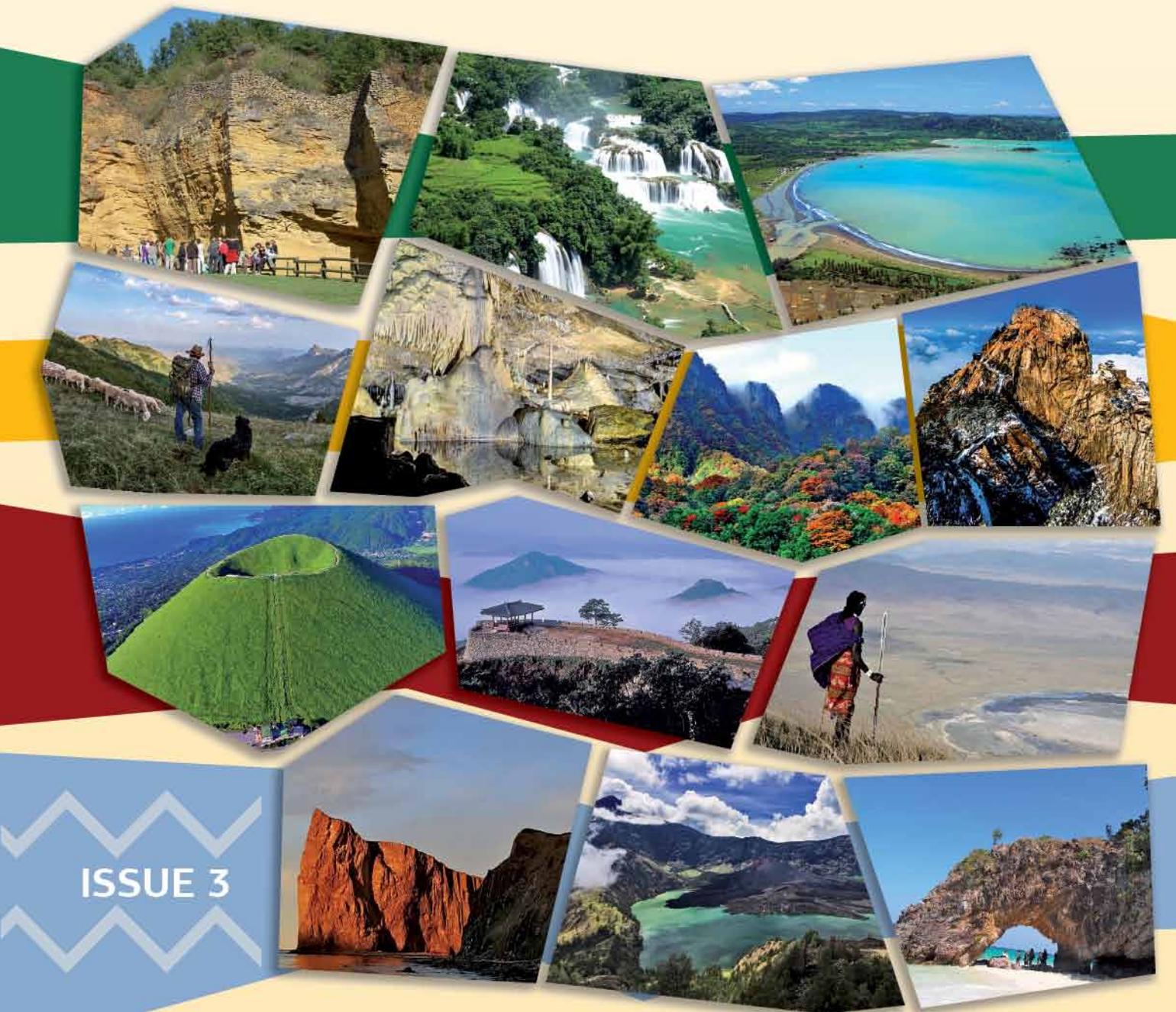




# Global Geoparks Network

2nd ORDINARY GGN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the GGN Executive Board  
on the activities 2016-2018



ISSUE 3

# Contents



**2nd ORDINARY GGN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Report of the GGN Executive Board**  
**on the activities 2016-2018**

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## GGN - Governing Structure

### General Assembly

The General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN. The General Assembly consists of all individual, supporting, and honorary members and the designated representatives of institutional members.

### Executive Board

The Executive Board is the decision making body of the GGN. It consists of not less than nine (9) and not more than fifteen (15) elected members, as well as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and a UNESCO Secretariat representative as ex-officio members. The members of the Executive Board are elected by the Ordinary General Assembly and serve a four (4)-year term of office.

### Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is the advisory body of the GGN. It consists of the Chairpersons (or their appointed representatives) of the National Geopark Fora / Committees, and the designated representatives of the Affiliated Organisations.

### Working Groups - Task Forces International Committees

The Executive Board appoints standing committees, task forces, and working groups, and define their duties

### Regional Geoparks Networks

Asian-Pacific Geoparks Network  
European Geoparks Network  
Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in September 2014 became a non-profit, non-governmental organization subject to French legislation (the 1901 law on associations) after a unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the Network held in Saint John, Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada on September 20, 2014. At the same General Assembly of the Network the Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) were agreed and adopted.

Following the provisions of the GGN statutes, during the first Ordinary General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) which took place in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark on 28th September 2016, the members of the GGN elected the Executive Board of the GGN for the period 2016-2018.

The role and function of the GGN Executive Board is described in the GGN Statutes.

The GGN ExB members during the first two years of their duties worked for the implementation of the GGN statutes and the effective operation of the Organization as well as for the support of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the broader visibility of the Geoparks and awareness raising on their mission.

The first elected GGN Executive Board had to face major challenges, such as, the implementation of the GGN operation and procedures, efficient communication and activities, as well as the support of the newly established UNESCO Global Geoparks.

These challenges were tedious and time consuming.

The first Ordinary General Assembly of the Global

Geoparks Network (GGN) reviewed the GGN Statutes, adopted the GGN Internal Rules and Regulations Document and the GGN Code of Ethics, adopted the GGN Report of Activities 2014-2016 and discussed the Strategic plan.

While the strategic decisions were made by the GGN General Assembly, the implementation of the decisions by the GGN Executive Board with the strong support of the GGN Members was painstaking.

The transition of the Voluntary Network operational model to the new International Association structure was a main target and needed continues effort during the last two years. The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is now fully operating under its new structure.

The implementation of the new administrative and financial procedures, the implementation of the new operation rules and the creation of the new communication tools have been real administrative adventures.

Partnership between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, was one of the main fields of activities for the Network's operational body which was for the first time involved in the procedures on an International Programme with many unforeseen parameters and the procedure was a sailing in an unmapped ocean. The Network managed to submit the agreed financial contribution to the UNESCO Global geoparks special Account without delays and within each financial year. The total amount for 2016 was 120.000 USD, for 2017 was 127.000 USD and for 2018 will be 140.000 USD. In total for the triennium of the UNESCO Global Geoparks 387.000 USD.

### 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 (EGN)

BREMNER Gail - Canada (N. America)

BURLANDO Mauricio - Italy (EGN)

FREY Marie - Luise - Germany (Ind. Member)

MELO Patricio - Brazil (L. America)

QUABBAS Mustapha - Morocco (Africa)

WATANABE Mahito - Japan (APGN)

ZHANG Jianping - P.R. China (APGN)

**Ex-officio:** UNESCO Representative Patrick Mc Keever

**Ex-officio:** GGN Advisory Committee Chair Setsuya Nakada - Japan



The administrative challenges were connected with the efforts of the GGN Executive Board for the implementation of the provisions of the GGN Statutes for the operation of the different statutory bodies and the activation of the GGN structure which became fully operational.

### Main challenges were:

- The activation of the different operational bodies of the GGN
- The spread of information of all GGN members regarding the news and activities of the GGN
- The establishment of new GGN Working Groups / Task Forces / Committees, which gave the opportunity to many colleagues to actively contribute to the life of the Network
- The definition of the framework for the Cooperating Members and Sponsors
- The close coordination with the Regional Networks APGN and EGN and the establishment of the New Latin American and Caribbean Geopark network,
- The Financial stability of the Organization

### I.1. GGN Executive Board

The GGN Executive Board had meetings regularly to deal with various issues of the Organization activities.

From September 2016 till September 2018, 25 GGN ExB Meetings took place.

The majority was realized through videoconference while several meetings hosted parallel to Geopark Meetings and Courses and thus the cost was covered mainly by the host organizations (27<sup>th</sup> ExB Beijing, 32<sup>th</sup> ExB Lesvos, 35<sup>th</sup> ExB APGN Meeting Zijindong, 38<sup>th</sup> ExB Beijing, 44<sup>th</sup> ExB Lesvos, 47<sup>th</sup> Adamello – Brenta ).

