



# Global Geoparks Network

*Celebrating Earth Heritage*  
**Sustaining Local Communities**



ISSUE 4

# 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 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 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.



Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark, Croatia

# 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 subject 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 four Regional Geoparks Networks are the:

- African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN)
- Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)
- European Geoparks Network (EGN)
- Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GEOLAC).

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

The Global Geoparks Network organizes 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 geosciences and their relationship 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);



Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark - Canada

# 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's 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 organization 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 of: 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 Affiliate Organizations.

### National Geoparks 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 organize 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 are presented in pages 10-11.

### International Conference on Geoparks:

The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks takes place every two years organized by a UNESCO Global Geopark. The organization 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 Geoparks Networks:

Regional Geoparks Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level. Regional Geoparks Networks serve to take 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 four Regional Geoparks Networks operate: the European Geoparks Network – EGN (since 2000), the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN (since 2007), the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network – GEOLAC (since 2017), and the African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network – AUGGN (since 2019).

### 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 to coordinate the operation of the Global Geoparks Network.

## 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

Burlando Mauricio, Italy

Frey Marie-Luise, Germany

Melo Patricio, Brazil

Watanabe Mahito, Japan

Zhang Jianping, P.R. China

Achbal Driss, Morocco (AUGGN) –  
Temporary Duty

Calder John, Canada (CGN) –  
Temporary Duty

### Observers

UNESCO Secretariat

Vandenbergh Kristof, UNESCO

GGN Advisory Committee Chair

Nakada Setsuya, Japan

# GGN Secretariat

Musée Promenade, Montée Bernard Dellacasagrande, 04000 Digne les Bains, France.  
Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geoparks, 8th November 18, 81100 Lesvos, Greece  
[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)  
[ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com)

## Advisory Committee

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Setsuya Nakada</b> , Japan
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Elizabeth Silva</b> , Portugal
<b>Members</b>	
Austria	<b>Oliver Gulas</b> , Austrian National Fora
Belgium	<b>Alain Petit</b> , Representative of Famenne-Ardenne UGGp
Brazil	<b>Maria Edenilce Peixoto Batista</b> , Representative of Araripe UGGp
Canada	<b>Sarah Gamble</b> , Canadian Geoparks Network
Chile	<b>Patricia Herrera</b> , Representative of Kütralkura UGGp
China	<b>Yuanyuan Zheng</b> , Chinese Geoparks Network
Croatia	<b>Goran Pavic</b> , National Committee on UNESCO Global Geoparks in the Republic of Croatia
Cyprus	<b>Efthimios Tsiolakis</b> , Representative of Troodos UGGp
Czech Republic	<b>Martina Paskova</b> , National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic
Denmark	<b>Jacob Walløe</b> , Representative of Danish Geoparks
Ecuador	<b>Carlos Merizalde</b> , Ecuadorian Geoparks Committee
Finland	<b>Vesa Krökki</b> , Finnish Geoparks Forum
France	<b>Jean-Simon Pagès</b> , National Committee for the Geoparks of France
Germany	<b>Hartmut Escher</b> , German Geoparks Forum
Greece	<b>Charalampos Fassoulas</b> , Hellenic Geoparks Forum
Hungary	<b>Korbély Barnabás</b> , Hungarian Geopark Committee
Iceland	<b>Sigurður Sigursveinsson</b> , Icelandic Geoparks Forum
Indonesia	<b>Budi Martono</b> , Indonesian Geoparks Forum
Iran	<b>Alireza Amrikazemi</b> , Representative of Qeshm Island UGGp
Ireland	<b>Clare Glanville</b> , Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee
Italy	<b>Aniello Aloia</b> , Italian Geoparks Committee
Japan	<b>Setsuya Nakada</b> , Japan Geopark Committee
Malaysia	<b>Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari</b> , Representative of Langkawi UGGp
Mexico	<b>Jose Luis Palacio</b> , Representative of Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UGGp
Morocco	<b>Driss Achbal</b> , Representative of M'Goun UGGp
Netherlands	<b>Gretha Roelfs</b> , Netherlands Forum for UNESCO Global Geoparks
Nicaragua	<b>Monica Bueno de Frutos</b> , Representative of Rio Coco UGGp
Norway	<b>Pål Thjømøe</b> , Norwegian National Committee for Geoheritage and Geoparks
Peru	<b>Figueroa Sadith Condori</b> , Representative of Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UGGp
Poland	<b>Jacek Koźma</b> , Representative of Polish Geoparks
Portugal	<b>Elizabeth Silva</b> , Portuguese Geoparks Committee
Republic of Korea	<b>Soojae Lee</b> , Korean National Geoparks Network
Romania	<b>Alexandru Andrasanu</b> , Romanian National UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum
Russian Federation	<b>Sadykov Ildar</b> , Representative of Yangan Tau UGGp
Serbia	<b>Mitrović Lazar</b> , Representative of Djerdap UGGp
Slovakia	<b>György Balázs</b> , Representative of Novohrad-Nograd UGGp
Slovenia	<b>Suzana Fajmut Šrtučl</b> , Slovenian Geoparks Forum
Spain	<b>Jose Maria Barrera</b> , Spanish Geoparks Forum
Tanzania	<b>Joshua Mwankunda</b> , Representative of Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp
Thailand	<b>Narongrit Thungprue</b> , Satun UGGp
Turkey	<b>Tuncer Demir</b> , Representative of Kula - Salihli UGGp
United Kingdom	<b>Kirstin Lemon</b> , UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks
Uruguay	<b>Eugenio Bidondo Echeveria</b> , Representative of Grutas del Palacio UGGp
Vietnam	<b>Tran Tan Van</b> , Vietnam Geoparks Committee



## Regional Geoparks 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 the highly significant role it plays in capacity-building, the GGN encourages the strengthening of Regional Geoparks Networks.

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

Regional Geoparks 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 Geoparks professionals in the region.

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

Each Regional Geoparks Network forms a Coordination Commission which is the governing body of the Regional Geoparks Networks 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 Geoparks Networks

- European Geoparks Network - EGN  
[www.europeangeoparks.org](http://www.europeangeoparks.org)
- Asia Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN  
[www.asiapacificgeoparks.org](http://www.asiapacificgeoparks.org)
- Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network – GEOLAC  
[www.redgeolac.org](http://www.redgeolac.org)
- African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN)  
[www.visitgeoparks.org/african-geopark-network](http://www.visitgeoparks.org/african-geopark-network)

### Regional Geoparks Conferences

Regional Geoparks Networks organize Regional Conferences or Symposia every two years, not in the same year as the International Geoparks Conferences.

