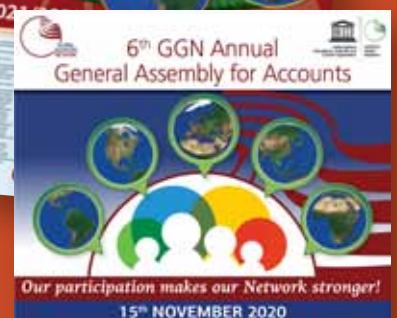
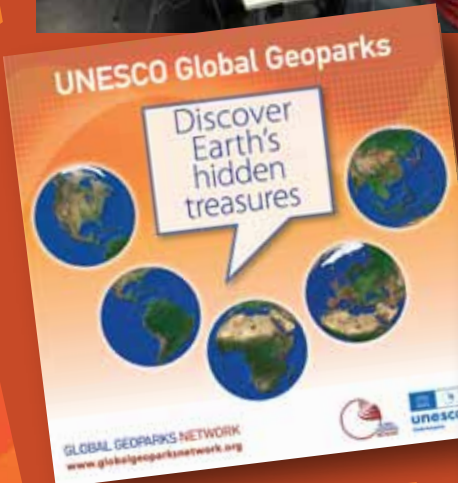
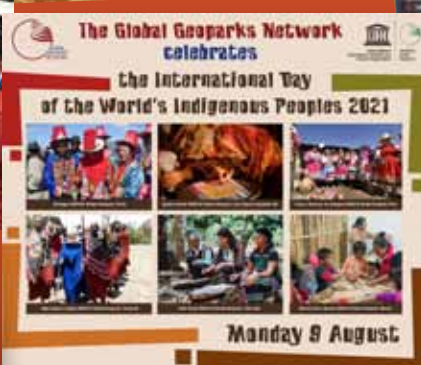
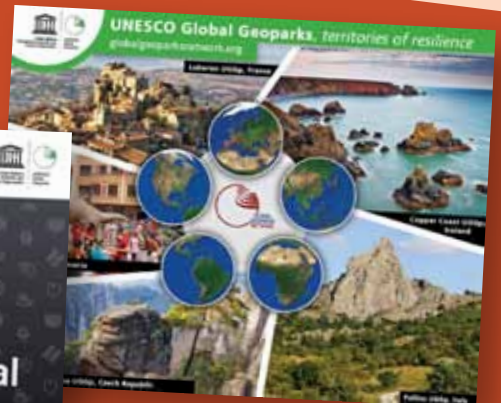




# Report of the GGN Executive Board on the activities September 2018 – December 2021





# 3rd GGN ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Report of the GGN Executive Board  
on the activities  
September 2018 – December 2021**

## 3rd GGN ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

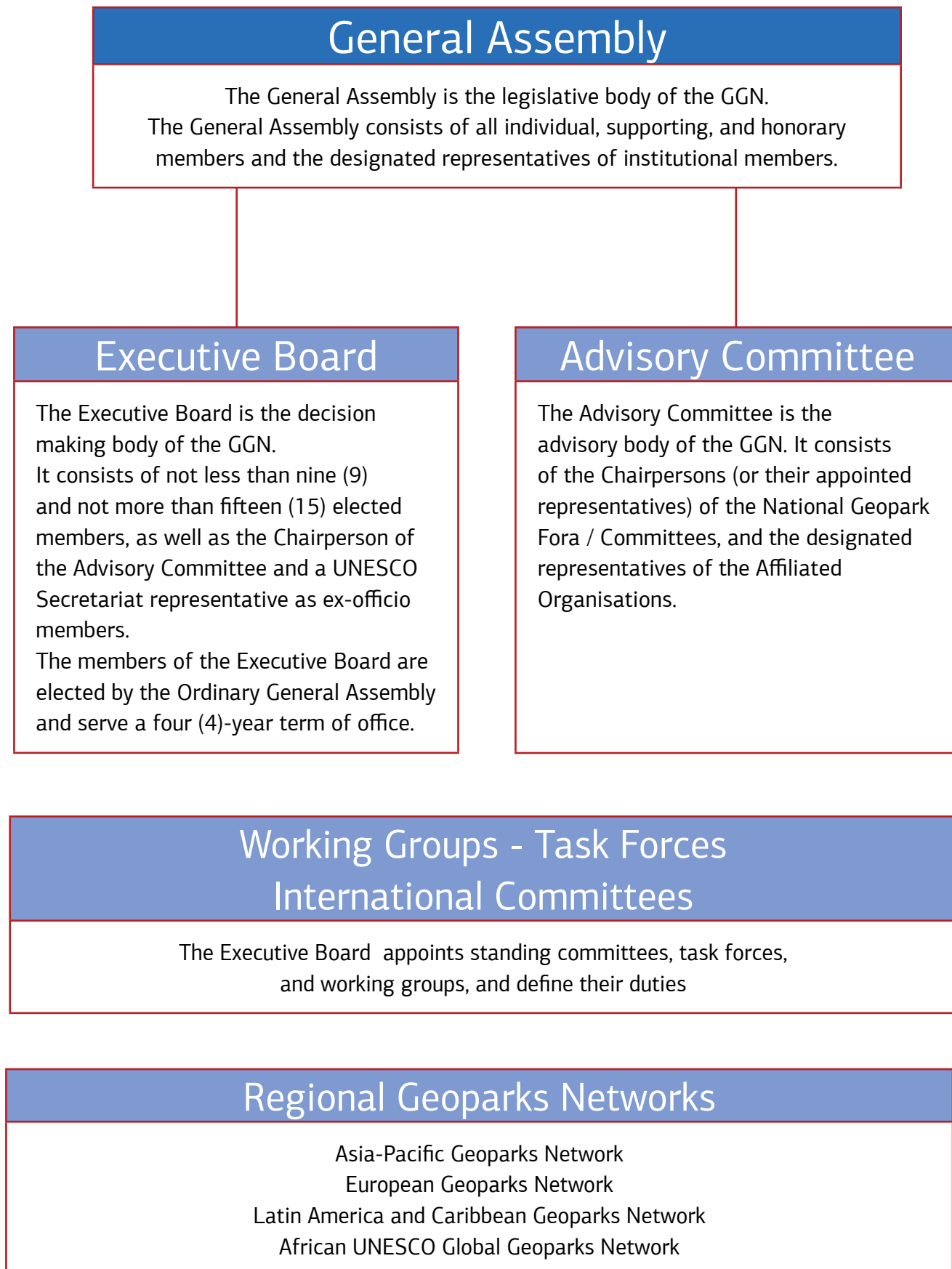
**Report of the GGN Executive Board  
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### Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>CHAPTER I. GEOPARK'S RESILIENCE DURING COVID PANDEMIC</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>CHAPTER II. GGN ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>CHAPTER III. UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>CHAPTER IV. NEW INITIATIVES</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>CHAPTER V. GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK ACTIVITIES</b> .....	<b>30</b>
V.1. The pre COVID-19 period activities (September 2018 – December 2019).....	<b>30</b>
V.2. The COVID-19 period of activities (January 2020 - December 2021) .....	<b>38</b>
<b>CHAPTER VI. CAMPAIGN “UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS: DISCOVER THE EARTH'S HIDDEN TREASURES”</b> .....	<b>52</b>



# GGN - Governing Structure



Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020

This is the 3rd Global Geoparks Network Executive Board Report submitted to the Global Geoparks Network General Assembly on the activities of the GGN as an International Association in the period September 2018 – December 2021. The 3rd Global Geoparks Network Executive Board Report was planned to cover two years period September 2018 - September 2020 corresponding to the two years of the GGN elected Executive Board (2018 – 2020). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the GGN Executive Board elections and the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly were postponed following the postponement of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks for the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. So the 2018 elected GGN Executive Board has continued its activities until December 2021 when the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly will be held.

The GGN Executive Board members during the period 2018 - 2021 worked for the implementation of the GGN Statutes and the effective operation of the Association as well as for the support of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the broader visibility of the Geoparks and awareness raising on their mission.

During the years 2020 and 2021 the GGN Executive Board had to face major challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic, such as, the implementation of the GGN operation and procedures, efficient communication and activities, as well as the support of the newly established UNESCO Global Geoparks. The 2018 – 2021 report covers three different periods of activities:

**1. The pre COVID-19 period of activities (September 2018 – December 2019)**

During this period the GGN continued its activities in order to achieve its goals and visions.

**2. The COVID-19 period of activities (January 2020 - December 2021)**

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the GGN faced unique challenges on how to continue its activities, networking and supporting its members all around the globe. The majority of the UNESCO Global Geoparks were forced to close and the COVID-19 crisis has profoundly affected their local communities. The GGN in this period supported the digital operation of our Network and its Regional Networks and prepared a strategy for the “World After”.

Despite the challenges imposed by this unprecedented crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic, GGN reacted very quickly to the COVID-19 crisis, developing its presence digitally in order to maintain a link with its members. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the GGN Executive Board met every second week in order to have a close overview of the problems that the Geoparks are facing and to find ways to support UNESCO Global Geoparks and their local communities in order to continue to work and celebrate Earth.



# CHAPTER I. GEOPARK'S RESILIENCE DURING COVID PANDEMIC

The GGN Executive Board in close collaboration with UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat immediately after the spread on the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 took action in order to keep the Global Geopark Network operation active. During the last three years Geoparks continued their activities and became one of the most active international networks during the period of lockdowns and restrictions.

The GGN Executive Board adopted the digital operation and communication in order to find effective way of keeping the Global and Regional Geoparks Networks alive, to encourage UNESCO Global Geoparks to continue their activities and their engagement with local communities, to support Aspiring Geoparks and encourage them to continue their efforts and submit applications to become UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Since the beginning of the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the beginning of 2020, the GGN Executive Board in close collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section unanimously worked to launch new initiatives and to find effective ways of communication and networking by establishing the following activities:

- Created an encouragement video message to all UNESCO Global Geoparks asking them in spite of the difficulties, to remain connected and to continue their operation in order to support their local communities. The message disseminated through the GGN communication tools and channels (GGN newsletter, GGN website).
- Established in Spring 2020 the initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of resilience" and developed the adapted strategy and communication campaign on this.
- Adopted the digital operation through digital platform which was offered to all for the organization of various digital meetings and events (GGN Digital Forums, Digiatl Regional Geopark Forum, Digital Courses on UNESCO Global Geoparks, etc).
- Prepared the new strategy for the post-pandemic operation of the Geoparks, with the title "World After" in order to prepare the future strategic steps of the Geoparks.
- Used digital tools for the dissemination of the Global and Regional Geoparks Networks' activities (GGN websites, GGN Newsfeeds, GGN social media).
- Encouraged digital communication between the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Launched new initiatives such as the UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum and the Geoparks Film Festival.
- Established the award of "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of resilience" and encouraged all UNESCO Global Geoparks to participate in the initiative providing articles, photos and videos of their activities to support their communities.
- Took initiatives for the development of Geoparks in less represented geographical areas such as the GGN Grand for Africa and the GGN Grand for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)..

## I.1. The initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience"

The initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of resilience" was launched on April, 21st 2020. Resilience is a fundamental concept already enclosed inside the whole Geopark's concept and is related to any kind of environmental and humanitarian crisis: earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, droughts, economic crisis, epidemics, terrorism, war, refugees and of course the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative encouraged all UNESCO Global Geoparks to share their good practices concerning activities that they are implementing digitally or to highlight actions already realized to support their territory's resilience:

- the different ways in which UNESCO Global Geoparks keep on engaging with their communities, providing services despite the difficult conditions in COVID-19 times, how they reach out to the young people, offering on line courses, or how they promote local production.



- examples of any other resilience activities, in which UNESCO Global Geoparks are involved realized during the last four years.

The best 5 examples of these activities supporting the concept UNESCO Global Geoparks, territories of resilience will be awarded by the GGN.

## I.2. The GGN video message for the COVID-19 pandemic crisis

A video message to all UNESCO Global Geoparks was created by the GGN in order to boost the GGN's initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience" (<http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=4050>). The video was launched on 22th of April 2020, the International Mother Earth Day 2020.

The video was created with the contribution of the institutional personalities of the Geopark's family (GGN President, Chair of the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section, Chair of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and the Coordinators of the Regional Geoparks Networks: the Asian and Pacific Geoparks Network, the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network).

Through this video message the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board and UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section chair spoke directly to UNESCO Global Geoparks members and shared with them important information. They encouraged them in order to continue to support their communities during the difficult period of COVID-19 pandemic and told to all UNESCO Global Geoparks members that GGN and UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section are intensively working in order to maintain the Network.

Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO's Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction promoted these activities and transmitting the information to the broader audience through all their communication channels.



# CHAPTER II. GGN ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES



1st GGN Ordinary General Assembly 2016, English Riviera UGGp, United Kingdom

## II.1. The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Executive Board

The GGN was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership developed under the umbrella of UNESCO. Since its foundation, the GGN serves to develop models of best practice and set quality-standards for territories that integrate the protection preservation of Earth heritage sites in a strategy for regional sustainable economic development.

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in September 2014 became a non-profit, non-governmental organization subject to French legislation (the 1901 law on associations) after a unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the Network held in Saint John, Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada on September 20, 2014. At the same General Assembly of the Network the Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) were agreed and adopted.

Following the provisions of the GGN Statutes, during the **1st Ordinary General Assembly** of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) which took place in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark on September 28th, 2016, was elected the GGN Executive Board.

During the **2nd Ordinary General Assembly** of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) took place in Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) for the period 2016-2020 composed by the following individuals:

President: **ZOUROS Nickolas** - Greece  
Vice - President: **JIN Xiaochi** - P.R. China  
Vice - President: **KOMOO Ibrahim** - Malaysia  
General Secretary: **MARTINI Guy** - France  
Treasurer: **RANGES Kristin** - Norway

### Members:

**BORDER Melanie** - United Kingdom (EGN)  
**BREMNER Gail** - Canada (N. America)  
**BURLANDO Mauricio** - Italy (EGN)  
**FREY Marie - Luise** - Germany (Ind. Member)  
**MELO Patricio - Brazil** (L. America)  
**QUABBAS Mustapha** - Morocco (Africa)  
**WATANABE Mahito** - Japan (APGN)  
**ZHANG Jianping** - P.R. China (APGN)

According to the 9.1./94 GGN Executive Board meeting/27.04.2021 decision two new representatives:

- from Africa **Mr. ACHBAL DRISS** - AUGGN President and  
- from Canada **Mr. CALDER JOHN** - Canadian Geoparks Network Chair  
were selected until the GGN Executive Board elections and the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly as temporary members of the GGN Executive Board and replaced the two Ordinary GGN Executive Board members from Africa (QUABBAS Mustapha) and from Canada (BREMNER Gail).

The role and function of the GGN Executive Board is described in the GGN Statutes. Main challenges of the GGN Executive Board were:

- The implementation of the different operational bodies of the GGN.
- The spread of information to all GGN members regarding the news and activities of the GGN.
- The implementation of the GGN Working Groups / Task Forces / Committees, which gave the opportunity to many colleagues to actively contribute to the life of the Network.
- The implementation of the framework for the Cooperating Members and Sponsors.
- The close coordination with the Regional Networks APGN, EGN, GEOLAC and the establishment of the New  
• African UNESCO Global Geoparks network.
- The Financial stability of the Association.
- The implementation of the Network during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GGN Executive Board during the period 2018 – 2019 had meetings regularly to deal with various issues of the GGN's activities. From October 2018 till December 2019, 14 GGN Executive Board Meetings took place.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the GGN Executive Board during the period 2020 – 2021 had meetings **every 15 days** in order to deal with the main challenges of the pandemic period. From January 2020 till October 2021, **41 GGN Executive Board Meetings** took place.

Main issues for the GGN Executive Board were:

1. Implementation of the GGN General Assembly decision for the GGN Internal Rules and Regulations with the operation of the different GGN bodies.
2. Implementation of the GGN General Assembly decision for the GGN financial stability including the annual Fee for Institutional and Individual Members and the Conference Fee.
3. Operation of the GGN Working Groups / Task Forces / Committees.
4. Adjustment of the GGN Communication and Marketing Strategy on UNESCO Global Geoparks proposals to the COVID-19 reality.
5. GGN promotional and capacity building activities
6. GGN communication and promotional tools maintenance
7. Close collaboration with UNESCO for the establishment of the new initiatives for the expansion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in areas not well represented in the programme:
  - UNESCO - GGN Grant for Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States
  - UNESCO - GGN Grant for Geoparks in Small Island Developing States.

All decisions and actions of the GGN Executive Board were presented through the new GGN communication tool for the GGN members' internal communication, the GGN Newsfeed.





GGN Executive Board members at the 2nd Ordinary General Assembly

## II.2. GGN Secretariat

The GGN Secretariat continued its operation and communication with the Global Geoparks on GGN issues. After the Open Call for GGN Secretariat Executive Assistance published in the GGN News Feed No 34 – 23 September 2019, the GGN Executive Board selected the candidate to serve as Executive Assistant in the GGN Secretariat.

