



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Haute Provence Geopark, Musée Promenade,
10 Montée Bernard Dellacasagrande,
BP 156, 04005 Cedex Digne les Bains – France.

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

8th GGN Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday 29 November 2024, at 12:00 GMT

<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/7th-ggn-advisory-committee-meeting>

MINUTES

1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

1.1. Welcome from the Chair

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) welcomed the participants. According to the voting procedure, he reminded that only AC members can vote.

1.3. Agreement of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. Minutes of the 7th GGN Advisory Committee meeting

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) presented the minutes of the 7th GGN Advisory Committee meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the 7th GGN Advisory Committee meeting was unanimously approved by the GGN Advisory Committee members.

A. Implementation of the GGN Strategic Plan 2023-2025

3. National [Country] Global Geoparks Networks - Implementation

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked GGN President to inform the Advisory Committee members about the implementation of National [Country] Global Geoparks Network.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) presented the updates that related with the implementation of the National Geoparks Network.

We have already made big progress in several countries about the National Geoparks Network. Several clarifications have been made and already in several countries the National Global Geoparks Network has been formed and also in other countries the process is under implementation. We need some meetings in order to have the formation of this and it's very positive till now that we have already established the National Networks in various countries and many more are under preparation. The general idea is to have the members of the advisory committee who will represent the members of the network at the National level to be the representatives of Geoparks, because as GGN association we cannot have external members as members of the official structure of the network. For example, we cannot have members in the Advisory Committee, people who do not come from geoparks (i.e. governmental people or other officials). The general idea is not to create any difficulty to our Networks but to ensure that the structure of GGN at the International, the Regional and the National level, will continue to grow. During the APGN conference in Cao Bang, we had the first meeting of the Korean Global Geoparks Network. Several other meetings have been held or will be held in the next months.

Kirstin Lemon (UK) talked about the discussion that was made at the digital EGN meeting, concerning the document about the National Geoparks Network. It was a significant point of discussion during the meeting and there were a lot of clarifications and as a result she will put it all together and forward a document with the suggested clarifications.

Tuncer Demir (Türkiye) asked about if they can establish the National Geoparks Network, as it is the only one UNESCO Global Geopark in Turkey.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) replied to the previous question of Tuncer Demir, that it is clearly written in the statutes that it could not exist any National Network with only one Geopark. You need at least two Geoparks.

José María Barrera (Spain) mentioned that the Spanish Global Geoparks Network is already presented in Granada during the Spanish Geoparks meeting. He will send the report of Spanish Global Geoparks Network in order to see how they manage this operation.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked Min Hun from Korea to talk about the Korean Global Geoparks Network that already exists and his experience about the topic.

Min Hun (Korea) talked about the establishment of the Republic of Korean UNESCO Global Geoparks in August 2024. The network is consisting of 5 members and had the 1st meeting during the APGN meeting in September 2024, in Vietnam. Also, the 2nd meeting took place in October, in Korea and the 3rd one is planned to take place at the beginning of February where they are going to discuss the future of the Network.

Daniela Rocha (Portugal) Shared the experience of the Portugal network which founded in 2022 under the auspices of National Commission for UNESCO. The Portugal Geoparks Network has 2 members of each UNESCO Global Geopark, 2 members of the National Commission for UNESCO and also members from several National Institutions (i.e. tourism of Portugal, National institute for Nature). During the last meeting of the Network in Lisbon, they approved the Action Plan for 2025 with 47 actions to implement all together.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked Zheng Yuan from China to talk about the Chinese Global Geoparks Network situation at this time.

Zheng Yuan (China) mentioned that they discussed about it during the APGN conference in Vietnam and they are working on, but at the moment nothing official exists.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked Kana Furusawa from Japan to talk about the Japanese Global Geoparks Network situation at this time.

Kana Furusawa (GGN Executive Board member / Japan) they are going to have a preparation meeting in the next days and then they will decide how to elect their representatives for each Global Geopark and then in another meeting to decide about the coordinators.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked Jutta Weber to talk about the Germany Global Geoparks Network situation at this time.

Jutta Weber (Germany) mentioned that the German geoparks have met on 7th of November and Jutta presented the guidelines according to National UNESCO Global Geoparks. They discussed, modified and adapted the document and they have chosen the 2 representatives for the GGN and the EGN accordingly. On the end of February 2025, they will have the next meeting where officially have the name “German UNESCO Global Geoparks Network”.

4. Use of the combined GGN logo from all the GGN bodies (Regional Networks, National Networks, etc.)

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the GGN President to inform the Advisory Committee members about use of the Global Geoparks Network combined logo by the GGN bodies.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the participants that the GGN logo, the GGN regional networks logos and the graphic charter with information about the GGN logo had already been distributed to all members. He highlighted the following:

- Those who do not have this combined logos can ask the GGN secretariat in order to receive them, because there are some changes to the old ones. You only have to send the name in English and in your local language in order to be prepared.
- Within 2025 we are sure that all the protection of these logos will take place. As you know, we have registered GGN logo in most of the countries of the world.