- The European Geoparks Network has organized 15 European Geoparks Conferences since 2000. The 15th European Geoparks Conference was organized in Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark, Andalusia, Spain in September 2019.
- The Asia Pacific Geoparks Network has organized 5 Symposia since 2007. The 6th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Conference was organized in Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia in September 2019.

# GGN Working Groups

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

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

A GGN Working Group consists of 9-10 GGN Members with proven experience of the subject. GGN Working Group members have a broad geographical distribution.

The main goal of a GGN Working Group 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 Working Group:

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

### GGN Working Group on Volcanic Areas

Coordinator **Setsuya Nakada** (Japan)

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

Members

**Andreas Schueller, Franzen, Julia**, Vulkaneifel, Germany

**Barnabás Korbely**, Bakony - Balaton, Hungary

**Qinfei Lu**, Yandangshan, P.R. China

**Yongchao Si**, Wudalianchi, P.R. China

**Yongmun Jeon**, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

**Elena Mederos**, Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands, Spain

**Hanang Samodra**, Indonesia

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

### GGN Working Group on Geo-Hazards

Coordinator **Mahito Watanabe** (Japan)

Vice coordinator in **Charalambos Fassoulas** (Greece)  
UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction  
Section Representative **Irina Pavlova**

Members

**Noritaka Matsubara**, San'in Kaigan, Japan

**Alessia Amorfini**, Apuan Alps, Italy

**Brynja Davíðsdóttir**, Katla, Iceland

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

**Alisa Chen**, Huangshan, P.R. China

**Fang Chen**, Danxiashan UGG, P.R. 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, P.R. China

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

**Dr. Maurizio Burlando**, Tuscan Archipelago National Park director, Italy

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

**Prof. Patricio Melo**, Universidade Regional do Cariri, Brazil

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

**Dr. Godfrey Nowlan**, Canadian Geological Survey

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

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

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

**Dr. Guy Martini**, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair, France

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

### GGN Sustainable Development Goals Working Group

Members

**Xiaochi Jin**, P.R. China

**Patricio Melo**, Brazil

**Jutta Weber**, Germany

**Elizabeth Silva**, Portugal

**Ibrahim Komoo**, Malaysia

**Mustapha Ouabbas**, Morocco

**Kristin Rangnes**, Norway

### GGN Tourism Working Group

Members

**Maurizio Burlando**, Italy

**Carlos Carvalho**, Portugal

**Ka Ming Yeung**, Hong Kong – P.R. China

**Marie-Luise Frey**, Germany

**Mustapha Ouabbas**, Morocco

**Jane Fullerton**, Canada

### GGN Educational Working Group

Members

**Marie-Luise Frey**, Germany

**Jianping Zhang**, P.R. China

**Jose Maria Barerra**, Spain

**Patricio Melo**, Brazil

### GGN Island Working Group

Coordinator: **Kazuhiro Nobe**, Japan

GGN ExB: **Nickolas Zouros**, Greece

**Ibrahim Komoo**, Malaysia

**Alireza Amrikazemi**, Iran

**Yongmun Jeon**, Republic of Korea

**Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari**, Malaysia

**Giannis Spilanis**, Greece

**Rory Tallack**, UK

**João Carlos Nunes**, Portugal

**Sara Brito**, Spain



Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea



1st GGN Digital Forum, 2020



2nd GGN Practice Award 2018 - Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark

## 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, Stonehammer 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 proven 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 2021

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Best Practice Awards aim 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 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 way.

The GGN Best Practice Awards 2021 include three awards, granted by the GGN Association in partnership with the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks hosted by the Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea.

The GGN Best Practice Awards 2021 are selected from a two year period of evaluation / revalidation missions (2018-2019) based on proposals submitted by the Geopark Evaluators till December 2020. 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 recording the example of good practice and that their assignment has appropriate emphasis in all communication channels of the GGN.

The three winning cases are given the opportunity to will present their project in detail to the conference delegates during a special best practice session at the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in December 2021.

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

### THE GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK AWARDS

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) established in 2018 the new GGN Awards which 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 to 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 way.

The GGN Awards included six awards, granted by the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

There are 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 the GGN.

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



8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, Adamello Brenta UGGp 2018



1st International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Beijing, China

## International Conferences on UNESCO Global Geoparks

### International Geoparks Conference

The GGN holds an International Geoparks Conference every two years.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks originally planned for September 2020, is held in 2021 and all the International and Regional Geoparks Conferences and Meetings already scheduled initially for the period 2020-2022, were shifted to the period 2021-2023.

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 organization 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. detailed 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 Organizing 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)

**8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks**  
Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark  
2018 (Italy)



6th International UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks, Canada



5th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Shimabara, Japan



2nd Regional Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean 2019



11th International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2019 Lesvos Island Greece

## Capacity building activities

The Global Geoparks Network supports a variety of capacity building activities aiming to distribute information and share best practice on creating and operating Geoparks, especially in underrepresented regions. The Global Geoparks 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 from all over the globe. It comprises creation and operation of a theoretical background together with extensive fieldwork. The Intensive Course on Geoparks aims to focus on the UNESCO Global Geoparks building and operation, on Geopark's contribution to shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism and environmental education – combining sustainability 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/geoparks2021>

- **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 Geoparks 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.



