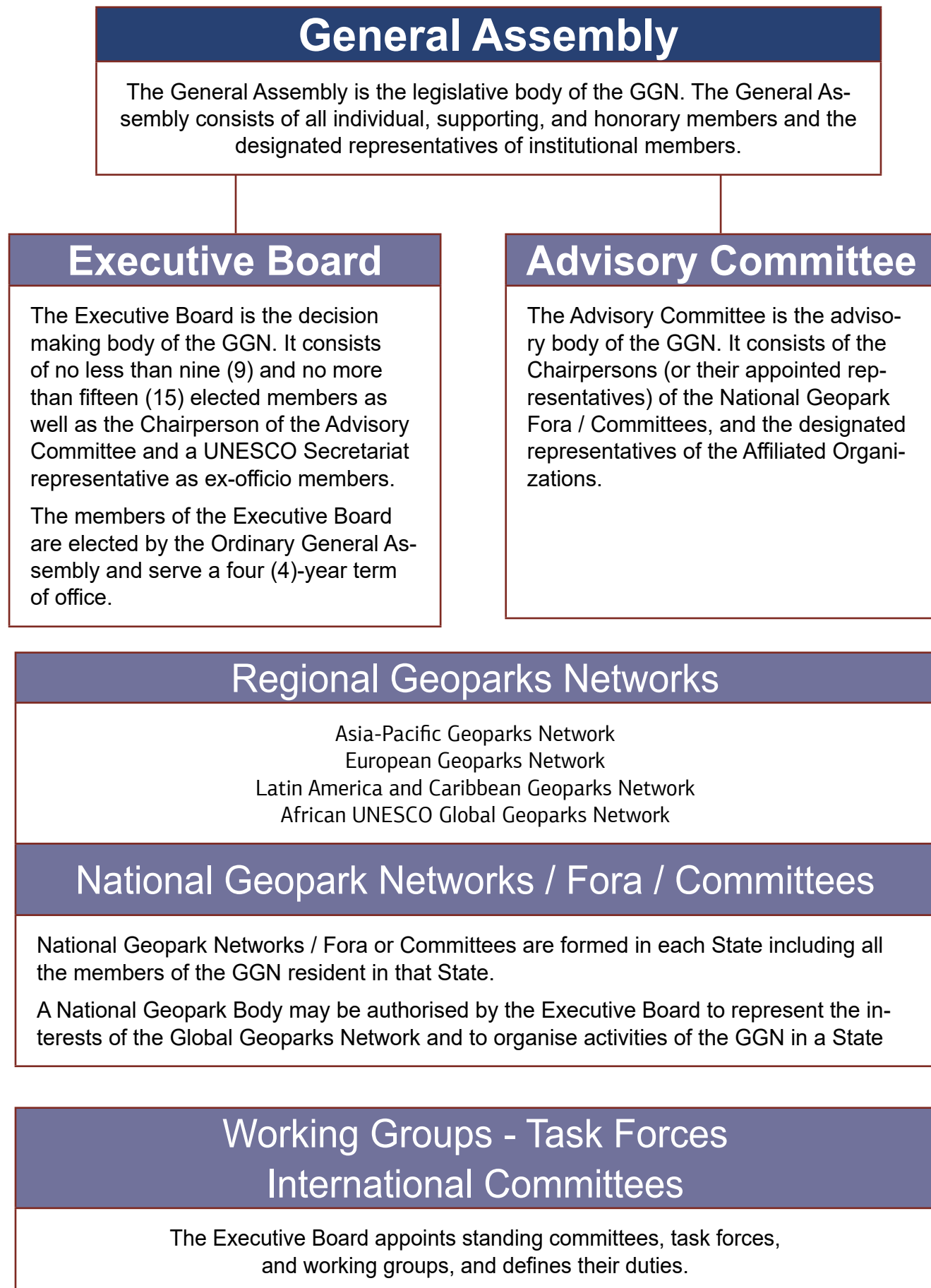
We hope this guide will help ensure that your introduction to the Global Geoparks family will be an enjoyable and rewarding one!

The GGN Executive Board



2004 - 2024

GGN - Governing Structure



2004-2024: Global Geoparks Network 20 years of networking and collaboration towards a sustainable future

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN), is a non-profit international association that brings together UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geopark professionals worldwide. The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The Global Geoparks Network was founded on Friday 13 February 2004 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The evaluation of the proposed Geoparks took place by an International Group of Experts and it was decided to include in the Global Geoparks Network 25 territories, 17 European Geoparks and 8 Chinese Geoparks. The 1st International Conference on Geoparks was held in Beijing, China from 27 to 29 June 2004, in order to promote the establishment of a worldwide network of Geoparks. In September 2014 the Global Geoparks Network including 120 Global Geoparks, became an International Association. In November 2015, UNESCO General Conference adopted the statutes and operational Guidelines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the third side designation of UNESCO. In 2024 the Global Geoparks Network includes 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 countries.

The GGN provides a platform of cooperation and networking among UNESCO Global Geoparks, and promotes the concept of the holistic territorial heritage management, together with governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientists, and communities from all countries around the world in a unique worldwide partnership for natural heritage protection and promotion.

The GGN mission is to influence, encourage and assist local societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of abiotic and biotic nature, to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and sustainable and to support economic and cultural development of local communities through the valorisation of their unique heritage and identity. It seeks to enhance the value of such sites while at the same time creating employment and promoting regional and local economic development. The GGN comprises 5 Regional Geoparks Networks and 46 National Networks/Fora/Committees.

It's operation in collaboration with UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat serves to support UNESCO Global Geoparks development and effective operation, to develop models of best practice and set quality- standards for territories that integrate the preservation of geological heritage in a strategy for regional sustainable economic development.

Active participation, networking and collaboration among UNESCO Global Geoparks, their management bodies, officials and partners is an important component of the Global Geoparks Network operation and management, especially in the fields of geological heritage protection and conservation, territorial heritage management and promotion, education, tourism, sustainable development and regional planning.

2024 marks a major milestone for our Global Geoparks Network (GGN), as we celebrate 20-years history of our Network. The 20th Anniversary of our Global Geoparks Network is an opportunity for all Geoparks to strengthen our operation and networking, to rethink our relationship with the communities we serve, to experiment with new models and fields of collaboration towards safeguarding our geological heritage and the sustainable development of our territories and to strongly reaffirm the essential value of our UNESCO Global Geoparks for the construction of a just and sustainable future.

I. How to become a member of the Global Geoparks Network



4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly 2023, M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco



1st GGN Ordinary General Assembly 2016, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, United Kingdom

Once UNESCO has awarded your territory as a UNESCO Global Geopark, there are some administrative actions that your Geopark has to fulfil.

Below, there is a checklist of basic administrative actions that you have to complete and which will ensure that you have taken all the necessary steps to get started.

Please make sure that you complete the following checklist no later than the 31st of December of the year that your territory has been awarded as a UNESCO Global Geopark:

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Apply for GGN Membership (Institutional member) | |
| 2. Inform the GGN of the contact details of your Geopark's contact person(s) | |
| 3. Inform the GGN of your Geopark Representative for the General Assembly of the GGN | |
| 4. Contact the Coordinator of your GGN Regional Geoparks Network | |
| 5. Contact the Coordinator of your GGN National Geoparks Network | |
| 6. Pay your Annual GGN Membership Fee | |
| 7. Get informed about the basic documents regarding the operation of the Global Geoparks Network | |
| 8. Use the Global Geoparks Network logo for your communication activities | |

Below you can find detailed information on how a new UNESCO Global Geopark can fulfill the above basic administrative actions:

1. Apply for GGN Membership (Institutional member)

Membership of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is obligatory for all UNESCO Global Geoparks, according to the operational guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Application procedure:

► After your Geopark has been recognised as a UNESCO Global Geopark, you will receive a welcome letter from the GGN with useful information accompanied by the following documents:

- GGN Membership Application Form
- **INVOICE FOR THE PAYMENT OF YOUR GEOPARK'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE**
- Contact Details Form
- GGN logo (<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=8540>)

► In order to officially become a member of the GGN, fill in the GGN Membership Application Form and send it back to the GGN.



