

Dear members of the Global Geoparks Network,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,
While the COVID-19 pandemic continue its severe impact to the social and economic life of our communities the Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section and the Regional Geoparks Networks are currently organizing a variety of activities to promote Geoparks as "Territories of Resilience".

Geoparks are managing to cope with adversities that ever could imagine. Geoparks keep on engaging with their communities, providing services despite the difficult conditions in COVID 19 times to prepare the "DAY after..."

Geoparks will be ready to welcome people again AFTER the period of confinement.

For now let us come together to celebrate VIRTUALLY and invite the broader audience together with our local communities to discover our Geoparks' hidden treasures!

Keeping social distancing, Geoparks are contacting each other and their communities using more and more DIGITAL ACTIVITIES for networking, educational and promotional activities. During May Geoparks were very active in Global, Regional, National and local activities such as:

- celebration of the **International Museum Day** on May 18th
- celebration of the **3rd Anniversary of the establishment of Geo LAC** on May 26th
- celebration of the **European Geoparks Week 2020** May 24th – June 7th
- common projects meetings and seminars
- many other events at the national and local level

We would like to thank all colleagues who shared information on their meetings, events and activities with all of us. We are waiting your articles, photos and videos of your activities on how you support your local communities and your participation in the initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience".

The GGN Executive Board is strongly encouraging all the colleagues to share information, experiences and good practices.

To facilitate the necessary capacity building on UNESCO Global Geoparks the Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section are organizing a **Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks : Territories of resilience** from June 10 to June 26. The lectures will take place every working day from 7.00 UTC to 12.00 UTC. Special workshop will be organized on Saturday 20th June.

The GGN Executive Board

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS: TERRITORIES OF RESELIENCE

The Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark travel guide during COVID19 pandemic period [video]

3rd Anniversary of the Mixteca Alta UNESCO Global Geopark

Mixteca Alta UNESCO Global Geopark celebrated its 3rd Anniversary during a completely online celebration. From May 5 to 7, the authorities, residents of all conditions and ages, and academics met to confirm their commitment to the Geopark and, above all, to their communities. At this online celebration participated also colleagues from Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UGGp, Villuerca's Ibores Jara UGGp, Maestrazgo Aspiring Geopark, Kuttralkura UGGp, Grutas del Palacio UGGp, Araripe UGGp and the UNESCO Office in Montevideo which gave talks and proved their support and advice, demonstrated the importance of the bonds they have created through the Global Geoparks Network, the European Geoparks Network and the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network.

[Please click here for more information about the third anniversary of the Mixteca Alta UNESCO Global Geopark \[pdf\]](#)

Submit your Geopark Promotional Video to the new GGN platform for videos

The Global Geoparks Network created a new video platform to host the UNESCO Global Geoparks promotional videos. This video platform will also facilitate the first edition of the GGN Film festival.

We invite all Global Geoparks to use the opportunity to present their promotional videos (short videos, 3 to 5 minutes).

All Geopark videos need to be submitted by the UGGp or Aspiring UGGp Management. Each Geopark can only present one video. Please upload your videos in the new GGN website using the [form in the link](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL INTENSIVE COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS: TERRITORIES OF RESILIENCE

June 10th – 26th 2020



During the time of the COVID-19 outbreak, as we are unable to travel, UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network are co-organising the distance learning International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2020 "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience" from 10th to 26th of June 2020.

The Course is delivered by the University of the Aegean – Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest at Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, North Aegean Region, Greece, one of the first Global Geoparks in the world.

Resilience is a fundamental concept already enclosed inside the whole Geopark concept and is related to any kind of environmental and humanitarian crisis: Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Floods, Landslides, Volcanic eruptions, Droughts, Economic crises, Epidemics, Terrorism, War, Refugees and of course the COVID-19 pandemic. Global Geopark Network (GGN) launched the new initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of resilience" in 21st April 2020.

The course provides an opportunity to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks could make a real impact in local communities and on society as a whole during COVID-19 pandemic but also provide conceptual issues on UNESCO Global Geoparks

Geoparks staff members, PhD, Master students and graduates can gain knowledge and experience on Geoparks and its role as "Territories of resilience".