The Executive Assistant is Mrs Konstantina Bentana, Geologist, who has been engaged in Geopark's activities since 2001.

The GGN Secretary Executive Assistant has been responsible for providing administrative support services for the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board activities including administrative support for the Global Geoparks Network General Assembly and to update the Roster of Geopark Evaluators' data base.

She has been working under the overall authority of the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board and the direct supervision of the President and the General Secretary of the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network.

## II.3. GGN Membership

The GGN Executive Board had to deal with the implementation of the GGN Statutes regarding the inscription of its members with the following actions:

- Inscription of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks (8 new members in 2019, 15 new members in 2020 and 8 new members in 2021)
- Inscription of the new GGN Individual Members (3 new members in 2020 and 1 new member in 2021)
- Withdrawal of one GGN Individual Member in 2020
- Nomination of 5 Honorary Members in 2018
- Proposal to the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly for the nomination of 2 GGN Honorary Members.

### The current Membership of GGN:

Institutional Members: 169

Individual Members: 33

Honorary Members: 6

Cooperating Members: -

A great challenge for the operation of GGN is the continuous update of the contact details of the Geopark Representatives in the GGN members' lists.

This can be achieved only with the regular update of the GGN member's communication list.

For this the GGN asks for support from its members and their representatives.



2nd GGN Ordinary General Assembly 2018, Adamello Brenta UGGp, Italy

## II.4. General Assembly

According to the GGN Statutes the GGN General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN.

The General Assembly consists of all individual, supporting, and honorary members and the designated representatives of institutional members.

The Ordinary General Assembly makes decisions on recommendations from the Executive Board on changes to the conditions on application for membership.

The Ordinary General Assembly at its session once every four years on the same dates and in the same place as the International Conference on Geoparks elects the members of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board establishes the agenda of the General Assembly and convenes the Assembly at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the meeting. The meetings of the assemblies will take place at the location indicated in the official invitation.

### II.4.1. 3rd Ordinary General Assembly

The GGN Executive Board took special care in collaboration with the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks at the Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, for the organization of the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly of GGN.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly will be held digitally as the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

### II.4.2. Annual General Assembly for Accounts

The Annual General Assembly can be made by written statements sent by the GGN members in good standing by e-mail to the Executive Board within one month after receiving the Report on the accounts of the previous year. This decision needs simple majority of the GGN members in good standing.

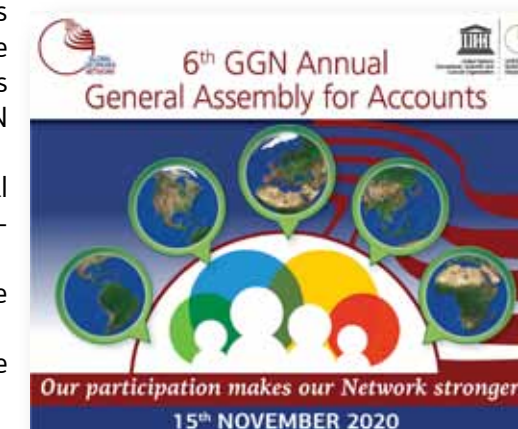
The GGN Executive Board organized three digital Annual General Assemblies for Accounts in which made the adoption of the GGN annual Accounts and Budget:

In Spring 2019 for the agreement of the 2018 Accounts and the 2019 Budget.

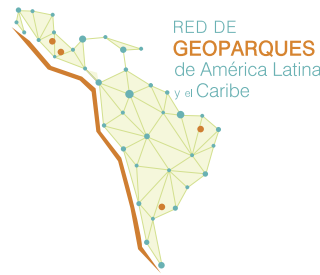
In November 2020 for the agreement of the 2019 Accounts and the 2020 Budget.

In Spring 2021 for the agreement of the 2020 Accounts and the 2021 Budget.

In all three cases the Annual General Assembly approved the accounts and the budget.







## II.5. Regional Networks

Recognizing the very strong role networking has played in the success of the Global Geoparks movement and recognizing the valuable role it plays in facilitating the sharing of experience, formation of joint initiatives and projects and in capacity-building, the GGN encourages the strengthening of Regional Geoparks Networks. The Regional Geoparks Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level. The GGN Executive Board adopted the decisions of the EGN, the APGN and the GEOLAC regarding their function as Regional Networks of GGN in Europe, in Asia-Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean respectively and supported the creation of the Africa UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. More specifically the GGN Executive Board endorsed the following documents:

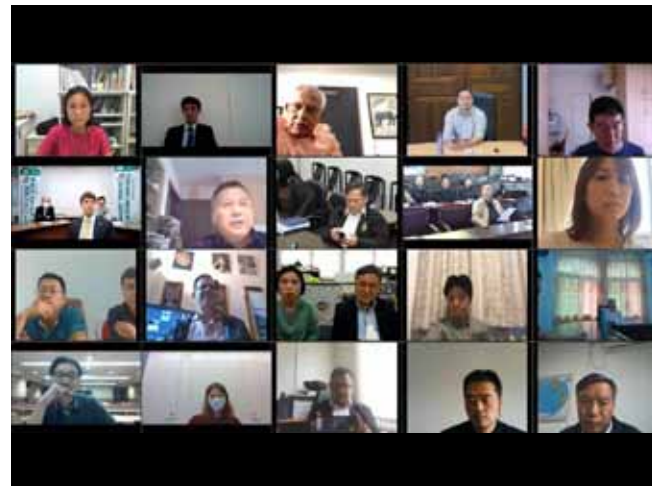
- The EGN Annual Report of Activities 2019 as submitted by the EGN Coordinator.
- The APGN Annual Report of Activities 2019 and 2020 as submitted by the APGN Coordinator.
- The GEOLAC Annual Report of Activities 2019 as submitted by the GEOLAC Coordinator.

The continuous communication and collaboration of the GGN Executive Board with the Regional Network Coordinators is essential for the operation of the GGN.

### II.5.1. The European Geoparks Network



43rd European Geoparks Meeting, Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany (March 2019)



APGN Cordination Committee meeting 2020

During the last years the following main events took place:

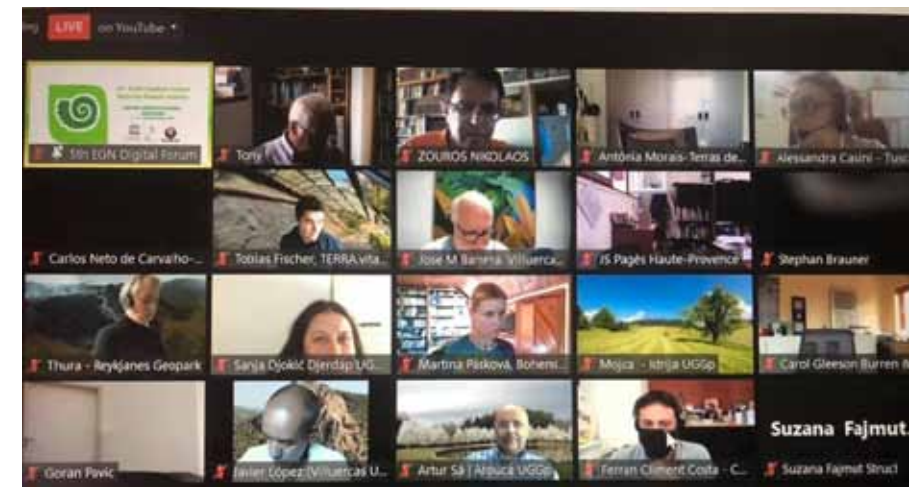
- The 43rd European Geoparks Meeting took place in Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark in Germany (March 2019).
- The 44th European Geoparks Meeting and the 15th European Geoparks Conference took place in Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark in Spain (September 2019).

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions the EGN in collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network organised the following digital EGN Forums:

- The 1st European Geoparks Forum (5 June 2020)
- The 2nd European Geoparks Forum (15 September 2020)
- The 3rd European Geoparks Forum (26 January 2021)
- The 4th European Geoparks Forum (13 April 2021)



2nd EGN Digital Forum (September 2020)



5th European Geoparks Forum Papuk (September 2021)



- The DIGITAL 5th European Geoparks Forum Papuk special edition was organised by Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark, Croatia (September 2021). During the meeting was also celebrated of the 20th Anniversary of the EGN.

#### EGN Coordinators - Advisory Committee

The Coordinators and the Advisory Committee members of the EGN continue their duties since the last elections:

#### EGN Advisory Committee members:

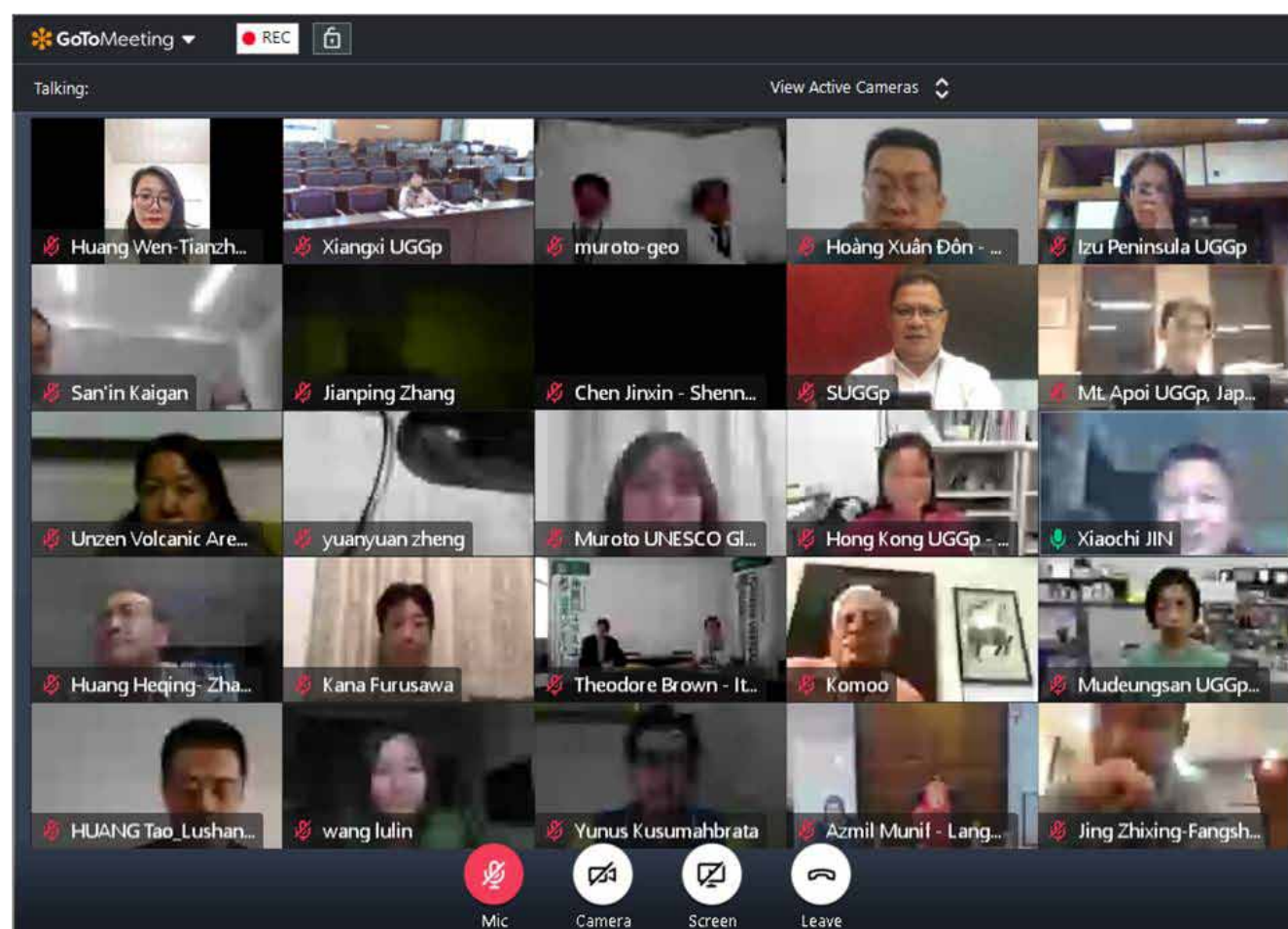
Coordinator: **Kristin Rangnes**, Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway)

Vice Coordinator: **Babbis Fassoulas**, Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece)

- **Alesia Amorfini**, Italy
- **Asier Hilario**, Spain
- **Sophie Justice**, France
- **Chris Woodley-Stewart**
- **Marie Luise Frey**, Germany (Special Advisor – Individual Member)
- **Tony Ramsey**, UK (EGN Editorial Board)
- **Guy Martini**, France (Founder member)
- **Nickolas Zouros**, Greece (Founder member)
- **Andreas Schüller** (Founder member)



## II.5.2. Asia Pacific Geoparks Network



APGN Advisory Committee digital meeting 2020

The Coordinators and the Advisory Committee members of the APGN continue their duties since the last elections:

### APGN Coordinators:

**JIN Xiaochi**, Coordinator  
**Ibrahim KOMOO**, Vice-Coordinator  
**Setsuya NAKADA**, Vice-Coordinator

### APGN Advisory Committee (AC):

**JIN Xiaochi**, China  
**Ibrahim KOMOO**, Malaysia  
**Setsuya NAKADA**, Japan  
**Alireza AMRIKAZEMI**, Iran  
**Azmil Munif Bin Mohd Bukhari**, Malaysia  
**HE Qingcheng**, China  
**JING Zhixing**, China  
**Kana FURUSAWA**, Japan  
**Yunus Kusumahbrata**, Indonesia  
**Soojae LEE**, R. Korea  
**SUN Li**, China  
**Somma Techawan**, Thailand  
**TRAN Tan Van**, Vietnam  
**Mahito WATANABE**, Japan  
**Nickolas ZOUROS**, GGN Representative  
**Kristof VANDENBERGHE**, UNESCO Representative



2nd Regional Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean 2019

## II.5.3. The Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network

The declaration for the creation of Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network was signed on May 26th 2017, during the IV Workshop of Geoparks which took place in Arequipa, Peru in May 2017.

### New Coordination Committee of the Network

The plenary of members of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network, meeting on January 22, 2020, elected the new team for GEOLAC's coordination and management for the next two years (2020-2022), starting on 01.02.2020.

Coordinator: **José Patricio Pereira Melo** – Araripe UGGp

Vice Coordinator: **Eugenio Bidondo** – Grutas Del Palacio UGGp

Secretary General: **Patricia Herrera** – Kutrakura UGGp

Treasurer: **Carlos Merizalde** – Imbabura UGGp.

Member: **José Luis Palácio**, Mixteca Alta UGGp

### 2nd Regional Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean held in Colombia from 21st to 25th October 2019 organized by the aspiring UGGp Nevado del Ruiz, Colombia in collaboration with UNESCO – Montevideo Office with great success.

UNESCO and GGN supported the event which attended around 100 participants from 20 Countries. Among the speakers were Dr. Guy Martini UGG Council Chair and GGN Executive Board General Secretary, Denise Gorfinkiel Responsible for the International Geoscience and Geopark Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean at the UNESCO - Montevideo Office, Prof. Setsuya Nakada, Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee and Chair of the Japanese National Geoparks Committee, Helga Chulepin, UGG Council Member, Benjamin Van Wyk de Vries, IUGS Representative, Carles Canet Comarca Minera UGGp and Coordinator of the Global Geopark Latin American and Caribbean Network ☒ GeoLAC, Manuel Schilling, Kutrakura UGGp Chile, Elena Mateo Mederos, Lanzarote UGGp, María Pilar Ara Pueyo, Sobrarbe UGGp and Antonino Sanz Metencio, Natural Protected Areas of Andalucía Spain.

UNESCO Global Geoparks representatives and representatives from aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks (Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, etc) took part in the meeting, exchange experiences and discussed the future development of the Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean region.

### The new magazine of Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network: GEOVIVÊNCIAS MAGAZINE

The Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network already since 2020 has its own publication for communication: the GeoVivencias magazine.

This magazine aims to be a means for publishing specialized and scientific works (of Earth and environmental sciences, social sciences, history, ethnography and any other discipline that contributes to the knowledge and development of geoparks), as well as news of UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring geoparks.





## II.5.4. The African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network



**Fundatory Declaration for the creation of the African UNESCO Global Geopark Network**

### Fundatory Declaration for the creation of the African UNESCO Global Geopark Network (22 November 2019)

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, during the 2nd National symposium of Morocco Geological Heritage held in Rabat (Morocco), the official ceremony for the signing of the Fundatory Declaration for the creation of the African UNESCO Global Geopark Network between M’Goun UGp (Morocco) and Ngorongoro-Lengai UGp (Tanzania).

