



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

2nd GGN DIGITAL

FORUM

23-24 FEBRUARY 2021

12:00 - 14:00 GMT



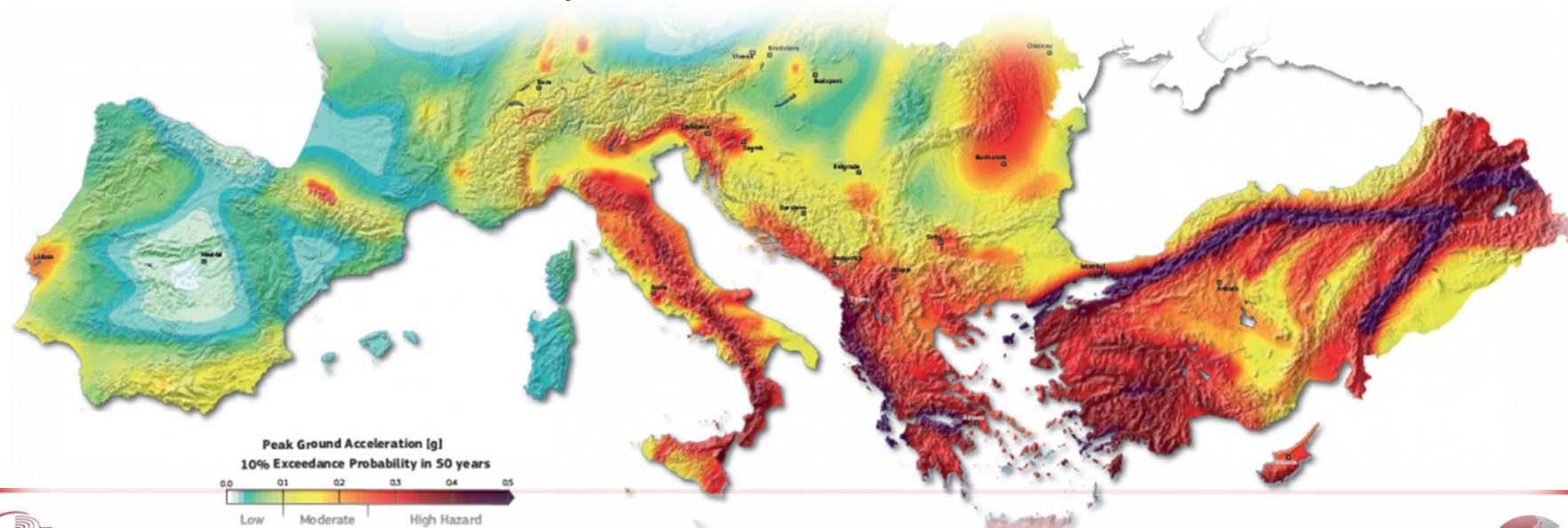
GLOBAL
GEOPARKS
NETWORK

GEOHAZARDS WG

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GEOHAZARDS WG: Introduction

- GEOHAZARDS WGs are operating under GGN and Reg.GN,
- Groups were established in 2017 to facilitate and support geoparks in developing actions and raising awareness on DRR in their territories,
- GEOHAZARDS WG focus both on geophysical and hydrometeorological hazards (including Climate crisis),
- Catalyst: Dr Mahito Watanabe; Vice-catalyst: Dr C. Fassoulas,
- Geoparks are committed to implement the SHIMABARA declaration,