6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development, Yimengshan UGGp 2020

# UNESCO Global Geoparks



# Global Geoparks Network



**unesco**  
Global Geoparks

## UNESCO Global Geoparks

169 UNESCO Global Geoparks  
in 44 countries

## Global Geoparks Network

The International Association of  
UNESCO Global Geoparks and  
Geopark Professionals



# UNESCO Global Geoparks



## UNESCO Global Geoparks

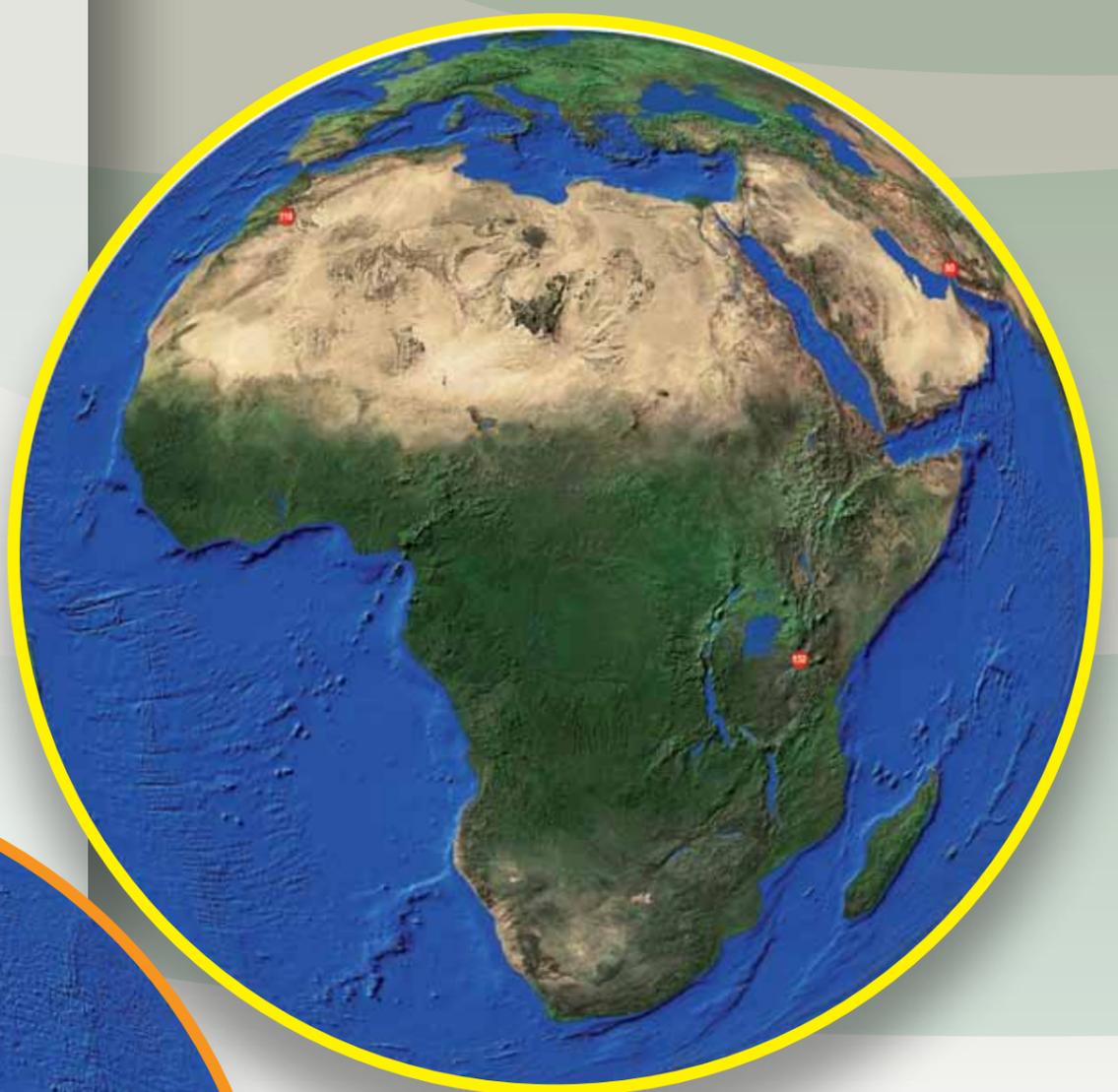
169 UNESCO Global Geoparks  
in 44 countries



**unesco**  
Global Geoparks

- 88 UNESCO Global Geoparks are forming the European Geoparks Network
- 66 UNESCO Global Geoparks are forming the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network.
- 8 UNESCO Global Geoparks are forming Geoparks in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 5 UNESCO Global Geoparks in North America.
- 2 UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa.

# Global Geoparks Network



## Global Geoparks Network

The International Association  
of UNESCO Global Geoparks  
and Geopark Professionals



# UNESCO Global Geoparks

# Global Geoparks Network

## Austria\*

1. Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark
2. Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark

## Belgium

3. Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark

## Brazil

4. Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark

## Canada

5. Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
6. Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark
7. Percé UNESCO Global Geopark
8. Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark
9. Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark

## Chile

10. Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark

## China

11. Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark
12. Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark
13. Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark
14. Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark
15. Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark
16. Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark
17. Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
18. Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark
19. Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark
20. Taining UNESCO Global Geopark
21. Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark
22. Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
23. Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark
24. Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark
25. Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark
26. Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark
27. Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
28. Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark
29. Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark
30. Longhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
31. Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark
32. Qinling Zhongnanshan UNESCO Global Geopark
33. Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark
34. Leye Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark
35. Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
36. Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark
37. Sanqingshan UNESCO Global Geopark
38. Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark
39. Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark
40. Mount Kunlun UNESCO Global Geopark
41. Dali-Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
42. Dunhuang UNESCO Global Geopark
43. Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark
44. Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark
45. Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark
46. Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark
47. Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark
48. Jiuhuashan UNESCO Global Geopark
49. Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark
50. Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark

51. Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark

## Croatia

52. Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark
53. Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark

## Cyprus

54. Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark

## Czechia

55. Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark

## Denmark

56. Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark
57. Vestjylland UNESCO Global Geopark

## Ecuador

58. Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark

## Finland

59. Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark
60. Lauhanvuori-Hämeen kangas UNESCO Global Geopark
61. Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark

## France

62. Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark
63. Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark
64. Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark
65. Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark
66. Monts d'Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark
67. Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark
68. Beaujolais UNESCO Global Geopark

## Germany\*

69. Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark
70. TERRA. vita UNESCO Global Geopark
71. Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark
72. Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark
73. Harz, Braunschweiger Land UNESCO Global Geopark
74. Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen UNESCO Global Geopark

## Greece

75. Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark
76. Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark
77. Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark
78. Vikos - Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark
79. Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark
80. Grevena Kozani UNESCO Global Geopark