### GGN ExB Operation

The GGN ExB decided to share responsibilities among its members aiming the efficient operation of the GGN (27<sup>th</sup> GGN ExB).

The GGN ExB adopted a dispatching of duties between ExB members:

**X. Jin:** Institutional Members, International Partnerships (IUGS, IUCN, etc)

**I. Komoo:** Individual Members, Honorary Members (proposal), APGN

**K. Rangnes:** Financial Issues, EGN, (Funding Task Force)

**G. Martini:** GGN Secretariat, UGG Council

**N. Zouros:** Publications

**M. Border:** GGN National Committees/Fora and relationship with Geopark National Committees, 8th International Conference

**G. Bremner:** Development of GGN activities in North America. (ExB funding Task force + ExB Marketing Task force)

**M. Burlando:** GGN Meetings and Events coordination and Calendar, 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, GGN Working Groups, Multi-Internationally Designated Areas and Geoparks.

**M.L. Frey:** Year of Sustainable Tourism / Tourism Fairs, WHS relations. (ExB Marketing Task force)

**P. Melo:** Development of GGN activities in Latin America. (ExB Marketing Task force)

**M. Quabbas:** Development of GGN activities in Africa and Arab world, Capacity building in Africa. (ExB Marketing Task force)

**M. Watanabe:** GGN Members Activity Reports, Australia. (ExB Funding Task force)

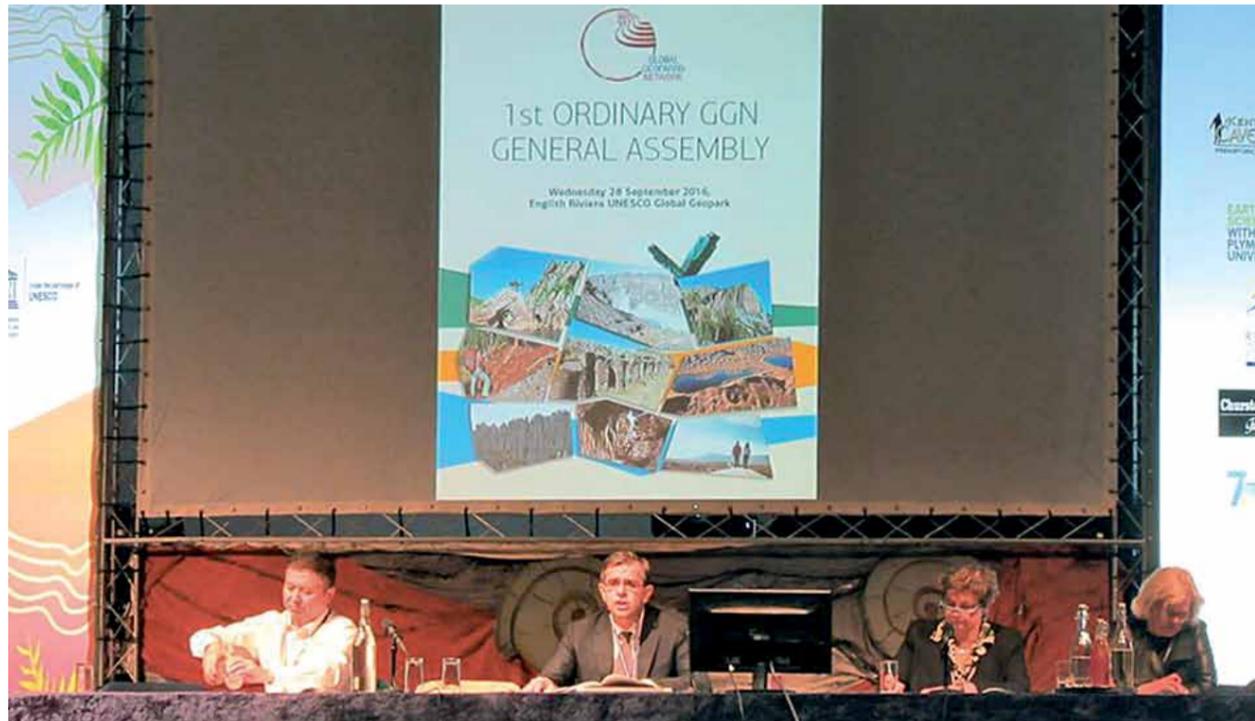
**J. Zhang:** Support Members. (ExB Funding Task Force)

As funding and marketing are fundamental issues for the GGN future, two specific GGN ExB Task Force are created:

ExB Funding Task force with **G. Bremner, M. Watanabe, J. Zhang** and **K. Rangnes** (coordinator), ExB Marketing Task force: with **M.L. Frey, P. Melo, M. Quabbas** and **G. Bremner** (coordinator),

Main issues for the GGN ExB operation were:

1. Implementation of the GGN GA decision for the GGN Internal Rules and Regulations with the operation of the different GGN bodies.
2. Implementation of the GGN GA decision for the GGN financial stability including the 2017 annual Fee for Institutional and Individual Members and the Conference Fee.
3. Establishment of the new GGN Working Groups / Task Forces / Committees.



4. Request for Proposals for the GGN Communication and Marketing Strategy on UNESCO Global geoparks.
5. GGN promotional and capacity building activities
6. GGN communication and promotional tools maintenance

All decisions and actions of the GGN ExB were presented through the new GGN communication tool for the GGN members internal communication, the **GGN NewsFeed**.

Decision making on all issues was achieved by reaching a consensus after careful discussion, evaluation and consideration.

The GGN Secretariat continued its operation and communication with the Global Geoparks on GGN issues. All members of the Executive Board and of GGN would like to thank Guy Martini and the Haute Province UGG for hosting the GGN Secretariat and supporting its operation in the Musée Promenade, Digne les Bains – France.



### I.2. GGN Membership

The GGN ExB had to deal with the implementation of the GGN Statutes regarding the inscription of its members with the following actions:

Inscription of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks (21 in 2017 and 2018) and the GGN Individual Members (8 in 2017 and 2018).

Establishment of the Honorary Members Nomination Committee

Establishment of the criteria for the inscription of the GGN Cooperating Members and the relative application Forms.

Proposal to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary General Assembly for the nomination of the GGN Honorary Member.

#### The current Membership of GGN:

Institutional Members: 140

Individual Members: 27

Honorary Members: 1

Cooperating Members: -

A great challenge for the operation of GGN is the continuous update of the contact details of the Geopark

Representatives in the GGN members lists.

This can be achieved only with the regular update of the GGN member's communication list.

For this the GGN asks for support from its members and their representatives.

#### GGN Honorary Members - Nomination Committee

The GGN ExB formed a GGN Honorary Members Nomination Committee and nominated I. Komoo, X. Jin and M.-L.Frey as members of the GGN Honorary Members Nomination Committee.

The GGN Members can submit their proposals for new GGN Honorary Members. Each proposal should be accompanied with the nominee CV and a short note explaining the contribution of the candidate on Geoparks development.

The GGN ExB in its 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 decided to propose 5 new Honorary Members to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of GGN.

#### GGN Cooperating Members

The GGN ExB defined the framework for the acceptance of Cooperating Members. The GGN Task Force of Funding discussed and proposed the criteria which have been accepted by the GGN ExB and published in GGN Website.





### I.3. Ordinary General Assembly

According to the GGN Statutes the General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN.

The General Assembly consists of all individual, supporting, and honorary members and the designated representatives of institutional members.

The Ordinary General Assembly makes decisions on recommendations from the Executive Board on changes to the conditions on application for membership.

The Ordinary General Assembly at its session once every four years on the same dates and in the same place as the International Conference on Geoparks elects the members of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board establishes the agenda of the General Assembly and convenes the Assembly at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the meeting. The meetings of the assemblies will take place at the location indicated in the official invitation.

#### I.3.1. 2nd Ordinary General Assembly

The GGN Executive Board took special care in

collaboration with the Organizing Committee of the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks at the Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, for the organization of the 2nd Ordinary General Assembly of GGN.

#### I.3.2. Annual General Assembly for Accounts

The Annual General Assembly can be made by written statements sent by the GGN members in good standing by e-mail to the Executive Board within one month after receiving the Report on the accounts of the previous year. This decision need simple majority of the GGN members in good standing

The GGN Executive Board organized two Annual General Assemblies for the adoption of the GGN annual Accounts and Budget

In 2017 for the agreement of the 2016 Accounts and the 2017 Budget.

In 2018 for the agreement of the 2017 Accounts and the 2018 Budget.

In both cases the Annual General Assembly approved the accounts and the budget.

### I.4. Regional Networks

Recognizing 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 in capacity-building, the GGN encourages the strengthening of Regional Geopark Networks. The Regional Geopark Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level.

