

18.8.2025

Comments on Action Plan 2024-2025

(next Advisory Committee Meeting)

Dear colleagues,

please find attached some comments on the proposed action plan by the German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

We would like to express our respects for the efforts, which have taken to elaborate this document.

The Forum welcomes every attempt to strengthen the brand UGG. The plan will help to succeed on this issue. We also interpret the document as a concept, which mainly intends to strengthen the organisational structure of the GGN.

On the other hand, we have to be very careful not to be overambitious. It could be helpful to integrate some timescales to define with goals should be achieved in short-, mid- or long term period or which goals are options only.

We guess it is a common understanding, that no UGG is able to fulfil all fields of action. This issue is very important in all cases relating to revalidation processes. We have to take care, that the action plan is always in accordance with the operational guidelines and especially DOC A and B. See for example bullet point 6.3., to establish new Youth Fora in every UGG. Also under Action 7 the same issue reflecting creation of a new SDG Geopark Platform. Besides that in Germany, we have to find a relevant niche for this issue, because several instruments have been developed and other stakeholders are also very busy on this issue.

We have to issues we ask for some kind of clarification on Action 1:

- 1.1. Bullet point 5: GGN Secretariat – GGN Headquarter – GGN Operational Headquarter. Are these different wordings addressing the same thing?
- 1.1. Bullet point 9: Implementation of a strategy for legal protection and security for the protection of the members of GGN in their duties in the Network: What is the intention behind this issue?

Hartmut Escher

Speaker of the German Forum