## Hungary\*

81. Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark

## Iceland

82. Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
83. Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark

## Indonesia

84. Batur UNESCO Global Geopark
85. Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark
86. Ciletuh - Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark
87. Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark
88. Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark
89. Belitong UNESCO Global Geopark

## Iran (Islamic Republic of)

90. Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark

## Ireland\*

91. Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
92. Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

## Italy

93. Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark
94. Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark
95. Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark
96. Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark
97. Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UNESCO Global Geopark
98. Tuscan Mining Park UNESCO Global Geopark
99. Alpi Apuani UNESCO Global Geopark
100. Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark
101. Pollino UNESCO Global Geopark
102. Aspromonte UNESCO Global Geopark
103. Majella UNESCO Global Geopark
104. Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark
105. Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark
106. Toya - Usu UNESCO Global Geopark
107. San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark
108. Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark
109. Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
110. Aso UNESCO Global Geopark
111. Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark
112. Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark

## Malaysia

113. Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

## Mexico

114. Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark
115. Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark

## Morocco

116. M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark

## Netherlands

117. De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark

## Nicaragua

118. Rio Coco UNESCO Global Geopark

## Norway

119. Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark
120. Magma UNESCO Global Geopark
121. Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark

## Peru

122. Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark

## Poland\*

123. Holy Cross Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark

## Portugal

124. Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UNESCO Global Geopark
125. Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark
126. Açores UNESCO Global Geopark
127. Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark
128. Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark

## Republic of Korea

129. Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark
130. Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark
131. Mudeungsan Area UNESCO Global Geopark
132. Hantangang UNESCO Global Geopark

## Romania

133. Hațeg Country UNESCO Global Geopark

## Russian Federation

134. Yangan-Tau UNESCO Global Geopark

## Serbia

135. Djerdap UNESCO Global Geopark

## Slovakia\*

## Slovenia\*

136. Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark

## Spain

137. Cabo de Gata-Níjar UNESCO Global Geopark
138. Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark
139. Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark
140. Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
141. Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark
142. Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark
143. Central Catalonia UNESCO Global Geopark
144. Molina & Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark
145. El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark
146. Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
147. Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark
148. Origenes UNESCO Global Geopark
149. Courel Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark
150. Granada UNESCO Global Geopark
151. Maestrazgo UNESCO Global Geopark

## Tanzania

152. Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark

## Thailand

153. Satun UNESCO Global Geopark

## Turkey

154. Kula -Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland\*

155. North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark
156. North-West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark
157. Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark
158. English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark
159. GeoMôn UNESCO Global Geopark
160. Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark
161. Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark

## Uruguay

162. Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark

## Viet Nam

163. Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark
164. Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark
165. Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark

## \* List of transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks.

### Austria & Slovenia

166. Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark

### Germany & Poland

167. Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark

### Hungary & Slovakia

168. Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark

### Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

169. Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark

# Top 16 Focus Areas

## ● Geological Heritage Conservation



Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

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 provide information on the source of geological hazards and ways to reduce their impact including disaster response strategies. These efforts build competence and contribute to developing 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.



Reykjanes 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 creating 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.



Katla Geopark UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

## ● 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 depleting the 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



San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

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 of the relationship between the geological environment and modern ecosystems and their rational management under a holistic concept.

## Culture Heritage Enhancement

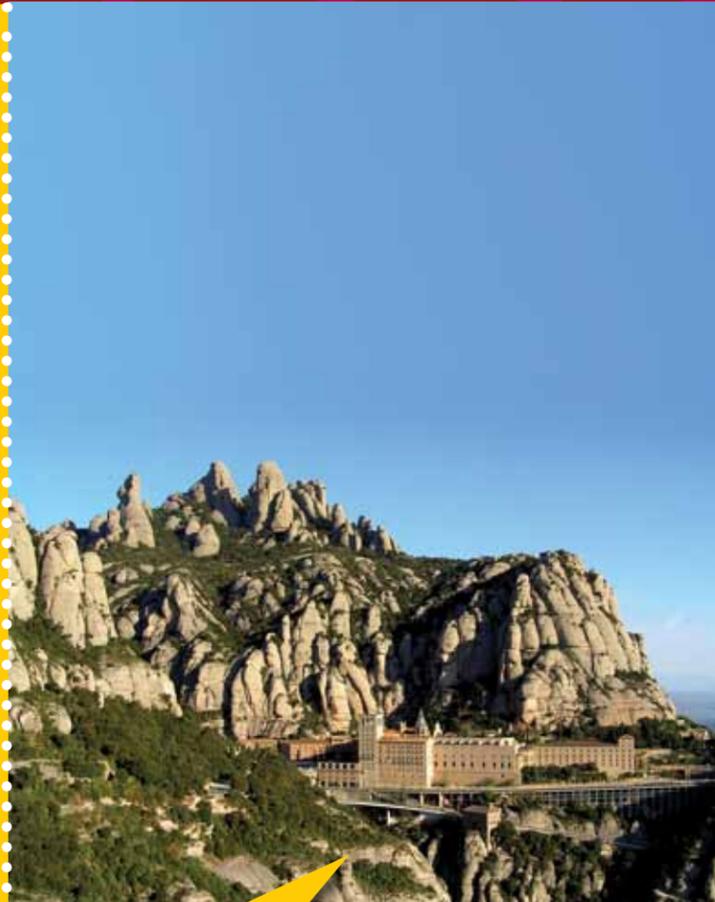
In many countries emblematic geosites are considered as sacred places. Since ancient times, sacred sites have had a mysterious allure for billions of people around the world. Legends and contemporary reports tell of extraordinary experiences people have had while visiting these places. Different sacred 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.