5. GGN 20th Anniversary celebration

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the GGN President and the GGN General Secretary to inform the Advisory Committee members about the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the participants about the events concerning the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration. He mentioned the following big events:

- **International Events**
 1. In June 2024, during the International Intensive Course in Lesbos
 2. In August 2024, during the IGC conference in Korea
 3. In September 2024, during the APGN conference in Vietnam
 4. In October 2024, during the EGN conference in Iceland
 5. In October 2024, during the 8th International Training Course in China
 6. In November 2024, during the 7th GEOLAC Conference in Brazil
- **National Events**

Concerning the national events, some of them have already took place and many others are scheduled i.e. Italian big event on the 20th Anniversary of GGN.

He asked the participants to send information about other National Events that took place as soon as possible, in order to upload them to the GGN social media accounts.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) I would like to ask the colleagues to report about their activities for the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration to the secretariat in order to have a list with the events which will be organized at the National level.

6. International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Lesvos 2025

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the GGN President and the GGN General Secretary to inform the Advisory Committee members about the International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Lesvos 2025.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the participants about the decision of GGN Executive Board that the next International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place during 20 – 29 of June 2025 in Lesvos.

The GGN Executive Board evaluated the results of the International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks which took place in Lesvos in 2024 and at the next course in Lesvos in 2025 we have to invite again those who had not the opportunity to participate the previous course and are new managers either of new Geoparks or new managers in old Geoparks, in order to have the opportunity to discuss with UNESCO officials, the members of the Council and the members of the GGN Executive Board.

7. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the GGN President and the GGN General Secretary to inform the Advisory Committee members about the calendar of the GGN 2025 events.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the participants that we have already published the calendar of the GGN 2025 events and mentioned the following:

- There are more events to be added to the calendar.
- Waiting for the Regional Networks to send us their events
- Waiting for the Working Groups, because we have already some proposals about some special events that they want to organize within the frame of the WG.
- We are in collaboration with UNESCO for the organization of some more events which will be added to this calendar.
- As we have the general framework, you can plan your events around it, trying not to overlap with other events.

- A big event will be organized in the beginning of March during the European Geoparks Meeting at UNESCO headquarters where the members of the GGN Executive Board and the members of the European Geoparks Network will celebrate together the 10th anniversary of the IGGP.
- The big conference in September in Kütralkura
- In the beginning of September, we have the Council Meeting and the Executive Board Meeting and then the Advisory Committee

Calendar of Events:

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0

B. UNESCO WG on IGGP Statues and Operational Guidelines Review

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the GGN President to explain the Advisory Committee members about the topic.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the participants about this issue and mentioned the following:

- At the 1st meeting of the WG on 16th of November, in Paris it was not able to be elected Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur so the WG could not proceed.
- At the 2nd meeting of the WG on the 4th of November made another effort which was again not successful.
- And at the 3rd meeting of the WG which will take place today, they will try to elect Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur in order to start discussions within the WG.
- The goal of the WG is to revise article 5.4 which speaks about intergovernmental check.
- The GGN Executive Board, before the 1st meeting, discussed the issue and declared that UNESCO Global Geoparks is a young program which is very successful, managed in just very few years to make the members from 120 to 230 before the end of 2025 and this number is continuously increasing.
- We have a very stable framework for the evaluation of the geological heritage value of each of the territories, we have Document A and many other documents which have been prepared by the Council. So, such smooth improvements can be made, but according to the Executive Board there is no reason to change the guidelines of the program because it is very new and very successful as it is the fastest growing project of UNESCO in terms of percentage.
- We have made lots of efforts to improve the distribution of the representatives from other countries of the world like Africa, Central Asia, Arab States etc., in order to increase the development of other new Geoparks but also to have good representation from all the regions inside the program,
- In view of all the above there is no need to change the overall guidelines for the operation of the program at that moment.

C. Long Term GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) presented the main targets for the 2025-2035 Strategic Plan Discussion Paper and asked the members for comments or suggestions.

Kirstin Lemon (UK) asked if this document was created by the task force or the GGN Executive Board. Also commented about the document that should have a long-term vision and not a form of an Action Plan.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked all Advisory Committee members to submit their comments and suggestions on the draft Long Term GGN Strategic Plan by 10th December, following this discussion.

8. Any Other Business

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) proposed holding the next Advisory Committee meeting in January.

The meeting closed at 13:30 GMT.

Summary & Useful links

The GGN Advisory Committee members are invited to:

A. National Global Geoparks Networks - Implementation

Implement the guidelines for the creation of the National GGN networks.

