



# GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

*CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES*

## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK BEST PRACTICES AWARD

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### 1. Introduction

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Best Practices Award aims to promote, enhance and encourage the development of innovative initiatives inside the Global Geoparks of UNESCO. The award will recognise pioneering practices and initiatives that contribute to a more effective and dynamic network, set fantastic exemplars for others to follow and emulate, and create greater public recognition of the UNESCO Global Geoparks..

The prize honours the management and / or a partner of a UNESCO Global Geopark for the pioneering nature and quality of the initiative, encouraging all the GGN members to work in the same line.

The GGN Best Practices Awards includes three awards, granted by the GGN Association in partnership with the Organizing Committee of the biennial GGN Conference. In this sense, each edition of the GGN Best Practices Awards are selected from a two year period of evaluation / revalidation missions.

#### 2. Eligibility Criteria

The GGN Best Practice Awards will be considered and decided by the GGN ExB and subsequently awarded during the International Conference on “UNESCO Global Geoparks” based on proposals submitted by the Geopark Evaluators.

Submissions for the award will only be accepted from the evaluators who have observed the example of best practice during the evaluation/revalidation process in person and included details of the practice or project within the evaluation/revalidation reports.

#### 3. Selection Criteria

The main selection criteria are based on:

- Suitability and replication capability in other GGN territories;

- Effective contribution to an increasingly better functioning of the territories classified as UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- The innovative nature of the best practice example (relevant, original, unique approach, etc.)

#### **4. Candidatures**

Submissions should be sent to the GGN Secretariat by evaluators, detailing the best practice example(s) encountered during the evaluation/revalidation missions. The formal application should include the following elements:

- Geopark Name and Country
- Evaluator Name
- Summary description of the best practice observed (up to 1 page);
- Brief justification for the merit of the applied best practice in accordance with the main selection criteria (up to 1 page);
- A set of 2-4 pictures or a document that allow to visualize the example of good practices or understand its practical implementation.

#### **5. Award Committee**

All of the submissions will be discussed and voted by the members of an Award Committee, formed of five (5) members and elected every two years by the GGN ExB.

The Award Committee have the role:

- i)* to encourage submissions from the evaluators
- ii)* to make the scrutiny of the proposals
- iii)* to propose the winners to the GGN Ex.B.

Members of the Award Committee will always attempt to reach a consensus, but in cases where this cannot be reached, each member of this Award Committee will vote for three applications.

The GGN Best Practices Awards will be conferred by the GGN Ex.B, under proposal of the Award Committee, to the top three applications, ordered in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places, respectively.

#### **6. Prizes**

The prizes awarded will consist of a diploma mentioning the example of good practice and their assignment will have appropriate emphasis in all communication channels of GGN.

The three winning cases will be given the opportunity to present their project in detail to the conference delegates during a special best practice session. Winners will therefore be notified of their award in advance of the conference in order to make arrangements to attend and prepare a power point.

## **7. Timetable**

Application opening date:	15 <sup>th</sup> August each year (For 2016 1st May 2016).
Application closing date:	1 <sup>st</sup> December each year (For 2016 1st July 2016).
Review and selection by the Award Committee:	Up to the 30 <sup>th</sup> April in the year of the GGN Conference (For 2016 15h August 2016).
Final decision of the GGN Ex.B	Up to 31 <sup>st</sup> July in the year of the GGN Conference (For 2016 September 2016).
Prize Ceremony:	During the GGN Conference
Winners ppt presentations	During the GGN Conference

## **8. Jury decisions**

The Jury's decisions are final and therefore are unalterable and not subject to any appeals.



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AWARD COMMITTEE 2016-2017

1. Ibrahim KOMOO (Malaysia)
2. Changxing LONG (China)
3. Guy MARTINI (France)
4. Kristin RANGNES (Norway)
5. Artur SA (Portugal)