2. Inform the GGN of the contact details of your Geopark's contact person(s)

Continuous communication and collaboration between the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), the UNESCO Secretariat and the Regional Networks is essential for all the Geoparks but also for the operation of the Network.

- Fill in the Contact Details Form and submit this form to the GGN.

Don't forget to inform the GGN about any changes of your Geopark's contact details.

3. Inform the GGN of your Representative at the General Assembly of the GGN

Each UNESCO Global Geopark should appoint one representative for the General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network.

- Inform the GGN of your Representative for the General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network and submit their name and contact details to the GGN.

4. Contact your GGN Regional Geoparks Network

The Global Geoparks Network members located within a region or continent form Regional Geoparks Networks. The GGN promotes networking on a regional basis.

A new UNESCO Global Geopark, by becoming a member of the Global Geoparks Network is automatically a member of the Regional Geoparks Network in their region or continent.

The GGN Regional Geoparks Networks serve to coordinate GGN activities at a regional or continental level and to exchange information and co-operation between UNESCO Global Geoparks and Global Geoparks professionals at a regional or continental level.

The new UNESCO Global Geopark can participate in one of the following GGN Regional Geoparks Networks:

- ✓ Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)
- ✓ European Geoparks Network (EGN)
- ✓ Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeoLAC)
- ✓ African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN).

North America is currently not represented by a Regional Network in the Global Geoparks Network. At present, in North America, only Geoparks in Canada have been nominated. The Canadian Geoparks Network represents the North America Geoparks in the Global Geoparks Network

The activities of Regional Geoparks Networks include:

- Regional Geoparks Conferences,
- Regional workshops and seminars,
- Capacity building activities,
- Common projects,
- Promotional activities,
- Common publications,
- Common communication tools.

Procedure:

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Contact the Coordinator of your Regional Networks (see page 25 for contact details) | |
| 2. Inform the Regional Network of the contact details of your Geopark's contact person(s) | |
| 3. Inform the Regional Network of your representatives for the Coordination Committee of your Regional Geoparks Network | |
| 4. Stay connected with your Regional Network | |
| 5. Be aware of the basic documents regarding the operation of the Regional Geoparks Network and use the Regional Geoparks Network logo for your communication activities | |

5. Pay your annual GGN Membership Fee

Each UNESCO Global Geopark must pay an annual GGN Membership Fee.

In accordance with the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) statutes (Article 04, Section 4): "Membership of the GGN will be discontinued due to non-payment of fees after the formal notice of payment and the Geopark **will be delisted from the UNESCO Global Geoparks**".

The annual GGN Membership Fee covers the calendar year in question.

The GGN Executive Board announces the amount of the annual GGN Membership Fee for the following year, approved by the GGN General Assembly.

The current annual GGN Membership fee is €1,500.

This fee is divided as follows:

1. \$1,000 is financial support for UNESCO (managed by UNESCO Secretariat)
2. The remaining amount is for facilitating the operation and common activities of the GGN.

All UNESCO Global Geoparks are informed of the expenses connected with annual Membership Fees managed by the GGN. A Report on the GGN Annual Accounts is approved by the GGN Executive Board. The report is sent to all UNESCO Global Geoparks during the first months of the following fiscal year and is approved by the GGN members during the Annual General Assembly for Accounts (see next point).

Please be sure to pay your Geopark annual Membership Fee when you receive the invoice from the GGN.

In case you have any problem with your membership fee payment, please contact the GGN President and the GGN Treasurer.

Fee payment procedure:

- ▶ GGN sends an invoice for the payment of its annual GGN Membership Fee to each new UNESCO Global Geopark. On the invoice is the annual GGN Membership Fee that has to be paid, information about the transfer procedure, the bank account and all the details about the payment.
- ▶ New UNESCO Global Geoparks have to pay their annual Membership Fee no later than 31st of December after receiving the invoice from the GGN.
- ▶ The name of the Geopark needs to appear clearly on the bank transfer document.
- ▶ After payment, send a copy of the bank receipt to the GGN President and GGN Treasurer.

6. Be informed of the basic documents regarding the operation of the Global Geoparks Network

Please find below the LINKS for the Global Geoparks Network documents:

1. The Global Geopark Network (GGN) Statutes

<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GGN-Association-Statutes-FINAL-SEPTEMBER-2016.pdf>

2. The Global Geopark Network (GGN) Internal Rules and Regulations

https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GGN-RULES-AND-REGULATIONS-07-07-2016_.pdf

3. The Global Geoparks Network - Code of Ethics

<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GLOBAL-GEOPARKS-NETWORK-CODE-OF-ETHICS-final.pdf>

4. Anti-bullying and harassment Policy

https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Anti-harassment-and-bullying-policy_GGN_2_A-final.pdf



II. Your responsibilities as a member of the Global Geoparks Network

(Networking and annual administrative actions)

Networking plays a very strong role in the success of the UNESCO Global Geoparks operation and development worldwide.

Thus active networking with the other UNESCO Global Geoparks and the active participation in networking at the global, regional, national and local level is a key responsibility of a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Networking plays a fundamental role in facilitating the sharing of experience, formation of joint initiatives and projects and a highly significant role it plays in capacity-building. A UNESCO Global Geopark should actively participate in the following activities:

1. The General Assembly of the GGN
 - Annual General Assembly for Accounts (by digital communication)
 - Ordinary General Assembly (parallel to the International Geoparks Conference)
2. The Coordination Committee Meetings of the Regional Geopark Networks
3. The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (every 2 years)
4. The Regional Geopark Conferences or Symposia (every 2 years)
5. The National Geoparks Forum or Committee
6. Digital information meetings (Digital Fora, Seminars etc.)
7. Capacity building activities (courses, exchange of staff, knowledge exchange activities etc.)
8. Geopark thematic Working Groups
9. Common promotional activities

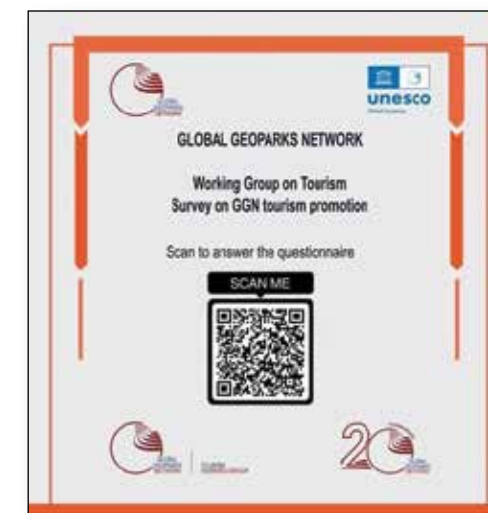
A UNESCO Global Geopark should communicate its activities to the other Geoparks through the GGN Secretariat, using the common communication tools (GGN websites, GGN Newsfeed, GGN Newsletter and Regional Geoparks Networks communication tools – website, newsletter, magazine).

At a minimum, all UNESCO Global Geoparks are expected to complete certain annual administrative actions in order to contribute to the positive operation of the Network.

Below there is a list of the basic administrative actions that all UNESCO Global Geoparks have to fulfill every year.

Please make sure the following checklist is completed by the corresponding deadline:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Prepare your Geopark's Annual Report and submit it to the GGN | | |
| 2. Pay your annual GGN Membership Fee | | |
| 3. Send your written opinion on the GGN Annual Accounts and Budget | (You will be informed about this deadline) | |



Below you will find detailed information on how a UNESCO Global Geopark can fulfill the above annual basic administrative actions:

1. Prepare your Geopark's Annual Report of activities and send it to the GGN

Every year all UNESCO Global Geoparks are invited to report on their activities by the submission of an activity Annual Report. These reports are published at the GGN website (www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org).