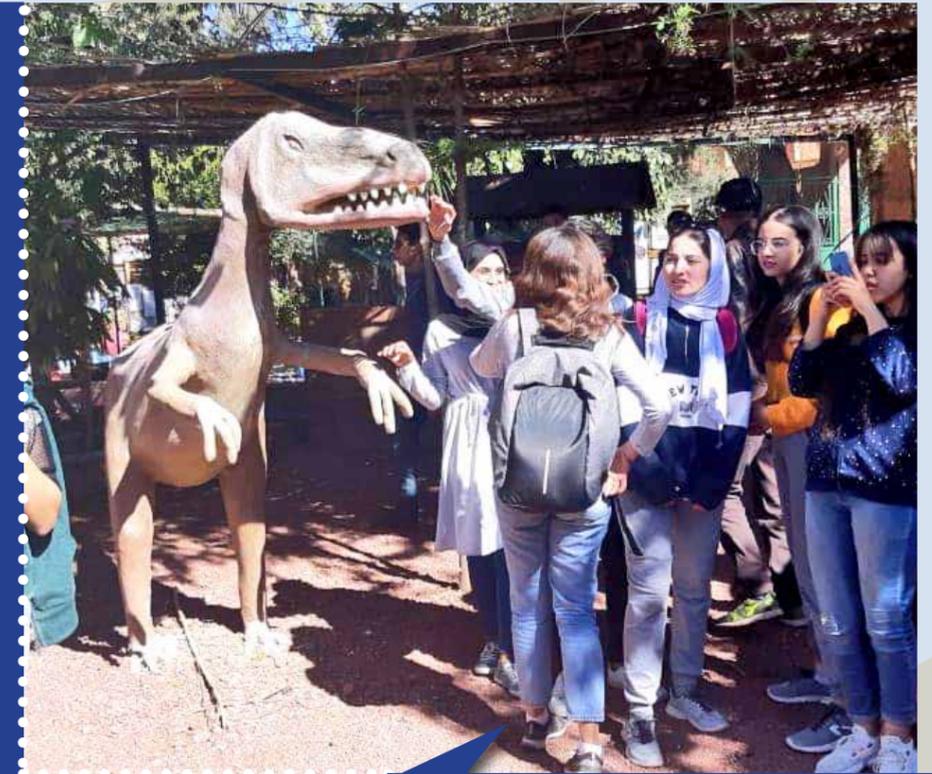
Central Catalunya UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

## 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.

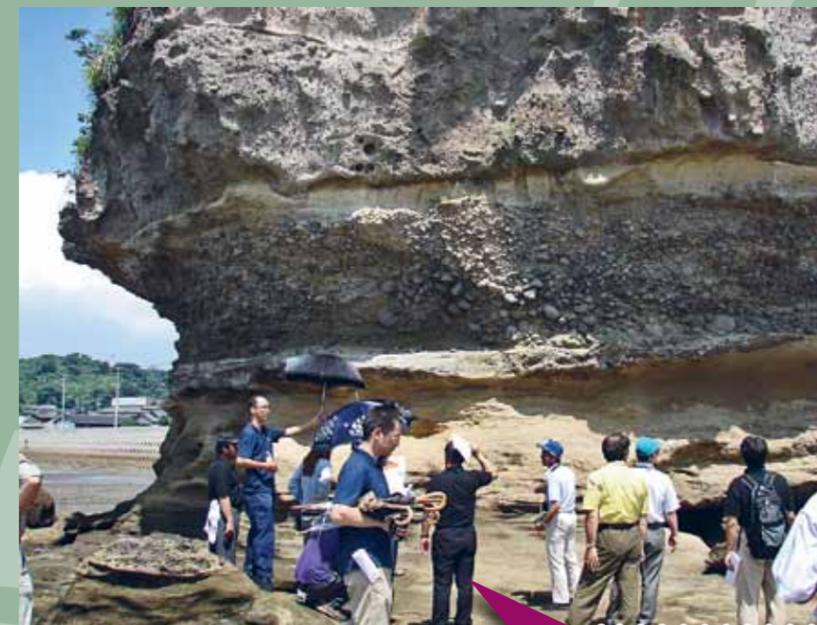
UNESCO Global Geoparks offer educational programmes for schools or offer special activities for children through "Summer camps", "Kids Clubs" or special "Fossil Fun Activities".

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



M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco

## Science & Research



Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. Thus Geoparks are interested in applying the results of scientific research in the fields 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.

## Sustainable Tourism



Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

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

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote themselves as sustainable tourism destinations offering a diversity of guided field walks and nature tourism activities, authentic experiences 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 young scientists, supporting the development of Geoparks in many countries especially in regions with fewer numbers of UNESCO Global Geoparks.



Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

## Employment



Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador

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

UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to 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

De Honsdrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands



UNESCO Global Geoparks engage with local people respecting their traditional way of life in a way that empowers them and values 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 the enhancement of a general image linked to the geological heritage and the development of sustainable tourism. A Geopark has a 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.

## Empower Women



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 an additional income in their own area and on their own terms.

Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark, Peru

## Networking



41st EGN Meeting, Kanavanke-Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria @ Slovenia

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.



Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark, Tanzania

## Monitoring and Evaluation

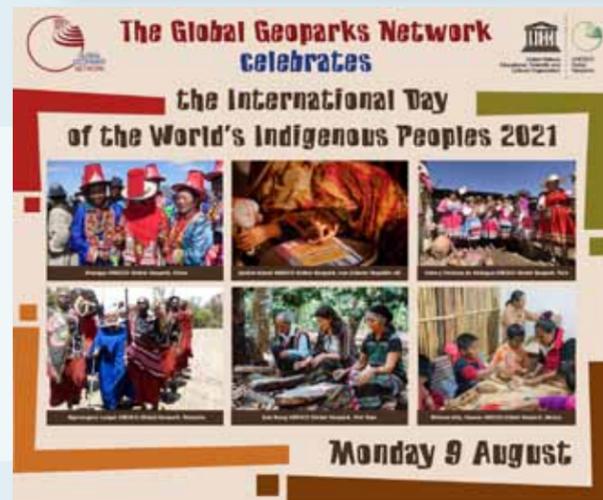
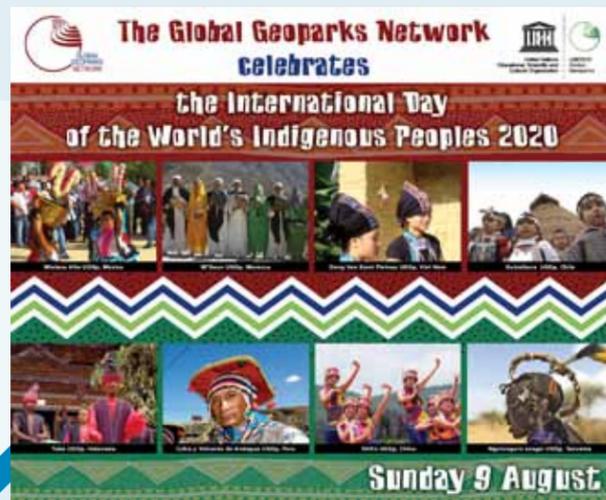
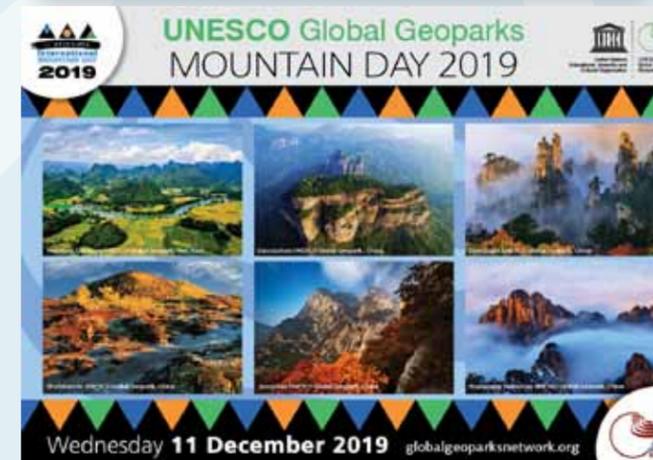
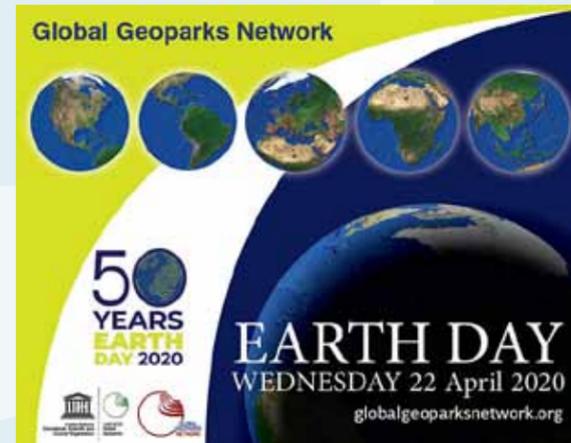


In order to ensure the continuing high quality of UNESCO Global Geoparks, including the quality of the management of each UNESCO Global Geopark, the status of each UNESCO Global Geopark is subject to a thorough revalidation every 4 years.

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

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran

# Celebrating United Nations International Days in UNESCO Global Geoparks



Every year several UNESCO Global Geoparks organize events within the framework of a common campaign for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The variety of events are coordinated by the GGN Geo-hazard Working Group included public talks, activities with schools or other groups, implementation of educational programmes, small exhibitions and other activities

On December 11, UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrate 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 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks are in 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 encourages UNESCO Global Geoparks to celebrate by way of common campaigns the UN International Days aiming to gain further support for their activities and to 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 the internet.

The International Days in which UNESCO Global Geoparks organize events coordinated by the Global Geoparks Network are as follows:

- **International Mother Earth Day - 22 April**
- **International Museum Day - 18 May**
- **World Environment Day - 5 June**
- **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - 9 August**
- **World CleanUp Day - 18 September**
- **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - 13 October**
- **International Mountain Day - 11 December**

UNESCO Global Geoparks, the youngest site designation of UNESCO, need visibility through communication activities to raise 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! At present, there are 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries. They are all institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

The Global Geoparks Network celebrates the UN International Days to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks and to underline their contribution in raising awareness for the environmental protection and care of our planet. More specifically of some critical issues of global importance such as geo-hazard risk reduction and climate change awareness.

# Geoparks and International Tourism

The Global Geoparks Network is developing a new marketing and communication strategy for UNESCO Global Geoparks to promote Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and the Global Geoparks Network as a Network of excellence in quality services for nature tourism.

The Global Geoparks Network became a gold partner of the World Tourism Organization for the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (IY2017). The main goal of their partnership was to build new links with the tourism market, raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks among the main players in the tourism industry and to promote Geoparks collectively through this United Nation's initiative operated by the World Tourism Organization.



## Geoparks and International Tourism Fairs

The Global Geoparks Network participates every year in international tourism fairs, promoting Geoparks in the global tourism market.

In 2019 major events organized in **FITUR – Madrid (January 2019)**, in **ITB – Berlin (March 2019)**, in **FITUR – Madrid (January 2020)** and in the **DIGITAL ITB Berlin (March 2021)**.

The aim of the GGN's participation in international tourism fairs is to emphasize that the UNESCO Global Geoparks provide an international framework for cooperation and broad stakeholder engagement on shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism, linking 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, visitors, journalists and 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 includes the presentation of individual exhibits, new brochures and local products in a special stand.

The Geoparks inform tourism professionals, tourists and visitors to the fair about the opportunities for visiting and the geotourism activities organized by the Geoparks.

At the same time, the Global Geoparks Network organizes and participates in press conferences as well as in special events organized and displaying Geoparks as unique tourist quality destinations.



**Geoparks International Press Conference Berlin 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The 3rd International GGN Press Conference in the International Tourism Fair in Berlin, was successfully organized on March 5th 2019 aiming the presentation of the achievements of the Global Geoparks Network during the last 15 years and the 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide.



**FITUR Madrid 2019, 23 - 26 January 2019**



The Global Geoparks Network stand and activities in FITUR Madrid, 23-26 January 2019, was very successful and contributed significantly to raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as quality brand holders!

Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark in Portugal and Carlos Neto de Carvalho of the GGN Working Group on Tourism, had the coordination of the Geoparks stand in FITUR with the support of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum and its Coordinator Asier Hilario.

The Geopark Stand was located at the Pavilion 4 – EUROPE, emphasizing the role of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations in 25 European Countries.

The presence in Fitur jointly organized by Naturtejo, Villuercas Ibores Jara, Basque Coast, Sobrarbe, Central Catalonia, Lanzarote and Las Loras UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Other Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks were visible through their National and Provincial stands like Azores in the stand of Portugal, Troodos in the stand of Cyprus, as well as some Chinese Geoparks in the Pavilion of China and Mixteca Alta UGGp was represented in the Oaxaca region at the Mexico Pavilion. The stand was visited by many professionals during the Fair like the General Secretaries of Tourism of Portugal, Greece and Spain.



