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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

36 | January 2020

News Feed

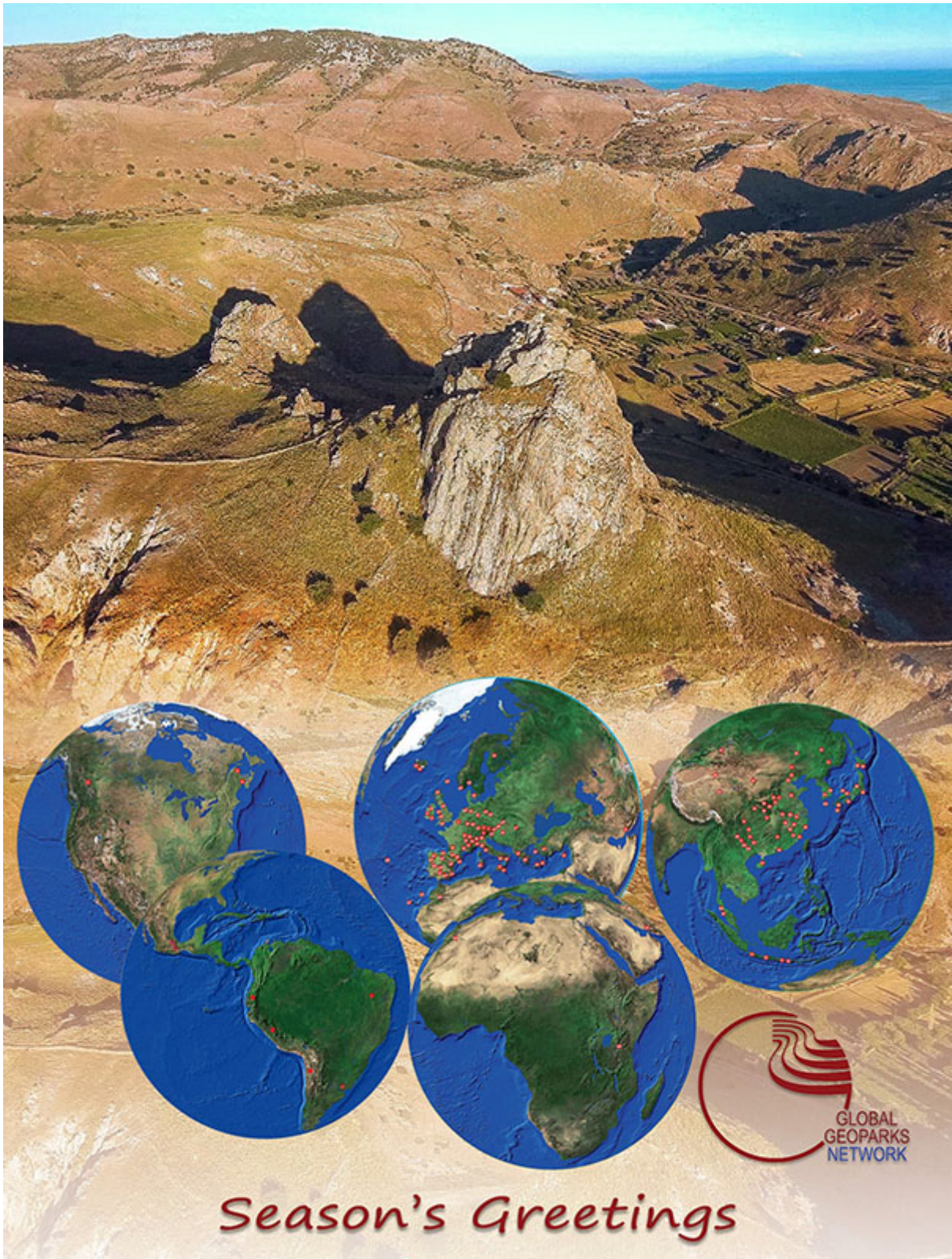
Dear colleagues of the Global Geoparks Network,

**The GGN Executive Board wishes
to all the Global Geopark Network
Members and Partners**

a very happy, creative, productive and successful

2020

**the new year to be full of
peace, health, joy, prosperity
and to realize all your wishes!**



Season's Greetings

*147 wishes for peace, happiness,
creativity, solidarity, prosperity and success.*

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

The first GGN News Feed of the New Year 2020 is bringing at your mailbox important news of the latest activities but also the future events and announcements on Geopark events and activities around the Globe!

