



# Global Geoparks Network

## *Celebrating* UNESCO Global Geoparks

ISSUE 1

# UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Their bottom-up approach of combining conservation with sustainable development while involving local communities is becoming increasingly popular. At present, there are 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 35 countries. They are all institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

## What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disasters-related risks. By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.

## A bottom-up approach

UNESCO Global Geoparks empower local communities and give them the opportunity to develop cohesive partnerships with the common goal of promoting the area's significant geological processes, features, periods of time, historical themes linked to geology, or outstanding geological beauty. UNESCO Global Geoparks are established through a bottom-up process involving all relevant local and regional stakeholders and authorities in the area (e.g. land owners, community groups, tourism providers, indigenous people, and local organizations). This process requires firm commitment by the local communities, a strong local multiple partnership with long-term public and political support, and the development of a comprehensive strategy that will meet all of the communities' goals while showcasing and protecting the area's geological heritage.



# Global Geoparks Network



The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a non-profit and a non-governmental organization. It was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership developed under the umbrella of UNESCO, and was officially registered as an association in 2014 subjecting to French law. The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Networking and collaboration among Global Geoparks is an important component of the Global Geoparks Network.

The Global Geoparks Network also promotes networking on a regional basis.

The three regional Geoparks networks are in Asia - Pacific, Europe and Latin America and Caribbean.

The Global Geoparks Network establishes ethical standards which must be adopted and respected by Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals.

The Global Geoparks Network organises co-operation and mutual assistance between Global Geoparks and between Global Geopark professionals.

The Global Geoparks Network initiates and co-ordinates thematic Working Groups which will foster international co-operation in a variety of issues related with Geopark operation and activities.

The Global Geoparks Network represents, advances, and disseminates knowledge in Geodiversity management and other disciplines related to studies in Geo-conservation, Geo-tourism, Geo-education and/or the management and activities of Global Geoparks.

## The objectives of the Global Geoparks Network are:

- to promote the equitable geographical establishment, development and professional management of Global Geoparks;
- to advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, function and role of Global Geoparks;
- to assist local communities to value their natural and cultural heritage;
- to preserve Earth heritage for present and future generations;
- to educate and teach the broad public about issues in geo-sciences and their relation with environmental matters and natural hazards;
- to ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development based on the natural (or earth) system;
- to foster multi-cultural links between heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity, using participatory schemes of partnership and management;
- to stimulate research when appropriate;
- to promote joint initiatives between Global Geoparks (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, twinning);



Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

# Mission

The Global Geoparks Network is the international organisation of the Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals which is committed to the conservation, management and communication to society of the Earth heritage as an integral part of the world's natural and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible.

Global Geoparks are tools to conserve and enhance the value of areas of geological significance in Earth history, including landscapes and geological formations, which are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for our future and to promote sustainable development for example through geo-tourism and education.

Global Geoparks promote the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, clearly demonstrating that geodiversity is the foundation of all ecosystems and the basis of human interaction with the landscape.



## GGN Structure

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a democratic international organisation and its operation is based on the decision of its members. The structure of the Global Geoparks Network includes the following bodies:

### General Assembly:

The General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN.

The General Assembly holds an ordinary session at least once every two years on the same dates and in the same place as the International Conference on Geoparks.

### Executive Board:

The Executive Board is the decision making body of the GGN. It is elected by the General Assembly for a four (4)-year term of office.

It is composed: the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the General Secretary and eight Members.

### Advisory Committee:

The Advisory Committee is the advisory body of the GGN Executive Board and the General Assembly.

It consists of the Chairpersons of the National Geopark Fora / Committees, and the designated representatives of the Affiliated Organisations.

### National Geopark Fora / Committees:

A National Geopark Forum or Committee, includes all the members of the GGN resident in a State. The interests of the GGN and its Members and organise activities in that State

### International Committees / Task Forces / Working Groups:

The GGN Executive Board appoints committees, task forces and working groups, and defines their duties. The active Working Groups and Committees presentation in pages 10-11.

### International Conference on Geoparks:

The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is taking place every two years organized by a UNESCO Global Geopark. The organisation and financing of the conference shall be the responsibility of the host country or countries. However, the GGN Executive Board shall advise on the programme planned for the conference.

### Regional Geopark Networks:

Regional Geopark Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level. Regional Geopark Networks serve for the coordination of GGN activities at a regional or continental level and as fora for the exchange of information and co-operation between UNESCO Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals in the region. Today three Regional Networks operate: the European Geoparks Network – EGN (since 2000), the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN (since 2007) and the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network – LACGN (since 2017).

### Operational Secretariat:

The Operational Secretariat, consisting of the General Secretary and other staff members, is located in the Haute Provence UNESCO Global Geopark. This is the registered office of the GGN.



The GGN Executive board meets regularly to discuss the progress and coordinate the operation of the Global Geoparks Network. The 32nd meeting of the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network took place at the University of the Aegean, Lesvos island, Greece. The partnership between the Global Geoparks Network and the UNWTO - World Tourism Organization was discussed at the meeting with Mr Beka Jakeli, UNWTO Regional Programme for Europe head.

## GGN Executive Board

### President

Zouros Nickolas, Greece

### Vice President

Jin Xiaochi, P.R. China

### Vice President

Komoo Ibrahim, Malaysia

### General Secretary

Martini Guy, France

### Treasurer

Rangnes Kristin, Norway

### Members

Border Melanie, United Kingdom

Bremner Gail, Canada (N. America)

Burlando Mauricio, Italy

Frey Marie-Luise, Germany

Melo Patricio, Brazil

Ouabbas Mustapha, Morocco

Watanabe Mahito, Japan

Zhang Jianping, P.R. China

### Observers

### UNESCO Secretariat

Prof. P. McKeever, UNESCO

### GGN Advisory Committee Chair

Prof. S. Nakada, Japan

# GGN Secretariat

Musée Promenade, Montée Bernard Dellacasagrande, 04000 Digne les Bains, France.  
[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)