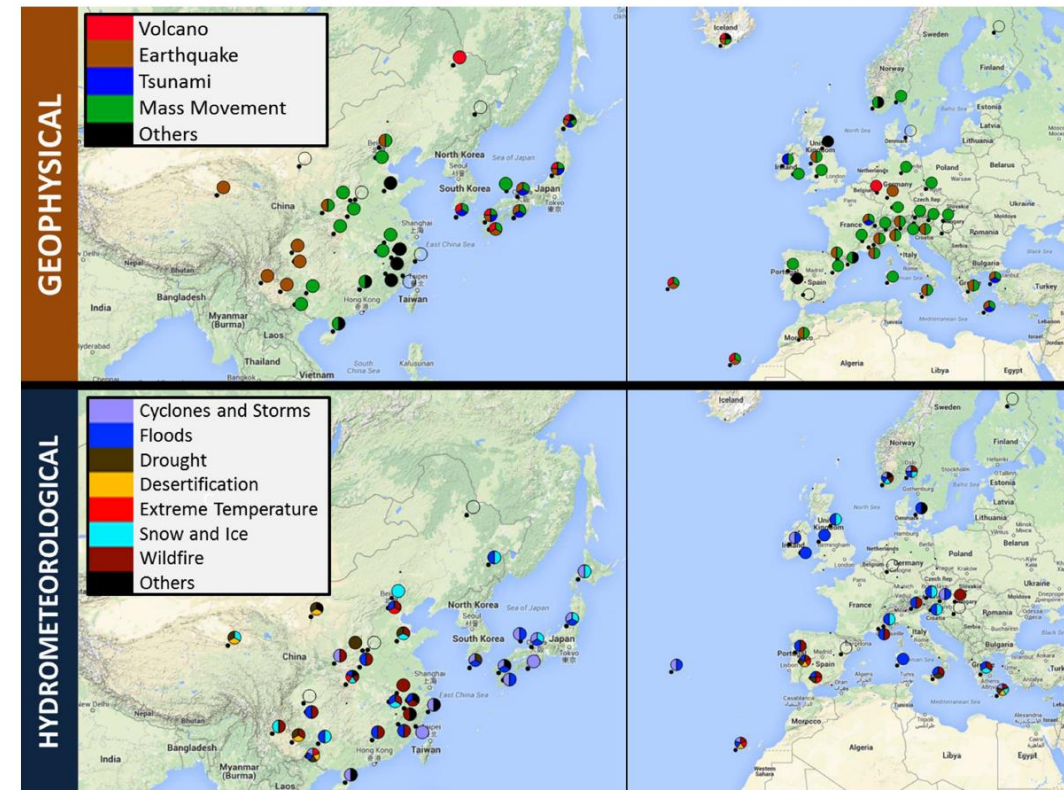
2nd GGN Digital Forum | 23.02.2021

GEOHAZARDS WG: Main targets

“In line with **Shimabara** and English Riviera Declarations, aim of WG is to find ways to **strengthen** the potential of UGGps, and geosites in general, and to ensure sites’ conservation in the face of geological and hydrometeorological hazards”.

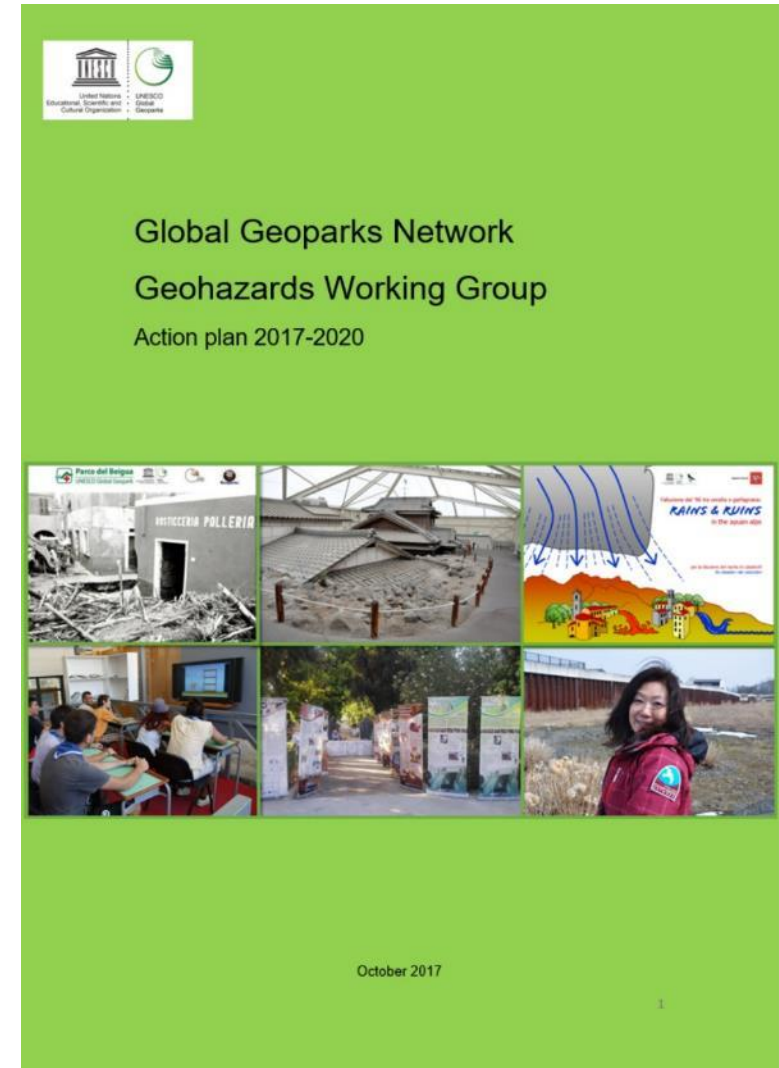
Main objectives were:

- *identify and assess disaster risks at UNESCO Global Geoparks;*
- *enhance and support collaboration and sharing knowledge between the UGGps, as well as with other international organizations to mitigate risks at their territories, ensure safety of visitors and staff and improve resilience of their Geoparks;*
- *foster better communication through educational and awareness activities, among people, administrators, decision makers and scientists on disaster risk reduction at UNESCO Global Geoparks.*