The signing ceremony, a real historic event for the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa, took place with the presence of His Excellency Mr Aziz RABBAH, Minister of Energy, Mines and Environment of Morocco, the UNESCO representative (Mr Mohammed ALAUI, UNESCO Rabat), the UNESCO Global Geopark Council Chair (Dr Guy MARTINI) and the representatives of the Global Geoparks Network and all its regional Global Geopark Networks (Prof Nickolas ZOUROS, GGN President, Dr Kristin RAGNES, EGN Coordinator, Prof Ibrahim KOMOO, APGN Vice-Coordinator, Prof Patricio MELO, GeoLAC Vice-Coordinator).

At the ceremony were also present Mr Abdejalil EL HASANI SWAI, President of the Association for the Protection of Geological Heritage in Morocco (APPGM), Mr Driss ACHBAL, President of M’Goun Geopark Association, Mdm Souad TERRAB (APPGM)

This declaration opens the path to the creation of this new and necessary Regional Global Geoparks Network in Africa which will officially be launched during the 1st African UNESCO Global Geoparks International Conference. The conference was planned to be held in Tanzania on May 2020 but due to COVID-19 it was postponed.



## II.6. GGN National Fora/Committees

According to the GGN Statutes a National Geoparks Forum or Committee, including all the members of the GGN in each country, may be authorised by the Executive Board to represent the interests of Global Geoparks and the Global Geopark and to organise activities of the GGN in that State.

The GGN Executive Board followed the approach of the founding Executive Board that the creation of different bodies with responsibilities on Geoparks in the same country should be avoided. If possible, the existing National Geoparks Committees or National Geoparks Fora, should become the responsible body for Geoparks at the National level.

This model was adopted and is well functioning in the following countries: UK, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, France, etc.

There are countries in which a different model of operation has been selected for several reasons.

There are countries in which both National Geoparks Committees and National Geoparks Fora exist. In P.R. China and Japan there are well operated National Geopark Networks.

The GGN Executive Board taking into account the current situation of the Network, the need of the coordination of activities of the GGN at the national level and the increasing number of UNESCO Global Geoparks encourages the operation of a GGN National Body including all the members of the GGN in each country (which can use the name National Geopark Network).

## II.7. GGN Reporting

### II.7.1. Geoparks Annual Reports (Institutional Members)

All GGN Institutional Members have to submit to the GGN Executive Board an Annual Report on their activities (GGN Statutes article 21 session 5). GGN Institutional Members’ Reports for the years 2019 and 2020 were uploaded in the GGN website.

### II.7.2. GGN Regional Network Annual Report of Activities

Regional Network Coordinators Annual Report on their activities for the years 2019 and 2020 were uploaded in GGN website.

### II.7.3. GGN Working Group Annual Report of Activities

The GGN Working Groups’ Coordinators were invited to submit to the GGN Executive Board an Annual Report on their activities.

### II.7.4. GGN National Fora / Committees Annual Report of Activities

The GGN National Fora / Committees were also invited to submit to the GGN Executive Board an Annual Report on their activities. The GGN National Fora / Committees’ Annual Report on their activities were uploaded in GGN website.



**5th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks - Beijing P.R. China, November 2019**





**Geopark Evaluator's Seminar - Adamello Brenda UGGp, Italy, September 2018**

## II.8. GGN Working Groups and Task Forces

### II.8.1. GGN Task Forces

#### A. GGN Task Force on Marketing and Communication

Following the decisions of the General Assemblies, the GGN Executive Board decided the formation of the Marketing and Communication Task Force to elaborate a strategy on GGN Promotion.

The GGN Task Group elaborated a proposal for an open call in order to select a professional company who will work and develop a Geopark promotion strategy.

The GGN Executive Board in its 32nd Meeting which took place on Lesbos island Greece on June 12th 2017 completed the elaboration of the Task Force proposal. The OPEN CALL text was adopted as the proposal of the GGN Executive Board to the members of the GGN.

All GGN Members were invited to express their opinion on the Open Call for the Geoparks Promotion Strategy and send to the GGN their comments and proposals till the 31st July 2017.

#### **GGN Marketing and Communication Strategy Report**

On October 2019 in the GGN Newsfeed/35 published the GGN Marketing and Communication Strategy Report prepared by David Randal and Associates.

This document is intended to update members of the network about the progress and rationale of the project, key aspects of the Brand Report and Action Plan, and suggests practical steps for how they can prepare for the delivery stage when that should arise.

To compile the Report David Randal and Associates have directly engaged with 53 individual Geoparks throughout the project, from a wide geographical representation, as there was actually little overlap between participation in the different stages. So this fact is evidence of a robust piece of work based on sound principles of wide consultation and input.

The test video, intended to give an example of how the brand messaging could be used to gain interest from the wider public to find out more. The link is in the report.

A stakeholder version of the video, can be useful for briefing potential partners, national commissions etc about the role of Geoparks: <https://vimeo.com/363334487>

#### B. GGN Task Force on Funding

Following the decisions of the GGN General Assemblies, the GGN Executive Board decided the formation of the Task Force on Funding to explore new sources for the funding of the GGN activities.



**Meeting of the Working Group on Volcanic Areas**

### II.8.2. GGN Working Groups

Working Groups may be authorized by the Executive Board to implement programmes and activities and to serve as a channels of communication between members of the GGN with similar scientific and professional interests.

The GGN Executive Board defined the operational framework of the Working Groups and decided to establish thematic GGN Working Groups. Working Groups will be formed after a decision of the GGN Executive Board and will have geographical representation.

The following GGN Working Groups have been established:

- GGN Working Group on Geo-Hazards
- GGN Working Group on Volcanic Areas
- GGN Working Group on Geological Heritage Assessment
- GGN Working group on Tourism
- GGN Working group on Education
- GGN Working group on Sustainable Development Goals
- GGN Working group on Island Geoparks.

#### 1. WG on Geoparks in Volcanic Areas

Coordinator Prof. **Setsuya Nakada** (Japan)

Vice coordinator Prof. **Joao Carlos Nunes** (Portugal)

#### **Members**

**Andreas Shueller, Franzen Julia**, Vulkaneifel UGGp (Germany)

**Barnabas Korbely**, Bakony – Balaton UGGp (Hungary)

**Qinfei Lu**, Yandangshan UGGp (P.R. China)

**Yongchao Si**, Wudalianchi UGGp (P.R. China)

**Yongmun Jeon**, Jeju Island UGGp (Republic of Korea)

**Elena Mederos**, Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UGGp (Spain)

**Hanang Samodra** (Indonesia)





**Meeting of the Working Group on Geo-Hazards**

## 2. GGN WG on Geo-hazards

Coordinator Dr. **Mahito Watanabe** (Japan)  
 Vice coordinator in Dr. **Charalambos Fassoulas** (Greece)  
 UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction  
 Section Representative Dr. **Irina Pavlova**

### Members

**Noritaka Matsubara**, Sanin Kaigan UGGp (Japan)  
**Alessia Amorfini**, Apuan Alps UGGp (Italy)  
**Brynja Davíðsdóttir**, Katla UGGp (Iceland)  
**Richard Watson**, Marble Arch Caves UGGp (Ireland)  
**Alisa Chen**, Huangshan UGGp P.R. China)  
**Fang Chen**, Danxiashan UGGp (P.R. China)

## 3. WG on Geological Heritage Assessment

**Prof. Ibrahim Komoo**, University Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia)  
**Prof. Xiaochi Jin**, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (P.R. China)  
**Dr. Kristin Rangnes**, Director of Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway)  
**Prof. Setsuya Nakada**, University of Tokyo (Japan)  
**Prof. Zhang Jianping**, University of Geosciences (P.R. China)  
**Dr. Mahito Watanabe**, Geological Survey of Japan  
**Dr. Maurizio Burlando**, Director of Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)  
**Dr. Marie-Luise Frey**, Welterbe Grube Messel gGmbH (Germany)  
**Prof. Patricio Melo**, Universidade Regional do Cariri - URCA Rector (Brazil)  
**Dr. Asier Hilario**, Scientific Coordinator of Basque Coast UGGp (Spain)  
**Dr. Godfrey Nowlan**, Canadian Geological Survey, Canadian National Geopark Committee Chair  
**Soo Jae Lee**, Chief Research Fellow, Korea Environment Institute (Republic of Korea)  
**Prof. João Carlos Carreiro Nunes**, Azores University – Geosciences Department (Portugal)  
**Prof. Alexandrou Andrasanou**, University of Bucharest (Romania)  
**Dr. Guy Martini**, Director of Haute-Provence Geopark (France)  
**Prof. Nickolas Zouros**, University of Aegean (Greece)

## 4. WG on Sustainable Development Goals

**Xiaochi Jin** (P.R. China)  
**Patricio Melo** (Brazil)  
**Jutta Weber** (Germany)  
**Elizabeth Silva** (Portugal)  
**Ibrahim Komoo** (Malaysia)  
**Mustapha Oabbas** (Morocco)  
**Kristin Rangnes** (Norway)

## 5. WG on Tourism

**Maurizio Burlando** (Italy)  
**Carlos Carvalho** (Portugal)  
**Ka Ming Yeung** (Hong Kong – P.R. China)  
**Marie-Luise Frey** (Germany)  
**Mustapha Oabbas** (Morocco)  
**Jane Fullerton** (Canada)

## 6. WG on Education

**Marie-Luise Frey** (Germany)  
**Jianping Zhang** (P.R. China)  
**Jose Maria Barerra** (Spain)  
**Patricio Melo** (Brazil)

## 7. WG on Island Geoparks

Coordinator: **Kazuhiro Nobe** – Oki islands UNESCO Global Geopark  
 GGN Executive Board: **Nickolas Zouros** and **Ibrahim Komoo**

### Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network

- **Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari**, Langkawi UGGp (Malaysia)
- **Yongmun Jeon**, Jeju Island UGGp (Korea)
- **Kazuhiro Nobe**, Oki Islands UGGp (Japan)
- **Alireza Amrikazemi**, Qeshm Island UGGp (Iran)

### European Geoparks Network

- **Giannis Spilanis**, Lesvos Island UGGp (Greece)
- **Rory Tallack**, Shetlands UGGp (UK)
- **João Carlos Nunes**, Azores UGGp (Portugal)
- **Sara Brit**, Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UGGp (Spain)

## II.8.3. GGN Communication Committee

The GGN Communication Committee was established in order to support coordination of the different communication tools

The Communication Committee is composed by:

**Nickolas Zouros** GGN President  
**Guy Martini** GGN General Secretary  
**Burlando Maurizio**, Italy GGN Calendar of Events  
**Duarte Antonio**, Portugal EGN Newsletter  
**Furusawa Kana**, Japan APGN Information Dissemination  
**Irazabal Diego**, Uruguay South America  
**Korbely Barnabas**, Hungary EGN Progress Reporting  
**Lemon Kirstin**, Ireland EGN Social Networks  
**Mpsios Dimitris**, Greece GGN Association Website  
**Ramsey Tony**, UK EGN Magazine  
**Li Sun**, China Social Networks  
**Watanabe Mahito**, Japan GGN Annual Reports  
**Waters Sara**, Canada North America  
**Weber Jutta**, Germany EGN Newsletter  
**Yuan Zheng**, China GGN Website and GGN Newsletter



## II.9. GGN Communication Tools

The GGN developed a variety of communication tools in order to facilitate the communication between the GGN Executive Board and the GGN Members as well as the coordination of the GGN activities and events. The GGN communication tools are the following:

### A. GGN NewsFeed

The GGN Executive Board established regular communication with GGN members through the GGN NewsFeed, which had monthly and special issues.

For this reason the regular update of the GGN member contact and communication data is necessary. There is a regular edition of the GGN NewsFeed every month as well as Special Editions for the Important Events as the participation in International Tourism fairs, important events, etc.

The GGN Newsfeed is also distributed to the GGN members.

### B. GGN Calendar of Events

The GGN Calendar of Events disseminates information on future Geoparks' meetings to support visibility of GGN events and avoid overlapping among GGN events. During COVID-19 pandemic period of time no face to face events and meetings have been organised.

### C. GGN websites

The GGN operated the GGN Association website [www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org) which works in close relation with the GGN website operated by the GGN office in CAGS – Beijing ([www.globalgeoparks.org](http://www.globalgeoparks.org)). It avoids duplication of the information by presenting mainly the Association's activities while the UGG's activities will be presented by the Beijing website.

The new GGN promotional website [www.visitgeoparks.org](http://www.visitgeoparks.org) was launched in 2020. The main aim 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.

The GGN asked members for contribution to make the webpage more effective in disseminating the information and raise every Geopark's profile by sending information, photos and videos of every Geopark and its activities.

### D. GGN presence in Social Media - GGN page in Facebook

All geoparks can use the GGN page in Facebook to promote their news and activities.

### E. GGN map

The Global Geoparks Network during the period 2019 – 2021 published three editions of the GGN Map for the years 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. The GGN Map is the annual GGN publication on the occasion of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks. GGN Map is circulated during the UNESCO General Assembly and distributes to all GGN members, tourism fairs, GGN Meetings and Conferences etc. Main target of the GGN map is the common presentation of all UNESCO Global Geoparks. This new GGN Map for the years 2021/2022 has included the new UNESCO Global Geoparks and now presents all 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 44 countries.

### F. GGN brochure

The GGN published the GGN Brochure in 2019 (Issue 3) which included the updated information on GGN activities as well as the new GGN Institutional Members - UNESCO Global Geoparks.

It was distributed at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which was held in Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark but also in Tourism Fairs, journalists, GGN meetings and events.



### G. GGN Newsletter

The GGN Newsletter, is the official magazine of GGN, published by the GGN Office in CAGS Beijing significantly improved in article quality and representativeness and includes articles covering the Geoparks' activities worldwide.

The following issues have been published during the last years:

- GGN Newsletter (2018/3)
- GGN Newsletter (2019/1)
- GGN Newsletter (2019/2)
- GGN Newsletter (2020/1)
- GGN Newsletter (2020/2)
- GGN Newsletter (2020/3)
- GGN Newsletter (2021/1)

The GGN members are encouraged to send their articles on their activities.

### H. GGN Promotional Video

The promotional video "UNESCO Global Geoparks – Territories of Resilience" was a special message from the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board to all the UNESCO Global Geoparks on April 22, 2020 during the celebration of the International EARTH Day.

The following promotional videos have also been prepared for the promotion of the Global Geoparks Network and its activities:

- VisitGeoparks.org – The new promotional website
- The Global Geoparks Network at ITB Berlin 2019

The GGN promotional videos have been uploaded to the GGN website:

[https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page\\_id=2934](https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=2934)

The GGN encourages the presentation of GGN activities in the Internet through videos and will continue to produce similar promotional videos in the future.



# CHAPTER III. UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

The GGN is the partner of UNESCO for the “UNESCO Global Geoparks” with an important role in its operation:

1. GGN proposes 12 individuals members to the UNESCO Geoparks Council
2. Is an ex-officio member to the UNESCO Geoparks Council
3. Participates ex-officio to the UNESCO Geoparks Bureau
4. Forms a pool of Experts for Geopark Evaluations and Revalidations
5. Collaborates with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section for the realisation of the Geoparks’ Field Evaluations and Revalidations
6. Provides annual financial support to UNESCO by a donation of US\$ 1,000 per Geopark (for the current number of UGG’s) for Global Geopark activities.
7. Facilitates networking and cooperation among all the recognized UNESCO Global Geoparks
8. Organizes meetings, capacity building and promotional activities.

## III.1 Contribution and Participation in UNESCO Global Geoparks programme operation

The GGN facilitated the duties of the GGN according to the IGGP statutes, with a series of actions aiming the improvement of the effectiveness of the UNESCO Global Geoparks functioning as described below:

- The GGN President, Nickolas Zouros, participates in the Annual meetings of the UNESCO Global Geopark Council for the revaluation and revalidation report assessment, as well as to various decisions of the Council made through electronic communication. UNESCO Global Geoparks Council adopted the new UNESCO Global Geoparks documents regarding the evaluation and revalidation Doc A templates and self evaluation check list for aspiring Geoparks.
- The GGN President, Nickolas Zouros, participates in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau which is responsible for the nomination of the Evaluators for the Geoparks’ Evaluation and Revalidation missions. UNESCO Global Geopark Bureau decisions regarding the function of the UNESCO Global Geoparks made through electronic communication.
- The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section facilitated the organization of the Geoparks’ Evaluation and Revalidation missions.
- The GGN provided to UNESCO Global Geoparks special Account the financial support during 2019, 2020 and 2021 for Geopark activities.
- The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section launched in 2019 the call for hosts of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

## III.2. Contribution to the management of the Roster of Evaluators

The Roster of evaluators is one of the duties of the Global Geoparks Network according to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Operational Guidelines.

The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section launched in 2019 a new call for the enrichment of the Roster of Geoparks’ evaluators.

The received applications were assessed with the criteria and the Roster served for the Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation missions.

### CRITERIA FOR INSCRIPTION

Each evaluator should fulfil at least two of the criteria below:

- Be a manager or have a coordinating role in a “green card” holding UNESCO Global Geopark for at least 4 years.
- Have combined and proven professional experience relevant to UNESCO Global Geopark development (in at least three of the following areas: geological heritage, geological conservation, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, environmental issues, community engagement, and public communication of geoscience) for at least 5 years.
- Be a current member of the former Global Geoparks Bureau, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) – Advisory Committee, and/or European Geoparks Network (EGN) – Advisory Committee.