We would like to seek for your attention on the following items:

- **UNESCO IOS Evaluation of the I.G.G.P. and especially on UNESCO Global Geoparks**
- **GGN Secretariat**
- **Regional Geopark Networks**
- **Geopark capacity building activities**
- **Geopark Conferences and Meetings**
- **Call for applications for the GGN AWARDS 2020 (NEW application deadline 31.1.2020)**
- **Call for hosts of the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020!**
- **Call for Participation in International Tourism Fairs (FITUR – Spain January 2020 and ITB – Germany March 2020)**
- **The GGN Calendar of Events**

Please note the deadlines read carefully and reply to the items where your contribution is requested.

We are looking forward to receiving your further news on Geopark Activities and Events, your reports of events, your comments and suggestions for the improvement of the GGN News feed.

The GGN Executive Board

EVALUATION OF THE IGGP

As it is broadly known UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service and the National Science Sector (SC) are carrying out an evaluation of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP).

The International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) is part of the UNESCO portfolio of activities and programmes aimed at supporting research and capacity in Earth Sciences; in light of supporting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The programme is currently divided into two pillars or sub-programmes: the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), which mobilises and supports a worldwide network of geoscientists to facilitate scientific cooperation to study the Earth and geological processes; and the UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp), which is a mechanism of international cooperation that promotes conservation of sites of international geological value through scientific research and the engagement with local communities to promote a sustainable management of these sites and their geological heritage. While the IGCP has been a UNESCO programme since 1972, the UGGp has only been formally incorporated as a UNESCO programme since 2015.

This evaluation has assessed performance of the overall IGGP, while looking at the appropriateness of its implementation mechanisms and processes. Upon the request of UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service and the National Science Sector (SC), the recommendations stemming from the evaluation are meant to help shape the future of the IGGP and increase its impact and meaningfulness.

The evaluation is expected to yield conclusions and lessons on the results generated by the IGGP, which are meant to feed into the programme's learning process, acknowledging what works well and what are the factors of success; and suggest how to improve different aspects of the functioning of the programme and its two pillars in order to ensure results are fully in line with intended objectives. Specifically, the evaluation set out to:

- Assess the IGGP's (i.e. IGCP and UGGp) relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact, sustainability, partnership and cooperation
- Provide evidence on key achievements and value added of each component of the UNESCO geoscience work to the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and the African Union Agenda 2063
- Draw conclusions and formulate lessons learnt for the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme (UGGp) and the IGGP as a whole
- Provide recommendations for the future design and functioning of the IGGP programme and its two pillars to be followed by a management response leading to concrete actions.

The evaluation has covered the entire IGGP including its two sub-programmes (i.e. IGCP and UGGp) for the 2014 -2019 period.

It has been built on previous evaluations carried out which have addressed UNESCO's work in support of the geosciences. A set of evaluation questions (EQs) explores the main issues and topics assessed as part of the evaluation.

A total of 16 evaluation questions have been defined, which we have organised under five key evaluation criteria (i.e. relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact, sustainability, partnership and cooperation).

The draft Final Evaluation Report is the result of an intense and professional work taking into consideration the responses of 70% of the UGGps (103 /147 UGGp) and a consultation of 16 National Commissions for UNESCO.

The results of the evaluation are included in the draft Final Evaluation Report which have been presented on December 18th at UNESCO Stakeholders Workshop.

GGN was invited to comment on the draft Evaluation Report.

Please find attached the GGN Reply on the draft Final Evaluation Report and the comments on its recommendations.

THE GGN ExB LETTER

During the Stakeholders Workshop on the draft IGGP Evaluation Report at the UNESCO Headquarters on December 18th, 2019 we had the opportunity to express some comments, but due to the limited time for discussion, we agreed that we will submit our initial comments on the Draft IGGP Evaluation Report in written form.