## Advisory Committee

### Chair

**Setsuya Nakada**, Japan

### Vice Chair

**Elizabeth Silva**, Portugal

### Members

Austria	<b>Heinz Kollmann</b> , Austrian Geoparks Forum
Brazil	<b>Patricio Melo</b> , Representative of Araripe UGG
Canada	<b>Godfrey Nowlan</b> , Canadian Geoparks Committee
China	<b>Yuanyuan Zheng</b> , Chinese Geoparks Network
Croatia	<b>Goran Radonic</b> , Representative of Papuk UGG
Cyprus	<b>Efthimios Tsiolakis</b> , Representative of Troodos UGG
Czech Republic	<b>Martina Paskova</b> , Czech Republic Geoparks Council
Denmark	<b>Jacob Walløe</b> , Representative of Odsherred UGG
Finland	<b>Vesa Krökki</b> , Representative of Rokua UGG
France	<b>Jean-Luc Desbois</b> , French Geoparks Committee
Germany	<b>Escher Hartmut</b> , German Geoparks Forum
Greece	<b>Charalambos Fassoulas</b> , Hellenic Geoparks Forum
Hungary	<b>Barnabas Korbely</b> , Representative of Bakony-Balaton UGG
Iceland	<b>Sigurður Sigursveinsson</b> , Icelandic Geoparks Forum
Indonesia	<b>Hanang Samondra</b> , Indonesian Geoparks Committee
Iran	<b>Alireza Amrikazemi</b> , Qeshm island UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran
Ireland	<b>Kirstin Lemon</b> , Irish Geoparks Forum
Italy	<b>Aniello Aloia</b> , Italian Geoparks Committee
Japan	<b>Setsuya Nakada</b> , Japanese Geoparks Committee
Malaysia	<b>Ibrahim Komoo</b> , Malaysian Geoparks Committee
Mexico	<b>Carles Canet Miquel</b> , Representative of Comarca Minera Hidalgo UGG
Morocco	<b>Mustapha Ouabbas</b> , Representative of Mgoun UGG
Netherlands	<b>Gretha Roelfs</b> , Representative of Hondsrug UGG
Norway	<b>Pål Thjomøe</b> , Norwegian National Committee for Geoheritage and Geoparks
Poland	<b>Jacek Koźma</b> , Representative of Muskau Arch UGG
Portugal	<b>Elizabeth Silva</b> , Portuguese Geoparks Committee
Republic of Korea	<b>Soojae Lee</b> , Korean Geoparks Committee
Romania	<b>Alexandru Andrasanu</b> , Representative of Hateg UGG
Slovakia	<b>Ivona Cimermanová</b> , Representative of Novohrad-Nograd UGG
Slovenia	<b>Bojan Režun</b> , Slovenian Geoparks Forum
Spain	<b>Asier Hilario</b> , Spanish Geoparks Forum
Turkey	<b>Tuncer Demir</b> , Representative of Kula UGG
Vietnam	<b>Tran Tan Van</b> , Vietnam Geoparks Committee
United Kingdom	<b>Border Melanie</b> , UK Geoparks Committee
Uruguay	<b>Cesar Goso</b> , Representative of Grutas del Palacio UGG



## Regional Geopark Networks

Recognising the very strong role networking has played in the success of the Global Geoparks movement and recognizing the valuable role it plays in facilitating the sharing of experience, formation of joint initiatives and projects and the highly significant role it plays in capacity-building, the GGN encourages the strengthening of Regional Geopark Networks.

Regional Geopark Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level.

Regional Geopark Networks serve for the coordination of GGN activities at a regional or continental level and as fora for the exchange of information and co-operation between Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals in the region.

The activities of Regional Geopark Networks include the organisation of Regional Geopark Conferences, workshops and seminars, capacity building activities, common projects, promotional activities and common publications.

Each Geoparks Network forms a Coordination Commission which is the governing body of the Regional Network and elects two Coordinators and an Advisory Committee according to the Regional Geoparks Network Rules of operation.

All Regional Geoparks Networks submit an Annual Report of Activities to the GGN Executive Board.

### ● Regional Geopark Networks

- European Geoparks Network - EGN  
[www.europeangeoparks.org](http://www.europeangeoparks.org)
- Asian Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN  
[www.asiapacificgeoparks.org](http://www.asiapacificgeoparks.org)
- Geoparks in Latin America and the Caribbean - LACGN

### ● Regional Geopark Conferences

- Regional Geopark Conferences organize Regional Conferences or Symposia every two years, not at the same year of the International Geoparks Conference.
- The European Geopark Network organized 14 European Geoparks Conferences since 2000. The next will be organized in Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark, Andalucia, Spain in September 2019.
- The Asian Pacific Geoparks Network organized 5 Symposia since 2007. The next will be organized in Indonesia in September 2019.

# GGN Working Groups

GGN Working Groups, GGN Task Forces and GGN Committees have a maximum four (4) years term.

The Chairperson of each Technical Committee submits its annual report to the GGN Executive Board who reports to the General Assembly.

A GGN WG composes by 9-10 GGN Members having proven experience on the subject.

GGN WG members have broad geographical distribution.

The main goal of a GGN WG is the coordination of activities at the global level (on a specific subject), coordination of exchange of ideas and best practices, proposal of new regulations and concepts.

## A GGN WG:

- encourages the activities of similar working groups at the Regional level where broad participation is welcome;
- submits to the GGN ExB an annual report of activities;
- communicates with all GGN members the activities and results;
- disseminates through GGN website information about their work to all GGN members.

### ● GGN Working Group on Volcanic Areas

Coordinator Prof. **Setsuya Nakada** (Japan)

Vice coordinator Prof. **Joao Carlos Nunes** (Portugal)

#### Members

**Andreas Shueller**, Franzen, Julia, Vulkaneifel, Germany

**Barnabas Korbely**, Bakony - Balaton, Hungary

**Qinfei Lu**, Yandangshan, China

**Yongchao Si**, Wudalianchi, China

**Yongmun Jeon**, Jeju, Korea

**Elena Mederos**, Lanzarote, Spain

**Hanang Samodra**, Indonesia

*Similar Regional Working Groups are established by the Regional Networks*

### ● GGN Working Group on Geo-Hazards

Coordinator Dr. **Mahito Watanabe** (Japan)

Vice coordinator in Dr. **Charalambos Fassoulas** (Greece)

UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction Section Representative Dr. **Irina Pavlova**