## III.3. New UNESCO Global Geoparks

### NEW UNESCO Global Geoparks 2019

The UNESCO Executive Board during its 206 EX/7 on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 unanimously endorsed the decisions made by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council during its third meeting during the International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, in Madonna di Campiglio in September 2019 and decided to nominate, as listed below, 11 UNESCO Global Geoparks (8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and the extension of three existing UNESCO Global Geoparks - more than 10% of the existing area) for the period 2019-2022:

- Colca y Volcanes de Andagua (Peru)
- Courel Mountains (Spain)
- Funiushan (P.R. China) - major extension
- Imbabura (Ecuador)
- Jiuhuashan (P.R. China)
- Kütralkura (Chile)
- Sanqingshan (P.R. China) - major extension
- Taishan (P.R. China) - major extension
- Trollfjell (Norway)
- Vis Archipelago (Croatia)
- Yimengshan (P.R. China)

**Thus in 2019 there were 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 41 countries.**

# 2019



Colca y Volcanes de Andagua (Peru)



Courel Mountains (Spain)



Funiushan (P.R. China)



Imbabura (Ecuador)



Jiuhuashan (P.R. China)



Kütralkura (Chile)



Sanqingshan (P.R. China)



Taishan (P.R. China)



Trollfjell (Norway)

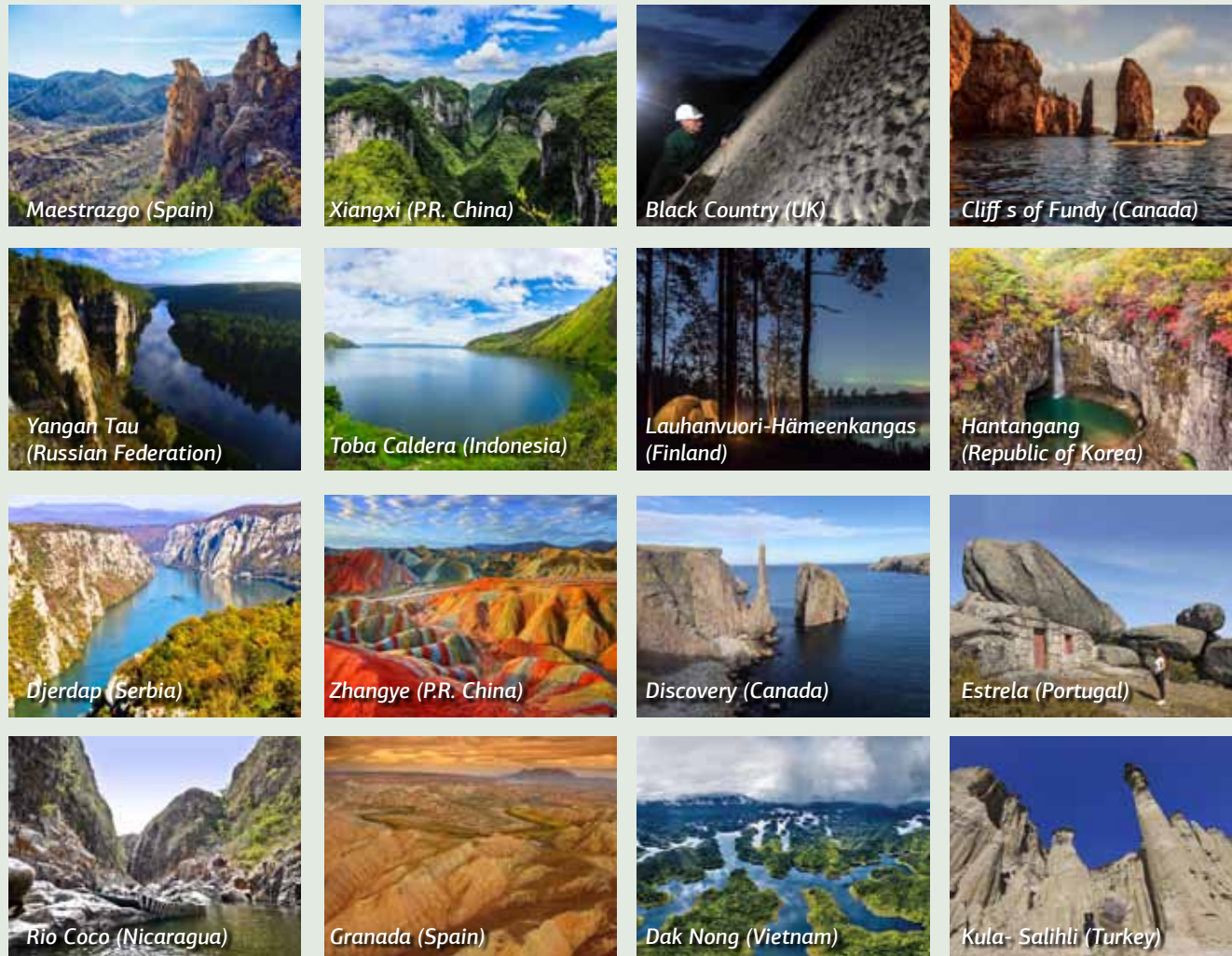


Vis Archipelago (Croatia)



Yimengshan (P.R. China)





**NEW UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020**

The UNESCO Executive Board during its 209 EX/5.I.E on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 unanimously endorsed the decisions made by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council during its 4th session in Gili Trawangan Island, Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia, in September 2019 and decided to nominate, as listed below, 15 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and the extension of one existing UNESCO Global Geopark (more than 10% of the existing area) for the period 2020-2023:

- Maestrazgo (Spain)
- Xiangxi (P.R. China)
- Black Country (UK)
- Cliff s of Fundy (Canada)
- Yangan Tau (Russian Federation)
- Toba Caldera (Indonesia)
- Lauhanvuori-Hämeenkangas (Finland)
- Hantangang (Republic of Korea)
- Djerdap (Serbia)
- Zhangye (P.R. China)
- Discovery (Canada)
- Estrela (Portugal)
- Rio Coco (Nicaragua)
- Granada (Spain)
- Dak Nong (Vietnam)
- Kula- Salihli (Turkey) - major extension

**Thus in 2020 there were 161 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries.**

2020

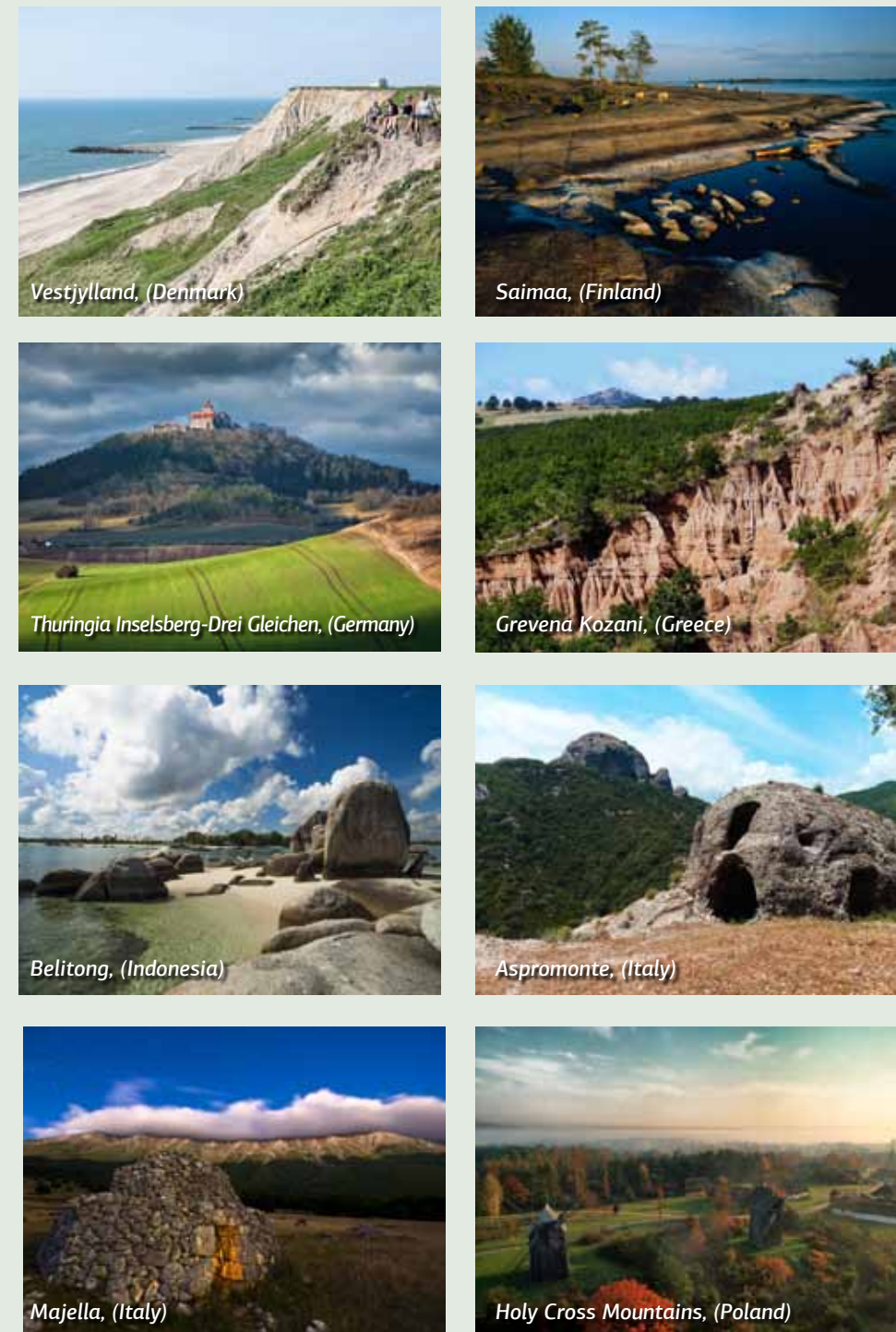
**NEW UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021**

The UNESCO Executive Board during its 211 EX/8 on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 unanimously endorsed the decisions made by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council during its fifth virtually meeting in December 2020 and decided to nominate, as listed below, 8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks for the period 2021-2024:

- Vestjylland, (Denmark)
- Saimaa, (Finland)
- Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen, (Germany)
- Grevena Kozani, (Greece)
- Belitong, (Indonesia)
- Aspromonte, (Italy)
- Majella, (Italy)
- Holy Cross Mountains, (Poland)

**Thus since 2021 there are 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries.**

2021





### III.4. UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANTS

#### A. UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT for Geoparks in Africa and Arab States

UNESCO in collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network, have developed the “UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT for Geoparks in Africa and Arab States”.

From 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks, spread over 44 countries worldwide, only two are based in Africa (Morocco and Tanzania). For this reason UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section and the Global Geoparks Network have worked on a strategic approach to increase the interest, knowledge and capacity on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa.

With this grant, UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network offer consultancy service including a detailed assessment of the potential of the site, a needs assessment, an on-site mission by two GGN experts for 10 days and further on-line assistance with the preparation of the application to become a UNESCO Global Geopark to a number of potential Geopark projects.

The first call for applications closed on April 30th, 2021 and now is open the second call which will close on April 30th, 2022.

Further information: <http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=5131>

#### B. UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT for Geoparks in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

In order to encourage and support local authorities and communities, in this part of the world, for the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks candidatures, the GGN in close collaboration with UNESCO launched, in 2021, a new initiative “UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT for Geoparks in Small Island Developing States”.

UNESCO and the GGN call on all Small Island Developing States initiatives to take advantage of this grant and the knowledge and experience of more than 20 years of building and managing Geoparks all around the globe and all together work for the benefit of our local communities and our planet.

With this grant, UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network offer consultancy service including a detailed assessment of the potential of the site, a needs assessment, an on-site mission by two GGN experts for 10 days and further on-line assistance with the preparation of the application to become a UNESCO Global Geopark to a number of potential Geopark projects.



## CHAPTER IV. NEW INITIATIVES

### IV.1. 1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section decided at its 63rd Meeting which took place in Beijing (October 2019) the establishment of a the initiative “UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM”.

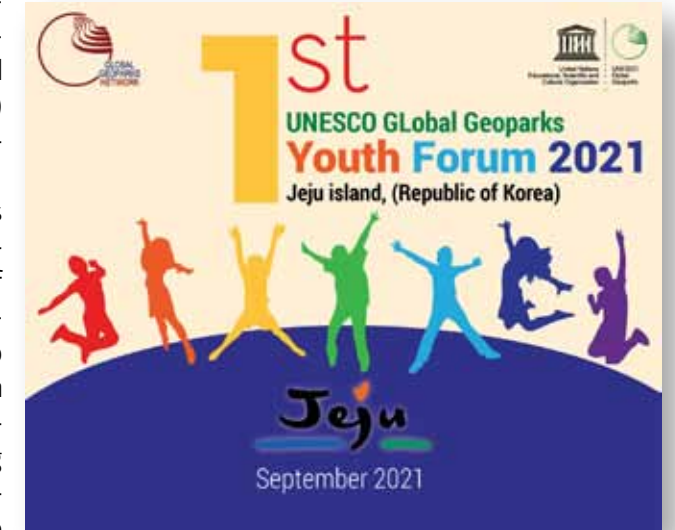
The main purpose of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM is to offer young people an opportunity to engage more concretely in the preparation of the philosophy mandate and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, elaborate their contribution to the debates of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and foster their commitment to the realization of the future they want, being actors of change in their territories. They will elaborate their proposal for actions contributing to the UNESCO Global Geoparks strategic framework for action 2021-2025, to address heritage protection, natural hazards mitigation, climate change and sustainable development.

The 1st Assembly of the YOUTH FORUM will take place in parallel with the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will take place in Jeju island, Republic of Korea in 15th of December 2021.

Each Country hosting UNESCO Global Geoparks will be represented in the GGN YOUTH FORUM with youth delegates engaged with UNESCO Global Geoparks that believe in their power of making changes and aim to become influential within their communities.

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section during 2021 also announced the financial support for the one representative of each country that hosts at least one UNESCO Global Geopark in case of face to face forum to the 1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM in Jeju Island.

The Operational Guidelines of the YOUTH FORUM have been agreed at the 64th Global Geoparks Network Executive Board meeting on December 10th, 2019.



### IV.2. 1st Global Geopark Network Film Festival

The 1st Global Geoparks Network Film festival will be organized digitally during the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks from 12th to 16th December 2021.

The 1st Global Geoparks Network Film Festival received an overwhelming and positive response by the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Aspiring Geoparks.

62 of the videos from 27 countries fulfill the rules of the 1st Global Geoparks Network Film Festival and they are in competition. The selected videos can be viewed in following link:

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

The videos in competition were assessed by four jury members coming from France, UK, China and Germany (<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/jury>).





# CHAPTER V. GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK ACTIVITIES

During the last three years (September 2018 – December 2021) a variety of activities was carried out by the Global Geopark Network, its Regional Networks as well as the GGN Working Groups.

From January 2020 to December 2021 all face to face activities were canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Despite the challenges posed by this unprecedented crisis, Global Geoparks Network continued its activities and support to Geoparks, devising new digital ways in the context of containment measures.

The main aim of the Geopark activities was to raise the Geopark profile and promote Geoparks as tools for geological heritage protection and promotion and sustainable development of the local communities. Big challenging for the Global Geoparks Network during the COVID-19 pandemic period of time was the need of communicate, network and collaborate and keep the network alive.

The Global Geopark Network during the last three years organized face to face and digital activities like International Conferences and Capacity building activities on UNESCO Global

Geoparks, participated in International Tourism Fairs and Events, established common celebration of International days, organized International Press Conferences, produced and operated a variety of communication tools and promoted Geoparks as safe sustainable tourism destinations.

## V.1. The pre COVID-19 period activities (September 2018 – December 2019)

### V.1.1. 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (11 - 14 September 2018)



The 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks organized by Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark management body and staff as well as an impressive number of volunteers and was one of the most successful organizations of the Global Geoparks Network ever.

With 850 participants coming from 46 countries and more than 250 scientific presentations, the Conference gave the opportunity to Global Geopark representatives and Geopark professionals to discuss examples of best practice in Geoparks operation and management, in networking and collaboration among Geoparks and in building stronger and more effective partnerships and collaborations. At the same time it gave the opportunity to many colleagues coming from Aspiring Geoparks to present their efforts for the establishment of new Geoparks worldwide.

The impact of the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is reflected not only to the impressive number of the participants coming all over the globe but also to the broad publicity locally as well as in many countries in Europe and the world.

During the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks also organised the:

- 2nd Ordinary General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network
- 2nd Session of the Advisory Committee of the Global Geoparks Network
- GGN Best Practice Awards 2018 event.