Unfortunately the draft IGGP Evaluation Report does not include the results of the field mission in Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark in

Spain. Thus Europe the geographical area with the largest number of Geoparks is not represented. This issue creates concerns on the completeness of the draft Evaluation Report.

As it was agreed during the Stakeholders Workshop the GGN will submit a final document with comments on the Report and especially all the Recommendations by January 12th, 2020.

As you know the Global Geoparks Network, is an International Association of Global Geoparks and Global Geoparks professionals (registered under the French Law). It is an Independent Body ruled by democratic Statutes and Rules of Operation, subject to the decision of the General Assembly of its members. The GGN is the partner of UNESCO collaborating with UGGp Secretariat for the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The GGN supports the programme providing extra-budget funds and strong in-kind contribution to the UGGp. The GGN serves also as the financial mechanism for the collection of the Global Geoparks annual contribution to UNESCO. Thus the GGN Executive Board is following with great interest the independent evaluation of the IGGP Programme carried out by UNESCO IOS.

Our first comment on the Draft Final Report is that from the comments regarding the Programme and many Recommendations in the Report it seems that the character and the identity of the UNESCO Global Geoparks are not fully understood.

The UGGp in contrast to other UNESCO designations are territories come up by "bottom up" means. UGGps are managed with a strong involvement of local authorities, communities and stakeholders who nominate representatives in UNESCO Global Geoparks. The operation of UGGps is mostly managed and financed by their territories.

This innovative nature and the bottom-up approach of UGGp was awarded by the Member States that agreed to the framework of the programme governance and to the distribution of responsibilities between UGGp Secretariat and GGN.

This innovative nature of UGG is incomparable with other site designations based on an international convention (like World Heritage) or an intergovernmental programme (like MAB).

The second point that we would like to mention is the incompatibility between the analysis of the current situation of IGGP (IGCP and UGGp) in the first part of the draft IGGP Evaluation Report and the Recommendations in the second part of the IGGP Evaluation Report. It is surprising that in some recommendations there is an effort to interfere in the operation of the GGN and its electoral procedures, which is unacceptable.

The Report Recommendations are full of proposals which have been discussed by the UGGp Council since its first session in 2016 as well as in its sessions in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Most of them have been successfully addressed by UGGp Council decisions after consultation with UGGp Secretariat, GGN and IUGS.

The Report insists to refer to complains that have been seriously addressed by the decision of the Council especially during the 2018 and 2019 sessions.

The Recommendations seem to ignore the huge progress made in the UGGp procedures and documents during the last 3 years, which have been recognized also by the Member States observers during the last session of the Council.

The third point is that the draft Report seems to ignore some key elements that can be attributed to the establishment and operation of the UGGp, especially regarding the following aspects:

- a. the fact that UGGps brought high visibility of UNESCO in local communities through national and regional medial publishing articles and news on UNESCO Global Geoparks and their activities.
- b. the fact that UGGps contributed significantly in women empower in their territories through the operation of women agro-tourism cooperatives in more than 75% of the UGGps.
- c. the fact that UGGps contributed significantly in youth employment in rural areas through a great number of enterprises operating in association with the UGGp management bodies in sections like nature activities, accommodation, food, local products, handcrafts and souvenirs.
- d. the fact that UGGps brought national investments for infrastructures in rural areas that led to better accessibility improving the quality of life of the local population.
- e. the fact that UGGps became a very effective mechanism of international cooperation with concrete results not only through the cooperation of UGGp management bodies but also through local authorities, schools, universities ad local enterprices. The bilateral cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks led to twining agreements between Geoparks and local authorities from different parts of the globe. The multilateral cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks led to common cooperation programmes bringing investments of millions of Euros in rural areas.
- f. the fact that UGGps contribute significantly in cross sectorial collaboration as Geoparks collaborate with the Network of the UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPNet) in many countries, improving the educational impact of Geoparks.
- g. the fact that UGGps contribution in environmental education on nature preservation and natural disasters is significantly remarkable. Geoparks through education programmes for local schools contribute in. Geopark program is providing an excellent outdoor school for young students and children to learn the strong linkage of nature with human life.
- h. the fact that UGGps brought hope and courage in rural communities with decreasing populations.