Annual Report submission procedure:

- ▶ The call to all UNESCO Global Geoparks to prepare their annual report is issued via the GGN Newsfeed. Please note that these reports always relate to the activities of the previous year.
- ▶ UNESCO Global Geoparks have to fill in the Geopark Activity Annual Report template.
- ▶ UNESCO Global Geoparks have to submit their Annual Report to the GGN by no later than the 28th of February, in every year.

2. Pay your annual GGN Membership Fee

Each UNESCO Global Geopark shall pay an annual membership fee (dues) at a rate of €1,500. For more details about the annual GGM Membership Fee and the Fee payment procedure please see page 9.

3. Send your agreement on the GGN Annual Accounts and Budget

Members approve the GGN Accounts of the previous fiscal year and the GGN Budget for the coming year at the Annual General Assembly on Accounts held each year in March.

Agreement procedure:

- ▶ Each year the report on the GGN Annual Accounts and the budget is distributed to all UNESCO Global Geoparks via the GGN Newsfeed in advance of the General Assembly.
- ▶ Then UNESCO Global Geoparks have to send a written statement to the GGN Executive Board within one month after receiving the Report on the GGN Annual Accounts of the previous year and the GGN Budget for the next year (You will be informed about the deadline).

4. Participation in Geopark thematic Working Groups

The main goals of the Geopark Working Groups is the coordination of activities (on a specific subject), coordination of exchange of ideas and best practices, proposal of new regulations and concepts. They serve as a channel of communication between the GGN members with similar scientific and professional interests.

Working Groups are formed at the Regional level, giving the opportunity to all interested Geoparks to participate. The new UNESCO Global Geoparks can participate in one or more of the thematic Working Groups formed after a decision of the Coordination Committee.

GGN Working Groups are formed after a decision of the GGN Executive Board, have geographical representation, a maximum term of four (4) years and consist of 9-10 GGN Members with proven experience of the subject.

GGN Working Groups:

- ✓ GGN Working Group on **Geohazards**
- ✓ GGN Working Group on **Geological heritage & Geodiversity**
- ✓ GGN Working Group on **Geodiversity and Biodiversity**
- ✓ GGN Working group on **Sustainable Development Goals**
- ✓ GGN Working group on **Tourism**
- ✓ GGN Working group on **Education**
- ✓ GGN Working group on **Island and Coastal areas / Water / Ocean**
- ✓ GGN Working group on **Indigenous people**
- ✓ GGN Working Group on **Heritage**
- ✓ GGN Working Group on **International Networking**
- ✓ GGN Working Group on **Gastronomy**
- ✓ GGN Working Group on **Communication**
- ✓ GGN Working Group on **Cooperating members**



EGN CC Meeting 2018, Karawanken/Karavanke UGGp, Austria & Slovenia

III. Stay Informed

A great challenge for the operation of the Network is the need for continuous communication and contact between the UNESCO, GGN and all GGN Members.

UNESCO Global Geoparks have a variety of common communication tools which facilitate their communication with UNESCO, GGN and all members. Through these communication tools UNESCO Global Geoparks also stay informed about common activities and events.

For this reason, the GGN strongly recommends all UNESCO Global Geoparks to:

- ▶ Check the latest news regularly (<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org>)
- ▶ Update the contact details of your Geopark and the contact person(s)
- ▶ Send your latest news and activities to the GGN in order to share these with the other members of the Network, through the GGN various communication tools.

Below you can find information on how a UNESCO Global Geopark can stay informed about the latest news of the Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks:

GGN NewsFeed

The GGN Executive Board has established regular communication with GGN members through the GGN NewsFeed.

All UNESCO Global Geoparks receive the latest news of the Network directly in their email inbox.

There is a regular monthly edition of the GGN Newsfeed as well as Special Editions for important events.



GGN website 'www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org'

Websites

UNESCO Global Geoparks can find useful information and stay updated on the latest news through the following websites:

▶ www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

The GGN Association website provides information and resources for the Network, the UNESCO Global Geoparks and the general public. The website has a public facing side with good news, stories, and announcements, highlighting the work of its members, along with information on the common activities, programmes and campaigns.

▶ www.visitgeoparks.org

The new GGN promotional website was launched in 2020. The main aim of target of this website is the promotion of Geoparks to society and to the tourism industry, allowing visitors to easily understand, feel and experience the territories. This site is also connected, by links, to the existing administrative sites of the GGN, in order to transmit all kinds of information to members and visitors. A promotional video (<https://youtu.be/YmW0Uhrnad8>) has also been created for the promotion of this new GGN website.

▶ <https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org>

This new GGN video platform was created in order to host the UNESCO Global Geoparks promotional videos for the GGN Film festival.

The third edition of the GGN Film festival will be organized during the 11th Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held in Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geoparks, Chile in 2025.

▶ www.globalgeoparks.org

The website works in close relation with the CAGS – Beijing and the main GGN website (www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org). It is operated by the GGN office in CAGS – Beijing. It mainly presents the GGN activities organized by the APGN members.

▶ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/>

UNESCO Earth Sciences & Geoparks Section website provides important announcements about UNESCO Global Geoparks and useful information about the revalidation and evaluation procedure and hosts information for the general public.





The GGN strongly suggests that all UNESCO Global Geoparks also regularly explore their Regional Networks websites:

- ▶ www.asiapacificgeoparks.org (Asia Pacific Geoparks Network)
- ▶ www.europeangeoparks.org (European Geoparks Network)
- ▶ www.redgeolac.org (Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network)
- ▶ www.visitgeoparks.org/african-geopark-network (African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network)

Social Media

You can also find the Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks on social media where you can check out the latest news, various promotional materials and videos and useful announcements

-  GLOBAL GEOPARK NETWORK in Facebook
@globalgeoparksnetwork (GGN)
-  UNESCO Earth Sciences & Geoparks Section in Facebook
@unescoEARTH (UNESCO Earth Sciences & Geoparks Section)

Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events disseminates information on future Geopark meetings to support visibility of Network events and avoid overlapping among with other Network events.

The Global Geoparks Network encourages all UNESCO Global Geoparks to visit regularly the Calendar of Meetings and Events at the GGN website:

https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=8145

UNESCO Global Geoparks are informed about the latest news of the Calendar of Events through the GGN NewsFeed which all GGN Members receive directly in their email inbox.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to avoid overlapping with the dates of already planned events and to inform the GGN about any event of international interest by sending an e-mail to the GGN.