### V.1.2. Regional Geoparks Conferences



#### A. 6th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network APGN Symposium (1 - 6 September 2019)

The 6th Asian Pacific Geopark Symposium took place in Rinjani Lombok UNESCO Global Geoparks, Indonesia. The theme of the 6th APGN focused on “UNESCO Global Geoparks Contributing for Sustaining Local Communities and Reducing Geohazard Risk”. 600 participants had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas.

During the Symposium presented examples of best practice in Geoparks operation and management, in networking and collaboration among Geoparks and in building stronger and more effective partnerships and collaborations.

Parallel to the 6th APGN Symposium the 3rd UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluator’s Seminar took place on September 5th, 2019.

#### B. 15th European Geoparks Conference (23 - 27 September 2019)

The 15th EUROPEAN GEOPARKS CONFERENCE was organised by Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain and was held from 23 to 27 September 2019. The slogan chosen for this conference was “Memory of Earth, future for people”, focusing on the Sustainable Development of Geoparks and Protected Nature Areas.

A total of near 400 participants attended the conference, coming from 28 European countries (90%) and also from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay and USA.

During the conference 119 oral presentations and 33 posters were presented in the Three Mediterranean Cultures Foundation in Seville.

The 15th European Geopark Conference prove to be excellent opportunity for all Geopark representatives to meet and exchange ideas and information.

Parallel to the Conference a set of other relevant events and initiatives took place as:

- The EGN Advisory Committee Meeting, on 23rd September
- The 4th Seminar of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluators on 23rd September
- The 44th meeting of the European Geopark Network’s Coordination Committee.





**C. 2nd Regional Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean (21 - 25 October 2019)**



The 2nd Regional Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean held in Colombia, organized by the aspiring UGGp Nevado del Ruiz, Colombia in collaboration with UNESCO – Montevideo Office. The UNESCO and GGN supported the event which attended around 100 participants from 20 Countries.

UNESCO Global Geoparks representatives and representatives from Aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks (Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, etc) took part in the meeting, exchange experiences and discussed the future development of the Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean region.

**D. AFRICAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK - Fundatory Declaration for the creation of the African UNESCO Global Geopark Network (22 November 2019)**

The UNESCO and GGN supported the event which held on 22th November 2019, during the 2nd National symposium of Morocco Geological Heritage held in Rabat (Morocco), for the signing of the Fundatory Declaration for the creation of the African UNESCO Global Geopark Network between M’Goun UGGp (Morocco) and Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania).

The signing ceremony, a real historic event for the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa, took place with the presence of His Excellency Mr Aziz RABBAH, Minister of Energy, Mines and Environment of Morocco, the UNESCO representative (Mr Mohammed ALAOUI, UNESCO Rabat), the UNESCO Global Geopark Council Chair (Dr Guy MARTINI) and the representatives of the Global Geoparks Network and all its regional Global Geopark Networks (Prof Nickolas ZOUROS, GGN President, Dr Kristin RAGNES, EGN Coordinator, Prof Ibrahim KOMOO, APGN Vice-Coordinator, Prof Patricio MELO, GeoLAC Vice-Coordinator).

This declaration opens the path to the creation of this new and necessary Regional Global Geoparks Network in Africa which will be officially launched during the 1st African UNESCO Global Geoparks International Conference which will be held in Tanzania.



**Fundatory Declaration for the creation of the African UNESCO Global Geopark Network between M’Goun UGGp (Morocco) and Ngorongoro-Lengai UGGp (Tanzania) with the presence of Mr Aziz RABBAH, Minister of Energy, Mines and Environment of Morocco, Mr Mohammed ALAOUI, UNESCO Rabat, the UNESCO Global Geopark Council Chair Dr Guy MARTINI, Prof Nickolas ZOUROS, GGN President, Dr Kristin RAGNES, EGN Coordinator, Prof Ibrahim KOMOO, APGN Vice-Coordinator, Prof Patricio MELO, GeoLAC Vice-Coordinator.**

**V.1.3. Capacity Building Activities**



**4th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2019 in Langkawi Malaysia (7 - 11 October 2019)**



**5th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development “Earth Heritage Interpretation and Sustainable Development” in Beijing @ Songshan, P.R. China (28 October - 3 November 2019)**

GGN operates or supports training courses and other capacity building activities relevant to the UNESCO Global Geoparks establishment, operation, management and activities.

The GGN Executive Board gave special emphasis to the organization of Courses and Workshops during the last two years in collaboration with UNESCO.

In order to support effectiveness, visibility and participation of the different Geopark capacity building activities the GGN Executive Board find out that it is necessary better preparation and coordination. The GGN Executive Board supported the organization of the following activities:

- 4<sup>th</sup> International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management in Beijing (30 October – 3 November 2018)
- 11th International Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos (31 May - 10 June 2019)
- 4th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2019 in Langkawi Malaysia (7 - 11 October 2019)
- 5th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development “Earth Heritage Interpretation and Sustainable Development” in Beijing & Songshan, P.R. China (28 October - 3 November 2019)

**11th International Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos (31 May - 10 June 2019)**

The 11th International Intensive Course 2019 on “Climate Change Adaptation and Geo-hazard Risk Mitigation case studies” held from 31st of May to 10th June 2019. The course gathered 31 participants from 19 countries, geopark executives, tourism officials, local government officials, university professors, doctoral candidates, scientists working with Geoparks and designing or implementing innovative actions to manage and promote geological heritage.



The Intensive Course was attended by participants from many different countries, including: North Korea, North Macedonia, Brazil, France, Germany, Ecuador, Italy, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Faeroe Islands, Russia, Serbia, the Tanzania, Chile and Greece.

During the Intensive Course, the participants attended lectures by internationally renowned scientists and experts, who presented good practices on Climate Change Adaptation and Geo-hazard Risk Mitigation case studies, the procedures of becoming and operating successful Geoparks, the evaluation and revalidation procedure as well as the guide lines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Participants visited the protected area of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, the geosites and the natural and cultural sites of Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark.





## V.1.4. Presentation and Promotion of Geoparks in International Tourism Market

The GGN Executive Board Members in collaboration with the Regional Geopark Networks, and GGN members made special efforts to raise Geopark's visibility in the International Tourism Market and for the promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destination.

### V.1.4.1. Participation in Tourism Fairs & preparation

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board with the support of the GGN Working Group on Tourism organized the participation of GGN with stand in International Tourism fairs. GGN and UNESCO Global Geoparks were presented in the following international events:

#### A. International Tourism fair Madrid – FITUR Madrid 2019 (23 - 26 January 2019)

The presence of the GGN stand and activities in FITUR 2019 was very successful and contributed significantly to our common efforts to raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as quality brand holders and sustainable tourism destinations.

Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark in Portugal and Carlos Neto de Carvalho of the GGN Working Group on Tourism, had the coordination of the Geoparks stand in FITUR with the support of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum and its Coordinator Asier Hilario.

The Geopark Stand was located at the Pavilion 4 – EUROPE, emphasizing the role of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations in 25 European Countries.

The presence in Fitur jointly organized by Naturtejo, Villuercas Ibores Jara, Basque Coast, Sobrarbe, Central Catalonia, Lanzarote and Las Loras UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Other Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks were visible through their National and Provincial stands like Azores in the stand of Portugal, Troodos in the stand of Cyprus, as well as some Chinese Geoparks in the Pavilion of P.R. China and Mixteca Alta UGGp was represented in the Oaxaca region at the Mexico Pavilion. The stand was visited by many professionals during the Fair like the General Secretaries of Tourism of Portugal, Greece and Spain.

The following common promotional materials were distributed from the GGN stand during FITUR 2019: The UGG / GGN map, the GGN Brochure – 36pages magazine, the GGN Newsletter, the EGN Magazine.

#### B. International Tourism Fair Berlin – ITB Berlin 2019 (6 - 10 March 2019)

The GGN booth at ITB (Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel - Responsible Tourism) presented under the same umbrella the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and the activities of the Global Geoparks Network - GGN, APGN and EGN.

The GGN booth was coordinated by Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark together with Messel Pit WHS and the Global Geopark partners.

The GGN stand gave special emphasis to the presentation of the collaboration projects and activities between Geoparks which help to disseminate best practices and the creation of new tools in communication and geoproducts.

The GGN for the first time published a catalogue of Tourist packages for the Geoparks present in the GGN Booth, including the offer of 13 geoparks. We hope that we can develop this practice for the Network and



present soon a comprehensive catalogue with the Geopark's tourist offer.

23 Geoparks were present at the GEOPARKS booth with staff and promotional material presenting their geotourism offer. For the first time Geopark from Malaysia (Langkawi) was present in ITB – Geoparks stand together with 23 Geoparks from Europe and Messel Pit.

Several other UNESCO Global Geoparks were present in ITB 2019 in association with their National/Regional Tourism Organizations or with Individual Stands.



#### C. International Tourism fair Madrid – FITUR Madrid 2020 (22-26 January 2020)

The Geoparks stand and the Geoparks promotional activities in FITUR 2020, one of the biggest tourism fairs in the world, were very successful also this year

Geopark's presentation in FITUR contributed significantly to our common efforts to raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as quality brand in tourism and sustainable tourism destinations!

The Geopark Stand was located at the Pavilion 4 – EUROPE, emphasizing the role of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations in 25 European Countries.

The promotion in FITUR 2020 jointly organised by the colleagues from Naturtejo - Portugal, Villuercas Ibores Jara, Basque Coast, Central Catalonia, Las Loras and Cured mountains UNESCO Global Geoparks – Spain, Mixteca Alta UGGp Mexico and Qeshm UGGp Iran.

The stand was visited by many professionals during the Fair. Among the high profile visitors was the General Secretary of Tourism of Portugal Mrs. Rita Marques, accompanied by Mr Luís Araújo, President of Tourism of Portugal, the President of the Regional Tourism Entity Centro de Portugal. They were welcomed by the President of Naturtejo Geopark Armindo Jacinto and the President of GGN Prof. N. Zouros.

Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks got an important achievement during the last international tourism fair FITUR. The Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum was invited to present the UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Spanish Geoparks in the Spanish Tourism Organization TURESPAÑA pavilion.

TURESPAÑA is the national agency for the international promotion of Spanish touristic destinations worldwide.

## V.1.5. GGN Presentation and Promotion in International Conferences and Meetings

The GGN Executive Board Members in collaboration with the Regional Geopark Networks, National Fora/Committees, and GGN members made special efforts for the presentation International Conferences and Meetings of GGN and the UNESCO Global Geoparks as well as the activities and achievements of the Global Geoparks in geoconservation, education, geotourism and sustainable development.





## V.1.6. Celebrating United Nations International Days to raise profile of the UNESCO Global Geoparks



UNESCO Global Geoparks need visibility through communication activities to rise their profile as territories of excellence hosting geological heritage sites of international importance, as sustainable tourism destinations, as learning territories promoting sustainability in social and economic development, as hidden treasures to visit, explore, discover and live!

On October 13th several UNESCO Global Geoparks organized events in the frame of a common campaign for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The variety of events coordinated by the GGN Geo-hazard Working Group included public talks, activities with schools or other groups, implementation of educational programs, small exhibitions and other action.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated the International Mountain Day by a campaign through social media to promote their role in raising social interest on mountains and in revitalizing mountainous communities through geotourism activities. The majority of the

UNESCO Global Geoparks lie on mountainous territories. Yet mountains are under threat from climate change, land degradation, over exploitation and natural disasters, with potentially far-reaching and devastating consequences, both for mountain communities and the rest of the world.

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board encourages UNESCO Global Geoparks to celebrate jointly under common campaigns UN International Days in 2018 aiming to gain further support to their activities and promote the values of Earth heritage protection and sustainable local development.

The GGN will organized the common campaign for the promotion of the activities using the GGN promotional tools through internet.

### 1. International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October 2018)

UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated the 13th October 2018, the International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction.

The 2018 theme was focused on reducing economic losses from disasters and the associated human costs. Economic loss and health impacts of disasters are closely connected from the personal to the global levels at all UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Many activities were organized by UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the Globe.

### 2. International Mountain Day 2018 (11 December 2018)

**The Global Geoparks Network** celebrated the International Mountain Day on 11th December 2018 and asked all Geopark management bodies, partners and stakeholders to join the campaign and promote the role of Mountains for our planet and our communities. The theme for the 2018 year was “Mountains matter”.

**The Global Geoparks Network** encouraged everyone to share why mountains are important to them across all social media platforms. Through social media with the hashtag “#MountainsMatter” shared many stories by UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the world. The even brought the importance of mountains to the attention of policy makers increasing the level of conversation about the protection and conservation of mountains, the people, animals, and environments that mountain spaces support.



### 3. International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October 2019)

The 2019 theme of the International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction was “Build to Last” and the goal is the promotion of the global target D of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: “Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and education facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.”

Many activities were organized by UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the Globe.

### 4. International Mountain Day 2019 (11 December 2019)

The Global Geoparks Network celebrated the International Mountain day 2019 and organised a campaign in order to promote the role of Mountains for our planet and our communities. The theme of the 2019 International Mountain Day was “Mountains matter for Youth”.

According to the United Nations “The 2019 International Mountain Day’s theme was a great opportunity for young generations to take the lead and request that mountains and mountain peoples become central in the national and international development agendas, receive more attention, investments and tailored research.”

**UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the globe** and especially youth joined the campaign and the conversation on social media, shared stories about the reality of living in the mountains as a young person.





## V.2. The COVID-19 period of activities (January 2020 - December 2021)

### V.2.1. GGN NEW INITIATIVE: Preparing our Common Future

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board during its first meeting for the year 2021 discussed the situation of the pandemic. As COVID-19 pandemic is still here they launched the initiative “Our thoughts and vision for the Future”.

With this imitative Global Geoparks Network called UNESCO Global Geoparks to promote their good news, positive stories and dreams for the future through the GGN communication platforms and tools in order to provide hope, to encourage all the other Geopark’s colleagues and Youths around the globe and to inspire local communities to overpass the crisis.

### V.2.2. New GGN promotional website

#### A. The new GGN video platform to promote Geoparks’ Film Festival

The Global Geoparks Network created a new video platform (<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/>) in order to host the UNESCO Global Geoparks promotional videos for the 1st GGN Film festival, a new GGN initiative.

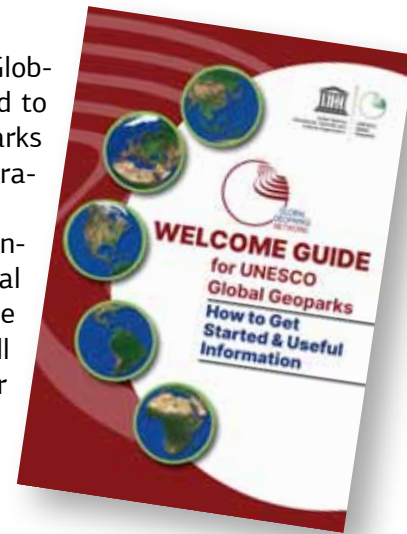
The first edition of the GGN Film festival will be organized during the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held in Jeju Island in December 2021.

The 1st 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.

### V.2.3. The new publication “WELCOME GUIDE FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS”

The “WELCOME GUIDE for UNESCO Global Geoparks” published by the Global Geoparks Network in January 2021. This guidebook has been designed to guide the new Geoparks through their initial steps as new Global Geoparks Network Institutional members and to familiarise them with the administrative issues of the GGN.

This new publication provides to new UNESCO Global Geoparks useful information on how a can start as a new Institutional member of the Global Geoparks Network and how to continue, stay informed and connected. The “WELCOME GUIDE for UNESCO Global Geoparks” is also circulated to all GGN Institutional members for their information and in order to guide their new employs.



### V.2.4. Participation in the ITB Berlin (9 - 12 March 2021)

The GGN Executive Board taking into account the positive results of the Geoparks’ presence in the International Tourism Fairs during the previous years decided the participation of the GGN in the ITB Berlin. Main reason for this decision was the importance to promote the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and prepare our Network for the after the pandemic reopening but also that the UNESCO Global Geoparks stay connected with the tourism markets during this difficult period.

ITB Berlin was holding its 2021 annual international travel trade show as an entirely virtual event under the name ITB Berlin during March 9-12, 2021.

During ITB Berlin the UNESCO Global Geoparks promoted as Sustainable Tourism Destinations and all UNESCO Global Geoparks stakeholders, tourism agencies, local, regional and national politicians, journalists and everybody who is involved in promoting the UNESCO Global Geoparks were invited to participate.



### V.2.5. International Geoparks Conference

A. 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea (11-16 December 2021)

According to the GGN Statutes «The GGN shall hold an International Geoparks Conference every two years”. During the Closing Ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2018 announced that the host of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 is Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea.

The 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks was initially planned to be held in September 2020.

The GGN Executive Board since 2019 discussed issues related with the effective organization of the 9th International Conference and the several meetings. The first official meeting of the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks took place on February 7th 2020 in Jeju Island to review the progress and decided on the nest steps.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the GGN Executive Board together with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section and the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Jeju Island, on its 78th meeting on 8th of July decided to re-schedule the organisation of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks from 9th to 15th September 2021.