The fourth point is that we noticed that the Recommendations include a significant part of the proposals included in the NON-PAPER distributed by the German UNESCO Nat. Com. On UNESCO Global Geoparks. We think that this is inappropriate, as it has no connection with the data collected by the Geopark Evaluation, the opinion of the majority of the UNESCO National Commissions and the vision of the majority of the Member States expressed during the last UNESCO General Conference and the UNESCO Executive Board Session in April 2019.

One of the points integrated by the NON-PAPER is the proposal for the establishment of a new Working Group on UNESCO Global Geoparks. The

GGN supports the position expressed by the majority of the Member States during the last UNESCO Executive Board meeting in April 2019. UNESCO Global Geoparks is a very new Programme, established by a unanimous decision of the General Conference in 2015, a decision taken by acclamation! All documents of the Programme were prepared by the Working Group after 4 years of intense work and meetings in order to create the common ground for the establishment of the UNESCO Global Geoparks site designation. We see that all the proposals discussed and rejected by the great majority of the Working Group are now being adopted by the Evaluation team and appear within the Draft Evaluation report. More than that no one of these proposals is supported by evidence of the majority of the stakeholders in the survey done.

We do hope that the Evaluation team will reconsider the situation and that the final IGGP Evaluation Report will reflect the actual reality of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in a holistic manner based on facts and the concrete results produced by the UNESCO Global Geoparks for the local communities.

GGN will continue its efforts to support UNESCO Global Geopark development and promotion, international collaboration and capacity building.

GGN will submit a final document with comments on the draft IGGP Evaluation Report and especially on all the Recommendations by January 12th, 2020.

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

GGN Secretariat

After the Open Call for GGN Secretariat Executive Assistance published in GGN News Feed No 34 – 23 September 2019, the GGN Executive Board selected the candidate to serve as Executive Assistant in the GGN Secretariat for the next 12 months.

The new Executive Assistant is Mrs **Konstantina Mpentana**, Geologist. She is 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 evaluators' data base. She will work under the overall authority of the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board and the direct supervision of the President of the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network.

To contact the GGN Secretariat please use the following e-mail :
ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com

REGIONAL GEOPARK NETWORKS

APGN – Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

Warm congratulations to the APGN Coordinators for the establishment of the New communication tool among the APGN members the APGN News Briefing, which is a new tool of disseminating information about APGN activities. The first issue circulated in November and the second issue in December.

Please read the [1st](#) and [2nd](#) Issues on the APGN News Briefing

First APGN Geoparks Week

The **Global Geoparks Network** congratulates the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network for the launching of a new initiative: the **First APGN Geoparks Week** which will be held from **22 to 28 April 2020**.

The slogan of the **First APGN Geoparks Week** which announced by the APGN is **“Strengthening UNESCO Global Geoparks Common Activities in Asia”**.

We encourage all the members of the APGN to join the celebration the **First APGN Geoparks Week** and organize events.

Please send your programme of events to apgn.office@vip.163.com.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

EGN – European Geoparks Network

2020 is approaching and the European Geoparks Network is making preparations for the celebration of its 20th Anniversary (2000-2020).

Several events are going to take place during the year on several occasions but the one who will join all European Geoparks will be in Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark in Croatia from March 24-29, 2020.



EGN Coordinators are looking forward to have feedback if there are local celebrations of the anniversary. EGN will be happy to post this information on facebook/EGN website and also for receiving pictures!

GEPARK CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Joint Workshop on Capacity Development of Geoparks in Thailand and Surrounding Countries

The Joint Workshop on Capacity Development of Geoparks in Thailand and Surrounding Countries, co-organised by JGN (Japanese Geoparks Network) and DMR (Thailand Department of Mineral Resources), was held from the 4th to the 8th of December in Khorat aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark and Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand.

JGN delegates shared experiences and knowledge on Geopark activities with over 130 participants from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.