The GGN ExB adopted the decisions of EGN and APGN regarding their functioning as the Regional Networks of GGN in Europe and Asia-Pacific respectfully and supported the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network.

More specifically the GGN ExB endorsed the following documents:

Endorsement of the EGN CC decision in Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGGp (March 2017) regarding the EGN Rules of Operation .

Endorsement of the APGN CC decisions in Zijindong Cave UGGp (September 2017) regarding the APGN Rules of Operation

Endorsement of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network establishment declaration and the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network Operational Rules as decided in Comarca Minera UGGp in January 2018

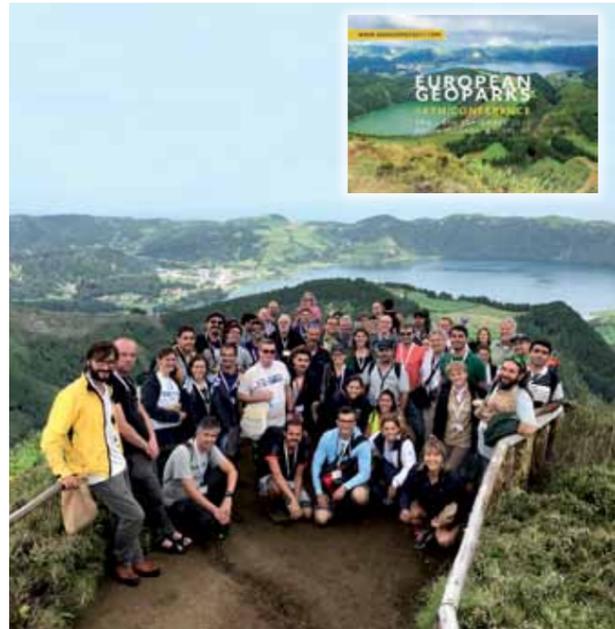
Endorsement of the EGN Annual Report of Activities 2016 and 2017 as submitted by the EGN CC decision in Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGGp (March 2017) and in Karavenke-Karawanken UGGp (March 2018).

Endorsement of the EGN Annual Report of Activities 2016 as submitted by the APGN Coordinator.

The GGN ExB discussed in detail the activities and development of the Regional Networks and was present in all Regional Meetings and Conferences organized during the last two years.

The continuous communication and collaboration of the GGN ExB with the Regional Network Coordinators is essential for the operation of the GGN.





### I.4.1. The European Geoparks Network

During the last years the following main events took place:

The 39<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Meeting took place in Baren and Kliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark in Ireland in March 2017.

The 40<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Meeting and the 14<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference took place in Azores Global Geopark in September 2017.

The 41<sup>st</sup> European Geoparks Meeting took place in Karavanke – Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia/Austria) 19-24 March 2018.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> European Geoparks Meeting took place in Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 just before the 8<sup>th</sup> International Geoparks Conference.

### EGN Coordinators - Advisory Committee Elections

The EGN Coordiantion Committee Members at the 41<sup>st</sup> EGN CC meeting, elected the new EGN Coordinators for the period 2018-2020:

Coordinator: **Kristin Rangnes**, Gea Norvegica

Vice Coordinator: **Babbis Fassoulas**, Priloritis, Greece.

The EGN Advisory Committee was elected at the 39<sup>th</sup> EGN CC Meeting in Buren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark for the period 2017-2019:



**Guy Martini** –Haute Provence  
UNESCO Global Geopark FRANCE

**Nickolas Zouros** – Lesvos  
UNESCO Global Geopark - GREECE

**Andreas Schueller** – Vulkaneifel  
UNESCO Global Geopark – GERMANY

**Kristin Rangnes** - Gea Norvegica  
UNESCO Global Geopark – NORWAY Coordinator

**Alesia Amorfini** – Apuan Alps  
UNESCO Global geopark – ITALY

**Carlos Carvalho** – Naturtejo  
UNESCO Global Geopark – PORTUGAL

**Sophie Justice** – Chablais  
UNESCO Global Geopark – FRANCE

**Artur Sa** - Arouca  
UNESCO Global Geopark – PORTUGAL

**Tony Ramsay** – Forest fawr  
UNESCO Global Geopark – UK EGN magazine Editorial Board

**Marie Luise Frey** WHS Mssel Pit – GERMANY  
Individual Member – Special Advisor

**Charalampos Fassoulas** - Psiloritis  
UNESCO Global Geopark, GREECE - Vice Coordinator

UNESCO: **Patrick Mac Keever**

IUGS: **Roland Oberhaensli**

IUCN: **Tim Badman**

### I.4.2. Asian Pacific Geoparks Network

During the APGN Coordination Committee Meeting the elections of the New Coordinators and the new Advisory Committee of the APGN took place and the new Operation Guidelines of the APGN were adopted.



### APGN Coordinators - Advisory Committee

**APGN Coordinator:** Prof. He Qingcheng - China

**APGN Vice Coordinator:**  
Prof. Nakada Setsuya - Japan

**APGN Vice Coordinator:**  
LEE Soo Jae - Republik of Korea

#### Members

SUN Li - China

ZHANG Jianping - China

WATANABE Mahito - Japan

FURUSAWA Kana - Japan

KOMOO Ibrahim - Malaysia

Tran Tan Van - Vietnam

Alireza Amrikazemi - Iran

SAMODRA Hanang - Indonesia

JEON Yongmun - Republik of Korea

UNESCO Secretariat

GGN President

### I.4.3. The Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network Foundation

The declaration for the creation of Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network was signed on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, during the IV Workshop of Geoparks which took place in Arequipa, Peru in May 2017.

The declaration was signed by the representatives of the founding members which are the existing four UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin American and Caribbean: Araripe in Brazil, Grutas Del Palacio in Uruguay, Mixteca Alta and Comarca Minera in Mexico.

It was also undersigned by UNESCO (Patrick Mac Keever) and the Global Geoparks Network (Guy Martini) and the representatives of 11 aspiring Geoparks in Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Nicaragua as well as the representatives of UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network. Testimonies of the declaration were the representatives of the institutions and participants at the IV Workshop of Geoparks which took place in Peru in May 2017. The Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network will be based in Araripe UGG Brazil during 2018.

### GEO-LAC Operational Guidelines and Elections

This was the first Coordination Committee Meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network, the representatives of the four UNESCO Global Geoparks in the region: Araripe – Brazil, Grutas del Palacio – Uruguay, Comarca Minera Hidalgo and Mixteca Alta from Mexico, met to discuss and decide on the Operation Guidelines of the Network and elect the Coordinators and other officials.

The GGN Members in Latin America and Caribbean elected the following colleagues:

**Coordinator:** C. Carles, Comarca Minera UGG, Mexico

**Vice Coordinator:** P. Melo, Araripe UGG, Brazil

**Secretary - Treasurer:** D. Irazabal, Grutas Del Palacio, Uruguay

**Communication officer:** Jose Luis Palacio, Mixteca Alta UGG, Mexico

### I.5. GGN National Fora/ Committees

According to the GGN Statutes a National Geopark Forum or Committee, including all the members of the GGN in each country, may be authorised by the Executive Board to represent the interests of Global Geoparks and the Global Geopark and to organise activities of the GGN in that State.

The GGN Executive Board followed the approach of the founding ExB that the creation of different bodies with responsibilities on Geoparks in the same country should be avoided. If possible, the existing National Geoparks Committees or National Geoparks Fora, should become the responsible body for Geoparks at the National level.

This model was adopted and is well functioning in the following countries: UK, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, France, etc.

There are countries in which a different model of operation has been selected for several reasons.

There are countries in which both National Geoparks Committees and National Geoparks Fora exist. In China and Japan there are well operated National Geopark Networks.

The GGN ExB taking into account the current situation of the Network, the need of the coordination of activities of the GGN at the national level and the increasing number of UNESCO Global Geoparks encourages the operation of a GGN National Body including all the members of the GGN in each country (which can use the name National Geopark Network).

### I.6. GGN Reporting

#### Geoparks Annual Reports (Institutional Members)

All GGN Institutional Members should submit it to GGN an Annual Report on their activities (GGN Statutes article 21 session 5). The GGN ExB adopted the GGN - Geopark Annual Report Model [doc] which the Institutional Members should fill in the form and send it back to GGN Association (ggnannualreport@hotmail.com).

Responsible for the compilation of the Reports is Dr. Mahito Watanabe.

GGN Institutional Members Reports for 2016 was uploaded in GGN website.

The same as a routine work of all GGN Institutional Members happened for 2017 and are uploaded in GGN website.

#### GGN Regional Network 2017 Annual Report of Activities

Regional Network Coordinators invited to submit to GGN an Annual Report on their activities.

#### GGN Working Group 2017 Annual Report of Activities

The GGN Working Groups Coordinators invited to submit to GGN an Annual Report on their activities.