Taking into consideration the situation with COVID-19 pandemic the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board together with UNESCO Earth Sciences & Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section and the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Jeju island, on its 101st meeting decided that the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held ON LINE from 11th to 16th of December 2021. It was also decide that all the International and Regional Geoparks Conferences and Meetings already scheduled initially for the period 2020-2022, should be shifted to the period 2021-2023.

The website of the conference: <https://www.jejuggn2020.org/>

#### B. 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2023

The GGN Executive Board in collaboration with the UNESCO Secretariat circulated the Call for Host of the 10th International Conference on Geoparks 2022.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the GGN Executive Board at its 78th meeting on 8th July 2020 and in close collaboration with UNESCO Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction and taking into account the decision for shifting all the physical conferences and events for the period 2020-2022 to the period 2021-2023 decided that the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place in September 2023.

The Host of the 10th International Conference on Geoparks 2023 will be announced during the Closing Ceremony of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in December 2021.

### V.2.6. Digital capacity building activities

#### A. Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 «UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience» (10 - 26 June 2020)

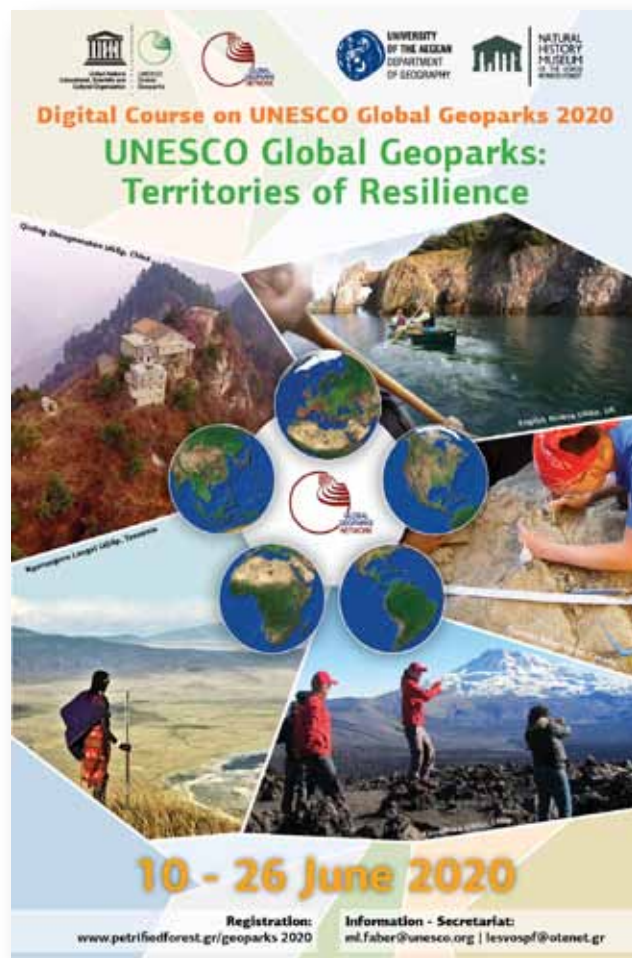
The Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 on “UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience” was co-organised by UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network and with the collaboration of 28 Geopark experts all around the world.

The Course was held from 10th to 26th June, 2020 through the digital platform GoToMeeting.

It was hosted and delivered by the University of the Aegean – Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest at Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, North Aegean Region, Greece.







The Course was attended by 133 participants from 42 different countries, including Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, P.R. China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Zambia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA and Vietnam.

The Intensive Course on Geoparks 2020 focused on UNESCO Global Geoparks as Territories of Resilience.

The course provided the opportunity to the participants to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks can make a real impact in local communities and on society as a whole during COVID-19 pandemic but also provided conceptual issues on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

During the Digital Course, the participants attended lectures by internationally renowned scientists and experts from UNESCO and UNESCO Global Geoparks, who presented good practices on UNESCO Global Geoparks as territories of resilience, the procedures of becoming and operating successful Geoparks, the evaluation and revalidation procedure as well as the guide lines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

#### B. 1st and 2nd DIGITAL FOLLOW UP COURSES – New initiative (31 August 2020 & 2 November 2020)

The new initiative of the FOLLOW UP meetings of the DIGITAL Course on Geoparks involved many of the Senior Experts on Geoparks and it is organized to answer the Aspiring Geoparks questions on UNESCO Global Geoparks and problems they confront in the implementation of the ideas that were shared during the DIGITAL COURSE. Main issues that were discussed connected with better understanding of the UNESCO Global Geoparks concept, procedures, process, networking etc. but also issues related with difficulties/uncertainty that they can meet in their Geopark project.

On Monday 31st of August, 2020 was organised the 1st DIGITAL FOLLOW UP COURSE for discussing with the participants of the Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 «UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience» and the Aspiring Geoparks. The Course was attended 71 participants from 26 countries all around the world.

On Monday 2nd November, 2020 the 2nd FOLLOW UP Meeting of the DIGITAL COURSE on UNESCO Global Geoparks was held for discussing on Geopark building with the participants from the Aspiring Geoparks. The Course was attended by 47 participants from 25 countries all around the world.

#### C. 6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development (7 - 12 December 2020)

The 6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development was organised by the P.R. China University of Geosciences, the Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, the Office of Chinese Geoparks Network, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences with the contribution of the Aegean University, Greece with the support of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), the Department of Protected Area Management, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of P.R. China and the Secretariat of Chinese Commission for UNESCO. The Course was held from 7th to 12th December 2020 and was attracted by more than 100 delegates from UNESCO Global Geoparks, Aspiring Geoparks, technical institutions and related companies. Prof. ZHANG Jianping, P.R. China University of Geosciences, Beijing and Prof. JIN Xiaochi, Institute of Geology, CAGS were the Coordinators of the 6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development.

#### D. Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021 «UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability» (7 – 20 June 2021)

The Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021 on «UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability» was organised with great success from 7th to 20th June, 2021. It was the second course that was organised digitally due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The Course was co-organised by UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network with the collaboration of 40 Geopark experts all around the world.

It was hosted and delivered by the University of the Aegean, the UNESCO Chair on Geoparks and Sustainable Development of insular and coastal areas and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest (Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark – Greece).

It was attended by 250 participants and lecturers from 56 countries all around the globe, including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, P.R. China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam and Zambia.

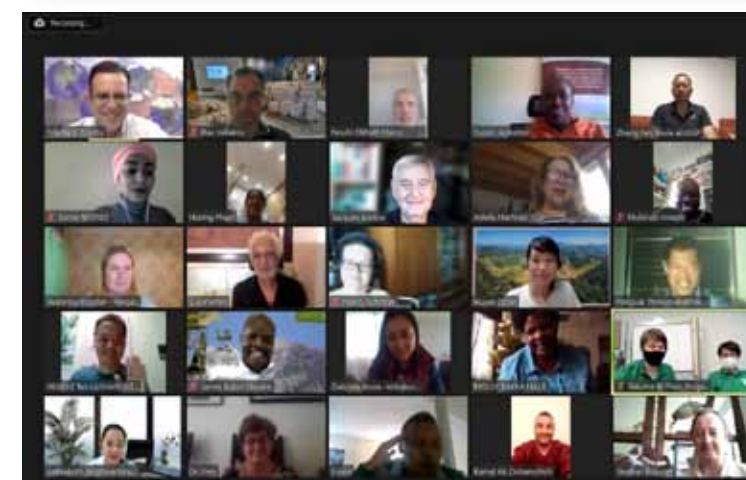
The Course on Geoparks 2021 focused on UNESCO Global Geoparks and their contribution to the Sustainable Development.

The course provided the opportunity to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks can make a real impact in local communities and in the society as a whole during COVID-19 pandemic but also provided conceptual issues on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

During the Digital Course, the participants attended lectures by 40 internationally renowned scientists and experts from UNESCO and UNESCO Global Geoparks, who presented good practices on UNESCO Global Geoparks, the procedures of becoming and operating successful Geoparks, the evaluation and revalidation procedure as well as the guide lines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Participants had also the opportunity to discover good practices examples from Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark through VIRTUAL TOURS.

During the Course the participants had also the opportunity to present their projects connected with UNESCO Global Geoparks and their research work.



#### E. DIGITAL FOLLOW UP COURSE 2021 (17 September 2021)

The new initiative of the FOLLOW UP meetings of the DIGITAL Course on “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability” was held on September 17th 2021. The Course was open to the participants of the Digital Course UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021. During the FOLLOW UP COURSE were discussed issues related with the Digital Course, clarified issues, exchanged ideas and experiences and discussed the participants’ questions.

On the FOLLOW UP course involved many of the Senior Experts on Geoparks who answered the Aspiring Geoparks questions about the problems they confront in the implementation of the ideas that were shared during the DIGITAL COURSE.

The FOLLOW UP course was hosted and delivered by the University of the Aegean, the UNESCO Chair on Geoparks and Sustainable Development of insular and coastal areas and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest (Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geoparks – Greece).



## V.2.7. GGN Digital Forums

### A. 1st GGN DIGITAL FORUM (17 - 18 November 2020)

The 1st GGN DIGITAL FORUM, a global initiative with the aim of exchanging of information and ideas regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks activities and initiatives, was successfully organized on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th November 2020. The coronavirus pandemic caused the postponement of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks but the Network managed to find different ways of continuing communication and networking and managed to organise a very large event with participants worldwide.

The large number of speakers and participants, as well as the great number of UNESCO Global Geoparks that attended the Forum, show that the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network is one of the most active Networks throughout the pandemic, which managed with great success to implement and support a variety of actions and events for the benefit of the local community but also managed successfully to communicate and exchange knowledge and good practices.

The first day of the Forum was open only by the members of the Network and was attended by 242 participants and 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 41 countries all around the world. During the first day was discussed all the internal issues related with the GGN. The event opened with the welcome speeches and greetings by Nickolas Zouros, Global Geoparks Network President, Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Science and Geohazard Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and Guy Martini, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair.

Nickolas Zouros and Guy Martini presented the report on GGN Activities for the period September 2018 – November 2020 with emphasis on the activities during the period of COVID-19 pandemic and the Geopark's initiatives as 'Territories of Resilience'

During the third session connected with the GGN Operation discussed the results of the 6th Annual General Assembly for Accounts and presented the activities of the GGN Regional Geopark Networks by Jin Xiaochi (APGN), Kristin Rangnes (EGN), Patricio Melo (GEOLAC), John Calder (Canada) and Africa by Driss Achbal (M'Goun UGGp) and Joshua Mwankunda (Ngorongoro UGGp).

The first day closed with the presentation of all the latest information concerning the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held in September 2021 in Jeju island which was given by Yongmun Jeon, representative of the Organising Committee of the Conference.

On the second day of the Forum, the requests for participation in the event exceeded the ability of the digital platform to host such a large number of participants. The session was open to GGN Members and also to UNESCO National Commission Representatives. The second session was attended by the 279 participants and 120 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 50 countries all around the world.

During the 2nd session of the GGN Digital Forum on 18th November discussed issues related to UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme. The event started with greetings by the UNESCO and the introductory presentation "UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme - Activity report and Geopark Field Missions 2020-21" given by Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Science and Geohazard Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme.

Guy Martini, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair presented the new Check List Document and Explanatory Note and Nickolas Zouros, GGN President presented the new Evaluation Document A – Geopark Quality Assessment. Ozlem Adiyaman, UNESCO, IGCP Secretariat presented the IGCP Programme and Geoheritage related activities at UNESCO.

Both of the two sessions closed with very interesting questions by the participants and discussion.

### B. 2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM (23 - 24 February 2021)

The 2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM was successfully held on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th February 2021. During the forum were given 37 presentations by GGN members all around the globe, exchanged information, ideas and best practices regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks activities and initiatives.

During the first day of the forum which was open only to the members of the Network were discussed all



the internal issues related with the GGN. The event opened with the welcome speeches and greetings by Nickolas Zouros, Global Geoparks Network President, Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and Guy Martini, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair.

Kristof Vandenberghe presented the latest news on the UNESCO Global Geoparks programme.

Nickolas Zouros and Guy Martini presented the report on GGN Activities for the period since the 1st GGN Digital Forum and send a call to all the GGN members to participate in the future common activities of the Network such as the initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience", the 1st Film Festival, the 1st Youth Forum, the celebration of International Days.

Kristin Rangnes, GGN Treasurer reported on the 2020 financial accounts and the 2021 GGN budget but also the situation with the GGN annual Membership Fees.

During the next session presented the activities of the GGN Regional Geoparks Networks by Jin Xiaochi (APGN), Kristin Rangnes (EGN), Patricio Melo (GeoLAC), John Calder (Canada) and Africa by Driss Achbal (M'Goun UGGp) and Rama Khatibu (Ngorongoro UGGp).

Yongmun Jeon, representative of the Organising Committee of the Conference informed the participants about the latest news concerning the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and presented their three plans for the organisation of the Conference according to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The first day closed with the presentation of latest activities of the seven very active GGN Working Groups. Babbis Fassoulas presented the activities of the GGN Working Group on Geo-Hazards, Setsuya Nakada of the GGN Working Group on Volcanic Areas, Ibrahim Komoo of the Working Group on Geological Heritage Assessment, Marie - Luise Frey of the Working group on Tourism, Jose Maria Barrera of the GGN Working group on Education, Xiaochi Jin of the Working group on Sustainable Development Goals and Kazuhiro Nobe of the GGN Working group on Island Geoparks.

The second day, the Forum was dedicated to the vision and the priorities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks for the future in the "World after" and was open to GGN Members, the aspiring Geoparks and to UNESCO National Commission Representatives.

The forum started with a welcome of the participants by Nickolas Zouros.

The next session was dedicated to the new UNESCO and GGN initiative "Geoparks for Africa" which presented by Guy Martini and Kristof Vandenberghe.

The presentation on UNESCO Global Geoparks in the "World after" and the vision for the future was given by Guy Martini. Nickolas Zouros then discussed the main component of his proposal on the Climate Change roadmap.

During the next session of the 2nd GGN Digital Forum presented the best practices of 17 UNESCO Global Geoparks on the following specific topics of the "World after":

- Water Resources (Vesa Krökki - Rokua UGGp, Tran Tan Van - Dong Van Karst Plateau UGGp)
- Marine Environment (Rosana Mega Gatimah - Cilethu-Palabuhanratu UGGp, Alireza Almicazem - Qeshm Island UGGp)
- Sustainable Tourism/Sustainable Development (Carlos Merizalde - Imbabura UGGp, Li Yunquian - Yanqing UGGp, Carol Glesson - Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGGp, Narongrit Thongprue & Nattinee Sripeth - Satun UGGp)
- Visibility (Pal Thomae - Magma UGGp, Melanie Border - English Riviera UGGp)
- Indigenous populations (Rama Khatibu - Ngorongoro-Lengai UGGp, Jose Luis Palacio - Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UGGp, Nire Kagaya - Toya-Usu UGGp, John Calder - Cliffs of Fundy UGGp)
- Climate Change (Chris Woodley Stewart - North Pennines UGGp, Candelaria Sánchez - El Hierro UGGp, Driss Achbal - M'Goun UGGp)

On the GGN website have been uploaded the presentation of the 2nd GGN Digital Forum <http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=4820>





## V.2.8. GGN Digital Events

### 1. Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks 2000 (16 July 2020)

A WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks was organised on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. UNESCO ADG and all the members of the Geopark family were present to welcome the 15 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and one Geopark major extension new members and to celebrate their participation in the Network.

The event, jointly organized by the GGN Executive Board in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section.

The new UNESCO Global Geoparks were greeted by the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences at UNESCO Mrs Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, the President of the Global Geoparks Network Prof. Nickolas Zouros and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair and GGN General Secretary Dr. Guy Martini.

The Representatives of the 15 New UNESCO Global Geoparks presented shortly their territories and received the wishes of all participants:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Maestrazgo (Spain)                  | • Djerdap (Serbia)                         |
| • Xiangxi (P.R. China)                | • Zhangye (P.R. China)                     |
| • Black Country (UK)                  | • Discovery (Canada)                       |
| • Cliffs of Fundy (Canada)            | • Estrela (Portugal)                       |
| • Yangan Tau (Russian Federation)     | • Rio Coco (Nicaragua)                     |
| • Toba Caldera (Indonesia)            | • Granada (Spain)                          |
| • Lauhanvuori-Hämeen kangas (Finland) | • Dak Nong (Vietnam)                       |
| • Hantangang (Republic of Korea)      | • Kula-Salihli (Turkey) - major extension. |

The new Geoparks were presented by Prof. Xiaochi Jin GGN Vice President and APGN Coordinator, Dr. Kristin Rangnes GGN Treasurer and EGN Coordinator, Prof. Setsuya Nakada Chair of the GGN Advisory Board and Prof. Patricio Mello GGN Executive Board member and Coordinator of the GEOLAC.