Group photo of the conference participants

Since 2016, the JGN has been engaging in the project of capacity development for countries with no Geoparks, or only a limited number of Geoparks, in the Asia-Pacific region. At the beginning of this project, the JGN invited participants from several countries in Asia-Pacific to observe the activities of geoparks in Japan and also provided opportunities for participants to communicate with people involved in geoparks.

In 2017 the JGN began to dispatch delegates to Thailand to co-organise the Joint Workshop with the DMR Thailand. In 2017 and 2018, participants were only from Thailand, but already we had plans to invite participants from the surrounding countries of Thailand. This year, we finally were able to have participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, aiming to spread information of Geoparks for sustainable development within Thailand and in the countries surrounding Thailand as well.

The participants from these countries gave presentations as well and showed the situation and the potential for Geoparks in their countries. In Myanmar the preparation for establishing the national committee for Geoparks has already been undertaken. However, one of the delegates from Myanmar mentioned that they didn't have enough information before – especially about the holistic approach – but, through the Joint Workshop in Thailand, he found that many elements are important for Geopark, especially the engagement of local communities. The participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam were very much fascinated by the local people and what they have done both in Khorat and Satun UGGp.

The JGN hopes to continue the capacity development project, with ever more participants from Asia-Pacific countries, to support the foundation and development of Geoparks in the region.



The participants during the field trip

INTERNATIONAL GEOPARKS WORKSHOP IN YANGAN TAU GEOPARK - RUSSIA

On November 25-29, Yangan-Tau Geopark hosted representatives of 14 countries and several subjects of the Russian Federation at the international seminar-meeting "Global Network of UNESCO Geoparks".

The workshop consisted of two days of presentations and one day out in the Yangan Tau area.

During three days, representatives of geoparks, research centers and environmental ministries discussed models of development of geotourism and geoparks, shared scientific developments.

The main topic of the international seminar was organization of new Geoparks in Russia and other countries in Central Asia. Bashkiriya's experience where Yangan Tau Geopark is located was of interest to experts from many countries.



The panel of the International Seminar



Alfred Akbashev, Yangan-Tau Geopark Project Manager

The GGN was represented by Dr Kristin Rangnes, GGN Treasurer.

For the workshop organization contributed significantly Dr. Patrick Mc Keever.

Yangan Tau is placed in the Ural Mountains and has already been successfully evaluated. It will be part of EGN when their application will be endorsed by the UNESCO Executive Board next March.

The conference was very successful with participation from, among others, aspiring areas in Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Armenia, Georgia, Pakistan, Egypt.

GEPARK CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

DANUBE GEOTOUR

FINAL EVENT OF THE INTERREG DANUBE GEOTOUR IN BAKONY-BALATON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



The Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark in Hungary had the chance to welcome the Danube GeoTour project partners from 8 countries. The subtitle shows the goal and the challenge which the partners have been facing over the last three years: »Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks« The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).

During the press conference of the final event the partners showed their achievements and outputs during the last three years. After the welcome greetings of Mister Puskás Zoltán (director of the Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark), the Lead Partner from Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia) had the chance to present the overall project and their

achievements. They thanked every project partner and also the associated strategic partners for their work and cooperation. The audience heard also a big acknowledgement from the European Geoparks Network Coordinator Kristin Ranges from GeaNorvegica UNESCO Global Geopark. She stated that the Danube GeoTour is a best practice example for cooperation and networking between European Geoparks. The outputs are very interesting and useful for the European and even Global Geoparks Network.



The development of the various GeoInterpretation sites and GeoProducts in each partner Geopark have been the main tasks within the project. The partner Geoparks from Papuk (Croatia), Styrian Eisenwurzen (Austria), Iron Mountains (Czech Republic), Karawanken/Karavanke (Austria/Slovenia), Hateg (Romania), Djerdap (Serbia) and Bakony-Balaton itself presented their topics.

New visitor centres in Hungary or Slovenia, new thematic trails, GeoBiking, GeoRafting or GeoWine or just a few innovative outcomes of the Danube GeoTour. Martina Stupar from the Institute of Nature Conservation in Slovenia highlighted the research and importance of natural and geological protection within Geoparks.