#### Members

**Noritaka Matsubara**, Sanin Kaigan, Japan

**Alessia Amorfini**, Apuan Alps, Italy

**Brynja Davíðsdóttir**, Katla, Iceland

**Richard Watson**, Marble Arch Caves, Ireland

**Alisa Chen**, Huangshan, China

**Fang Chen**, Danxiashan UGG, China

*Similar Regional Working Groups are established by the Regional Networks*

### ● GGN Geological Heritage Assessment Working Group

**Prof. Ibrahim Komoo**, University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia

**Prof. Xiaochi Jin**, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, P.R. China

**Dr. Kristin Rangnes**, Director of Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway

**Prof. Setsuya Nakada**, University of Tokyo, Japan

**Prof. Zhang Jianping**, University of Geosciences, China

**Dr. Mahito Watanabe**, Geological Survey of Japan

**Dr. Maurizio Burlando**, Director of Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

**Dr. Marie-Luise Frey**, Welterbe Grube Messel gGmbH

**Prof. Patricio Melo**, Universidade Regional do Cariri - URCA Reitor.

**Dr. Asier Hilario**, Scientific Coordinator of Basque Coast UGG

**Dr. Godfrey Nowlan**, Canadian Geological Survey, Canadian National Geopark Committee Chair

**Soo Jae Lee**, Chief Research Fellow, Korea Environment Institute (KEI) South Korea

**Prof. João Carlos Carreiro Nunes**, Azores University – Geosciences Department, Portugal

**Prof. Alexandrou Andrasanou**, University of Bucharest, Romania

**Dr. Guy Martini**, Director of Haute-Provence Geopark, France

**Prof. Nickolas Zouros**, University of Aegean, Greece



Açores, UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

### ● GGN Sustainable Development Goals Working Group

#### Members

**Xiaochi Jin**, China

**Patricio Melo**, Brazil

**Jutta Weber**, Germany

**Elizabeth Silva**, Portugal

**Ibrahim Komoo**, Malaysia

**Mustapha Oabbas**, Morocco

**Kristin Rangnes**, Norway

### ● GGN Tourism Working Group

#### Members

**Maurizio Burlando**, Italy

**Carlos Carvalho**, Portugal

**Ka Ming Yeung**, Hong Kong – China

**Marie-Luise Frey**, Germany

**Mustapha Oabbas**, Morocco

**Jane Fullerton**, Canada

### ● GGN Educational Working Group

#### Members

**Marie-Luise Frey**, Germany

**Jianping Zhang**, China

**Jose Maria Barerra**, Spain

**Patricio Melo**, Brazil

### ● GGN Island Working Group

#### Members

**Langkawi Island Geopark**, Malaysia

**Jeju Island Geopark**, Korea

**Hongkong Geopark**, China

**Oki Islands Geopark**, Japan

**Qeshm Island Geopark**, Iran

**Lesvos Island Geopark**, Greece

**Shetland Geopark**, UK

**Azores Geopark**, Portugal

**El Hierro Geopark**, Spain

**Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands Geopark**, Spain



Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil



Timanfaya National Park - Lanzarote UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

## GGN Statutes & Bylaws

The Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is the basic document of the Organization. The internal Rules of the GGN, and the Code of Ethics define and complete these Statutes.

### ● GGN Statutes (September 2016)

The Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network adopted in September 2014 by the GGN General Assembly in Saint John, Stone hammer UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada, having as a model the statutes of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network define the structure, operation and membership of the Organization. The GGN statutes were modified in September 2016 by the GGN General Assembly in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, UK.

### Members (Article 4)

The GGN has the following categories of Membership:

1. Institutional Members — UNESCO Global Geoparks.
2. Individual Members – Global Geopark Professionals — Persons who have combined or proved professional experience in Global Geopark management (geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues).
3. Honorary Members — Persons who have rendered exceptional services to the international Global Geopark community or to the GGN.
4. Cooperating Members — International Organizations, institutions or persons providing substantial financial or other assistance to the GGN because of an interest in Global Geoparks and international co-operation between Global Geoparks.

<http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GGN-Association-Statutes-FINAL-SEPTEMBER-2016.pdf>

### ● GGN Internal Rules & Regulations (September 2016)

The purpose of these Internal Rules and Regulations is to set out the rules governing the operation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) pursuant to its Statutes.

[http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GGN-RULES-AND-REGULATIONS-07-07-2016\\_.pdf](http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GGN-RULES-AND-REGULATIONS-07-07-2016_.pdf)

### ● GGN Code of Ethics (September 2016)

The GGN Code of Ethics for GGN Members is a basic document for GGN operation following the provisions of GGN Statutes.

The GGN Code of Ethics provides a means of professional self-regulation and sets minimum standards of conduct and performance to which all GGN Members throughout the world may reasonably aspire as well as a providing a statement of reasonable community expectation from the Geopark profession.

<http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GLOBAL-GEOPARKS-NETWORK-CODE-OF-ETHICS-final.pdf>

## GGN Best Practice Awards 2018

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Best Practices Award aims to promote, enhance and encourage the development of innovative initiatives inside UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The award recognizes pioneering practices and initiatives that contribute to a more effective and dynamic network, set fantastic examples for others to follow and emulate, and create greater public recognition of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The prize honors 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 Practice Awards 2018 include three awards, granted by the GGN Association in partnership with the Organizing Committee of the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks hosted by the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy.

The GGN Best Practices Awards 2018 are selected from a two year period of evaluation / revalidation missions (2016-2017) based on proposals submitted by the Geopark Evaluators till December 2017. Submissions for the award are only 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.

The main selection criteria are based on:

- Suitability and replication capability in other UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- Effective contribution to an increasingly better functioning of UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- The innovative nature of the best practice example (relevant, original, unique approach, etc.)

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

The three winning cases are given the opportunity will present their project in detail to the conference delegates during a special best practice session at the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2018 on September 2018.

[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)



Mirador del Rio - Lanzarote UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain



Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark Museum, Beijing China



7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks



1st International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Beijing, China

## International Conferences on UNESCO Global Geoparks

### ● International Geopark Conference

The GGN holds an International Geoparks Conference every two years. Section The International Geoparks Conference may propose resolutions arising from its discussions for consideration by the General Assembly. Fully detailed submissions from Global Geoparks to host the conference shall be addressed to the GGN Executive Board.

When a submission has been accepted, the organisation and financing of the conference shall, subject to the other provisions, be the responsibility of the host country or countries. However, the GGN Executive Board shall advise on the programme planned for the conference.

It is the responsibility of the host country or countries that:

1. suitable facilities are provided for the meeting of the General Assembly;
2. provision shall be made for the meetings of the GGN Executive Board;
3. detail bids to host the conference arrangements shall be submitted to the GGN Executive Board at least two years in advance of the date of the conference. The GGN Executive Board satisfies itself that the proposals are compatible with the statutes of the GGN.