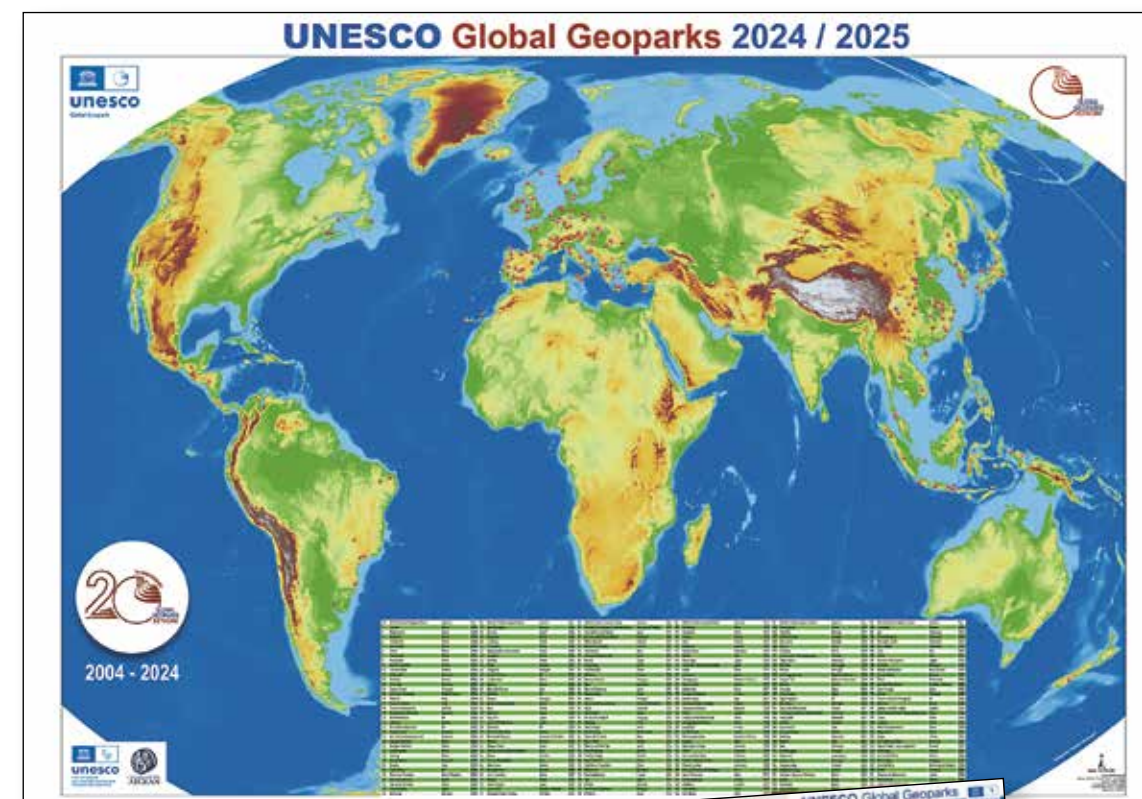
GGN Newsletter

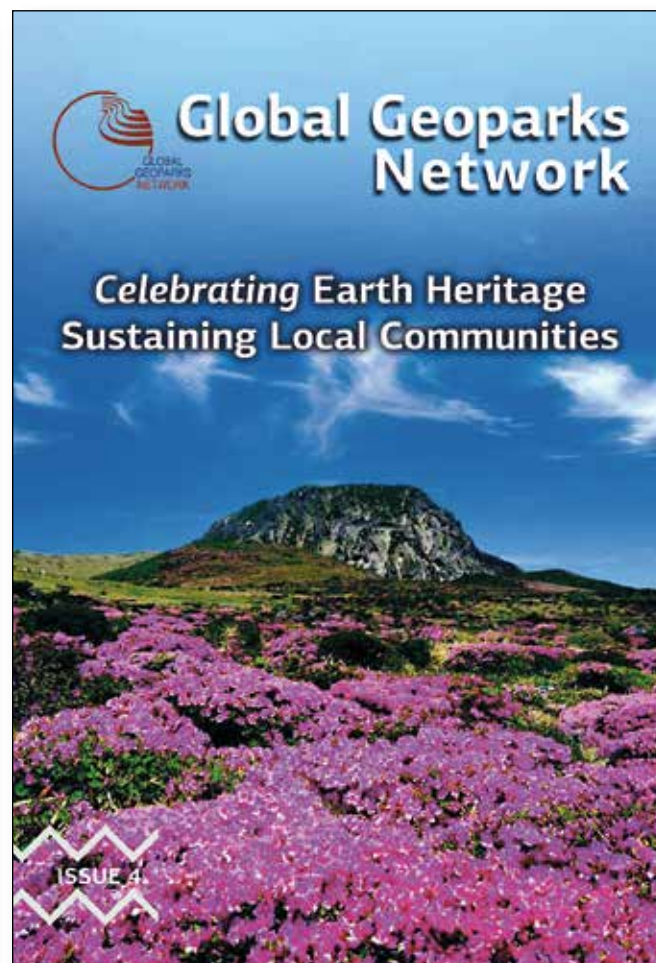
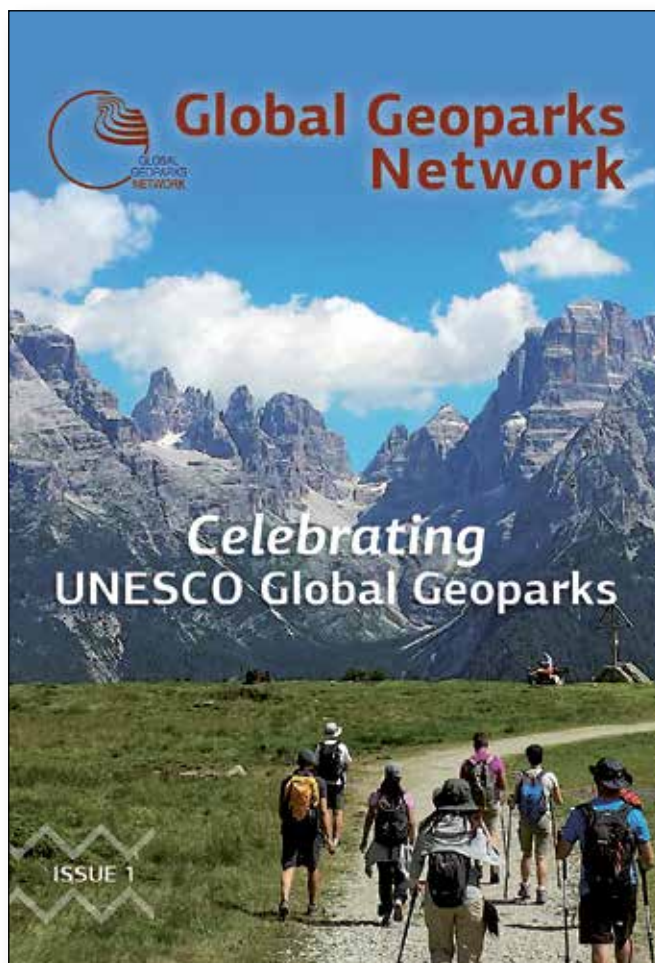
The GGN Newsletter is the official magazine on the GGN and is published by the GGN Office in Beijing. It includes articles providing information on the Geoparks' activities worldwide as well as the GGN activities. The GGN will inform all UNESCO Global Geoparks, through the GGN Newsfeed, of the preparation of the upcoming GGN Newsletter, the deadline and all the details about how to prepare and send your articles.



GGN Map

The GGN publishes the annual GGN Map on the occasion of the UNESCO General Assembly and distributes it to all the members, tourism fairs, GGN meetings and conferences etc. The main target of the GGN map is the common presentation of all UNESCO Global Geoparks.





GGN Brochure

The GGN publishes the GGN Brochure which presents an overview of the GGN and its structure, describes its main tasks, operation and activities. It is distributed via International Tourism Fairs, Geopark partner organisations, International journalists, GGN Meetings and Conferences etc.

GGN Promotional Video

The GGN Promotional Video was produced by Haute Provence UNESCO Global Geopark team to celebrate the International Year of Sustainable Tourism 'Geoparks-innovative destinations for sustainable tourism'.

Similar promotional videos have been created for the participation in the ITB 2017 and ITB 2018 as well as for the International Intensive Course 2018.

A special video message for UNESCO Global Geoparks has been prepared by the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board on April 22, 2020 for the celebration of the International Mother Earth Day in order to boost the GGN initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GGN invites its members to explore all the promotional videos in the GGN Website http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=2934.

Got a story or news?

E-mail to info@globalgeoparksnetwork.org & secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org and share it with all the others UNESCO Global Geoparks.

IV. Stay Connected

One of the great benefits of Geoparks is being able to network, to exchange ideas and connect to each other through various common events.

A variety of conferences and meetings, common activities and events are carried out by the Global Geoparks Network, the GGN Regional Networks, the GGN National Fora/Committees and UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Some of the highlights of the Geoparks' Calendar of events are:

- International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Regional Geopark Conferences/Symposia
- National Geopark meetings and events
- Thematic seminars and workshops
- Capacity building activities
- Participation in International Tourism Fairs and events
- Celebration of International Days

All GGN members are informed about the upcoming common events and capacity building activities through the GGN Newsfeed.