The event was enriched by live music bands from 4 continents:

- Rio Coco - Nicaragua
- Maestrazgo - Spain
- M'goun - Morocco
- Dak Nong - Vietnam.

The GGN Welcome Digital Event was attended by the 44 UNESCO Global Geoparks (15 new, one extension and 28 UNESCO Global Geoparks) from 27 countries all around the world. There were 171 unique connections to the GoToMeeting platform during the event but the total number of participants is estimated to be much higher as at every connection there was more than one attendee. It is interesting that many of the event participants were not members of the close family of the Geoparks.

### 2. Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks 2001 (22 April 2021)

The second digital Welcome Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks UNESCO Global Geoparks was successfully organised on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event organised in parallel with the celebration of the International Mother Earth Day 2021 and during that day the new 8 members of the Network were warmly welcomed.

During that day all UNESCO Global Geoparks welcomed the new eight members of the Network and a very big digital Welcome Event with more than 1.000 participants and 7.000 YouTube viewers.

During the event participated the representatives of the eight new UNESCO Global Geoparks and their local authorities, stakeholders and local people, the Permanent Delegations at UNESCO of the respective Member States, the National UNESCO Commissions of the respective Member States and the 161 UNESCO Global Geoparks representatives from 44 countries around the globe.



The new UNESCO Global Geoparks that were welcomed during the event are:

- Vestjylland, DENMARK
- Saimaa, FINLAND
- Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen, GERMANY
- Grevena Kozani, GREECE
- Belitong, INDONESIA
- Aspromonte, ITALY
- Majella, ITALY
- Holy Cross Mountains, POLAND

At the beginning of the Welcome event, greetings were addressed by:

Miguel Clüsener-God, Director of Ecology and Geosciences of UNESCO, Dr. Guy Martini, President of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and the Greek Ambassador to UNESCO Mrs. Maria Diamantopoulou.

Professor Nikolaos Zouros, President of the Global Geoparks Network presented the basic principles served by the Geoparks with the aim of highlighting the natural and cultural heritage of rural areas and their use as sustainable development tools. He also referred to the commitment of the Geoparks and the adoption of actions to address climate change.

The representatives of the GGN Regional Geoparks Networks Xiaochi Jin (APGN), Kristin Rangnes (EGN), Patricio Melo (GeoLAC) and Driss Achbal (AUGGN) welcomed the new members and the new UNESCO Global Geoparks presented their territories with rich audiovisual material followed by a cultural event with traditional songs, music and dancing by:

- Ledy Fithriana, Belitong UNESCO Global Geopark (INDONESIA) and then presented a live traditional dancing and music event.
- Heli Rautanen, Executive Director presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Saimaa (FINLAND) and a live music event was presented by Emmi Riikonen.
- Steffen Husted Damsgaard, Chairman of the Board of Trustees presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Vestjylland (DENMARK).
- Nancy Schröter, Geopark Management office of National Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen (GERMANY).
- George Kasapidis, Governor of West Macedonia, Greece had a welcome greeting and Anna Rassios, Scientific expert-responsible of the Geopark presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Grevena Kozani (GREECE). Then a live music event was presented from the town of Siatista.
- Sabrina Santagati, Geopark Manager and Leo Autelitano President presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Aspromonte (ITALY) and a live music event was presented by Giovanni Favasuli.
- Lucio Zazzara, President of the Majella National Park presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Majella (ITALY) and a live music presented by the group "DisCanto".
- Michal Poros, Chairman of the Board, The Holy Cross Mountains Geopark presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Holy Cross Mountains (POLAND) and a live music was presented by the group "Siedleczanie".

At the next session of the event Yongmun Jeon, representative of the Organising Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks informed the participants about the latest news concerning the postponement of the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held in Jeju Island in December 2021.

Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and Setsuya Nakada, GGN Advisory Committee Chair welcomed the new UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The event closed with a speech given by the Global Geoparks Network President Nickolas Zouros and a digital gift with important documents for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks was presented.

The event was also broadcasted live on Youtube. The participants had the opportunity to watch the special identity - physiognomy of each territory and to travel mentally through images and live music.

YouTube link of the Welcome Event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ak16oG7YzU>

The link with the important documents for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks in pdf format that was sent to you during the event as a gift:

[http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GGN\\_WELCOMEdocuments.pdf](http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GGN_WELCOMEdocuments.pdf)





### 3. GGN Special Event “Digital Margarete” (25 October 2021)

Our colleague and friend Dr. Margarete Patzak, after more than 25 years at UNESCO Earth Sciences sector and having a great contribution to the establishment of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, was retired at the end of October 2021.

Margarete during all these years at UNESCO was dedicated to support and promote the establishment and the achievements of the Global Geoparks!

As a special tribute, the GGN Executive Board organized a friendly and informal digital event “Digital Margarete”. The event was held, online, on the 25th October 2021.

## V.2.9. Digital celebration of International Days

### 1. International Mother Earth Day 2020 (22 April 2020)

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section participated in the celebration of the International Mother Earth Day 2020 on 22nd of April and encouraged each of its members to recall how the Earth provides life and sustenance.

Mother Earth Day was celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020 and the theme selected for Earth Day 2020 was climate action. As the COVID-19 pandemic forces people into lockdown around the world, shutting down the global economy, the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day is was urgent reminder that humans need to rethink their relationship with nature.

The activities in UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide couldn't be realized as planned in the field due to COVID-19 pandemic, but various digital activities were organized.

The Global Geoparks Network during the EARTH DAY 2020 on 22nd of April 2020 launched the new video message to all the UNESCO Global Geoparks created by the GGN in order to boost the GGN initiative «UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience» ([https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page\\_id=2934](https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=2934)).

The Global Geoparks Network also created and distributed a series of banners to promote digital Geopark activities or Earth Day 2020 and encouraged everyone and especially Youth to join the conversation on social media Celebrating Earth Heritage.



### 2. International Museum Day 2020 (18 May 2020)

Following the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdowns, Geoparks and their Museums decided to adapt the format and focus of digital activities, to promote the values of the International Museum Day 2020 while ensuring the safety of the public and Geopark staff alike.

The theme of the 2020 celebration “Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion” of the International Museum Day 2020. Geopark Museums are the main infrastructure for the enhancement, protection, conservation, exhibition and promotion of Earth heritage elements and the communication of their value and importance.

Since February the GGN started to support and enquire UNESCO Global Geoparks to explore the possible activities that Geoparks and their Museums can develop to reach their public remotely. At the same time Geoparks and their Museums focus on the “inclusive” part of their long-distance practices.

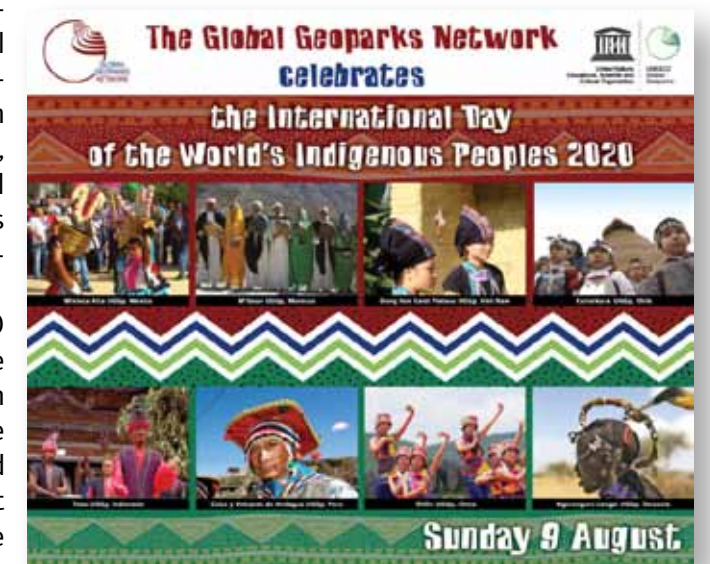
Geopark Museum asked their audiences to share their own view on their Geoparks and their exhibits through their websites and social media channels.



### 3. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 (9 August 2020)

On Sunday 9th of August, UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated a very special day, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples as indigenous peoples have a vital role in the preservation and celebration of their culture, their human rights, languages, ancient histories. The GGN invited all the Geoparks to celebrate with their indigenous peoples for their culture, their human rights, languages, ancient histories.

By involving indigenous communities, UNESCO Global Geoparks recognize the importance of these communities, their culture and the link between these communities and their land. It is one of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks that local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems, alongside science, are included in the planning and management of the area.



### 4. World CleanUp Day 2020 (18 September 2020)

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic participated in the World CleanUp Day on September 18th. Volunteers and partners of many UNESCO Global Geoparks come together to rid our planet of cleaning up litter and mismanaged waste from forests, beaches, villages etc.

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section encouraged all the UNESCO Global Geoparks to participate in the World CleanUp Day campaign and promoted their events through social media but also encourage them to use all these activities as inspiration to take actions and to ensure ongoing activities for the environment and our communities..



### 5. International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 (13 October 2020)

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with the UNESCO Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction celebrated on 13th of October, the International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction.

This year's theme was all about governance and it is based on Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 “Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”. This theme reminded the impact that the disasters have in our lives and is conveying the message that we can avoid or prevent many disasters by implementing systemic disaster risk reduction strategies.

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks work together with the local people and the local authorities in order to promote awareness of geological hazards, like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and to help preparing disaster mitigation strategies. They also emerge as educators on current climate change and works for adaptation of best practice approach to prevent climate-related events like floods, droughts, storms.





## 6. International Mountain Day 2020 (11 December 2020)

UNESCO Global Geoparks on 11th of December 2020 celebrated the International Mountain Day 2020.

The 2020 theme for International Mountain Day was protecting mountain biodiversity. Half of the world's biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains and mountains support approximately one-quarter of terrestrial biological diversity. Mountains are also home to 15% of the world's population and they provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. But today, we tend to forget that the mountains are important territories of biodiversity and life. Mountains are today under threat from climate change and overexploitation.

UNESCO Global Geoparks participated in this celebration and organised many activities all around the globe in order to celebrate their mountains rich biodiversity and raise awareness of the need to protect mountains and the threats their biodiversity faces.



## 7. International Mother Earth Day 2021 (22 April 2021)

UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the globe celebrated the International Mother Earth Day and organised on April 22nd a digital Welcome Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Mother Earth Day unites millions of people who demand action to protect our home planet. As the climate crisis becomes more and more intense, every year Earth Day becomes even more important. UNESCO Global Geoparks every year celebrate this day and ask their local people and their visitors to join forces for the preservation of our Earth heritage.

2021 celebration reminded that UNESCO Global Geoparks restore the history of our planet and present the record of past climate changes that make us realize the consequences of the current climate crisis, the threats and opportunities that lay ahead and a warm welcome to the new UNESCO Global Geoparks was organised during this important day.



## 8. International Museum Day 2021 (18 May 2021)

The year 2020 was like no other for the world and thus also for Geoparks.

The COVID-19 crisis swept the whole world abruptly, affecting every aspect of our lives, from the interactions with our loved ones, to the way we perceive our homes and cities, to our work and its organisation.

Museums are no exception to these changes, and the cultural sector is among the most affected. ICOM and other international organisations detect a dire situation for museums and their professionals, with serious economic, social and psychological repercussions in the short and long term alike. But this crisis also served as a catalyst for crucial innovations.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are the main interpretation and exhibition space in UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are using a variety of communication tools to communicate their message to the society at large and especially to youth and students.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are an inherent part of their local communities, their cultural landscape and their natural environment.

With the theme "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine", UNESCO Global Geoparks, through their Geopark Museums and Visitor Centers, were invited to create, imagine and share new practices of (co-)creation of value, new business models for cultural institutions and innovative solutions for the social, economic and environmental challenges of the present.



## 9. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2021 (9 August 2021)

UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and used this occasion to bring awareness to Indigenous Peoples within the world's Geoparks and a special video prepared by Global Geoparks Network (<https://youtu.be/ypxl911RT9E>).

For the celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples a group was created for the coordination of the GGN activities consisted of following GGN Executive Board members:

- **Ibrahim Komoo**, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Vice Coordinator.
- **Patricio Melo**, Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network Coordinator
- **John Calder**, Canadian Geoparks Network Coordinator

For the celebration of this day a special message prepared by this GGN group which invited all UNESCO Global Geoparks, partners and stakeholders to join the campaign and celebrate the important role of their indigenous peoples for our culture and our communities:

«UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and use this occasion to bring awareness to Indigenous Peoples within the world's Geoparks. Global Geoparks can provide a respectful place for the Indigenous Peoples of the World that honours and respects their cultural contributions, their language, customs, and their deep understanding of the natural environment. The knowledge and culture of Indigenous Peoples enrich our Global Geoparks. On this International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global Geoparks seek to lift up the voices of Indigenous Peoples and to celebrate their knowledge.»



## 10. World CleanUp Day 2021 (18 September 2021)

The Global Geoparks Network for a second year participated in the campaign of the World CleanUp Day in one day on Saturday, September 18th, 2021.

The World CleanUp Day is a voluntary cleaning action of our Earth. It is an action of positive collaboration with the spirit of unity and most importantly, to realize that we need our planet Earth and its resources more than it need us.

A simple action of picking up trash, cleanups and find solutions to tackle mismanaged waste will be our main goal. We can all work for keeping what unites us – to keep clean our common home, Earth.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> many UNESCO Global Geoparks participated in the activities and acted for cleanup Earth.



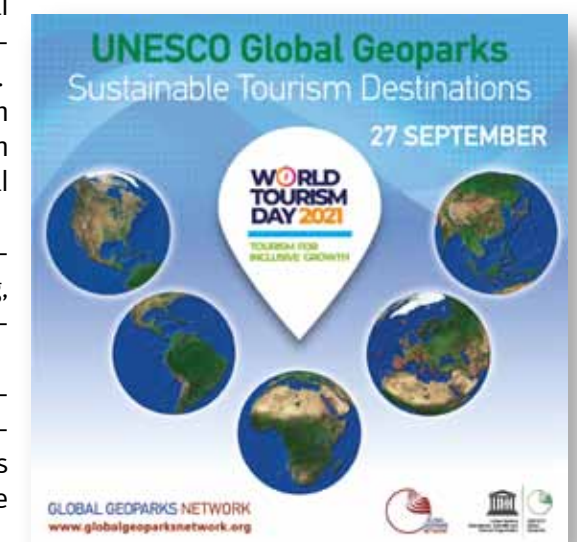
## 11. International Tourism Day (27 September 2021)

The Global Geoparks Network and the 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks shared the UNWTO decision to designate World Tourism Day 2021 as a day to focus on Tourism for Inclusive Growth.