#### GGN National Fora / Commissions 2017 Annual Report of Activities

The Annual Report of the National Fora, invited to submit to Setsuya Nakada, chair of the GGN Advisory Committee. He has already sent a questionnaire to the Coordinators of the National Fora/Committees.

### I.7. GGN Working Groups and Task Forces

#### I.7.A. GGN Task Forces

The GGN ExB decided the establishment of several GGN task Forces.

#### GGN Task Force on Marketing and Communication

The GGN Task Force chaired by **Gail Bremner** (Canada) includes **M-L. Frey** (Germany), **P. Melo** (Brazil) and **M. Oabbas** (Morocco).

Following the decisions of the last GGN General Assembly in September 2016 in English Riviera UGG, the GGN Executive Board decided the formation of this Task Force to elaborate a strategy on GGN Promotion.

The GGN Task Group elaborated a proposal for an open call in order to select a professional company who will work and develop a Geopark promotion strategy.

The GGN Executive Board in its 32nd Meeting which took place on Lesvos island Greece on June 12th 2017 completed the elaboration of the Task Force proposal. The OPEN CALL text was adopted as the proposal of the GGN ExB to the members of the GGN.

All GGN Members were invited to express their opinion on the Open Call for the Geoparks Promotion Strategy and send to the GGN their comments and proposals till the 31st July 2017.

The Request For Proposals (RFP) on GGN Marketing and Communication Strategy released in February with a cost of 50.000 Euros for this reason.

#### Open call - RFP: GGN Marketing and Communication Strategy

The GGN through the Request for Proposals is seeking Expressions of Interest for the development and implementation of a Communication and Marketing Strategy to elevate global awareness of UNESCO Global Geoparks, focusing on the value and mandates they bring or can bring to their respective territories. The successful proponent will work with the GGN as appropriate throughout all stages of the contract.

Seven applicants replied to the GGN Request for Proposals and after evaluation of the proposals by the GGN Executive Board, the Applicant "David Randal and Associates" got the highest score and won the contract.

David Randal worked with the GGN in the past as he was selected by the Organizing Committee as the Executive Director of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2016.

The contract among GGN and David Randal was signed on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2018.

#### GGN Task Force on Funding

The GGN Task Force on Funding chaired by K. Rangnes

includes also G. Bremner (Canada), M. Watanabe (Japan), J. Zhang (China).

Following the decisions of the last GGN General Assembly in September 2016 in English Riviera UGG, the GGN Executive Board decided the formation of this Task Force to explore new sources for the funding of the GGN activities.

The GGN Task Force also elaborated the rules for the Cooperating members of GGN as well as for the framework for sponsorships to the GGN activities.

#### I.7.B. GGN Working Groups

Working Groups may be authorised by the Executive Board to implement programmes and activities, and to serve as a channel of communication between members of the GGN with similar scientific and professional interests.

The GGN ExB defined the operational framework of the Working Groups and decided to establish thematic GGN Working Groups. Working Groups will be formed after a decision of the GGN ExB and will have geographical representation.

The GGN ExB discussed the establishment the following GGN Working Groups.

- GGN Working Group on Geo-Hazards
- GGN Working Group on Volcanic Areas
- GGN Working Group on Geological Heritage Assessment
- GGN Working group on Tourism
- GGN Working group on Education
- GGN Working group on Sustainable Development Goals
- GGN Working group on Island Geoparks.

#### 1. WG on Geoparks in 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

#### 2. GGN WG 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



### 3. WG on Geological Heritage Assessment

<b>Prof. Ibrahim Komoo</b> , University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia
<b>Prof. Xiaochi Jin</b> , Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, P.R. China
<b>Dr. Kristin Rangnes</b> , Director of Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway
<b>Prof. Setsuya Nakada</b> , University of Tokyo, Japan
<b>Prof. Zhang Jianping</b> , University of Geosciences, China
<b>Dr. Mahito Watanabe</b> , Geological Survey of Japan
<b>Dr. Maurizio Burlando</b> , Director of Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy
<b>Dr. Marie-Luise Frey</b> , Welterbe Grube Messel gGmbH
<b>Prof. Patricio Melo</b> , Universidade Regional do Cariri - URCA Reitor.
<b>Dr. Asier Hilario</b> , Scientific Coordinator of Basque Coast UGG
<b>Dr. Godfrey Nowlan</b> , Canadian Geological Survey, Canadian National Geopark Committee Chair
<b>Soo Jae Lee</b> , Chief Research Fellow, Korea Environment Institute (KEI) South Korea
<b>Prof. João Carlos Carreiro Nunes</b> , Azores University – Geosciences Department, Portugal
<b>Prof. Alexandrou Andrasanou</b> , University of Bucharest, Romania
<b>Dr. Guy Martini</b> , Director of Haute-Provence Geopark, France
<b>Prof. Nickolas Zouros</b> , University of Aegean, Greece

### 4. WG on Sustainable Development Goals

<b>Xiaochi Jin</b> , China
<b>Patricio Melo</b> , Brazil
<b>Jutta Weber</b> , Germany
<b>Elizabeth Silva</b> , Portugal
<b>Ibrahim Komoo</b> , Malaysia
<b>Mustapha Oabbas</b> , Morocco
<b>Kristin Rangnes</b> , Norway

### 5. WG on Tourism

<b>Maurizio Burlando</b> , Italy
<b>Carlos Carvalho</b> , Portugal
<b>Ka Ming Yeung</b> , Hong Kong – China
<b>Marie-Luise Frey</b> , Germany
<b>Mustapha Oabbas</b> , Morocco
<b>Jane Fullerton</b> , Canada

### 6. WG on Education

<b>Marie-Luise Frey</b> , Germany
<b>Jianping Zhang</b> , China
<b>Jose Maria Barerra</b> , Spain
<b>Patricio Melo</b> , Brazil

### 7. WG on Island Geoparks

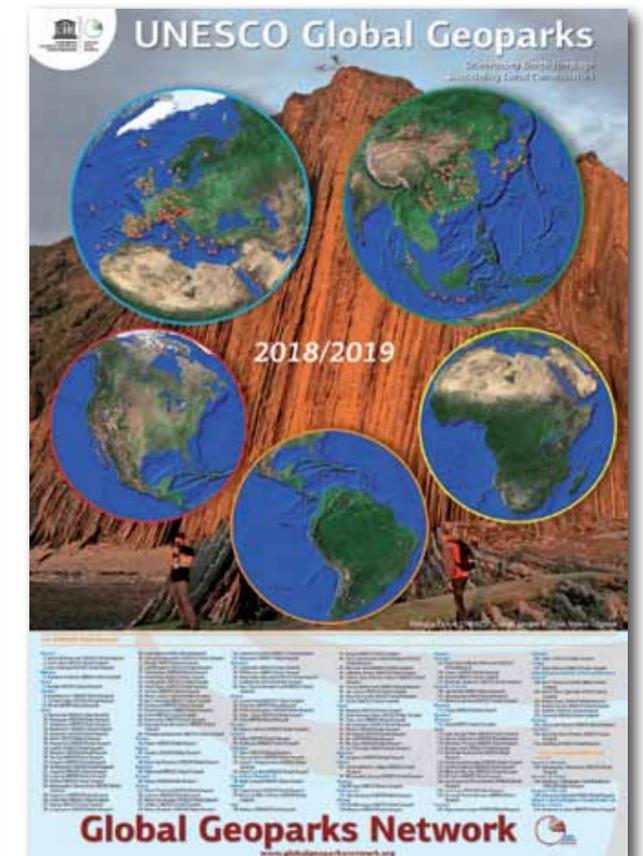
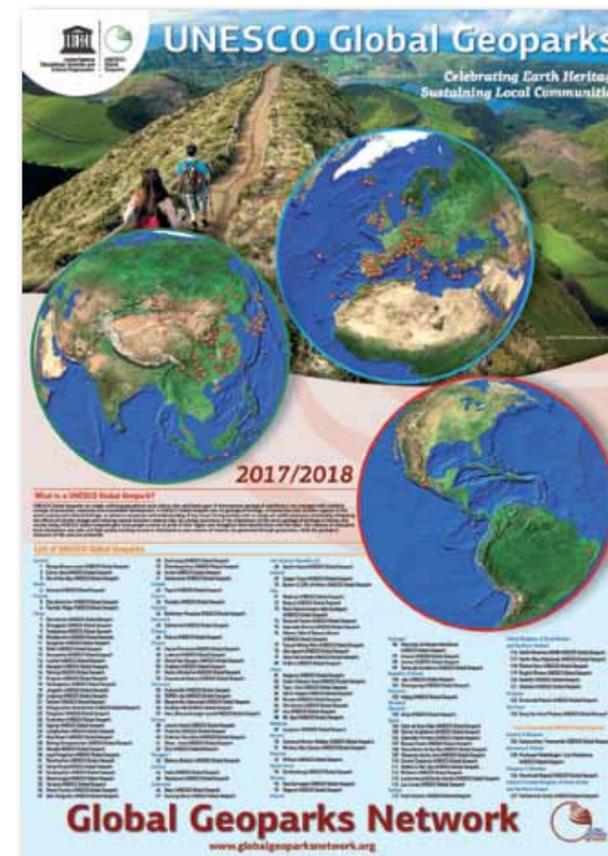
<b>Coordinator: Kazuhiro Nobe</b> – Oki islands UNESCO Global Geopark
<b>GGN ExB: Nickolas Zouros and Ibrahim Komoo</b>
<b>Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network</b>
<b>Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari</b> - Langkawi Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Malaysia),
<b>Yongmun Jeon</b> - Jeju Island Geopark (Korea),
<b>Kazuhiro Nobe</b> - Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Japan)
<b>Alireza Amrikazemi</b> - Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Iran)
<b>European Geoparks Network</b>
<b>Giannis Spilanis</b> , Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece),
<b>Rory Tallack</b> Shetlands UNESCO Global Geopark (UK),
<b>João Carlos Nunes</b> - Azores UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal),
<b>Sara Brito</b> - Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain)