Stay connected with the following common activities and events:

A. Geopark Conferences - Common biennial activities

1. International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is the most important event of the Network. It is held biannually in collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network, UNESCO Earth Sciences & Geoparks Section, the Regional Geoparks Networks, National Fora/ Committees and GGN members.

UNESCO Global Geoparks representatives and Geopark professionals from all over the world can participate in the biennial International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. Taking place in different UNESCO Global Geoparks and different continents, the Conference gives all Geoparks the opportunity to connect, discuss best practices derived from successful projects, be immersed in diverse cultures, network, build stronger and effective partnerships and collaborations and share unforgettable experiences at exhibits and events.

The International Geoparks Conference can be hosted by any organization or country where UNESCO Global Geoparks already exists, and whose contribution is essential for the success of the event.

The next 11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held in Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark (Chile).

The GGN Newsfeed shares all the latest news about the 11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks but also the announcements for the hosting of the next International Conferences on UNESCO Global Geoparks.



11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark (Chile)



APGN CC Meeting 2019, Rinjani-Lombok UGGp, Indonesia

2. Regional Geoparks Conferences

Every two years UNESCO Global Geoparks can participate in or organise a Regional Geoparks Conference.

Regional Geoparks Conferences are much like the International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, but are run at a regional level, allowing Geoparks of every Regional Network to meet, discuss and network and also plan for the year ahead and share progress on common projects.

Regional Geoparks Conferences also take place every two year. They are organized by the Regional Geoparks Networks in a different place every time and should not be organized in the same year of the International Geoparks Conference.

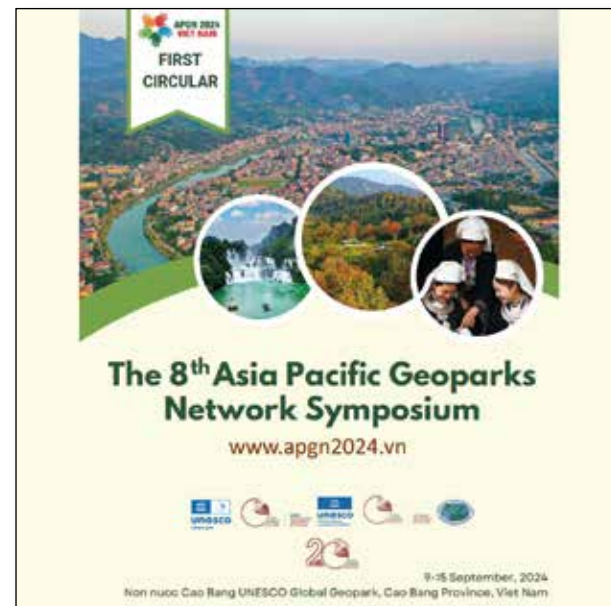
The next Regional Conference that will be organized in 2024 are the

► 8th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network APGN Symposium, Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam (9 – 15 September 2024)

www.apgn2024.vn

► 17th European Geoparks Conference, Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland (2 – 4 October 2024)

www.egn2024.is



B. Capacity Building Activities

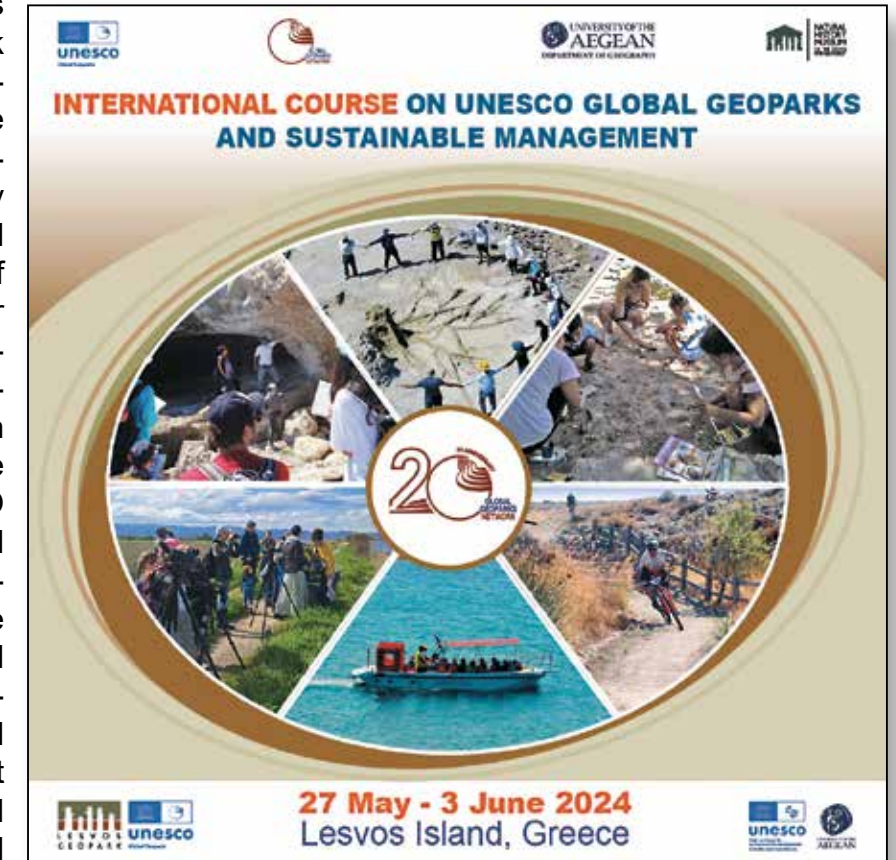
The GGN and UNESCO Earth Sciences & Geoparks Section operate and support training courses and other capacity building activities relevant to the UNESCO Global Geoparks establishment, operation, management and activities.

The capacity building activities provide the opportunity to participants to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks can make a real impact on local communities and on society and also the chance to discuss conceptual issues of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The main capacity building activities that a UNESCO Global Geopark can participate are:

1. International Intensive Course on Geoparks (Lesvos, Greece)

This has taken place in Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark every June, since 2007. It is organized by the University of the Aegean's - Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, with the contribution of Geopark experts from all over the globe. It comprises the creation and operation of a theoretical background together with extensive fieldwork. The Course aims to focus on the UNESCO Global Geoparks building and operation, on a Geopark's contribution to shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism and education, combining sustainability with community pride and benefit, economic development as well as geological, natural and cultural conservation and management.





