

ACTION PLAN 2024 / 2025



PREFACE

Global Change – what does it mean for mankind?

One thing is for sure – nothing stays the same. Our environment, our whole planet and its giant systems, the climate, oceans, sea level and atmosphere are changing, with foreseeable massive consequences for the lives of all humans on Earth. In the light of these changes, which will have a massive effect on our life and that of our heirs, it is high time to stand up for the preservation of our natural basis, which is the survival base for our own existence.

The response of the world community - the Agenda 2030

In September 2015, after decades of negotiations, the United Nations have agreed with the Agenda 2030 on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This agenda with 169 sub-goals is aimed at ending poverty, hunger and inequality, protect the planet and opening the way for environmentally-friendly progress (the five “P” Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership). The 193 member states of the United Nations have committed themselves to implement these goals by 2030, which now need to be implemented from the international level down to the smallest community.

How the UNESCO Global Geoparks can support the Agenda 2030 – from strategy to action:

For 20 years now and all over the world, UNESCO Global Geoparks have campaigned for a holistic understanding of our planet and its evolution. With their initiatives, environmental education and awareness programmes and projects, they place a special emphasis on conveying these natural interrelationships and the impact Man has on these. Their international network is an opportunity for exchanging ideas with partners around the world.

In accordance with their potentials, UNESCO Global Geoparks have been actively pursuing the Global Agenda 2030 with the 17 SDGs for a number of years. Their bottom-up approach with community participation and capacity building, their sustainable regional development

- Support of communication and visibility of the Agenda 2030 / SDGs in UNESCO Global Geoparks via SDG template to be completed regularly as part of the Global Geoparks Annual Reports

Actions:

Development and establishment of a “SDG Code of behavior” for meetings and conferences of the GGN and regional networks

Global Geoparks Conference hosts:

- avoid plastic and single-used materials whenever possible
- save paper and water
- serve regional and seasonal food, consider vegetarian and vegan options

Conference participants:

- If possible – use clean energy transportation for travelling
- if not possible: CO₂ consumption of flights inside the UNESCO Global Geoparks (e.g. tree planting) or by external measures (e.g. atmosfair)

Awareness, communication tools & visibility

- Formation of an Agenda 2030 sub-platform at the GGN website with basic information on SDGs and options for subtopics, best practice and actions including event calendar
An improvement on IT for the GGN Web-Site is necessary!!! – to be integrated in the budget for 2024!
- Collection of best practice SDGs examples from different Geoparks for SDG platform at the GGN website
- Integration of the annual UN Days into the GGN calendar: e.g. Day of Mother Earth (22th April), Day of Biodiversity (22th May), Day of Biodiversity (6th October) Day of Disaster Risk Reduction (13th October), Day of Soil (5th December)
- Publication of 2nd volume of „Geoparks going green – „SDGs & UNESCO Global Geoparks – from theory to action“ dedicated to the 20th GGN anniversary (best practice from all continents)
- Preparation of GGN SDG activity report for UNESCO Secretariat by new template information given by GGN members

- Further development of existing SDG PR tools including booth, postcard and update of UNESCO brochure, SDG booth, SDG exhibition
- Publication of a collection of existing UGGp conference abstracts regarding SDGs and climate change from the last 7 years as scientific reference (UNESCO website, GGN website)

From quality implementation to quantitative measures

- Collection of best practice examples worldwide
- Identification of criteria to link up GGN activities with SDGs, success measures and quantitative data (e.g. number of activities, participants, budgets...)

Milestones of GGN Working Group activities

2024

January 2024	Success
Development of SDG template with basic information and examples of SDG implementation in UNESCO Global Geoparks	😊
Draft of Action Plan	😊
Call for contributions for Vol.2 of „Geoparks going green“	😊
Start of abstract collection of the last 7 years, referring to SDGs from Geopark Conferences	
Contributions to GGN calendar considering UN Days	😊
Finalization of SDG template for GGN members with examples	😊
February 2024	
Online Workshop for all UNESCO Global Geoparks (Geopark Managers): SDG Relevance & Duties of UGGPs	😊
Action To all UGGPs after the Workshop: SDG template to be completed with individual UGGp actions and data	😊
March 2024	
Regional Workshops on SDGs and their connection to individual activities in the UNESCO Global Geoparks:	😊
Development of SDG poster & workshop tools	😊
EGN: 6th March 2024 - Face to face workshop with break out groups	😊
APGN: 22th March 2024 - Online workshop with best practice examples	😊
April 2024	

GeoLac/African/North American Networks: 16th April 2024 – Online workshop with best practice examples	😊
Presentation of Action Plan of GGN SDG Working Group (online meeting)	😊
Information on integration of SDG template as additional Annual Report tool (obligatory from 2025 for the previous year)	😊
SDG tutorial workshop for the GGN members for those colleagues, wo need support with the completion of the SDG template (19th April 2024)	😊
June 2024	
Integration of SDG theme + Working Group presentation into Intensive Course for UNESCO Global Geoparks Lesvos	😊
July 2024	
Integration of SDG presentation and workshop into UNESCO Summer School for Geoparks, Portugal	
September 2024	
APGN Symposium with SDG session	😊
October 2024	
EGN Annual Conference (Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland): SDG session with keynote and best practice presentations	😊
November / December 2024	
Online Meeting of GGN Working Group: preparation of results for publication	😊

2025

January 2025 (10 years UNESCO Global Geoparks & 10 years Agenda 2030)	
Preparation of SDG results 2024 (GGN SDG WG)	
Preparation of updated template and information sheet for UGGs (GGN SDG WG)	
Call for 3rd volume of „Geoparks Going Green“ (Anniversary Volume „10 years UNESCO Global Geoparks: Our Agenda 2030 Success Stories - how we support People, Peace, Partnership, Prosperity and our Planet Earth“)	
Contributions to GGN calendar considering UN Days	
February 2025	
SDG Online Workshop for all UNESCO Global Geoparks (Geopark Managers), content according to February 2024	
Circulation of SDG template 2025: documentation of SDG activities 2024	
Finalization of GGN SDG publication by SDG WG (format: Geoparks going green)	

March 2025	
EGN Spring Meeting at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris	
Presentation and handing over of GGN SDG publication to UNESCO Secretariat	
June 2025	
Integration of SDG presentation and workshop into Intensive Course for UNESCO Global Geoparks Lesvos	
July 2025	
Integration of SDG presentation and workshop into UNESCO Summer School for Geoparks, Portugal	
August 2025	
Integration of SDG session into APGN Conference	
September 2025	
International UGGP Conference (Chile) with SDG keynote, session and booth prepared by GGN SDG WG together with SDG WGs from Regional Networks	
Integration of SDG Code of behavior	
EGN Meeting (online)	
October 2025	
Meeting of GGN SDG WG: Update of SDG Action Plan 2026-2027	
November 2025	
Final collection and review of SDG templates and quantification of data	
December 2025	
Preparation of data publication SDG activities 2024 and update of SDG template for SDG activities 2025 (to be circulated February 2026)	

Attachments:

- SDG template, Version 2024



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- SDG Poster UNESCO Global Geoparks



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- SDG Postcard UNESCO Global Geoparks