If you are interested in participating please submit an application form accompanied by a short CV and an abstract (one page) of your or your country's geoparks project which you will present during the Course.

Application deadline: June 5th, 2020

For registration and more information please visit www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2020

[Please download the programme](#)

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

Geopark Annual Reports 2019

UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the world worked very hard during 2019 and implement various activities. All these activities are derived from the Geopark's Annual Report's 2019. Annual Reports are very useful communication and promotion tools of the Geopark's activities but also very useful tool of exchange of good practises.

GGN congratulates all colleagues for their 2019 activities and communicates their Annual Report's 2019 through the webpage:

http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=4095

For the Geoparks that have not yet sent their Annual Report 2019, please use the template and send it to the GGN Secretariat (ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

REGIONAL GEOPARK NETWORKS

Regional Geopark Networks Annual Reports 2019

The GGN Executive Board congratulates the coordinators and all colleagues at European Geoparks Network (EGN), Asian Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) and Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GEOLAC) for the activities presented in the Annual Reports 2019.

[European Geoparks Network \(EGN\) \[pdf\]](#)

[Asian Pacific Geoparks Network \(APGN\) \[pdf\]](#)

[Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network \(GEOLAC\) \[pdf\]](#)

Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GEOLAC)

3rd Anniversary of the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network

In 2020 Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network celebrated its 3rd anniversary (2018-2020) and the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network organised a seminar on May 26, 2020.

At the seminar was presented the creation of the GeoLac Network by Brazil - Araripe UGGp, Uruguay- Grutas de Palacio UGGp, Mexico - Comarca Minera UGGp, Mexico - Mixteca Alta UGGp but also the Challenges of GeoLAC today.

At the opening of the seminar was presented the video of GGN initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks, territories of resilience".

[Please click here to download the programme of the seminar \[pdf\]](#)

European Geoparks Network (EGN)

European Geoparks Week 2020

24 May - 7 June 2020

European Geoparks will be ready to welcome people AFTER the period of confinement.

For now let us come together to celebrate VIRTUALLY the European Geoparks Week and discover our hidden treasures!

European Geoparks Week will not take place like the previous years due to pandemic crisis.

Therefore, Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp coordinated by Dr. Jutta Weber will switch to an alternative: a common brochure, which communicates the 20th anniversary of the EGN, combined with a daily facebook campaign between the 24th of May and the 7th of June.

The celebration will focus daily on two aspects:

1. Insight into the Geopark region with photos from the Geopark partners, who initially would have presented an event during this EGN Week.
2. View to the European Geopark Partners with photos and links to respective websites.

The daily posts will be collected to an album of our EGN Week 2020, where the EGN partners will get a daily stage.

[Download the EGN week banners](#)

EGN Digital Forum

5 June 2020

Under the circumstances and all uncertainties for future meetings other geopark activities, EGN AC organises a digital meeting, an EGN digital forum.

The date for the first meeting will be **Friday 5th of June at 08.00 GMT - 10.00 GMT**

The main purpose of the meeting is to "meet", share information and keep and refresh the feeling of networking.

We are all in this together!

Kristin Rangnes and Babbis Fassoulas
EGN Coordinators

EGN Newsletter

EGN published and sharing [EGN Newsletter 2019 - ISSUE 16](#) showing the activities of the European geoparks are carrying out. The theme of this issue is "Health and wellbeing in European UNESCO Global Geoparks".

European Geoparks will continue this important activity also in the future.

Please read the online version of the [EGN Newsletter 2019 - ISSUE 16 here](#).

National Fora/Committee Annual Reports 2019

[Chinese Geoparks Network \[pdf\]](#)

[Vietnam Geoparks Network \[pdf\]](#)

[Czech Republic National Geoparks Council \[pdf\]](#)

The GGN Executive Board congratulates all the coordinators and colleagues for the activities and strongly encourage all the colleagues from the National Fora/Committee to share their experiences and their good practices during 2019 by sending their Annual Reports 2019.

Please send your National Fora/Committee Annual Reports 2019 to the GGN Secretariat (ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

GEOPARKS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

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

New deadline: 31 July 2020



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 Terra 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), Madonna 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 July 31, 2020 to: GGN (ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and UNESCO (m.patzak@unesco.org)

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>

[Manage your subscription](#)

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