The conference showed also the Danube GeoTour promotional campaign including an interactive webpage, a high-quality image film and image brochure. The project team just would add many thanks to the organizers from Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark including all their involved helpers and partners.



The main project result was a joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Geoparks regions and act as an innovative tourism product to accelerate visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Sharing experiences, testing pilot Geotourism products and new interpretative approaches should increase local inhabitants' engagement, Geopark management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

Future collaboration and projects between the Danube Geoparks are foreseen. The project team expresses again many thanks to the lead partner Idrija UGGp for their work and the good cooperation between every partner and every involved stakeholder.

10th National Conference of the Japanese Geoparks Network 2019

The 10th national Conference on the Japanese Geoparks Network took place from November 5 to 9, 2019 in Oita Japan with broad participation of the Japanese Geoparks.

The Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) is a specified non-profit organization which is a networking platform for the Geoparks in Japan. The JGN membership consists of 9 UNESCO Global Geoparks in Japan and 35 Japanese National Geoparks. There are 15 aspiring geoparks listed as associate members.



Group photo of the conference participants



Professor Kazuo Oike, former President of the Japanese Geopark Committee was awarded for his contribution to the development of Geoparks activities in Japan during the last 10 years.



Ka Ming YEUNG Director of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark gave a keynote presentation sharing his experiences with the participants

The 3rd International Comprehensive Field Workshop on Geopark in the Mudeungsan UNESCO Global Geopark, Gwangju (Korea)

The 3rd International Comprehensive Field Workshop on Geopark: focusing on Metropolitan Geopark took place from October 25-29, 2029 in Republic of Korea. The two topics of this workshop were **Metropolitan Global Geopark** and **Geotrail & Geotourism**. Also, the Geotrail Opening & Geopark Marathon Ceremony and Expert Meeting on Mudeungsan UGG were incorporated into this plan.

Prof Min Hun was the President of the Organizers Committee.



Participants of the workshop during field trip

GGN - OPEN CALLS

Call for proposals for the Global Geoparks Network Awards 2020

New deadline for applications 31-01-2020

Applications for the GGN Awards 2020 should be submitted

a. by the Evaluators participated in Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation field missions during 2018 and 2019

b. by UNESCO Global Geopark Managers

The GGN Awards will be presented during the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Awards aims to promote, enhance and encourage the development of innovative initiatives in the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

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 Awards includes six awards, granted by the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in partnership with the Organizing Committee of the International Geopark Conference.

There will be 5 categories for the GGN Awards:

- 1. Conservation in Geoparks**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Tourism and Sustainable Development**
- 4. Networking**
- 5. Local participation**

One Special Award for **Aspiring Geoparks based on their participation in GGN activities which showed the commitment to GGN**

UNESCO Global Geoparks Managers and UNESCO Global Geopark Evaluators who took part in Geopark evaluation/revalidation missions in 2018 and 2019 are kindly invited to submit a proposal for the GGN Awards 2020.

Eligibility Criteria

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) 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 either the Geopark Managers or the Geopark Evaluators.

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.)

For the Special Award for Aspiring Geoparks the criteria should be related to their participation in GGN activities which showed the commitment to the GGN

- a. Participation in International Geoparks Conference.

- b. Participation in Intensive Course on Geoparks.
- c. International Cooperation with UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Candidatures

Submissions should be sent to the GGN Secretariat by the Geopark Managers or the Geopark Evaluators, detailing the best practice example(s) in each one of the above categories. The formal application should include the following elements:

- Geopark Name and Country
- Proposer Name and contact
- Category of the Award
- 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.

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 awards will be accompanied by a grant of GGN for one person's participation in the International Courses on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The 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.