**ITB Berlin  
6 - 10 March  
2019**



The GGN booth at ITB (Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel - Responsible Tourism) presented under the same umbrella the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and the activities of the Global Geoparks Network - GGN, APGN and EGN.

The GGN booth was coordinated by Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark together with Messel Pit WHS and the Global Geopark partners.

The GGN stand gave special emphasis to the presentation of the collaboration projects and activities between Geoparks which help to disseminate best practices and the creation of new tools in communication and geo-products.

The GGN for the first time published a catalogue of Tourist packages for the Geoparks present in the GGN Booth, including the offer of 13 geoparks. We hope that we can develop this practice for the Network and present soon a comprehensive catalogue with the Geopark's tourist offer.

23 Geoparks were present at the GEOPARKS booth with staff and promotional material presenting their geotourism offer. For the first time Geopark from Malaysia (Langkawi) was present in ITB - Geoparks stand together with 23 Geoparks from Europe and Messel Pit.

Several other UNESCO Global Geoparks were present in ITB 2019 in association with their National/Regional Tourism Organizations or with Individual Stands.



**FITUR  
Madrid,  
22-26  
January  
2020**



The Geoparks stand and the Geoparks promotional activities in FITUR 2020, one of the biggest tourism fairs in the world, were very successful.

Geopark's presentation in FITUR contributed significantly to our common efforts to raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as quality brand in tourism and sustainable tourism destinations!

The Geopark Stand was located at the Pavilion 4 - EUROPE, emphasizing the role of the UNESCO Global

Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations in 25 European Countries.

The promotion in FITUR 2020 jointly organised by the colleagues from Naturtejo - Portugal, Villuercas Ibores Jara, Basque Coast, Central Catalonia, Las Loras and Cured mountains UNESCO Global Geoparks - Spain, Mixteca Alta UGGp - Mexico and Qeshm UGGp - Iran.

The stand was visited by many professionals during the Fair. Among the high profile visitors was the General Secretary of Tourism of Portugal Mrs. Rita Marques, accompanied by Mr Luís Araújo, President of Tourism of Portugal, the President of the Regional Tourism Entity Centro de Portugal. They were welcomed by the President of Naturtejo Geopark Armindo Jacinto and the President of GGN Prof. N. Zouros.

Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks got an important achievement during the last international tourism fair FITUR. The Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum was invited to present the UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Spanish Geoparks in the Spanish Tourism Organization TURESPAÑA pavilion.

TURESPAÑA is the national agency for the international promotion of Spanish touristic destinations worldwide.



**DIGITAL  
ITB Berlin,  
9 - 12 March  
2021**

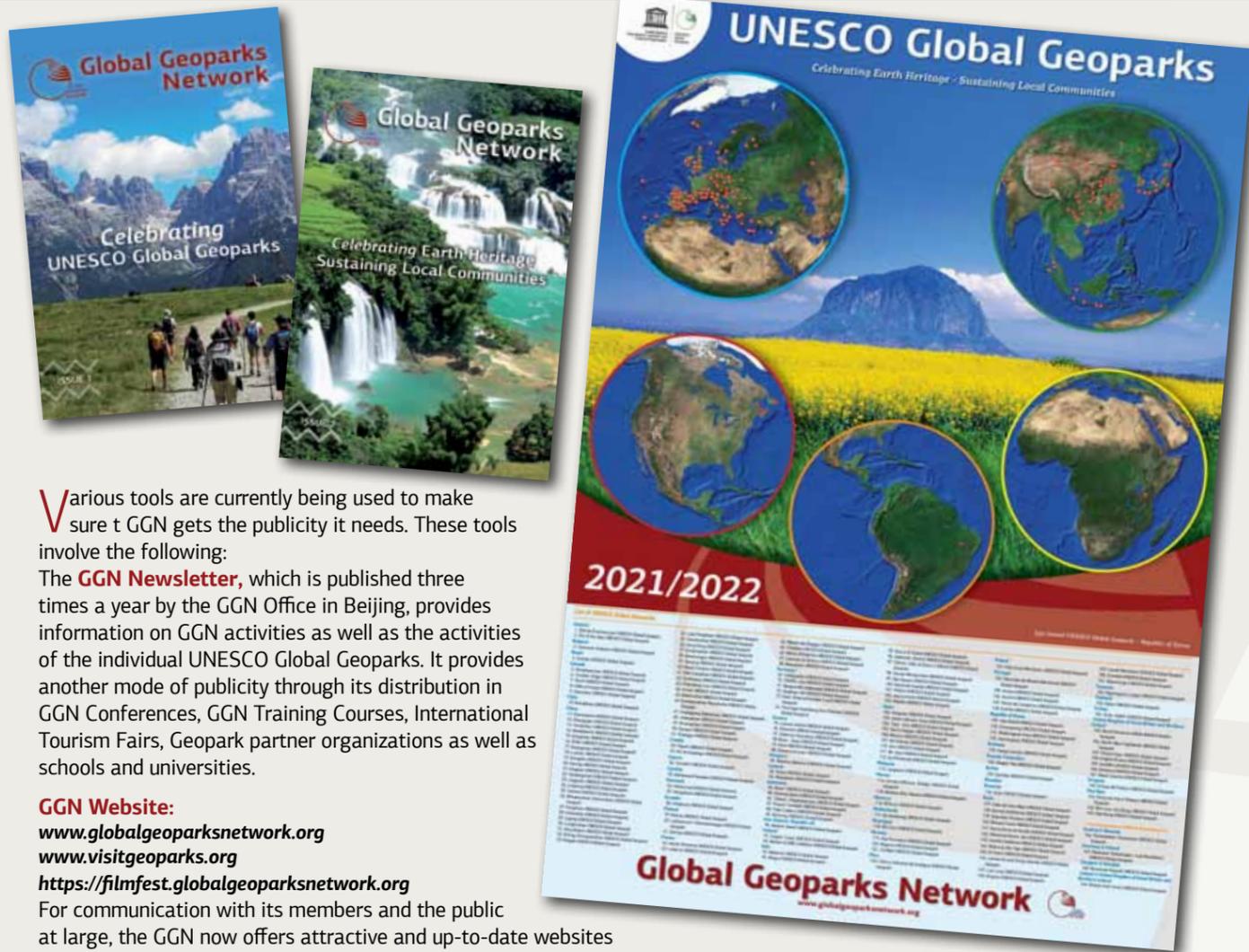
The GGN Executive Board taking into account the positive results of the Geoparks' presence in the International Tourism Fairs during the previous years decided the participation of the GGN in the digital ITB Berlin 2021. Main reason for this decision was the importance to promote the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and prepare our Network for the after the pandemic reopening but also that the UNESCO Global Geoparks stay connected with the tourism markets during this difficult period.