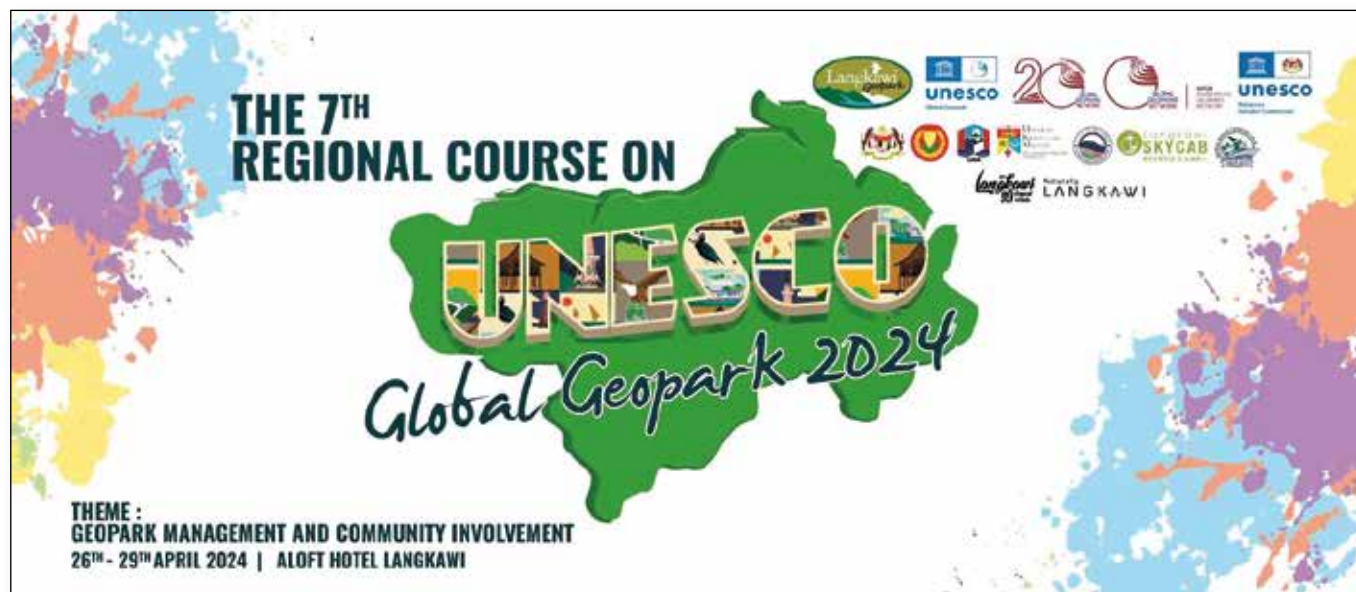
International Course on Geoparks Management and Development
Beijing 2020, Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

2. International Course on Geoparks Management and Development (Beijing, China)

The International Course on Geoparks Management and Development takes place in Beijing every year and is organised by the China University of Geosciences Beijing. During the course participants attend lectures by internationally renowned scientists and geoparks experts. The International Course on Geoparks Management and Development focuses on UNESCO Global Geoparks management and operation, heritage protection and conservation, tourism, education and sustainable tourism development.

3. Courses, Workshops and Meetings

The Global Geoparks Network supports the organisation of special training courses and workshops for Geoparks in countries with few territories recognised as UNESCO Global Geoparks to encourage the development and spreading of the ideas of the Network.



C. GGN Initiatives

1. International Global Geoparks Network Film Festival

On December 2019 the GGN Executive Board launched the new initiative International Global Geoparks Network Film Festival, an effort to promote Geoparks in a new dynamic way.

The first edition of the GGN Film festival was organized during the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which was held in Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea in 2021.

The second edition of the GGN Film festival was organized during the 10th Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which was held in M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco in 2023.

The third edition of the GGN Film festival will be organized during the 11th Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held in Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geoparks, Chile in 2025.

The International Global Geoparks Network Film Festival is a unique opportunity to mobilize both Geopark directors and Documentary Directors - filmmakers to collaborate in order to create new documentary and promotional videos on Geoparks.

Submission video procedure:

1. GGN through Newsfeed calls all UNESCO Global Geoparks to submit their proposal for the International Global Geoparks Network Film Festival
2. UNESCO Global Geoparks can submit their videos through the International Global Geoparks Network Film Festival platform (<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org>).

2. GGN Best Practice Awards

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Best Practices Award aims to promote, enhance and encourage the development of innovative initiatives inside the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The award recognises pioneering practices and initiatives that contribute to a more effective and dynamic network, set worthy examples for others to emulate, and create greater public recognition of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The prize honours the management and/or a partner of a UNESCO Global Geoparks for the pioneering nature and quality of the initiative, encouraging all UNESCO Global Geoparks to work in the same way.

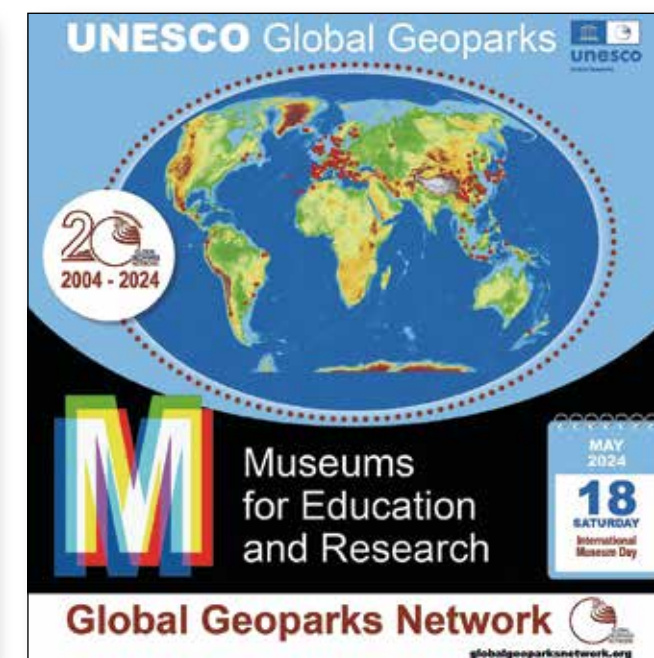
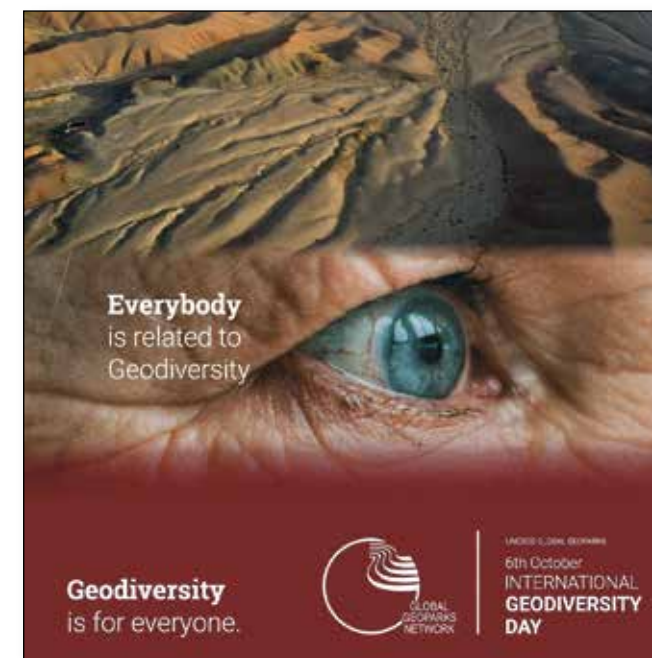
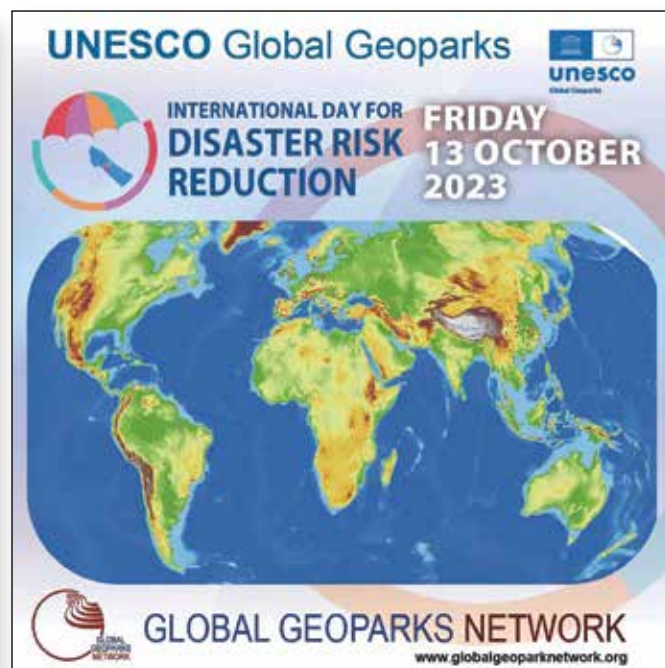
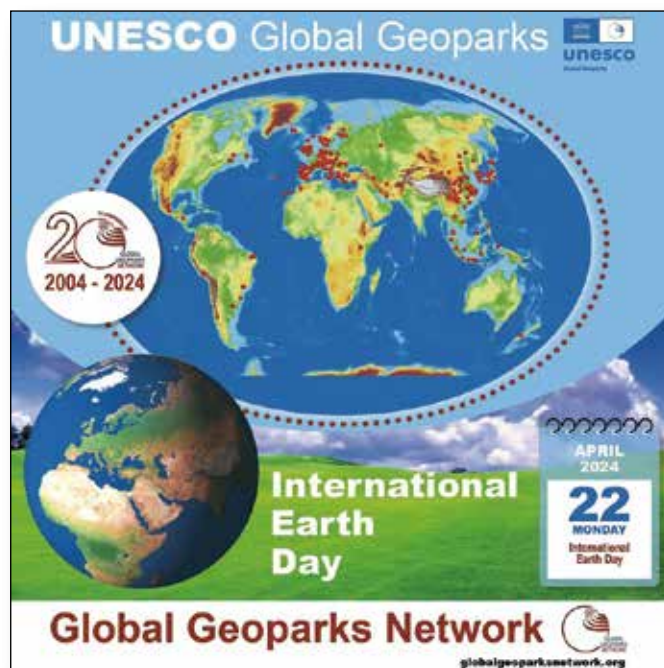
The GGN Best Practice Awards are selected after a two year period of evaluation / revalidation missions based on proposal submitted by the Geoparks' Evaluators or by UNESCO Global Geoparks managers. The next GGN Awards will be presented during the 11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025 in Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geoparks, Chile.