B. Use of the combined GGN logo from all the GGN bodies (Regional Networks, National Networks, etc.)

- GGN AC members are encouraged to download the GGN logo, GGN Regional and National networks combined logos and graphic charter from the GGN website
<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/about/use-global-geoparks-network-logo>
- submit their request for the unified logos

C. GGN 20th Anniversary celebration

- Encourage Geoparks in their respective country to participate in the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration and organize local events
- GGN AC members are encouraged to spread the information about the GGN 20th Anniversary communication platform, tools and contests

GGN 20th Anniversary - PROMOTIONAL TOOLS

<https://platform.ggn20anniversary.com>

Username: ggn20birthday - Password: 12345678

GGN 20th Anniversary – CONTESTS

<https://ggn20anniversary.com>

D. International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025

- GGN Executive Board decided that the next International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place during 20 – 29 of June 2025 in Lesvos.
- GGN encourages Geopark managers and senior staff especially from new Geoparks to participate in the Course

E. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events

- **Calendar of Events**
www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0
- Members of GGN AC are encouraged to submit the Geopark Events in their country to avoid overlapping.

F. UNESCO WG on IGGP Statues and Operational Guidelines Review

- The goal of the WG is to revise article 5.4 which speaks about intergovernmental check. There is no necessity to change the overall guidelines for the operation of the program at that moment.

G. Long Term GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035

- Members of the AC should send their comments and suggestions for the GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Participants & Observers

a/a	PARTICIPANTS	Country
1	NAKADA Setsuya	GGN Advisory Committee Acting Chair / Japan
2	GULAS Oliver	Austria
3	PETIT Alain	Belgium
4	MAFFINI Victor	Brazil
5	HEYDEMAN Frances	Canada
6	HERRERA Patricia	Chile
7	ZHENG Yuanyuan	China
8	PAVIC Goran	Croatia
9	BOADA José	Ecuador
10	HERMANSSON Terttu	Finland
11	PAGÈS Jean-Simon	France
12	WEBER Jutta	Germany

13	FASSOULAS Chararalmpos VALIAKOS Ilias	Greece
14	KORBÉLY Barnabás	Hungary
15	SIGURSVEINSSON Sigurdur	Iceland
16	AMRIKAZEMI Alireza	Iran
17	GLANVILLE Clare	Ireland
18	AMORFINI Alessia	Italy
19	KAUSCH Birgit	Luxembourg
20	MUNIF Azmil	Malaysia
21	PALACIO Jose L	Mexico/ GeoLAC Coordinator
22	RANGNES Kristin	Norway / GGN Executive Board member
23	RAMIREZ Yammil	Peru
24	POROS Michał	Poland
25	ROCHA Daniela	Portugal
26	Min Hun	Republic of Korea
27	ANDRASANU Alexandru	Romania
28	JANKOVIC Tamara	Serbia
29	GYÖRGY Balázs	Slovakia
30	BARRERA Jose Maria	Spain
31	BERGENGREN Anna	Sweden
32	DEMIR Tuncer	Turkey
33	CHULEPIN Helga	Uruguay
34	GOSO César	Uruguay
35	LEMON Kirstin	United Kingdom
36	TRAN Tan Van	Vietnam

a/a	OBSERVERS	
1	ZOUROS Nickolas	GGN Executive Board President / Greece
2	JIN Xiaochi	GGN Executive Board President / China
3	MARTINI Guy	GGN Executive Board General Secretary / France
4	RAGNES Kristin	GGN Executive Board Treasurer/ Norway
5	BORDER Melanie	GGN Executive Board member / UK
6	CALDER John	GGN Executive Board member / Canada
7	FREY Marie-Luise	GGN Executive Board member / Germany
8	FURUSAWA Kana	GGN Executive Board member / Japan

9	SÁ Artur	GGN Executive Board member / Portugal
10	KOMMO Ibrahim	GGN Executive Board member / Malaysia
11	ROSADO Emmaline	GeoLAC Coordinator / Mexico
12	VANDENBERGHE Kristof	UNESCO - IGGP Secretariat
13	BENTANA Konstantina	Executive Assistant GGN Secretariat / Greece

ANNEX I

Agenda

1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda
 2. Minutes of the 7th GGN Advisory Committee meeting
 - A. Implementation of the GGN Strategic Plan 2023-2025
 3. National [Country] Global Geoparks Networks - Implementation
 4. Use of the combined GGN logo by all the GGN bodies
 5. GGN 20th Anniversary celebration
 6. International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Lesvos 2025
 7. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events
 - B. UNESCO WG on IGGP Statues and Operational Guidelines Review
 - C. Long Term GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035
- Any Other Business

Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS

GGN President

Prof. Setsuya Nakada

GGN Advisory Committee acting Chair