ITB Berlin was held its 2021 annual international travel trade show as an entirely virtual event under the name ITB Berlin during March 9-12, 2021.



During ITB Berlin the UNESCO Global Geoparks promoted as Sustainable Tourism Destinations and all UNESCO Global Geoparks stakeholders, tourism agencies, local, regional and national politicians, journalists and everybody who are involved in promoting the UNESCO Global Geoparks were invited to participate.

# Communication Tools



Various tools are currently being used to make sure t 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, provides information on GGN activities as well as the activities of the individual UNESCO Global Geoparks. It provides another mode of publicity through its distribution in 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.visitgeoparks.org](http://www.visitgeoparks.org)  
<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org>

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

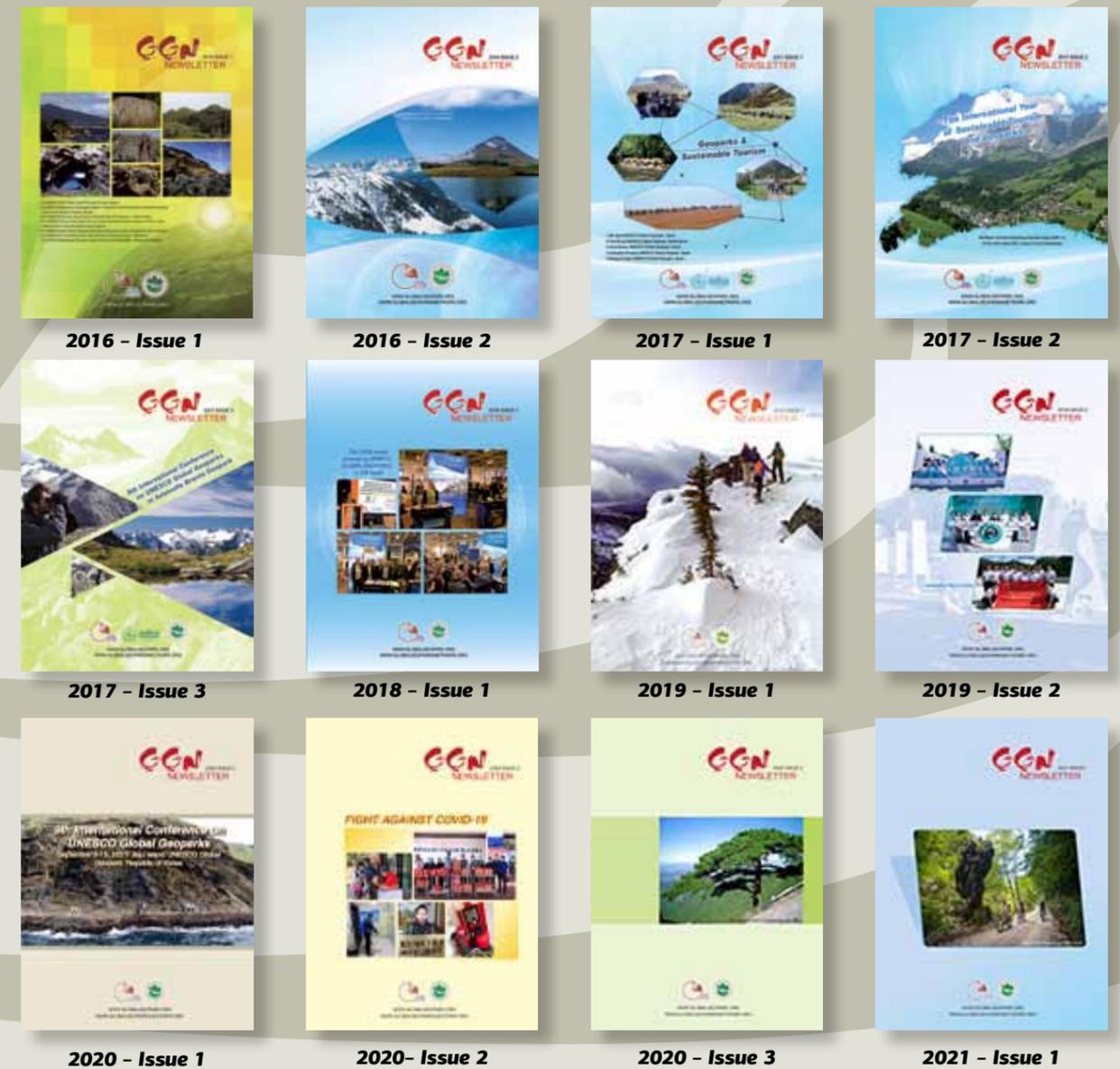
**GGN Brochure**  
 The brochure provides the GGN map and list of members and is distributed in GGN and UNESCO events and Tourism Fairs.

## ● GGN Communication Committee

<b>Nickolas Zouros</b> , Greece	GGN President
<b>Guy Martini</b> , France	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>Mpatsios Dimitris</b> , Greece	GGN Association Website
<b>Ramsay Tony</b> , UK	EGN Magazine
<b>Li Sun</b> , P.R. 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

## GGN Newsletters

[http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page\\_id=1562](http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=1562)



## GGN Conference Proceedings

- 2018 – 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks held in Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy
- 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

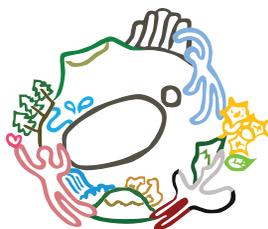
[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)

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# DIGITAL 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

# Jeju

# FUN Geopark



## December 12-16, 2021

Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark Republic of Korea

<https://www.jejuggn2020.org/>