A representative of the Organising Committee of the next conference is normally invited to attend the meeting of the GGN Executive Board at which the proposals are considered, and the host country shall be asked to invite a member or members of the Executive Board for consultation.

**1st International Geoparks Conference**  
Beijing 2004 (China)

**2nd International Geoparks Conference**  
Belfast 2006 (Northern Ireland)

**3rd International Geoparks Conference**  
Osnabrück – TerraVita Global Geopark  
2008 (Germany)

**4th International Geoparks Conference**  
Langkawi global Geopark  
2010 (Malaysia)

**5th International Geoparks Conference**  
Shimabara – Unzen Global Geopark  
2012 (Japan)

**6th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks**  
Saint John – Stonehammer Global Geopark  
2014 (Canada)

**7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks**  
Torquay – English Riviera  
UNESCO Global Geopark  
2016 (UK)



6th International UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks, Canada



5th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Shimabara, Japan



Regional Workshop of Geoparks and Geoheritage; fostering geoheritage in Latin America. UNAM Mexico City 2015



Intensive Course on Geoparks, Lesvos

## Capacity building activities

The Global Geoparks Network supports a variety of capacity building activities aiming to distribute information and share best practice on Geoparks building and operation, especially in underrepresented regions. The Global Geopark Network plays an active role in nurturing partnerships and the sharing of best practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks.

The main GGN capacity building activities include:

- **The International Intensive Course on Geoparks - Lesvos**

It takes place every June since 2007 on Lesvos island UNESCO Global Geopark. The Intensive Course on Geoparks is organized by the University of the Aegean with the contribution of top Geopark experts coming all over the globe. It comprises of theoretical background together with extensive fieldwork. The Intensive Course on Geoparks aims to focus on the UNESCO Global Geoparks building and operation, on Geoparks contribution on shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism and environmental education – tying sustainability together with community pride and benefit, economic development and new employment as well as geological, natural and cultural heritage conservation and management. <http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2018>

- **The International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks - Beijing**

It takes place every year in Beijing, organized by the China University of Geosciences Beijing. The speakers are the top international geopark experts from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, Global Geopark Executive Board and other institutions. The Intensive Course on Geoparks Management aims to focus on the UNESCO Global Geoparks management and operation, geo-heritage protection and conservation, geo-tourism, geo-education and sustainable local development.

- **Workshops and Meetings**

The Global Geoparks Network supports the organization of special training courses and workshops on Geoparks in countries with few Geoparks to support the development and expansion of Geoparks in all continents.



Intensive Course on Geoparks, Beijing

# UNESCO Global Geoparks



## UNESCO Global Geoparks

127 UNESCO Global Geoparks  
in 33 countries



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO  
Global  
Geoparks

- 70 UNESCO Global Geoparks are forming the European Geoparks Network
- 50 UNESCO Global Geoparks are forming the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network.
- 4 UNESCO Global Geoparks are forming Geoparks in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 2 UNESCO Global Geoparks in North America.
- 1 UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa.

# Global Geoparks Network



## Global Geoparks Network

International Association  
of Geoparks



# UNESCO Global Geoparks

# Global Geoparks Network

- Austria\***
  - 1 Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 2 Carnic Alps UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 3 Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark
- Brazil**
  - 4 Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark
- Canada**
  - 5 Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 6 Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark
- China**
  - 7 Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 8 Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 9 Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 10 Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 11 Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 12 Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 13 Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 14 Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 15 Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 16 Taining UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 17 Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 18 Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 19 Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 20 Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 21 Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 22 Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 23 Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 24 Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 25 Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 26 Longhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 27 Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 28 Qinling Zhongnanshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 29 Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 30 Leye Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 31 Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 32 Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 33 Sanqingshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 34 Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 35 Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 36 Mount Kunlun UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 37 Dali-Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 38 Dunhuang UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 39 Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 40 Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 41 Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark

- Croatia**
  - 42 Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark
- Cyprus**
  - 43 Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark
- Czech Republic**
  - 44 Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark
- Denmark**
  - 45 Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark
- Finland**
  - 46 Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark
- France**
  - 47 Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 48 Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 49 Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 50 Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 51 Monts d'Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 52 Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark
- Germany\***
  - 53 Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 54 TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 55 Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 56 Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 57 Harz, Braunschweiger Land UNESCO Global Geopark
- Greece**
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  - 59 Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 60 Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 61 Vikos - Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 62 Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark
- Hungary\***
  - 63 Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark
- Iceland**
  - 64 Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
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  - 68 Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark
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  - 70 Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

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  - 78 Alpi Apuani UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 79 Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark
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- Japan**
  - 81 Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark
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  - 84 San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 85 Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 86 Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 87 Aso UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 88 Mt. Aso UNESCO Global Geopark
- Malaysia**
  - 89 Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark
- Mexico**
  - 90 Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 91 Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark
- Morocco**
  - 92 M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark
- Netherlands**
  - 93 De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark
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  - 94 Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 95 Magma UNESCO Global Geopark
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- Portugal**
  - 96 Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 97 Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 98 Açores UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 99 Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark
- Republic of Korea**
  - 100 Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark
  - 101 Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark

- Romania**
    - 102 Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark
  - Slovakia\***
  - Slovenia\***
    - 103 Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark
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    - 105 Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark
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# Top 16 Focus Areas

## ● Geological Heritage Conservation



TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas that use the concept of sustainability, value the heritage of Mother Earth and recognize the need to protect it.

The defining geological sites in UNESCO Global Geoparks are protected by indigenous, local, regional and/or national law and management authorities, in cooperation with the appropriate agencies, which allow for the necessary monitoring and maintenance of these sites.

A UNESCO Global Geopark develops, experiments and enhances methods for preserving the geological heritage.

The Global Geoparks Network is developing partnerships among UNESCO Global Geoparks for sharing best practice and know-how on the protection, conservation and rational management of the geological heritage sites.

## ● Geological Hazard Risk Reduction

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Through educational activities for the local people and visitors many UNESCO Global Geoparks give information on the source of geological hazards and ways to reduce their impact including disaster response strategies. These efforts build important capacity and contribute to building more resilient communities that have the knowledge and skills to effectively respond to potential geological hazards.

The Global Geoparks Network working group on Geo-hazards coordinates common activities and helps preparing disaster mitigation strategies among Geoparks.



Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

## ● Climate Change Understanding

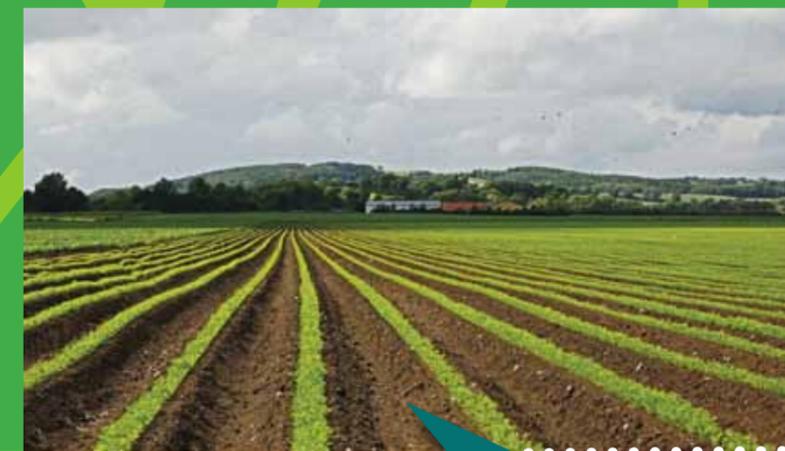
UNESCO Global Geoparks hold records of past climate change and are educators on current climate change as well as adopting a best practice approach to utilising renewable energy and employing the best standards of "green tourism."

UNESCO Global Geoparks serve as outdoor museums on the effects of past and current climate change thus giving the opportunity to show visitors how climate change can affect our environment, and raise awareness on the potential impact of climate change on the region, and provide the local communities with the knowledge to mitigate and adapt to the potential effects of climate change.



Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada

## ● Natural Resources Wise Use



Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark, Denmark

The history of mankind and civilization is based on the resources exploited from Earth's crust. The development of modern societies is limited by the consequences of depletion of natural resources

UNESCO Global Geoparks inform people about the sustainable use and need for natural resources, while at the same time promoting respect for the environment and the integrity of the landscape.

## Biodiversity Protection



UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas where the analysis of specific interactions between the lithosphere and biosphere provides an integrated concept of the role of the geological environment in the evolution of the biosphere. Geopark activities and projects are important in order to raise awareness on the relationship between the geological environment and modern ecosystems and their rational management under a holistic concept.

Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark, UK

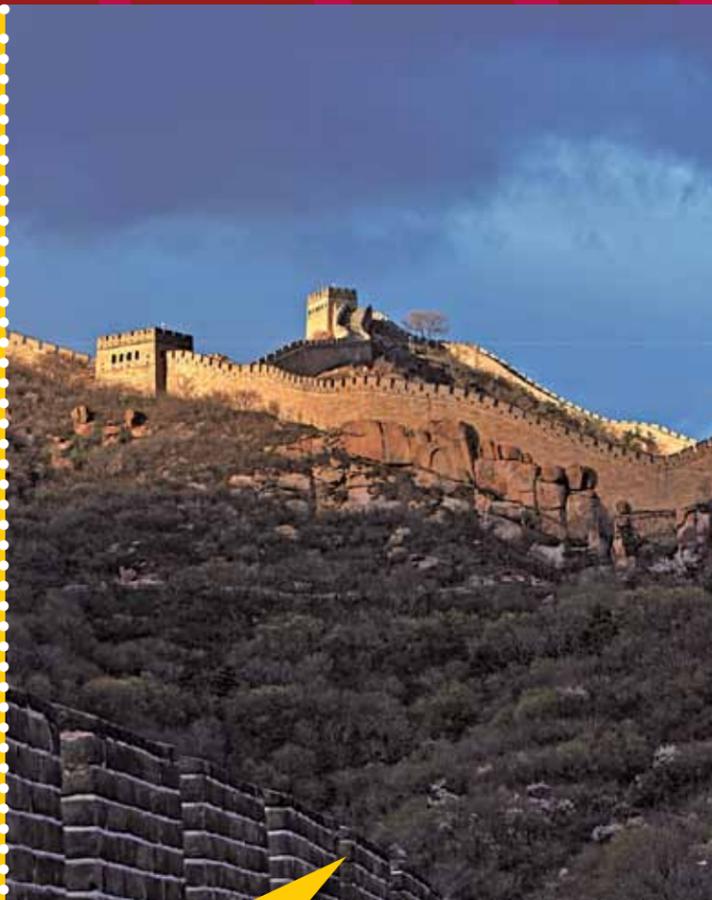
## Culture Heritage Enhancement

In many countries emblematic geosites are considered as sacred places. Since ancient times, sacred sites have had a mysterious allure for billions of people around the world. Legends and contemporary reports tell of extraordinary experiences people have had while visiting these places. Different sacred sites have the power to heal the body, enlighten the mind and inspire the heart. People built in such places temples and monasteries. UNESCO Global Geoparks host some important sacred places emphasizing the connection between specific landscapes and land-forms with mythology, archaeology and history.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are: it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore and folk traditions.

UNESCO Global Geoparks therefore engage in a range of activities to celebrate these links.

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks have strong links to the arts communities where the synergy released by bringing science and the arts together can yield surprising results.



Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark, China

## Education for Sustainability

UNESCO Global Geoparks develop and operate educational activities for all ages to spread awareness of our geological heritage and its links to other aspects of our natural, cultural and intangible heritages.

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer educational programmes for schools or offer special activities for children through "Summer camps", "Kids Clubs" or special "Fossil Fun Activities".

UNESCO Global Geoparks also offer education, both formal and informal, for adults and retired people.



Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China

## Science & Research



Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. Thus Geoparks are interesting to implement results of scientific research in the field of geo-conservation, tourism and sustainable local development.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to work with academic and research institutions to engage in active scientific research in the Earth Sciences, and other disciplines as appropriate, to advance our knowledge about the Earth and its processes.

A UNESCO Global Geopark is an active laboratory where people can become engaged in science from the highest academic research level to the level of the curious visitor.

# Responsible Tourism



Qeshm UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran

UNESCO Global Geoparks create infrastructure and activities to support visitor's access and interpretation of the Geological heritage as well as the development of sustainable tourism activities in the Geopark territory.

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote themselves as sustainable tourism destinations offering a diversity of guided field walks and nature tourism activities, authentic experience and local gastronomy.

The Global Geoparks Network became a gold partner of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2017 to support the celebration of the International Year of sustainable Tourism for development.

# Capacity Building Activities

UNESCO Global Geoparks also offer training courses and capacity building activities for local stakeholders and young unemployed people who can then, in turn, support Geopark activities and operation.

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO organizes International Training Courses on Geoparks for Geopark staff and your scientists, supporting the development of Geoparks in many countries especially in Regions with less number of UNESCO Global Geoparks.



