

## Annual report of the Hungarian Geopark Committee for the year 2020

The Hungarian Geopark Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) of the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO held its last physical meeting on 14 November 2019 in Csopak. Generally, the Committee meets twice a year in person for the spring and autumn meeting, however, due to the pandemic situation in 2020 the meetings were cancelled. Nevertheless, the members of the Committee have received information and inquiries from the UNESCO and its bodies regularly, and the Committee has carried out active professional work on the topics detailed below.

### **Activities related to the UNESCO Global Geoparks (hereinafter referred to as “UGG”)**

The re-evaluation of the **Bakony-Balaton UGG** would have been due to 2020. The President of the Committee issued a statement of support for this purpose. Nevertheless, the planned re-evaluation of the Bakony-Balaton UGG as well as the application of the Bükk National Park Directorate are adversely affected as tasks involving delegations planned by the UNESCO for 2020 have been postponed due to the pandemic situation for an undetermined duration. The new date for the re-evaluation of the Bakony-Balaton UGG is not known at present.

### **Activities related to the aspiring Bükk Region Geopark**

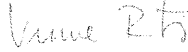
The Bükk National Park (hereinafter referred to as “the National Park”) is planning to fulfil the organisational tasks related to the aspiring Bükk Region Geopark. The National Park presented the features of the aspiring geopark, and reported several times on the preparation process. The Committee discussed the proposal of the National Park on its autumn meeting in 2019, and commented on the draft documents. The President – on behalf of the Committee – supported the submission of the application to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council – firmly maintaining the professional comments and recommendations made on the autumn meeting. Accordingly, the National Park submitted the preparative and final application in due time to the competent organisation of the UNESCO.

### **National geoparks of Hungary**

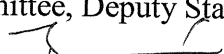
Succeeding thorough preparation work and several consultations with the Committee, the responsible Ministry of Agriculture finalised the concept in autumn 2019 that creates the opportunity of the initiation of **national geoparks**. The concept was accepted by the Committee as well as by the Minister of Agriculture responsible for nature protection in Hungary. Discussions followed with representatives of potential national geopark sites (Gánt and Sopron).

### **Other activities**

The Committee supported the consultation process of the initiative of the UNESCO “Geodiversity Day”, planned to be organised similarly to the UNESCO “Biodiversity Day”. Furthermore, the Committee participated in the promotion and organisation of its predecessor, the national “Geotope-days”.

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Budapest, 20. May 2021.