Submission procedure:

- ▶ GGN through Newsfeed calls all evaluators and Geopark managers to submit their proposal for the GGN Best Practice Awards
- ▶ Geoparks' Evaluators or UNESCO Global Geoparks managers fill in the Application Form and submit it to the GGN.



GGN Best Practice Awards ceremony
10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark 2023
M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco



D. Common Promotional Activities

1. International Tourism Fairs

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with the Regional Geoparks Networks, National Fora/Committees, the GGN Working Group on Tourism and GGN members participates in International Tourism Fairs every year. The main goal is to promote Geoparks to the global tourist market, to build new links with the tourism market and raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks among the tourism industry.

Every year, the Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks participate in international and national tourism fairs like the International Tourism fair FITUR Madrid (every January).

All UNESCO Global Geoparks and the activities of the Global Geoparks Network - GGN, APGN and EGN are presented under the same umbrella 'UNESCO Global Geoparks: sustainable tourism destinations'.

During these Tourism Fairs, Global Geoparks Network also organises various promotional activities like press conferences to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations, thematic events, gastronomy tastings, Geopark book publications etc.



2. Celebration of International Days

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section participates in the celebration of the following International Days:

- ▶ International Day of Education - 24 January
- ▶ World Water Day - 22 March
- ▶ International Mother Earth Day - 22 April
- ▶ International Museum Day - 18 May
- ▶ World Environment Day - 5 June
- ▶ World Oceans Day - 8 June
- ▶ International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - 9 August
- ▶ World CleanUp Day – 20 September
- ▶ International Tourism Day – 27 September
- ▶ International Geodiversity Day – 6 October
- ▶ International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - 13 October
- ▶ International Soil Day - 5 December
- ▶ International Mountain Day - 11 December

International Days are occasions to emphasize the UNESCO Global Geoparks contribution to raising awareness of Earth's heritage protection and care of our planet, and also the need to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of UNESCO Global Geoparks on a global and national scale.

The GGN organizes the promotion of activities using the GGN promotional tools through the internet. The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board encourages UNESCO Global Geoparks to celebrate International Days jointly by common campaigns.

Global Geoparks Network Logo

Explanatory Notes for the Use of the Global Geoparks Network Logo

Since September 2014, when the Global Geopark Network International Association was established, the GGN logo and acronym is used by the GGN members to mark the support of GGN in various events and activities.



The GGN Executive Board in 2023 took all necessary measures in order to strengthen the GGN logo visibility and use in activities aiming the promotion of the Geoparks brand:

- took all necessary measures to register and protect the Graphic logo, acronym and the name “Global Geoparks Network”
- proposed the creation of a series of combined GGN logos to be used by the different GGN bodies and Regional and National Networks.

Standardized logos created for each one of the different GGN bodies in order to enhance consistency, efficiency, and flexibility in communication and promotion of the Geopark brand.

The new combined Logos can be used by all GGN Bodies to mark their activities:

- Regional Geopark Networks for their Conferences, Meetings & Events (CC, AC, WG, seminars, and communication posters).
- National Geopark Networks / Fora / Committees for their Conferences Meetings & Events (CC, AC, WG, seminars, and communication posters).

A Graphic Charter has been prepared for the use of the combined GGN Logo:

<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GGN-Graphic-Charter-2024-1.pdf>

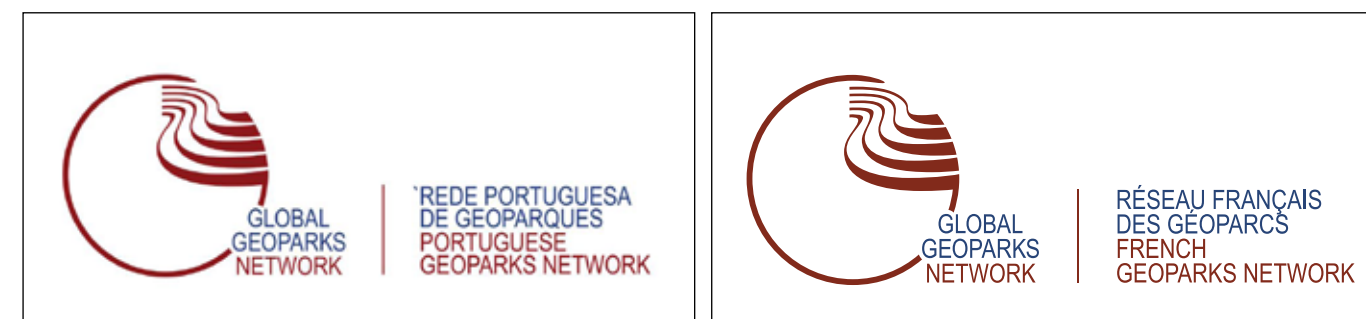
Please download the GGN logos from the following link:

<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=8540>

Examples of Regional Networks Logos



Examples of National Networks Logos



Examples of Working Group logos



Global Geoparks Network 20th Anniversary

2024 marks a major milestone for our Global Geoparks Network (GGN), as we celebrate 20-years history of our Network. The 20th Anniversary of our Global Geoparks Network marks 20 years since the foundation of a Global Network of cooperation among Geoparks worldwide in order to promote the three main goals of conserving our Geological Heritage and planet Earth, our common home, educating the public in Earth Sciences, and fostering sustainable local development.

The Global Geoparks Network on 22nd of April launched the official celebration of the 20th Anniversary.

The year-long celebration of the GGN's 20th anniversary includes a variety of events at the Global, Regional, National and Local level!

The involvement of the Geopark teams and the Geopark communities in this celebration is of extremely importance.

GGN 20th Anniversary calendar of events

The Global Geoparks Network will also organize a variety of events, contests, will produce a celebration video campaigns and a social media campaign all around the year. A regularly updated calendar of events at the GGN website is presenting all these events:

https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=8145



GGN 20th Anniversary logo

The Global Geoparks Network for its 20th Anniversary has launched a special logo designed in the context of its birthday celebration. The 20th Anniversary logo inaugurates the GGN's anniversary campaign and the GGN invites all its members to participate in its celebrations.