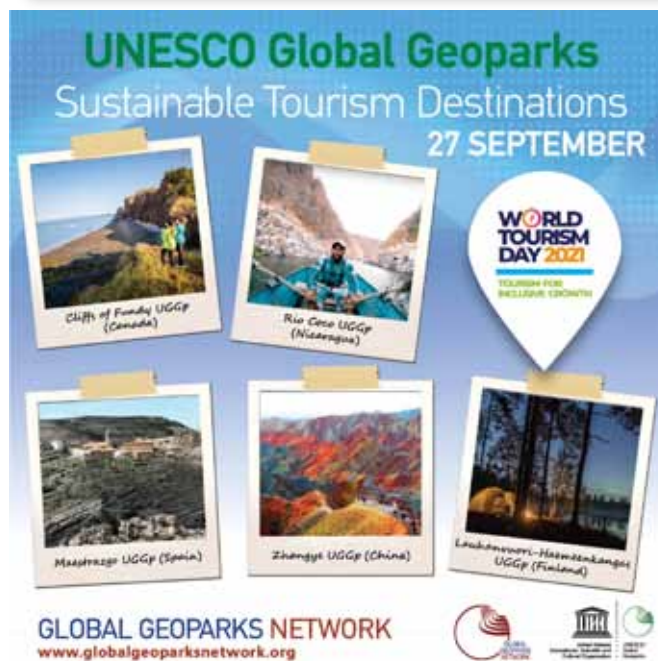
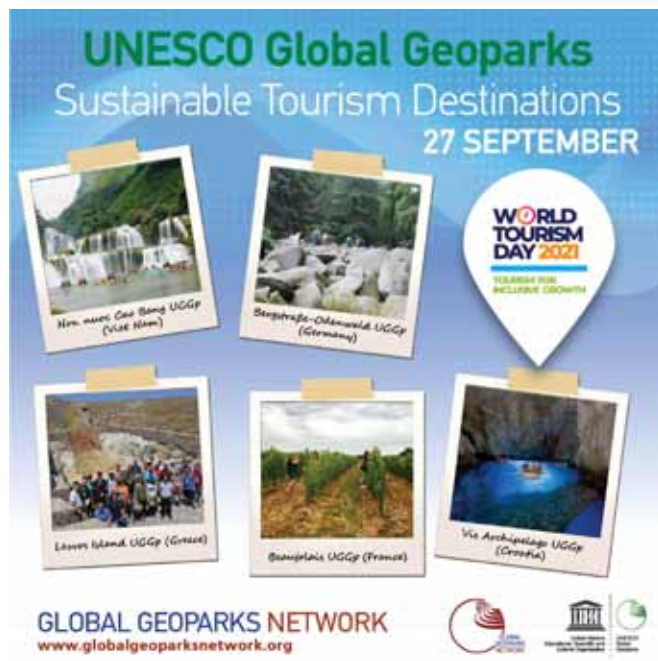
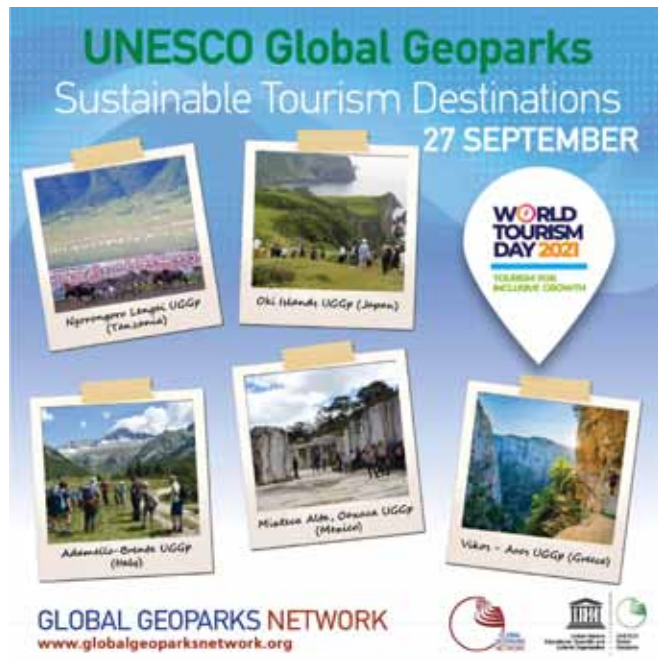
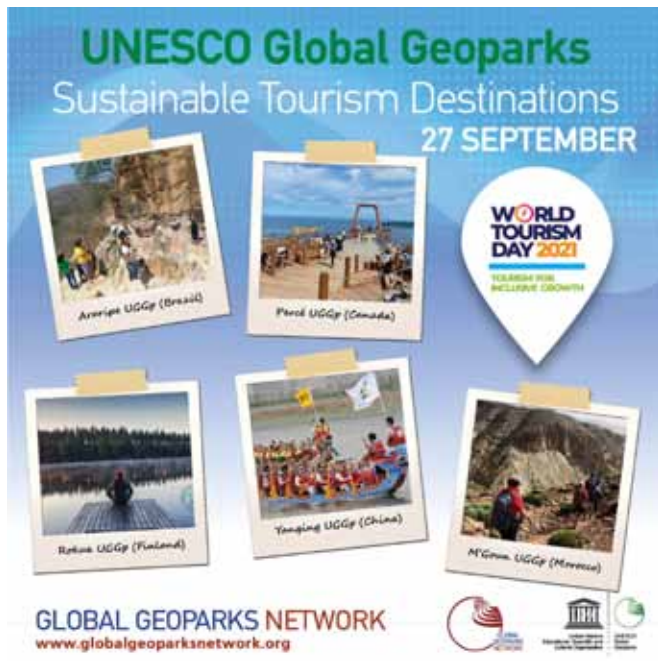
UNESCO Global Geoparks promote tourism for inclusive growth collaborating with local entrepreneurship and especially women cooperatives and family jobs in their territory, supporting local communities and creating new job opportunities for all.

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer to their visitors unique experiences and a broad variety of activities such as hiking, trekking, horse riding, mountain biking, surfing, climbing, mountain running, bird-watching, sailing, rafting, and many more.

The Global Geoparks Network invited all UNESCO Global Geoparks, their partners, associated agencies, businesses and individuals to celebrate tourism's unique ability to ensure that nobody is left behind as the world begins to open up again and look to the future.







## 12. International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 (13 October 2021)

Global Geoparks Network organised a special campaign for the celebration of the International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction 2021.

The 2021 theme focused on “International co-operation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses”, the sixth of the Sendai Seven targets. This theme reminded to all that only together can we save the planet. Without real action on climate in the next ten years, extreme weather events will be overwhelming, especially for developing countries. International support for DRR is essential to eradicating poverty, hunger and reducing economic losses in developing countries, prevent of zoonotic diseases. International cooperation is essential to ensure that no vulnerable people are left behind in disaster-prone settings, including women, children and youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, migrants and indigenous people.

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks work together with the local people and the local authorities in order to promote awareness of geological hazards, like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and to help preparing disaster mitigation strategies. They also emerge as educators on current climate change and works for adaptation of best practice approach to prevent climate-related events like floods, droughts, storms. The Global Geoparks Network day invited all UNESCO Global Geoparks to use this day in order to start developing risk reduction strategies.

The Global Geoparks Network encourageδ all UNESCO Global Geoparks to use this day as an opportunity to work in order to prevent hazards to become disasters and share good practices, photos, videos of activities of this day.



## V.2.10. Support of digital events of the Regional Global Geoparks Networks

The Global Geoparks Network taking into account the COVID-19 restrictions decided to buy the digital platform GoToMeeting. Main target of the GGN was the preparation for networking and the support of the organisation of digital meetings and events for more than 200 participants.

The GoToMeeting platform has been used since May 2020 for the organisation of various activities and events bring in contact UNESCO Global Geopark's colleagues form all around the world giving them the opportunity to real contact each other.

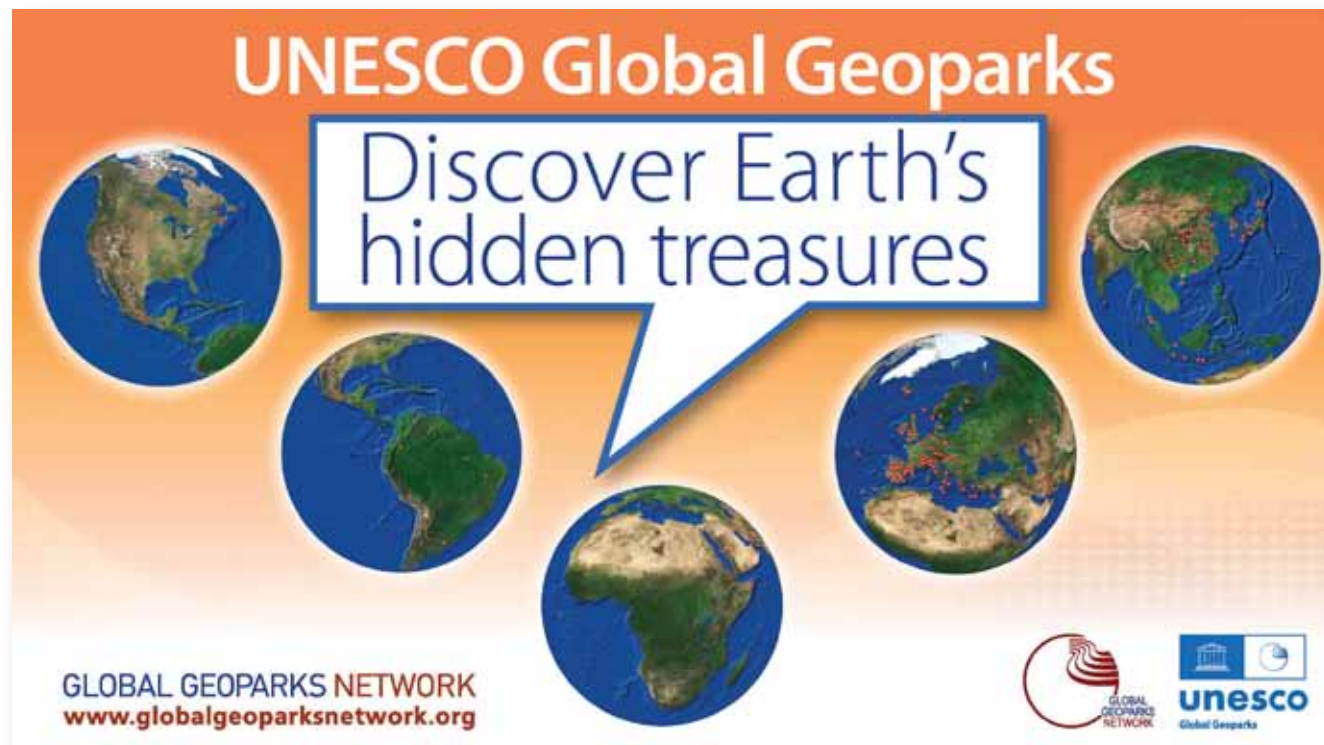
The Global Geoparks Network supported the organisation of the following European Geoparks Network (EGN) and Asian Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) events through the GoToMeeting platform:

- EGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (25 May 2020)
- 1<sup>st</sup> EGN Digital Forum (5 June 2020)
- EGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (9 August 2020)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> EGN Digital Forum (15 September 2020)
- APGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (19 October 2020)
- APGN Coordination Committee Digital Meeting (20 October 2020).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> EGN Digital Forum (26 January 2021)
- 4<sup>th</sup> EGN Digital Forum (13 April 2021)





# CHAPTER VI. CAMPAIGN “UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS: DISCOVER THE EARTH’S HIDDEN TREASURES”



The Global Geoparks Network initiated in September 2021 a campaign for the promotion of UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.

This global campaign to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks through social media reached 1.280.365 people in just 7 days! 21.663 of them asked for further information by clicking and visiting the Global Geoparks Network webpage during the same period. This proves the progress made by our Network in raising the Geoparks profile and promoting them as sustainable tourism destinations.

As the COVID-19 pandemic having a massive social and economic impact comes to an end, it is the moment to raise the UNESCO Global Geoparks profile as safe destinations for holidays in nature and recreation.

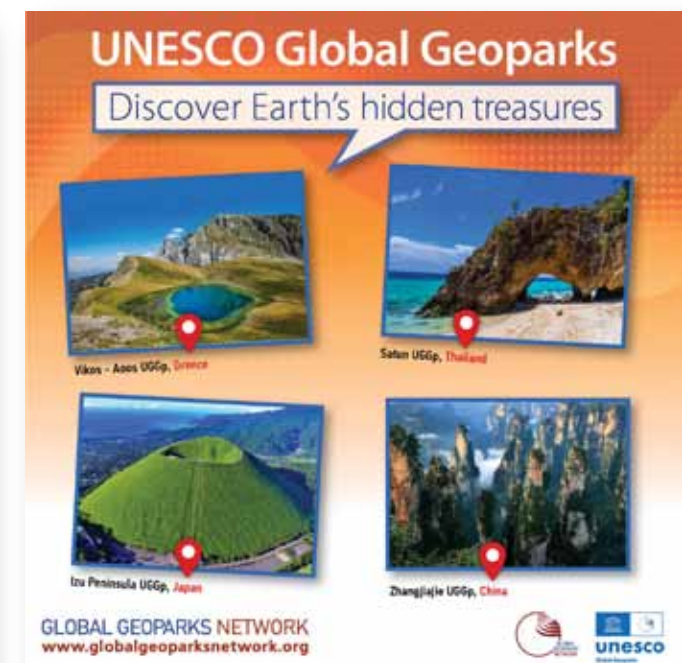
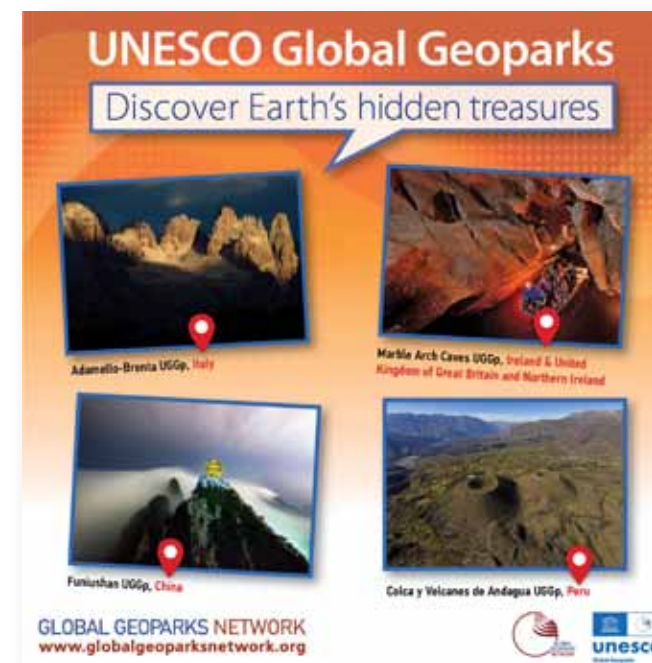
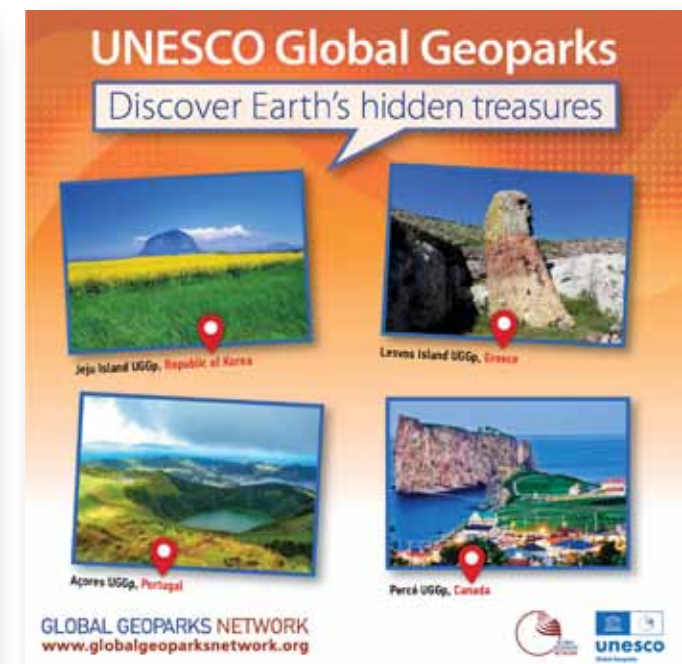
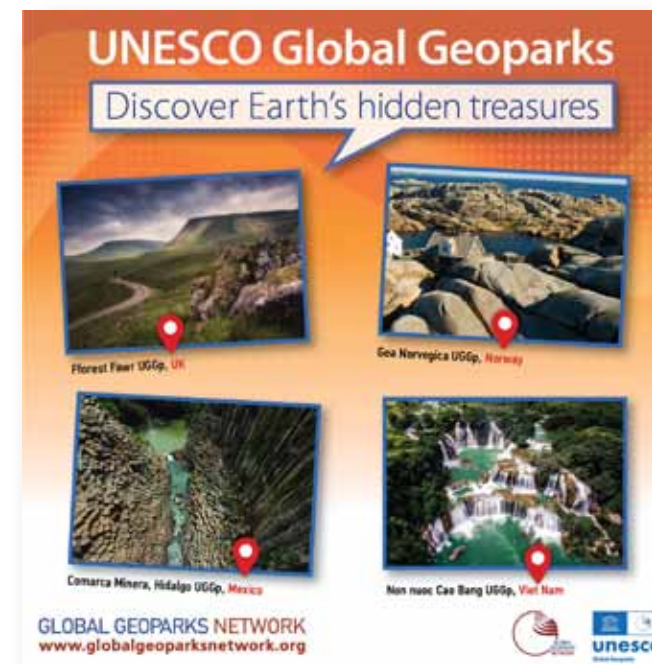
During the COVID-19 pandemic both developed and developing economies have been hit and marginalized groups and the most vulnerable have been hit hardest of all! Geoparks contribute to social cohesion, supporting local communities and promoting an inclusive development for all.

The restart of tourism will help kick start recovery and growth. It is essential that the benefits this will bring are enjoyed widely and fairly.

The 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 Countries, hosting geological landscapes, geosites and landforms of international significance, are protecting and promoting geological heritage attractions as key elements for sustainable tourism development!

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote tourism for inclusive growth collaborating with local entrepreneurship and especially women cooperatives and family jobs in their territory, supporting local communities and creating new job opportunities for all.

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote local products and local gastronomy, support the use of traditional techniques in the production of local products and traditional recipes in food preparation, connecting the local traditions with the territorial geological heritage and landscapes.



UNESCO Global Geoparks offer to their visitors unique experiences and a broad variety of activities such as hiking, trekking, horse riding, mountain biking, surfing, climbing, mountain running, bird-watching, sailing, rafting, and many more

The Global Geoparks Network starts a new campaign through social media to promote each one of the 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks, the Earth's hidden treasures to the Geopark community and the tourist market.

Every week a group of UNESCO Global Geoparks will be presented, supporting their promotion as global geological attractions and sustainable tourism destinations!

**#GlobalGeoparksNetwork, #UNESCOGlobalGeoparks**





**unesco**

Global Geoparks

**169** UNESCO  
Global  
Geoparks

**44** Countries

**1** Global  
Geoparks  
Network