Please ensure that the Geopark Managers and the Geopark Evaluators proposals is submitted by January 31st, 2020 for the Geoparks who received evaluation/revalidation missions done during 2018 and 2019 to:

E-mail: ggnassociation@hotmail.com

Global Geoparks Network

- [APPLICATION](#)
- [FORM \[doc\]](#)
- [GLOBAL](#)
- [GEOPARKS NETWORK AWARDS RULES AND REGULATIONS \[pdf\]](#)

CALL FOR HOSTS OF THE 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS - 2022

During the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea, 14-20 September 2020 the venue of the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2022 will be decided.

If your organization or country is interested in hosting the 2022 Conference, you are kindly invited to submit a well-developed technical proposal specifying the offer. This bid is addressed to countries and regions which already have UNESCO Global Geoparks, and whose contribution will be essential for the success of the event.

Your bid should contain information on the following components:

1) Technical

- The conference has to be hosted and organized by an efficient and experienced team, including UNESCO Global Geopark specialists and geoscientists, communication experts, administration support team and tourism specialists.
- UNESCO Global Geoparks and Global Geopark Network (GGN) members (in the country and within the region) should actively participate and provide their expertise. The conference is the most important event for UNESCO Global Geoparks staff and GGN members to meet and exchange knowledge and experiences on Geopark building and operation
- The venue of the meeting should be big enough to accommodate 800 – 1000 delegates and should provide easy access for international participants.
- Representatives proposed by the GGN Executive Board should be nominated to the Conference Organizing Committee.

2) Financial

- The conference and the preparations need to be financed by the organizers who, if necessary, should seek private and public funding. The financial statement should be clear and based on realistic estimates and feasible plans.
- The candidate should present a proposal for the conference budget including data on the financial resources, possible sponsor contribution, participant's fees and grant policy.
- The budget should include the cost of hosting the meeting of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (UGGpC – 16p) and GGN Executive Board (13p),

including travel, hotel and subsistence allowance for three days.

- The participant's registration fee should be 'reasonable' taking into account that UNESCO Global Geoparks are present in all regions of the globe, including the developing world, and people sometimes travel long distances.
- The organizers must provide a fee to GGN in accordance to the 2016 GGN General Assembly decision on the GGN budget (September 19th, 2016). This amount will be equivalent to 50 Euro per participant.

3) Organization

- The past conferences in Beijing 2004 (China), Belfast 2006 (Northern Ireland), Osnabrück in Tera Vita UGGp 2008 (Germany), Langkawi UGGp 2010 (Malaysia), Shimabara in Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp 2012 (Japan), Saint John, in Stonehammer UGGp 2014 (Canada), Torquay in English Riviera UGGp 2016 (UK), Madona di Campiglio in Adamello Brenta UGGp - 2018 (Italy) had strong local, governmental and ministerial support and extensive media coverage. The organization team is advised to include governmental entities as well as a broad spectrum of other groups like Tourism Boards, Councils of towns, counties, Geological Surveys, Universities etc..
- The bid should foresee logistic arrangements for several other open and closed business meetings, workshops and events will run both in advance and during the conference in addition to the earlier mentioned UGGp Council meeting (16p. + 50-100p. observers) and GGN Executive Board meeting (15p.), these include the GGN General Assembly (220 p.), the GGN Advisory Board Meeting (60p.), GGN Youth Forum Meeting (60p.), the Regional Geopark Networks Advisory Committees (APGN 15p., EGN 15p., GeoLAG 10 p.) and the Coordination Committee Meetings (APGN 70 p., EGN 170 p., GeoLAG 30 p). The bid should duly anticipate and accommodate these meetings.
- The Conference schedule should also include special sessions for GGN Working Group Workshops, Thematic workshops as well as the UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluator's Seminar (120p).
- It is a prerequisite that the country where the conference is proposed already hosts UNESCO Global Geoparks.

4) Content

- The Conference theme must be closely related to the core topics of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Each organizer will put the focus on specific themes of their interest, which are not preliminarily fixed, but will be discussed in more detail with UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network during the preparation and planning phase.

5) Carbon Footprint Mitigation Initiative

Since UGGps are propagating environmentally friendly tourism, the conference organizer may want to propose ways/projects to reduce the

carbon footprint of such big gathering.