English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, UK

# Employment



Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria

UNESCO Global Geoparks are a platform for the development, nurturing and promotion of local cottage industry and craft products.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are contributing for the sustainable development of rural areas hosting significant geological heritage sites through the creation of new enterprises and the employment of young people in their territories.

# Sustainable Development



UNESCO Global Geoparks are engaging with local people and respecting their traditional way of life in a way that empowers them and respects their human rights and dignity.

Unless a UNESCO Global Geopark has the support of local people it will not succeed.

A UNESCO Global Geopark should have an active role in the economic development of its territory through enhancement of a general image linked to the geological heritage and the development of sustainable tourism. A Geopark has direct impact on the territory by influencing its inhabitants' living conditions and environment. The objective is to enable the inhabitants to re-appropriate the values of the territory's heritage and actively participate in the territory's cultural revitalization as a whole.

UNESCO Global Geopark status does not imply restrictions on any economic activity inside a UNESCO Global Geopark where that activity complies with indigenous, local, regional and/or national legislation.

## ● Women Empower



Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia

UNESCO Global Geoparks have a strong emphasis on empowering women whether through focused education programmes or through the development of women's cooperatives.

In some UNESCO Global Geoparks women's cooperatives also provide an opportunity for women to obtain additional income in their own area and on their own terms.

## ● Networking



Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Coordination Committee Meeting in Sannin-Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

Networking is one of the core principles of Geoparks. Networking strongly contributes to the success of the Geoparks movement and plays a valuable role in facilitating the sharing of experience, quality management, formation of joint initiatives and projects and capacity-building.

The Global Geopark Network and its Regional Geopark Networks offer a global platform of cooperation and exchange of best practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks.

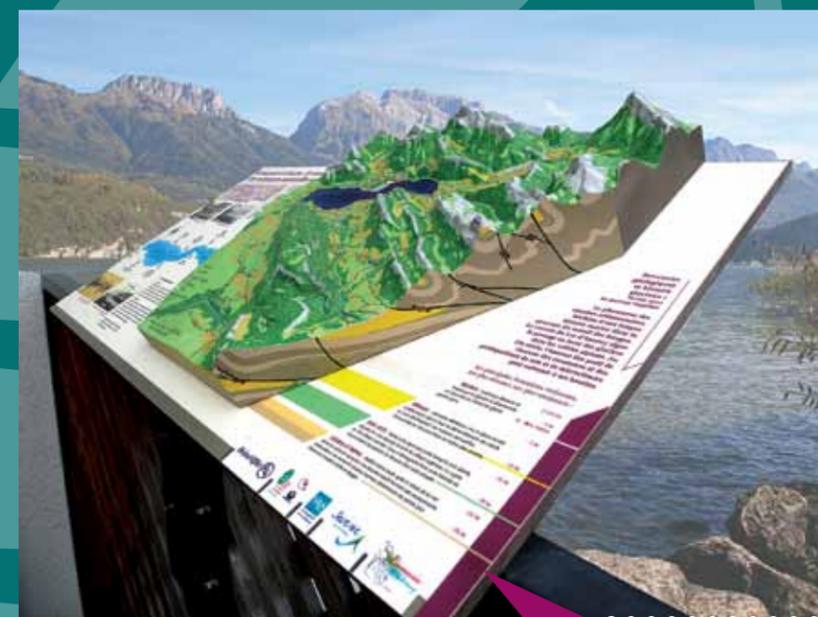
## ● Local and Indigenous Knowledge

UNESCO Global Geoparks actively involve local and indigenous peoples, preserving and celebrating their culture. By involving local and indigenous communities, UNESCO Global Geoparks recognize the importance of these communities, their culture and the link between these communities and their land. It is one of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks that local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems, alongside science, are included in the planning and management of the area.