## I.8. GGN Communication Committee

The GGN Communication Committee was established in order to support coordination of the different communication tools

The Communication Committed is composed by:

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



## I.9. GGN Communication Tools

The GGN developed a variety of communication tools in order to facilitate the communication between the GGN ExB and the GGN Members as well as the coordination of the GGN activities and events. The GGN communication tools are the following:

### GGN NewsFeed

The GGN ExB established regular communication with GGN members through the **GGN NewsFeed**, which had monthly and special issues.

For this reason the regular update of the GGN member contact and communication data is necessary. There is a regular edition of the GGN NewsFeed every month as well as Special Editions for the Important Events as the participation in International Tourism fairs, important events, etc

The GGN Newsfeed is also translated in Chinese language (thanks to the contribution of Sun Li, Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark) and distributed to the GGN members through the GGN social media in China.

### GGN Calendar of Events.

The **GGN Calendar of Events** disseminates information

on future Geopark meetings to support visibility of GGN events and avoid overlapping among GGN events.

Members are encouraged to avoid overlapping with the dates of the already planned events and inform M. Burlando (Italy) [direttore@parcobeigua.it](mailto:direttore@parcobeigua.it) who is responsible for the coordination of GGN Events and compilation of the GGN Calendar of Events about any event with international interest and participation you are planning to organize.

### GGN website

The GGN operated the GGN Association website [www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org) which works in close relation with the GGN website operated by the GGN office in CAGS - Beijing. It avoids duplication of the information by presenting mainly the association activities while the UGG's activities will be presented by the Beijing website.

The GGN asked members contribution to make the webpage more effective in dissemination of information and raise every Geopark profile by sending to [GGNwebsite@hotmail.com](mailto:GGNwebsite@hotmail.com), information, photos and videos of every Geopark and its activities.



### GGN presence in Social Media

#### GGN page in Facebook!

All geoparks can use this page to promote Geoparks news and activities. Sent photos and videos to GGNwebsite@hotmail.com

#### GGN page in Weibo

Geopark news are distributed in China through the GGN webpage in weibo! Li Sun from Zigong is responsible for posting the news.

### GGN map

The GGN published the **GGN Map 2017-18** on the occasion of the UNESCO General Assembly in November 2017 and was distributed to the Members of Science Committee.

It was also distributed in FITUR 2018, ITB 2018 as well as in GGN Meetings and Conferences.

The new edition of the **GGN Map 2018-19** will be published and distributed at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will take place in Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark.

### GGN brochure

The GGN published the **GGN Brochure** in 2017 (Issue 1) which presents an overview of the GGN and its structure, describes its main tasks, operation and activities and it includes the GGN Institutional Members - UNESCO Global Geoparks.

It was distributed in ITB 2018 as well as to the International journalists during the International Press Conference.

The GGN Brochure in 2018 (Issue 2) will include the updated information on GGN activities as well as the new GGN Institutional Members - UNESCO Global Geoparks.

It will be distributed at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will take place in Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark.

### The GGN Newsletter

The GGN Newsletter, is the official magazine of GGN, published by the GGN Office in CAGS Beijing (responsible Zheng Yuanyuan) significantly improved in article quality and representativeness and includes articles covering the Geopark activities world wide.

The following issues have been published during the last 2 years:

GGN Newsletter (2016/2) January 2017.
GGN Newsletter (2017/1) April 2017
GGN Newsletter (2017/2) September 2017
GGN Newsletter (2017/3) January 2018
GGN Newsletter (2018/1) June 2018
GGN Newsletter (2018/2) September 2018

The editorial board decided to publish 4 issues of the Magazine each year and the contributions will be collected every 3 months. The GGN members are encouraged to send their articles on their activities.

### GGN Promotional Video.

The GGN Promotional Video produced by Haute Provence UNESCO Global Geopark team to celebrate International Year of Sustainable Tourism - Geoparks innovative destinations for sustainable tourism! <https://youtu.be/f-UNkGShAHE>

Similar promotional videos have been created for the participation in the ITB 2017 and ITB 2018 as well as for the International Intensive Course 2018.

The GGN encourages the presentation of GGN activities in the Internet through videos and will continue to produce similar promotional videos in the future.

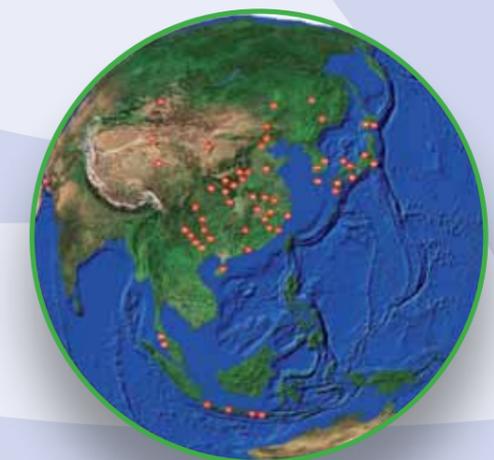
The GGN is the partner of UNESCO for the “UNESCO Global Geoparks” with an important role in it’s operation:

1. GGN proposes 12 individuals members to the UNESCO Geoparks Council
2. is an ex-officio member to the UNESCO Geoparks Council,
3. participates ex-officio to the UNESCO Geoparks Bureau,
4. forms a pool of Experts for Geopark Evaluations and Revalidations,
5. coordinates Geopark Field Evaluations,
6. provides annual financial support to UNESCO by a donation of 120.000 US\$ (for the current number of UGG’s) for Global Geopark activities.
7. facilitates networking and cooperation among all the recognized UNESCO Global Geoparks
8. organizes meetings, capacity building and promotional activities.



### UNESCO Global Geoparks

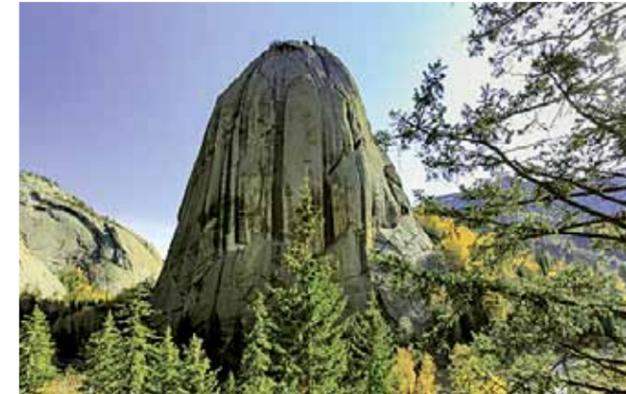
140 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 38 countries



### Global Geoparks Network

The International Association of UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geopark Professionals





### II.1 Contribution and Participation in UNESCO Global Geoparks operation

The GGN facilitated the duties of the GGN according to the IGPP statutes, with a series of actions aiming the improvement of the effectiveness of the UNESCO Global Geopark functioning as described below:

- The GGN ExB on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2018, endorsed the candidatures from UNESCO Global Geopark Representatives submitted for the renew of 6 members of the UNESCO Global Geopark Council.. (42<sup>nd</sup> ExB).
- The GGN President, Nikolas Zouros, participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual meetings of the UNESCO Global Geopark Council (2016, 2017) for the revaluation and revalidation report assessment, as well as to various decisions of the Council made through electronic communication. UNESCO Global Geopark Council adopted the new UNESCO Global Geopark documents regarding the International value of the geological heritage assessment, the evaluation and revalidation geopark report templates and evaluators report templates.