6) Timing

Please ensure that your full bid is submitted electronically by April 30, 2020 to: GGN (GGNassociation@hotmail.com) and UNESCO (m.patzak@unesco.org)

- The candidates will then have an opportunity to reply to comments on their application by the UNESCO Secretariat and GGN Executive Board until June 20, 2020.
- The candidates will have the opportunity to present a final version of their bid (10-15 min) before the GGN Executive Board at its meeting on September 16th at 16.00h 2020.

The above list is not exhaustive and aims only to provide some first guidance.

Please note that we strive to rotate the hosting of the International Conference to different regions of the world.

Related websites:

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks>

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TOURISM FAIRS 2020

The GGN Executive Board, taking into account the positive results of the Geoparks presence in International Tourism Fairs in 2019 recognizes as priority to prepare the GGN participation in Tourist Fairs in 2020.

The GGN ExB supports the participation of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Tourism fairs and encourages Geoparks in their Collective participation through the GGN Stands in **ITB Berlin (4-8 March 2020)** and **FITUR Madrid (22-26 January 2020)**, as well as in other International Tourism fairs in other countries i.e. China, UK, Italy, Japan etc.

The need of coordination of these activities will be achieved through the GGN Working Group on Tourism.

The GGN ExB asks all UNESCO Global Geoparks to reply the possibility to participate in 2020 in International Tourism Fairs

- either BY Geopark Stand
- or BY Country/Region stand.

Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal is coordinating with the GGN WG on Tourism and the EGN, the common participation in FITUR Madrid and ITB Berlin in 2020.

We request that you fill your [Registration form](#) and send it to Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark **Carlos Carvalho** E-mail: geral@naturtejo.com until the 30th November 2019 so that we can better organize the Geoparks common booth and agenda for the fairs.

[Registration document for participation in FITUR Madrid 2020 and ITB Berlin 2020](#) [pdf]

Your action is needed

GGN Calendar of Meetings and Events

(updated December 2019)

2020

22-24 January 2020: FITUR Madrid 2020 – Geopark Promotional Stand

2-8 March 2020: International Geological Congress – IGC

4-8 March 2020: ITB Berlin – Participation with GGN stand in ITB Berlin

19 March 2020: IGGP Open Session - Paris

24- 30 March 2020: 45th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark, Croatia

22 April 2019: International Earth Day, Geopark Activities

22-28 April 2019: 1st APGN Geoparks Week 2020

22-23 April 2020: 2nd International Meeting and Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks – Qeshm, Iran (with emphasis on Central Asia)

26-29 April 2020: Geoparks Conference – Viet Nam

May 2020: 1st Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa - Tanzania

May 2020: 3rd Geoparks Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus “Geoparks-Protected areas Biodiversity and Geodiversity Conservation and Management” – Vikos Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

24 May - 7 June 2020: European Geoparks Week

1-11 June 2020: International Intensive Course on Geoparks “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability” - Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

14-22 September 2020: 9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOPARKS

14-16/9/2020	UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting
16/9/2020	APGN – EGN – GEOLAG Regional Meetings GGN Executive Board Meeting
17/9/2020	Opening of the Conference – Conference Sessions GGN AC Meeting
18/9/2020	Conference Sessions GGN General Assembly
19/9/2020	Field Trip and Gala Dinner – Award & Certificates Ceremony
20/9/2020	Sessions – Evaluator’s Seminar Closing Ceremony
21-22/9/2020	Post Congress Field Trips

5-10 October 2020: Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2020 - Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia

13 October 2020: International Day for Disaster Reduction, Geopark Activities

25-30 October 2020: 6th International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks - China University of Geosciences Beijing, China

11 December 2020: International Mountain Day, Geopark Activities

2021

March 2021: 47th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

September 2021: Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Coordination Committee Meeting - Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand

September 2021: 7th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium - Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand

September 2021: 48th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Sesia - Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

September 2021: 16th European Geoparks Conference - Sesia - Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

2022

March 2022: 49th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands in collaboration with TerraVita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

September 2022: 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOPARKS

2023

March 2023: 51st European Geoparks Network Meeting, Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania

September 2023: 8th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium

September 2023: 17th European Geoparks Conference



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