Please download the GGN 20th Anniversary Logo from the following link:

<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/GGN-20th-Anniversary-logo.zip>



GGN 20th Anniversary websites

To facilitate the broader participation the GGN launched two new digital platforms the first one for the GGN 20th Anniversary CONTESTS and a second one for the distribution of all the GGN 20th Anniversary Promotional Tools.

1- GGN 20th Anniversary - CONTESTS

A public site dedicated to the 3 GGN competitions: ggn20anniversary.com

This site, designed for public access, offers comprehensive information necessary for the participation of the population within a geopark (including competition rules, FAQs, and application registration).

It has been translated into 33 languages, accessible either through a drop-down menu or via direct web addresses. Please note that two languages, Swahili and Mapudugun, are only accessible through direct web addresses as they could not be integrated into the drop-down menu.

2- GGN 20th Anniversary - PROMOTIONAL TOOLS

This site is exclusive site for GGN Members: [Platform.ggn20anniversary.com](https://platform.ggn20anniversary.com)

Access to this site requires a unique user code and password:

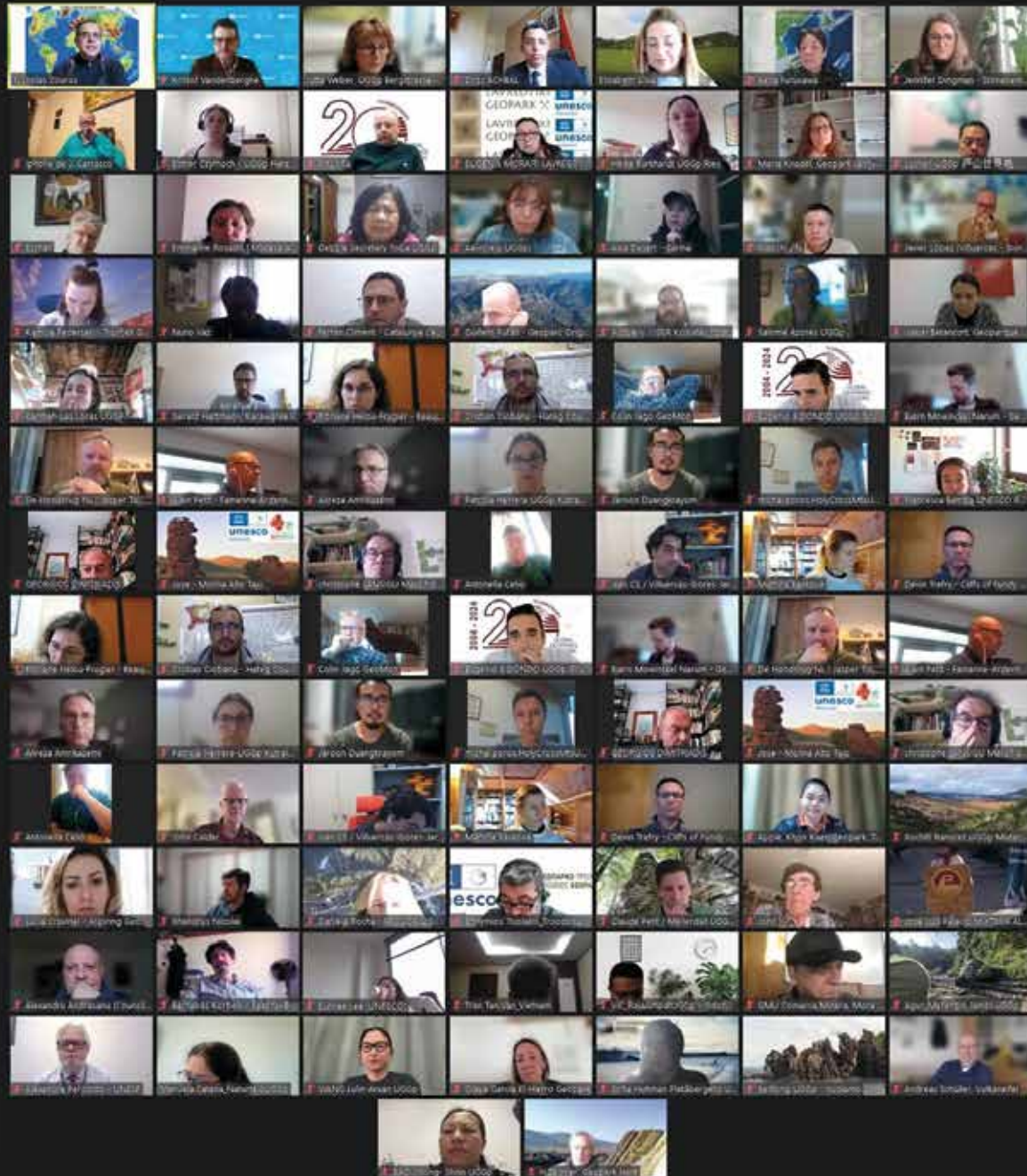
User: ggn20birthday - Password: 12345678

The site offers a range of downloadable tools that are easily adaptable to national and/or local languages, customizable with the inclusion of the Geopark logo. Within the competition section of the site, a FAQ is available to assist in offering these competitions to your population under optimal conditions.





GEPARKS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WORKSHOP FOR GEOPARK MANAGERS



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS
WORKING GROUP



V. How to Contact

Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

| GGN Executive Board | Name | Country | E-mail |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| President | ZOUROS Nickolas | Greece | nzour@aegean.gr |
| Vice - President | JIN Xiaochi | China | jinxchi@cags.ac.cn, jinxiaochi@hotmail.com |
| Vice - President | KOMOO Ibrahim | Malaysia | ikomoo@yahoo.com |
| General Secretary | MARTINI Guy | France | guy.martini@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | RANGNES Kristin | Norway | kristin.rangnes@geanor.no |
| Member (AUGGN) | ACHBAL Driss | Morocco | dgs.rbk@gmail.com |
| Member (EGN) | BORDER Melanie | United Kingdom | m.border@englishrivierageopark.org.uk |
| Member (N. America) | CALDER John | Canada | johncalder99@gmail.com |
| Ind. Member | FREY Marie - Luise | Germany | frey@terra-outreach.de |
| Member (APGN) | FURUSAWA Kana | Japan | kanfrsw@gmail.com, kana.furusawa@geopark.jp |
| Member (EGN) | SÁ Artur | Portugal | asa@utad.pt |
| Member (APGN) | ZHANG Jianping | China | zhjping@cugb.edu.cn |

GGN Advisory Committee

NAKADA Setsuya, Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan
nakada@eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp; nkd.sty@gmail.com

GGN Regional Networks

| GGN Regional Network | Name | Country | E-mail |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|---|
| African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN) | ACHBAL Driss | Morocco | dgs.rbk@gmail.com |
| | Coordinator JIN Xiaochi | China | apgn.office@vip.163.com, jinxchi@cags.ac.cn, jinxiaochi@hotmail.com |
| Asia Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN | Vice Coordinator KOMOO Ibrahim | Malaysia | ikomoo@yahoo.com |
| | Vice Coordinator FURUSAWA Kana | Japan | kanfrsw@gmail.com, kana.furusawa@geopark.jp |
| European Geoparks Network - EGN | Coordinator JUSTICE Sophie | France | coordinatorsegn@gmail.com |
| | Vice Coordinator Babbis Fassoulas | Greece | |
| Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network – GeoLAC | Coordinator ROSADO Emmaline | Mexico | emma.rogz@gmail.com, coordinacion@redgeolac.com |

CONTACT GGN

GGN Executive Board: info@globalgeoparksnetwork.org

GGN Secretariat:

secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org

CONTACT UNESCO - UNESCO Earth Sciences & Geoparks Section

VANDENBERGHE Kristof, Chief of UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section, UNESCO

Global Geoparks Secretariat

k.vandenberghe@unesco.org



213 UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

48 Countries

1 Global
Geoparks
Network



20TH ANNIVERSARY
GLOBAL
GEOPARKS
NETWORK
2004 - 2024