San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

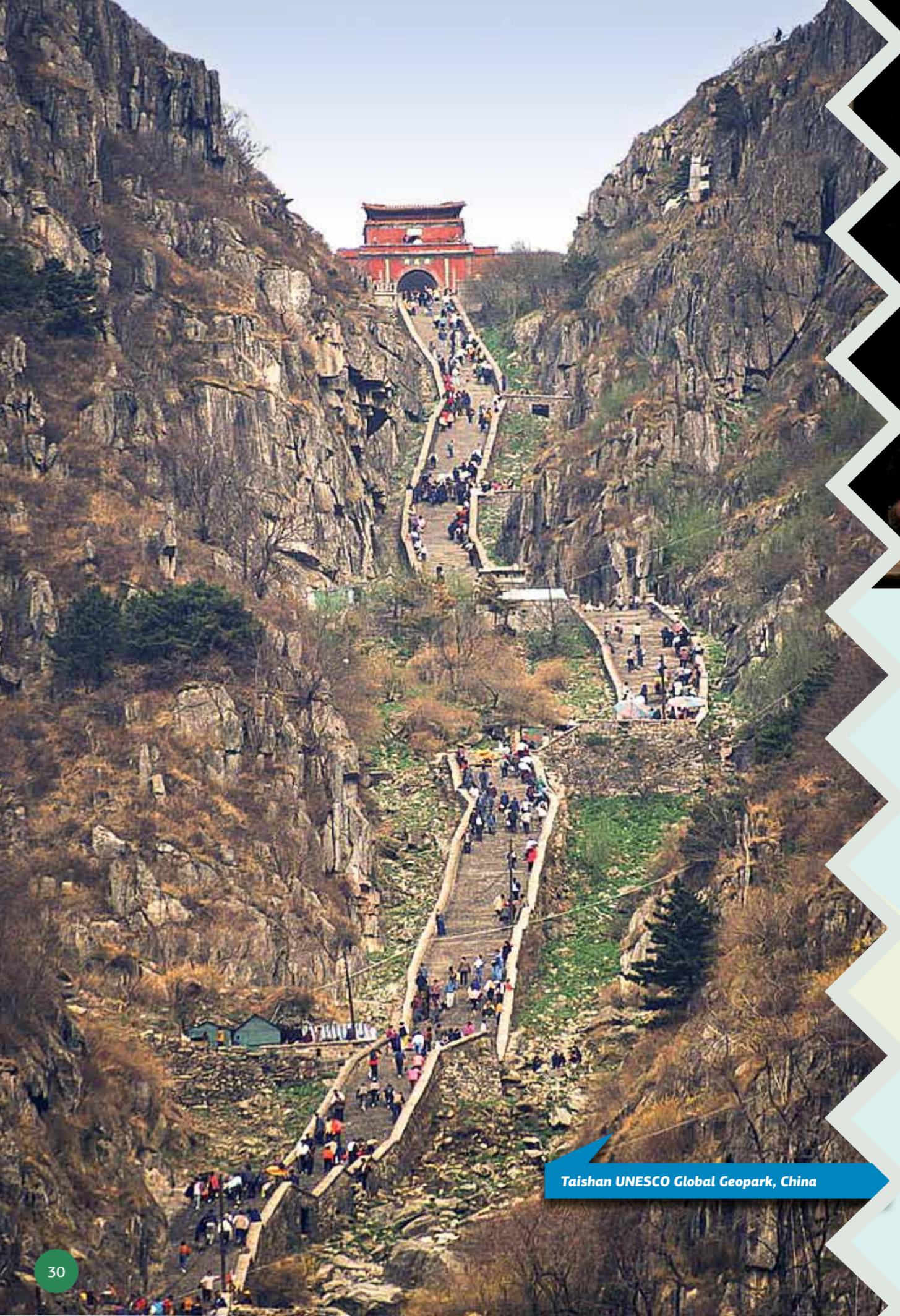
## ● Monitoring and Evaluation



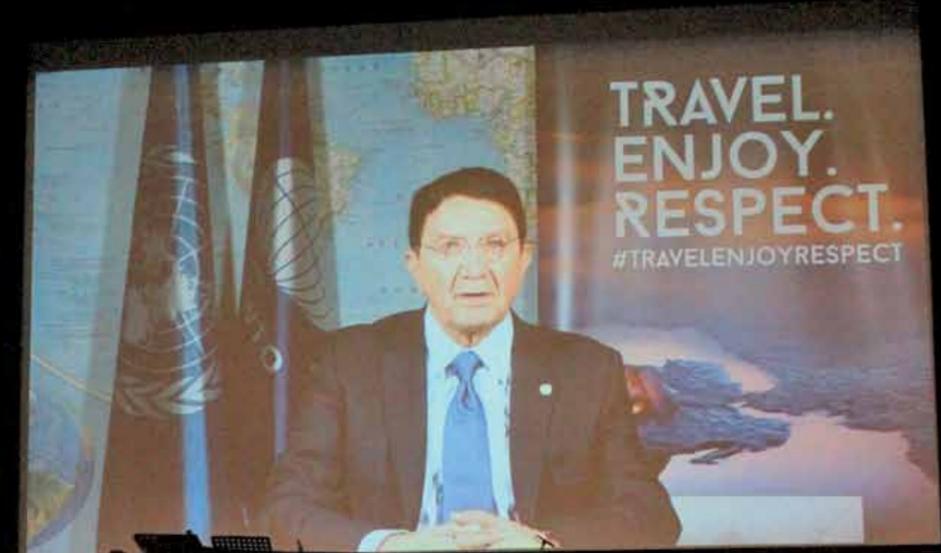
Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark, France

In order to ensure the continuing high quality of UNESCO Global Geoparks, including the quality of the management of each UNESCO Global Geopark, the status of each UNESCO Global Geopark is subject to a thorough revalidation every 4 years.

The Global Geoparks Network is supporting the Geopark evaluation and revalidation process by providing the experts for the evaluation missions and maintaining the roster of evaluators.



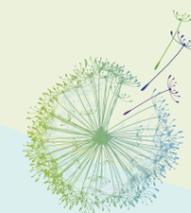
Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China



The Director General of the World Tourism Organization Mr T. Rifai delivered a message at the opening ceremony of the 14th European Geoparks Conference held in Azores UGG.

## GGN Partnership with World Tourism Organization

International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development



2017  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
FOR DEVELOPMENT

— Gold Partner —

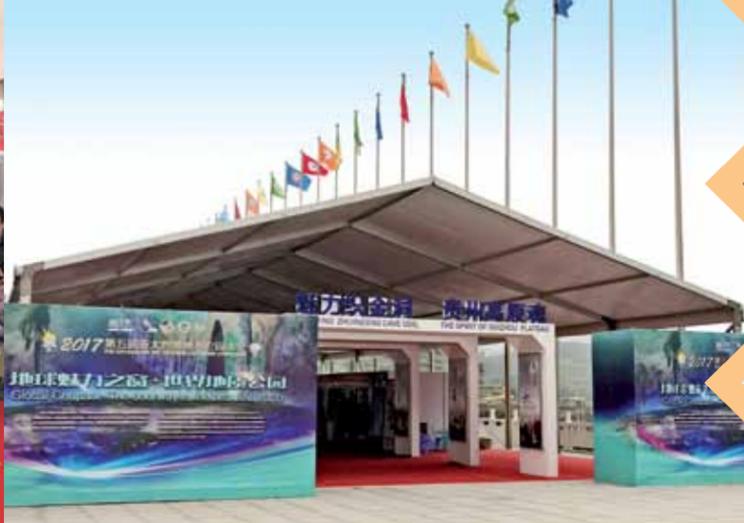
The United Nations (UN) has declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The resolution, recognizes the importance of international tourism, and particularly of the designation of an international year of sustainable tourism for development, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world. The International Year (IYST 2017) aims to raise awareness on the contribution of sustainable tourism to development among decision-makers and the public, while mobilizing all stakeholders to work together in making tourism a catalyst for positive change.

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board decided to become partner of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (IY2017), following the decision on the GGN Strategic Plan 2017-2020 agreed at of the 1st Ordinary General Assembly of GGN in the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark in September 2016.

The main goal of their partnership is to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations to the International Tourism market, to promote Geoparks and build new links with the tourism market, raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks among the main players in tourism industry, to promote Geoparks collectively through this UNITED NATIONS' initiative operated by the World Tourism Organization.



**Geoparks fair at the 5th APGN Symposium - Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark**



**Geopark Stand in ITB Berlin 2017**



**Geopark Stand in FITUR Madrid 2018**

## Tourist Fairs

The GGN participates every year in international tourism fairs such as ITB Berlin and Fitur Madrid, promoting Geoparks in the global tourism market.

The GGN's participation main goal is to underline that the UNESCO Global Geoparks provide an international framework for cooperation and broad stakeholder engagement on shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism, tying sustainability together with community pride and benefit, economic development and new employment as well as geological, natural and cultural heritage conservation.