- The GGN President, Nikolas Zouros, participated in the UNESCO Global Geopark Bureau who is responsible for the nomination of the Evaluators for the Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation missions. UNESCO Global Geopark Bureau decisions regarding the function of the UNESCO Global Geoparks made through electronic communication.

- The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Global Geopark Secretariat facilitated the organization of the Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation missions.

- The GGN provided to UNESCO Global Geopark special Account the financial support during 2016, 2017 and 2018 for Geopark activities.

- The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Global Geopark Secretariat lunched in January 2018 the call for hosts of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Geoparks Conference.

### II.2. Contribution to the management of the Roster of Evaluators

The Roster of evaluators is one of the duties of the Global Geopark Network according to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Operational Guidelines.

The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Global Geopark Secretariat lunched in 2017 and 2018 calls for the enrichment of the Roster of Geopark evaluators.

The received applications were assessed with the criteria and the Roster served for the Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation missions.

#### CRITERIA FOR INSCRIPTION

Each evaluator should fulfil at least two of the criteria below:

- Be a manager or have a coordinating role in a “green card” holding UNESCO Global Geopark for at least 4 years;
- Combined and proven professional experience relevant to UNESCO Global Geopark development (in at least three of the following areas: geological heritage, geological conservation, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, environmental issues, community engagement, and public communication of geoscience) for at least 5 years;
- Be a current member of the former Global Geoparks Bureau, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) – Advisory Committee, and/or European Geoparks Network (EGN) – Advisory Committee.

### II.3. New UNESCO Global Geoparks

#### NEW UNESCO Global Geoparks 2017

The UNESCO Executive Board during its 121 session on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 unanimously endorsed the decisions made by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council during its first session in Torquay, UK, in September 2016 and eight territories demonstrating the great diversity of our planet's geology have received the UNESCO Global Geopark label.

Thus from May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 there are 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 35 countries!

The new 2017 UNESCO Global Geoparks are:

<b>China</b>
Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark
Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark
<b>France</b>
Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark
<b>Republic of Korea</b>
Cheongsong, UNESCO Global Geopark
<b>Mexico</b>
Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark
Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark
<b>Spain</b>
Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark
<b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b>
Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark



### NEW UNESCO Global Geoparks 2018

The UNESCO Executive Board during its 123 session on April 24th 2018 unanimously endorsed the decisions made by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council during its second session in Zigindong Cave UNESCO Global geopark, in September 2017 and thirteen territories demonstrating the great diversity of our planet's geology have received the UNESCO Global Geopark label.

Thus from April 25th, 2018 there are 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 35 countries!

The new 2018 UNESCO Global Geoparks are:

#### Belgium

Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Canada

Percé UNESCO Global Geopark

#### China

Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark  
Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark

#### France

Beaujolais UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Indonesia

Ciletuh - Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark  
Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Japan

Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Republic of Korea

Mudeungsan Area UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Spain

Conca de Tremp-Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Tanzania

Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Thailand

Satun UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Viet Nam

Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark

During the last two years a variety of activities was carried out by the Global Geopark Network, its Regional Networks as well as the GGN Working Groups.

The main aim of the Geopark activities was to raise the Geopark profile and promote Geoparks as tools for geological heritage protection and promotion and sustainable development of the local communities.

The Global Geopark Network organized International Conferences and Capacity building activities on UNESCO Global Geoparks, create a partnership with the International Tourism Organization for the promotion of Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations, participated in International Tourism Fairs and Events, establish common celebration of International days, organized International Press Conferences and produced and operated a variety of communication tools.

One important action was also the RFP for a new Geoparks Communication and Marketing Strategy with the support of a professional company.





### III.1. Geopark Conferences

#### 1.A. International Geoparks Conference

##### 1.A. a. 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2018

According to the GGN Statutes "The GGN shall hold an International Geoparks Conference every two years".

The GGN Executive Board discussed issues related with the effective organization of the 8th International Conference which will be organized in Adamello Brenta UGG in several meetings. The GGN ExB nominated two of its members M. Burlando and M. Border to assist with advice the Organizing Committee

It was also decided to have the organisation of various GGN meetings (GGN General Assembly, GGN Advisory Committee Meeting, GGN ExB Meetings, EGN AC and CC meetings, APGN AC and CC meetings, GEO LAC CC meeting, UGG/GGN Evaluators Seminar).

##### 1.A. b. 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020

The GGN ExB in collaboration with the UGG Secretariat circulated the Call for Host of the 9th International Conference on Geoparks 2020.

Proposals were submitted on time by the Jeju and the Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The Host will be announced during the Closing Ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geoparks.

#### 1.B. Regional Geoparks Conferences

During September 2017 two important Geopark

Conferences were successfully organized by the European Geoparks Network and the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network.

##### 1.B.a. 14<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference

7th – 9th September 2017: 14th European Geoparks Conference Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal <http://www.egnazores2017.co.m>

More than 350 participants from 30 countries took part in the European Geopark Coonference in Azores UGG.

The 14<sup>th</sup> European Geopark Conferences prove to be excellent opportunity for all Geopark representatives to meet and exchange ideas and information.

Several colleagues from other Regional networks joint the event.

Parallel to the Conference the 39<sup>th</sup> EGN Coorfination Committee Meeting took place.

##### 1.B.b. 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium

19th – 22th September 2017: 5th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium Zhijindong Ca ve UNESCO Global Geopark, China | <http://apgn2017.com>

More than 800 participants from 27 countries took part in the impressive 5th Asian Pacific Geoparks Symposium in Zhijindong Cave UGG.

During the Symposium presented examples of best practice in Geoparks operation and management, in networking and collaboration among Geoparks and in building stronger and more effective partnerships and collaborations.



Parallel to the 5<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium the APGN Advisory Committee and Coordination Committee meetings took place and the new APGN Coordinator s and AC members were elected.

#### The 1<sup>st</sup> Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Meeting

The 1st Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Meeting took place in Comarca Minera Hidalgo in Mexico 21-25 January 2018.

Parallel to the Coordination Committee Meeting, open sessions were organized with the participation of the representatives of the 4 Latin American and

Caribbean UNESCO Global Geoparks, UNESCO, GGN, the two Canadian UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks from Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia.

The first open session was dedicated to the official celebration of the recognition of Comarca Minera Hidalgo as UNESCO Global Geopark with the participation of the Governor of Hidalgo State, the Secretary of Tourism of Hidalgo state and all the Mayors of the Geopark.

Other open sessions included presentations of best practice from the participating Geoparks and field trips to the impressive geosites of the Comarca Minera Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark.

### III.2. Capacity Building Activities

GGN operates or supports training courses and other capacity building activities relevant to the UNESCO Global Geoparks establishment, operation, management and activities.

The GGN Executive Board gave special emphasis to the organization of Courses and Workshops during the last two years in collaboration with UNESCO.

In order to support effectiveness, visibility and participation of the different Geopark capacity building activities, which are under preparation in several countries, the GGN ExB find out that it is necessary better preparation and coordination. Thus the GGN ExB asked the potential organizers to submit their proposals to GGN and UNESCO Global Geopark Secretariat at least 6 months in advance providing the necessary information in order to allow better coordination and representation of GGN and UNESCO Global Geopark Secretariat.

The GGN supported the organization of the following activities:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Course on Geoparks Management in Beijing (November 2016)
- 9<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos (June 2017)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Course on Geoparks Management in Beijing (December 2017)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting and Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America in Comarca Minera Hidalgo, Mexico (January 2018)
- 1<sup>st</sup> International workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Qeshm Iran (April 2018).
- International Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks for UNESCO National Commissions in Asia Pacific Region in Oki Islands, Japan (May 2018).
- 10<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos (June 2016) (13<sup>th</sup> ExB).
- The GGN ExB has already agreed to support the following capacity building activities:
- 4<sup>th</sup> International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management in Beijing (November 2018)
- 11<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos (June 2019)

#### 2.A. 9<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos (June 2017)

The Intensive Course on Geoparks was organized with great success by GGN and UNESCO in collaboration with the University of the Aegean and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest in the Lesvos



island UNESCO Global Geopark.

50 Participants from many countries including representatives from new UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks: Vietnam, Brazil, Japan, China, Kazakhstan, Italy, Kenya, Cyprus, Mexico, Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Hungary, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, Ireland, UK and Greece.

UNESCO, GGN Executive Board, the World Tourism Organization, the Chinese Geoparks Network were among the invited lecturers.

Additionally were invited tourism specialists from the University of the Aegean, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesvos and tourism providers of activity tourism in Lesvos Geopark.