GEOHAZARDS WG: Achievements

- Celebration of 13th October IDDR
- Special Workshops during Geoparks international meetings
- **GGN geohazards Action Plan (2017 - 2020):**
 - *Establish WGs in all Continental Networks;*
 - *Coordinate activities to raise awareness using any international or national events;*
 - *Assess vulnerability and resilience status of all UGGps using a questionnaire developed by UNESCO;*
 - *Contact study on best practices and initiatives for risk mitigation to share;*
 - *Develop web-based, training seminars for geopark's staff on Disasters, Climate Change and risk mitigation;*
 - *Develop common projects and seek for funding;*
 - *Re-assess action plans.*



GEOHAZARDS WG: A

IDDRR 2020 alta - Αναπαράγωγός πολυμέσων VLC

Πολυμέσα Αναπαράγωγή Ήχος Βίντεο Υπότιτλος Εργαλεία Προβολή Βοήθεια



Celebration of IDDR:

- For 2020, **23** UGGps reported more than **30** events.
- **19** European geoparks prepared also a short video
- Still, many geoparks to participate...

GEOHAZARD

Special web page on DRR in collaboration with UNESCO on good practices

Good Practices for Disaster Risk Reduction in UNESCO Global Geoparks

Prevention & education activities for local community





Awareness-raising tools & practices:
 Educational materials (flyers, posters, school kit)
 Exhibitions & museums
 Local community engagement
 Workshops & Training
 Campaigns / social media

Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark
Liguria, Italy

Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark is characterized by both mountain territories and coastal areas. In the recent past the region has been affected by natural hazards, especially floods, inundations, landslides and forest fires with heavy damages and serious impacts for economic activities and local people. In order to carry out new strategies to increase public awareness and knowledge of geohazards, Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark has developed several activities directed towards local communities and schools. Some actions have been devised in collaboration with the Liguria Regional Department of Civil Protection involving and training local volunteer groups, sensitizing local school districts, reconstructing the knowledge framework of natural hazard, spreading information about the causes of geohazards and the criticality and vulnerability of the territory. The Geopark also engaged in thematic actions with international partners in the framework of the EVANDE project ("Enhancing Volunteer Awareness and education against Natural Disasters through E-learning") co-funded by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Community.



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More Information
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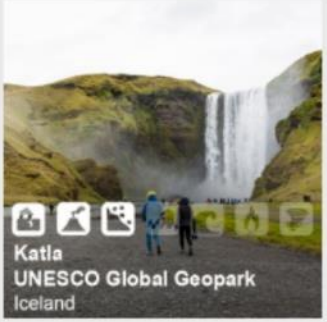
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al Geopark




Katla
UNESCO Global Geopark
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Beigua
UNESCO Global Geopark
Italy



era, Hidalgo
al Geopark



Açores
UNESCO Global Geopark
Portugal

es | Floods | Tsunamis | Cyclones | Wildfires

Key for site managers

GEOHAZARD

Publication on UGG contribution in risk mitigation

Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies

Loredana Antronico - Fausto Marincioni
Editors



10. UNESCO Global Geoparks: living laboratories to mitigate natural induced disasters and strengthen communities' resilience

Charalampos Fassoulas¹, Mahito Watanabe², Irina Pavlova³, Alessia Amorfini⁴, Edoardo Dellarole⁵, Florian Dierickx⁶

Abstract

UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps) are forming a network of 140 territories all over the globe (GGN), that are located in various geographical settings that may be partly or entirely exposed to various natural hazards and extreme weather events. In recent years, natural hazards have already caused extensive damage to several UGGps. In addition, climate change seems to affect both occurrence and intensity of various hydro-meteorological hazards. In order to have a better understanding of the exposure of UGGps to natural hazards, and their activities to mitigate risks the GGN and UNESCO's Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction team undertook in 2015 a thematic survey. Analyses of the data revealed the high risk that UGGps are facing, the important role of training and awareness raising actions, as well as of the existence and implementation of adequate risk management plans. Many UGGps in Asia and Europe have already set as top priority the reduction of naturally induced disasters and the protection of citizens and infrastructure, having implemented certain projects and developed concrete infrastructure and activities to raise awareness and mitigate risks. Existing knowledge of indigenous communities help UGGps to develop practices and initiatives to overpass crises and become more resilient. Hereby we present thus the results of the UNESCO and GGN