Through the participation in the tourism fairs, the Global Geoparks Network comes in contact with thousands of businessmen working in the travel industry, tour operators, operators, visitors, journalists, official missions from all over the world who participate in the exhibitions in order to discover the latest developments in the travel industry.

The participation of the Geoparks is common and includes the presentation of individual exhibits, new brochures and local products in a special stand.

The Geoparks inform tourism professionals, tourists and visitors of the fair about the opportunities for visiting and the geotourism activities organized by the Geoparks. At the same time, Geoparks participate in press conferences as well as in special events organized and displaying Geoparks as unique tourist quality destinations.



**GGN Press Conference in ITB Berlin March 2017**

# Communication Tools

Various tools are currently being used to make sure the GGN gets the publicity it needs. These tools involve the following: The **GGN Newsletter**, which is published three times a year by the GGN Office in Beijing, is providing information on GGN activities as well as the activities of the individual UNESCO Global Geoparks. It provides another mode of publicity through its distribution to GGN Conferences, GGN Training Courses, International Tourism Fairs, Geopark partner organizations as well as schools and universities.

## GGN Website:

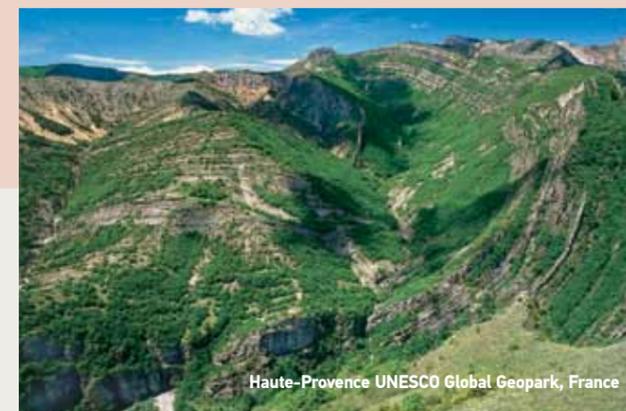
[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)

[www.globalgeopark.org](http://www.globalgeopark.org)

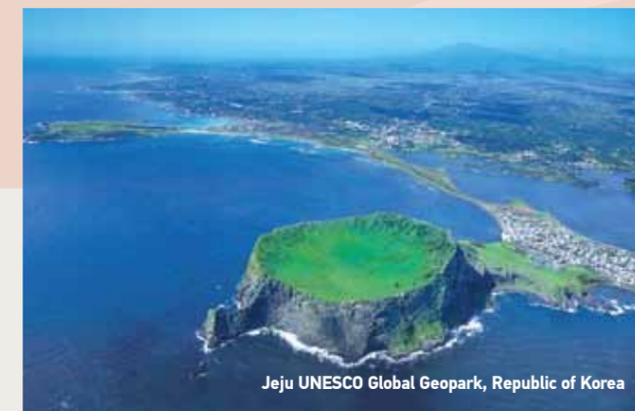
For communication with its members and the public at large, the GGN now offers attractive and up-to-date **websites** which showcase GGN's philosophy, structures, activities and promotional tools as well as all the UNESCO Global Geoparks, their activities and facilities.

## GGN Brochure

The brochure provides the GGN map and members list and is distributed in GGN and UNESCO events and Tourism Fairs.



Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark, France



Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea



M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco



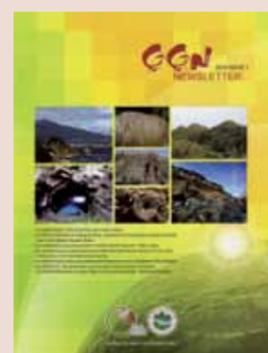
Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark, Viet Nam



Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada

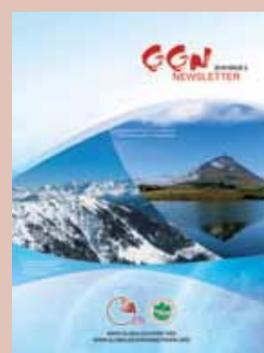


Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy



2016 - Issue 1

[http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2016\\_10\\_12/GGN\\_Newsletter\\_2016\\_ISSUE1.pdf](http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2016_10_12/GGN_Newsletter_2016_ISSUE1.pdf)



2016 - Issue 2

[http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2017\\_1\\_13/GGN%20Newsletter%202016%20ISSUE%202\\_final%20.pdf](http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2017_1_13/GGN%20Newsletter%202016%20ISSUE%202_final%20.pdf)



2017 - Issue 1

[http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2017\\_6\\_22/GGN\\_Newsletter\\_2017\\_Issue\\_1.pdf](http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2017_6_22/GGN_Newsletter_2017_Issue_1.pdf)



2017 - Issue 2

[http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2017\\_9\\_28/2017\\_GGN\\_Newsletter\\_ISSUE\\_2.pdf](http://www.globalgeopark.org/UploadFiles/2017_9_28/2017_GGN_Newsletter_ISSUE_2.pdf)

## GGN Conference Proceedings

2016 - 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks held in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, United Kingdom  
2014 - 6th International Unesco Conference on Global Geoparks held in Saint John New Brunswick, Canada

[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)

### GGN Communication Committee

<b>Nickolas Zouros</b>	GGN President
<b>Guy Martini</b>	GGN General Secretary
<b>Burlando Maurizio, Italy</b>	GGN Calendar of Events
<b>Duarte Antonio, Portugal</b>	Egn Newsletter
<b>Furusawa Kana, Japan</b>	APGN Information Dissemination
<b>Irazabal Diego, Uruguay</b>	South America
<b>Korbely Barnabas, Hungary</b>	Egn Progress Reporting
<b>Lemon Kirstin, Ireland</b>	Egn Social Networks
<b>Mpsios Dimitris, Greece</b>	GGN Association Website
<b>Ramsey Tony, UK</b>	Egn Magazine
<b>Li Sun, China</b>	China Social Networks
<b>Watanabe Mahito, Japan</b>	GGN Annual Reports
<b>Waters Sara, Canada</b>	North America
<b>Weber Jutta, Germany</b>	Egn Newsletter
<b>Yuan Zheng, China</b>	GGN Website and GGN Newsletter

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MADONNA DI  
**CAMPIGLIO**  
 PINZOLO VAL RENDENA  
 TOP DOLOMITES

TRENTINO



ADAMELLO BRENTA GEOPARK  
 Madonna di Campiglio - Italy

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 ON **UNESCO** GLOBAL GEOPARKS

**8-14 SEPTEMBER 2018**



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