



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

**[COUNTRY NAME] GLOBAL GEOPARKS
NETWORK**

[The Network of GGN Members in each State]

Rules of Operation

JULY 2024

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Rules of operation

INTRODUCTION

In September 2014 the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), became a non-profit organization subject to French legislation (the 1901 law on associations) and a non-governmental organization.

Recognizing the significant impact that networking has had on the success of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and its role in facilitating the exchange of experiences, collaborative initiatives, and capacity-building, the GGN has decided to enhance the role of its national bodies. This decision was made during the Ordinary General Assembly in Morocco in September 2023. The GGN now encourages the formation and reinforcement of networks among GGN members in each country, to be known as **[COUNTRY NAME*] Global Geoparks Network** (hereinafter referred to as “[C]GGN”).

*[It is proposed to use the adjective of the country name, e.g. French for France, Greek for Greece, except the countries whose name does not have an adjective form.]

The Statutes of the GGN is the basic document for the operation of the “[C]GGN” which operate as integral part of the Association. The internal Rules of the GGN, and the Code of Ethics define and complete these Statutes.

Article 1. Composition of [COUNTRY NAME] Global Geoparks Network [C]GGN

As a Network of GGN members in a country, **[C]GGN** include all the existing GGN members in that country. More specifically it includes the following categories:

1. GGN Institutional Members — UNESCO Global Geoparks of that country;
2. GGN Individual Members – Global Geopark Professionals — Persons who have combined or proven professional experience in UNESCO Global Geopark management and who are resident in that country;
3. GGN Honorary Members — Persons who have rendered exceptional services to the international Global Geopark community or to the GGN, resident in that country;
4. GGN Cooperating Members — international entities, organizations, or individuals who offer significant financial or other support to the GGN as a result of their involvement in

Global Geoparks and the promotion of international collaboration among Global Geoparks within their respective countries

Article 2: Role of [C]GGN

The Network of the GGN members in a country **[C]GGN** serves the coordination of GGN activities at a national level, the exchange of information and co-operation between UNESCO Global Geoparks and UNESCO Global Geopark professionals in the country.

The activities of **[C]GGN** may consist of

- Exchanging information and sharing best practices in geopark meetings, workshops and or seminars with the participation of all GGN members in the country;
- Contacts with National, Regional and Local Authorities to promote the interests of the GGN
- Organisation of Global Geoparks conferences/meetings, capacity building activities, common projects regarding Global Geoparks, the participation in National tourism fairs, promotional and marketing activities and common publications.

Each **[C]GGN** shall submit an annual report of activities to the GGN Executive Board.

Article 3: Governance of [C]GGN:

The **[C]GGN** could form a Coordination Committee acting as the governing body of the Network. It could elect a Coordinator, a Vice Coordinator and an Advisory Committee.

The Coordinator or Vice Coordinator represents the **[C]GGN** in the GGN Advisory Committee and its Regional Network Advisory Committee (when applicable).

It could also include

- Working groups – Catalysts (optional),
- National Geoparks Conference (optional),
- National Geopark Events/Workshops (optional),

3.1 - Coordination Committee (CC) of [C]GGN

The **[C]GGN** Coordination Committee is the decision-making body of the **[C]GGN**, regarding issues of Global Geopark collaboration and Global Geopark promotion at the national level.

The CC meets regularly, at least once a year, each time hosted in a different Global Geopark, to discuss the Network's progress and to coordinate joint programmes and activities between members.

The **[C]GGN CC** comprises two officially nominated representatives of each UNESCO Global Geopark, Individual members, GGN Honorary and Cooperative Members residing in the country.

It is not permissible for any person to act as a representative for more than one Geoparks. Furthermore, persons who hold official positions within a Geopark or are members of the GGN should follow the GGN Code of Ethics, as per the GGN statutes.

3.2 –Advisory Committee (AC) of [C]GGN

The **[C]GGN** Advisory Committee provides advice on all issues concerning all Global Geoparks related issues in that country.

The Advisory Committee consists of five to seven elected persons.

Two positions within the AC are reserved for the elected Coordinators.

Three (3) positions within the AC are elected by the members of the CC for a period of two years.

The [C]GGN CC may elect up to two persons from the GGN Individual Members to join the AC.

3.3 – Coordinator and Vice-coordinator of [C]GGN

These positions are responsible for overseeing the operations and events of the network. They are chosen by the CC from candidates nominated from institutional and individual members through an election process, serving a two-year term.

There is no limit to the number of times a person can be re-elected to these positions.

The Coordinator or Vice Coordinator represents the [C]GGN in the GGN Advisory Committee and its Regional Networks Advisory Committee (when the Advisory Committee has the positions of national representatives).

Coordinator and Vice Coordinator have the following responsibilities:

- Organize regular meeting (online) of the [C]GGN every 3 months
- Coordinate the selection of the organizer of the annual national Geoparks conference or meeting
- Transmit and explain if necessary to the [C]GGN members all information provided by GGN and its Regional Geoparks Network
- Supervises the translation in national/Local language of the communication documents created by GGN
- Promote where necessary the creation of [C]GGN tools for a better communication (facebook page, website, newsletter, etc)

3.4 Designated Representatives of the [C]GGN:

Each Institutional Member should designate two persons to represent it at the [C]GGN Coordination Committee: one is an Earth Scientist (using a broad definition of that term) with experience in geological heritage protection and/or promotion and the other is a geopark manager (including local authority representative) or a specialist on local development / community involvement / tourism.

Cooperating Members can designate one (1) person to represent them at the [C]GGN Coordination Committee.

3.5. Special Status

Honorary and Cooperating Members are entitled to membership rights and privileges but may not hold an elected position in the [C]GGN.

3.6. Location:

The location of the [C]GGN office is defined by a decision of the Coordination Committee. A rotation between the UNESCO Global Geoparks headquarters is an option.

3.7. Elections:

Elections for Coordinators and AC members take place every 2 years at the annual Meeting of the [C]GGN CC.

Article 4- General operational rules

4.1. Synergies in Global Geopark activities

Global Geoparks must ensure that all their activities are carried out in a spirit of complementarity with the other members of the Global Geoparks Network.

4.2. Use of GGN combined logo

Each institutional member will be entitled to use the GGN logo and name combined with the [C]GGN name in its communications, thereby contributing over time to creating a common image of quality, linking enhancement of geological heritage and sustainable development.

4.3 Meetings of the [C]GGN

The CC of the [C]GGN meets at least once a year (once in association with the open annual meeting).

4.4 Reports

The Annual Report, containing the key activities and accomplishments of the preceding year, must be submitted by [C]GGN by 31 March and will be made available to the public through the GGN website.

4.5 Agenda

Prior to each meeting, a draft agenda and registration form will be circulated by email. Each member is accountable for responding to these emails and participating in any ensuing discussions.

Article 5. Internal Committees / Working Groups

An Internal Committee / Working Group may be authorised by the [C]GGN Coordination Committee to implement programmes and activities, and to serve as a channel of communication between members of the [C]GGN with similar scientific and professional interests.

Article 6 Global Geoparks Conference/Meeting

In the case that the [C]GGN decides to organize an annual (or biannual) Global Geoparks conference/ meeting, such event can be hosted each time by a different [C]GGN member and could be an important outreach activity of the [C]GGN.

Each member should contribute to such annual networking event of the network by bringing an oral presentation or poster communication about the geopark's achievements, activities and experiences.

Article 7 Validation

These [C]GGN Rules of Operation shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the GGN Executive Board, according to the GGN statutes.