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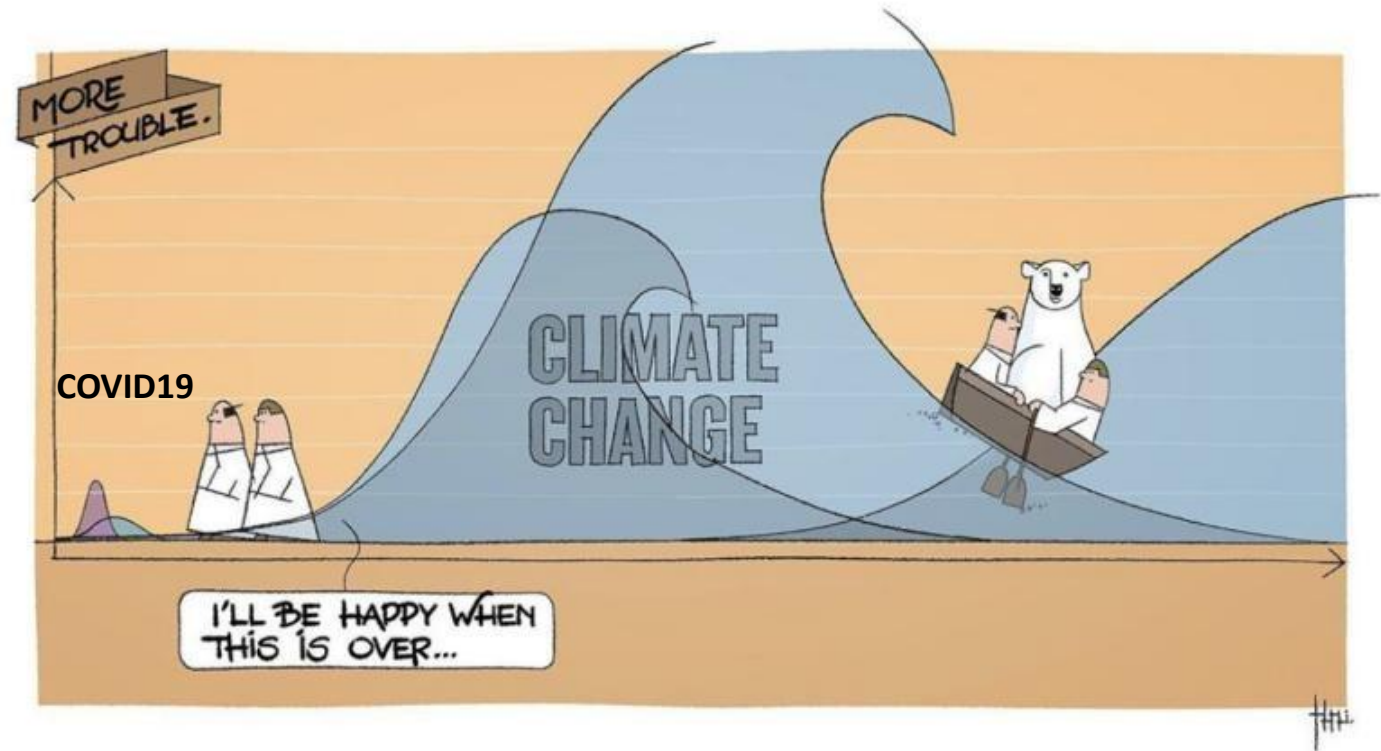
⁶ Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO, Paris, France, f.dierickx@unesco.org, florian.dierickx@uca.fr.

GEOHAZARDS WG: Future steps 1

*“As risk and systems are dynamic, **resilience** should be thought of as a **process** rather than simply an outcome, involving **learning, adaptation, anticipation and improvement** in basic structures, actors and functions”*

We need thus to:

- **Improve our resilience;**
- **Break** the vicious circle: -> Climate crisis -> Biodiversity loss -> Pandemics -> Recession ->;
- **Support** GGN to implement Roadmap “...the World After”;
- Re-assess our **Action Plan** focusing on:



UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS - TERRITORIES OF RESILIENCE

GEOHAZARDS WG: Future steps 2

- **Risk identification and assessment** (Re-consider potential threats due to Pandemics & Climate change and re-assess existing plans/ improve understanding of hazards/ assess our vulnerability);
- Invest in **prevention** through continuous raising of **awareness/ training/** and improve knowledge (even in geoparks with low risk at present - Climate change and pandemics affect all);
- Improve **preparedness** through best practices **transfer/ exchange** of knowledge and methodologies/ and mainly **risk reduction** actions;



GEOHAZARDS WG: Future steps 3

- Improve response through:
 - **Better Crisis management:** Identify and secure all resources/ Develop, test and implement emergency plans/ Identify alternatives in processes, services and products/ Improve our flexibility;
 - **Adaptation:** Go green/ Go digitally/ Increase safety of staff and visitors/ Minimize exposure to external factors/ Secure networks and providers/ Simplify supply chains/ Strengthen networking/ Identify existing local and indigenous practices to use...

**So we have much work to do and we need all
geoparks together:**

Thank you