#### 2.B. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Beijing (November 2017)

Following the success of the 1st and 2nd International Training Courses on Global Geoparks, Beijing, China in 2016, and with the strong supports from the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), UNESCO Jakarta Office, Department of Geo-environment at the Ministry of Land and Resources, China, Chinese Geoparks Network, and University of the Aegean, Greece, the 3rd International Training Course on Global Geoparks themed the 'Geoparks Management and Earth Heritage Interpretation' was successfully held in Beijing, China from December 3 to 8, 2017.

This Course was jointly organized by the China University of Geosciences, Beijing and Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China.

A total of 100 participants from 25 UNESCO Global Geoparks of China (including many high-rank geopark managers), several aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks from China, and more than 10 geopark technical supporting organizations and universities took part in the training course.

The invited lectures included 7 GGN ExB members and/



or UGGp Council members, they are: N. Zouros (Greece), Jin Xiaochi (China), I. Komoo (Malaysia), M. Watanabe (Japan), M. Frey (Germany), K. Rangnes (Norway) and Zhang Jianping (China), as well as the geoparks experts I. Valiakos (Greece), KM Yeung (Hong Kong, China), Zheng Yuan (China), Tian Mingzhong (China) and Wu Fadong (China).

The Training Course started with an opening ceremony on December 4, 2017. Mr. Liu Yuan, inspector at the department of Geo-Resources expressed strong support on the geopark capacity building activity in Beijing.

The training course comprises two parts: the first part was dedicated to the UNESCO Geoparks Management, and the second part was dedicated to the Geopark Museum, Visitor Centers, and Earth Heritage Interpretation.

The invited lecturers focused their presentations on the geopark concept and management, IGGP Statutes and UGG Operational Guidelines, GGN Statutes and Code of ethics, as well as UGG evaluation and revalidation processes.

Meanwhile, the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geo-conservation in Asia and Pacific; Global Geoparks Network and Regional Geoparks Networks: Networking and Common Activities; UNESCO Global Geoparks in China: Quo Status and Challenges; UNESCO Global Geoparks Collaboration Agreements: Framework – Common activities and Results. Global Geoparks Network Working Groups – structure and operation; the GGN WG on Tourism and the Geoparks activities on Tourism; Geosciences Research in Geoparks; Geoparks Contribution to UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals, and Management System of Geoparks in Japan and Community Involvement were also presented.

The second part of the Course from December 6-8, 2017, was held in the Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark.

The contents concentrated on the Geopark Museum:

management and operation; the role of visitor centers in UNESCO Global Geoparks and World Heritage sites; how to Design and Develop a signage system for geopark: Examples from Hong Kong UGGp; Geological Heritage Interpretation Facilities and Tools.

Examples from UNESCO Global Geoparks; Geoheritage interpretation.

The training course included oneday field trip. On December 7, all participants of the course took a field trip in Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, including visiting its geopark museum, Peking Man Museum, as well as some visitor centers and interpretation panels in the geopark territory.

#### 2.C. 10<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks in Lesvos (June 2018)

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks was organized with success by GGN and UNESCO in collaboration with the University of the Aegean and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest in the Lesvos island UNESCO Global Geopark.

50 Participants from many countries including representatives from new UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks: Vietnam, Japan, China, Italy, Indonesia, Iran, Cyprus, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, France, UK and Greece.

UNESCO, GGN Executive Board, the Chinese Geoparks Network were among the invited lecturers. Additionally were invited tourism specialists from the University of the Aegean and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest conservation team.

The course focused of Geoheritage management and Geoconservation techniques and practice together with activities related with Geopark management and operation.



### III.3. a. GGN Best Practice Awards

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

The award will recognise 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 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 2018 GGN Best Practices Awards include three awards, granted by the GGN Association in partnership with the Organizing Committee of the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy.

The GGN ExB took the following decisions on the GGN Best Practice Awards:

- GGN Best Practice Awards Assessment Procedures.
- Nomination of the Award Committee (2018-2019).
- Call for proposals for the 2016 and 2017 evaluations.
- Adoption of the Award Committee Proposal

The 2018 GGN Best Practices Awards are selected from the 2016-2017 evaluation / revalidation missions and will be presented on the UNESCO Global Geoparks Conference in the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy, on 14th September 2018.

### III.3. b. Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Awards

The GGN Executive Board in June 2018 approved new arrangements regarding the Global Geoparks Network Awards which will be in force from 2018.

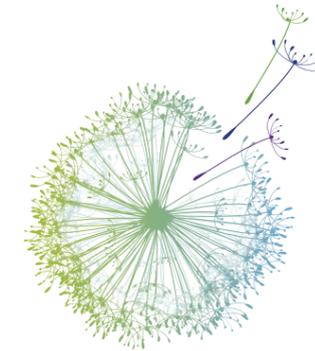
The new Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Awards will recognise pioneering practices and initiatives that contribute to a more effective and dynamic network, set fantastic exemplars for others to follow and emulate, and create greater public recognition of the UNESCO Global Geoparks for the period 2018-2019. 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 2018-2019 include six awards, granted by the Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

There will be 5 categories for the GGN Awards:

- Geological heritage conservation in Geoparks
- Education
- Tourism and Sustainable Development
- Networking
- Local participation
- One Special Award for Aspiring Geoparks based on their participation in GGN activities which showed its commitment to GGN.

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Awards will be awarded during the International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks based on proposals submitted by either the Geopark Managers or the Geopark Evaluators.



2017  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
FOR DEVELOPMENT

— Gold Partner —

### III.4. Presentation and Promotion of Geoparks in International Tourism Market

The GGN Executive Board Members in collaboration with the Regional Geopark Networks, and GGN members made special efforts to raise Geopark's visibility in the International Tourism Market and for the promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destination.

#### Partnership with WTO

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

All GGN Members could in all their activities the GGN logo accompanied with the IY2017 Gold Sponsor Logo. Please note that these logos should be used together as the second logo can be used ONLY in association with the logo of GGN.



### Participation in Tourism Fairs

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board with the support of the GGN Working Group on Tourism organized the participation of GGN with stand in International Tourism fairs

GGN and UNESCO Global Geoparks were presented in the following international events:

#### • International Tourism fair Madrid – FITUR Madrid 2017 (January 2017)

On Thursday 19th January 2017, the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Event took place at the Stand of Extremadura in FITUR which was full of a broad audience including Spanish Regional Authorities, the Spanish UNESCO Global Geopark representatives, Tourism companies and Regional media. The Councilor of Economy and Infrastructure of Extremadura José Luis Navarro hosted the Event. Were present the Councilor of the Environment of Extremadura and Ms Charo Cordero the President of the Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark who was responsible for the event organization. The Minister of Tourism of the Regional Government of Andalucía Mr Francisco Javier Fernández Hernández attended the event. The representatives of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark from Portugal were also present. Ángel García Cortés, President of the Comité Nacional Español Geoparques Mundiales UNESCO, made an introduction and presented the programme and the lectures at the event. In the first part the GGN President Prof. N. Zouros gave a presentation on the Global Geoparks and the recent UNESCO recognition. The GGN presentation entitled “Global Geoparks Network - a world partnership of sustainable tourism destinations” gain much attention and interest from the participants. In the second part Dr. Asier Hilario Orus, the Coordinator of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum and Mr. Javier Lopez Caballero geoscientist of the Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark made a joint presentation of the new Booklet Geoparks: The most innovative destinations of sustainable tourism presenting 11 Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks.

#### • International Tourism Fair Berlin – ITB Berlin 2017 (March 2017)

The GGN booth at ITB (Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel – Responsible Tourism) presented the new UNESCO Global Geoparks label as well as the Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and the activities of the Global Geopark Networks - GGN, APGN and EGN! 13 Geoparks were present at the GEOPARKS booth with staff and promotional material presenting their offer. Several other Geoparks were present in association with



their National/Regional Tourism Organizations or with Individual Stands.

#### • International Tourism fair Madrid – FITUR Madrid 2018 (January 2018)

The presence of the GGN stand and activities in FITUR 2018, one of the biggest tourism fairs in the world, was very successful and contributed significantly to our common efforts to raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as quality brand holders and sustainable tourism destinations! It is important to show to the international tourism market stakeholders that GGN represents the global network of cooperation of GEOPARKS the 21st century sustainable tourism destinations!

Geoparks present were Naturtejo, Villuercas Ibores Jara, Basque Coast, Sobrarbe, Lanzarote and Las Loras UNESCO Global Geoparks who organized jointly once again the GGN stand in FITUR 2018, contributed to the stand and used the opportunity for their promotion. The stand was visited by many professionals during the Fair (17-21 January 2018). Among the high profile visitors was the Minister of Economy of Portugal.

#### • International Tourism Fair Berlin – ITB Berlin 2018 (March 2018)

The GGN booth at ITB (Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel – Responsible Tourism) presented the new UNESCO Global Geoparks label as well as the Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and the activities of the Global Geoparks Network - GGN, APGN and EGN!



