

GGN – National Fora/Committees Annual Report 2020

1. IDENTITY

Iceland Geopark Committee, www.geopark.is

Year of inscription: 2014

2. MEMBERS

Chair: Sigurður Sigursveinsson, Katla Geopark, sigurdur@hfsu.is

Members:

Association of Icelandic Geographers
Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland
Environmental Agency of Iceland
Geoscience Society of Iceland
Icelandic Association of Local Authorities
Icelandic Environment Association
Icelandic Institute of National History
Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO
Icelandic Tourist Board
Icelandic World Heritage Commission
Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources
Network of Public Universities in Iceland
Promote Iceland
Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark
Safe Travel
Thingvellir National Park
University Centre of South Iceland
University of Iceland Institute of Earth Sciences
Vatnajökull National Park

3. ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Active application in your country: None

Territories that you are advising: None. However, both Reykjanes UGGp and Katla UGGp had meetings with Mrs. Ólöf Ýrr Atladóttir, former Director General of the Icelandic Tourist Board but presently advising aspiring geoparks in Saudi Arabia.

4. ACTIVITIES

The Icelandic Geopark Committee held two formal meetings in 2020, one in February and the other (digital) in November. At the November meeting Sigurður Sigursveinsson replaced Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir as Chair of the Icelandic Geopark Committee.

The main achievement of the Committee in 2020 was the development of a website for the committee. It was supported by a grant from the Ministry of Education and Culture and was opened in November 2020 (www.geopark.is). The two Icelandic geoparks plus Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History developed the content of the website and met ten times during the year for this purpose, mostly via online meetings.

Also, considerable effort were made regarding a bid to hold the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geparks. As it turned out the bid was not handed in despite the full support of the Icelandic UNESCO Commission, as we were not able to guarantee the considerable financial resources necessary for such a meeting.