20 Geoparks were present at the GEOPARKS booth with staff and promotional material presenting their geotourism offer. For the first time Geoparks from China (Funiushan) and Iran (Qeshm) were present in ITB – Geoparks stand together with 17 Geoparks from Europe and Messel Pit.

#### • International Tourism Borse Hong Kong – ITB Hong Kong 2018 (June 2018)

For the first time, the UNESCO Global Geoparks brand was promoted in one of Asia's leading travel exhibitions – ITE 2018 Hong Kong – from 14 to 17 June.

UNESCO Global Geoparks staged a pavilion and hold an international forum titled ‘UNESCO Global Geoparks-Sustainable Tourism Destinations’ on trade days and a public seminar on public days.

The event attracted over 100,000 people.

The Geoparks booth was very well organized and Geopark's promotion was a big success.

About 100 people attended the Forum of the GGN presentation with presence of media, tour operators and geopark guides!

The Global Geoparks Network was represented by Prof. Setsuya Nakada, Chair of the GGN Advisory Board and Dr. Marie Luise Frey, Member of the GGN Executive Board and Chair of the GGN Working Group on Tourism.

Representatives from the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network, the Chinese and the Japanese Geoparks Network also participate at the Expo.

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, with the great support of the LIONS Nature Education Foundation and



L'Hotel Management Company Limited, took the lead by a decision of the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board in organising the event and co-ordinating the participation of geoparks in the region.

The Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark team and colleagues from Arxan, Yanqing, Bergstrasse-Odenwald, Oki and Izu UNESCO Global Geoparks have served throughout the entire expo.

#### Press Conferences and links with the International Tourism Press

##### • Activities in ITB 2017

GGN organized a Press Conference at the ITB 2017. The Press Conference on March 7th, 2017 immediately after the official Press Conference of the ITB. More than 70y journalists from International Media to be present.

The GGN made a presentation on “UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations” at the 12th Pow-Wow for Tourism Professionals, in ITB Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel - Responsible Tourism!

The German UNESCO Global Geoparks organized a very successful Press Conference on Thursday 9 March 2017 in ITB, with the presence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Authorities of Vulkaneifel and most of the German UNESCO Global Geoparks.

##### • Activities in FITUR 2018

The Andalusian Government and to congratulate the Andalusian UNESCO Global Geoparks Cabo de Gata, Sierras Subbeticas and Sierra Norte de Sevilla for

the organization of the official event hosted in the impressive pavilion of Andalucía and the publication of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Booklet! This new publication is dedicated to the presentation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Spain and their tourism offer.

The event took place on January 18th and was honoured by the presence and speeches of the Minister of Tourism Javier Fernández and the Minister of Environment Jose Fiscal who underlined the importance of Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.

The Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark and the Province of Cáceres with the contribution of GGN organized an event in the Stand of Extremadura to present the NEW bilingual guide of the tourist offer 2018 and the official publication of the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark.

#### • Activities ITB 2018

GGN organized with success at the ITB 2018 a Press Conference to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.

The Press Conference was on March 6th, 2018 immediately after the official Press Conference of the ITB.

#### Events of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Madrid, Spain Launching Event of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism with the participation of the GGN!

19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - in FITUR International Tourism fair in Madrid, Spain - Presentation of the Global Geoparks and the Spanish Geoparks Forum Booklet "Geoparks as innovative sustainable tourism destinations"

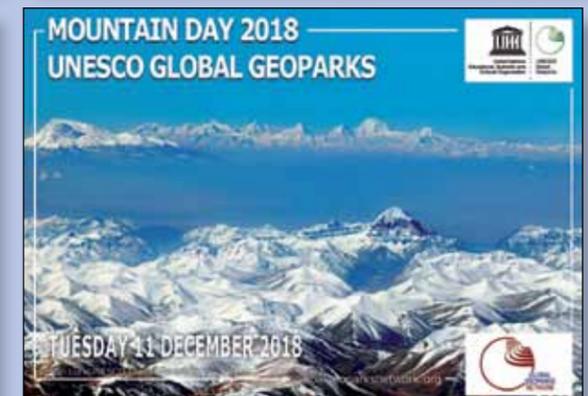
24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017: International Conference on Sustainable Tourism Penamacor. Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

### III.5. GGN Presentation and Promotion in International Conferences and Meetings

The GGN Executive Board Members in collaboration with the Regional Geopark Networks, National Fora/Committees, and GGN members made special efforts for the presentation I International Conferences and Meetings of GGN and the UNESCO Global Geoparks as well as the activities and achievements of the Global Geoparks in geoconservation, education, geotourism and sustainable development.



International Geological Conference, Cape Town South Africa



### III.6. Celebrating United Nations International Days to raise profile of the UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks need visibility through communication activities to rise their profile as territories of excellence hosting geological heritage sites of international importance, as sustainable tourism destinations, as learning territories promoting sustainability in social and economic development, as hidden treasures to visit, explore, discover and live!

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board at its meeting on December 3rd, 2017 in Beijing discussed importance of using the opportunity of the UN International Days to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks and to underline their contribution to raise awareness for the environmental protection and care of our planet. More specifically on some critical issues of global importance such as geo-hazard risk reduction and climate change awareness.

In 2017 several UNESCO Global Geoparks organized events in the frame of a common campaign for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The

variety of events coordinated by the GGN Geo-hazard Working Group included public talks, activities with schools or other groups, implementation of educational programs, small exhibitions and other action.

On December 11 2017, UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated the International Mountain Day by a campaign through social media to promote their role in raising social interest on mountains and in revitalizing mountainous communities through geotourism activities. The majority of the UNESCO Global Geoparks lie on mountainous territories. Yet mountains are under threat from climate change, land degradation, over exploitation and natural disasters, with potentially far-reaching and devastating consequences, both for mountain communities and the rest of the world.

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board encourages UNESCO Global Geoparks to celebrate jointly under common campaigns UN International Days in 2018 aiming to gain further support to their activities and promote the values of Earth heritage protection and sustainable local development.

The GGN will organize the common campaign for the promotion of the activities using the GGN promotional tools through internet.

The proposed International Days in which Geoparks can organize events are the following:

- International Earth Day - 22 April 2018
- International Museum Day - 18 May 2018
- World Environment Day - 5 June 2018
- International Day for Disaster Reduction - 13 October 2018
- International Mountain Day - 11 December 2018

### INTERNATIONAL DAY ON DISASTER REDUCTION 13th OCTOBER 2017

The GGN Geohazards WG invited GGN Members to contribute in organizing a common campaign for the 13th of October 2017, which is the International

Day for Disaster Risk Reduction <http://www.unisdr.org/2017/iddr/>

Since the 14th EGN meeting that took place between 7-10 of September 2017, the European Geoparks have already started their activities to join the campaign.

All UNESCO Global Geoparks could also organize an event, that can either be a public talk, an activity with schools or other groups, the implementation of an educational program, a small exhibition or any other light action to raise awareness and inform about natural induced disasters (any type or kind you think more relative to your case) and climate change in our geoparks. Activities can be organised on the 13th of October but even on the 14th if more suitable.

Digne, September 2018  
The GGN Executive Board

## ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ACCOUNTS

The annual General Assembly can be made by written statements sent by the GGN members in good standing by e-mail to the Executive Board within one month after receiving the Report on the accounts.

### GGN 2016 Accounts and 2017 Budget

The GGN Executive Board agreed to the 2016 Accounts as well as to the 2017 Budget of the Association.

The expenditure of the 2016 budget was 122.288,81.

From the total GGN expenditure 122.288,81

87,44 % is payment to UNESCO

10,91 % is payment for GGN operation and activities in 2016

1,63% is payment for GGN operation 2015

GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts

Following the article 10 of the Global Geopark Network Statutes all members of the Association invited to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts, on May 30th 2017.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 with positive replies that reached 90% of the GGN Association Members agreed to the GGN 2016 Accounts and the 2017 GGN Budget.

### GGN 2017 Accounts and 2018 Budget

The GGN Executive Board in its recent meetings agreed to the 2017 Accounts as well as to the 2018 Budget of the Association.

The income of the 2017 was **239.862 Euro**.

The expenditure of the 2017 budget was **195.735 Euro**.

From the total GGN expenditure **195.735**

110.981 or 56,69 % is payment to UNESCO

50.000 or 25,54% will be the expenditure for the GGN Marketing and Communication strategy to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks! (Payment will be realized in 2018).

34.754 or 17,75% is payment for the for GGN operation and activities in 2017.

The GGN Executive Board believes that this year was made a significant step forward for the stabilization of the Global Geoparks Network financial status which permits further development of activities in the future without major threats or uncertainties.

Following the article 10 of the Global Geopark Network Statutes all members of the Association invited to participate in the 4th GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts, on July 20th 2018.

