



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

7th GGN Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday 8 April 2024, at 12:00 GMT

<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/7th-ggn-advisory-committee-meeting>

MINUTES

1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

1.1. Welcome from the President

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He informed the participants that Mr Kristof Vandenberghe, Chief of Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section of UNESCO, could not participate due to travel commitments.

1.2. Welcome from the Chair

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) welcomed the participants. He informed them that 18 new UNESCO global Geoparks would be nominated at the end of March, increasing the total number to 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 48 countries. He reminded the participants, as stated in the GGN Statute, the task of the GGN Advisory Committee is to advise the GGN Executive Board and the GGN General Assembly on the operation of GGN, its activities, budget and other relevant matters.

1.3. Agreement of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

1. Minutes of the 5th GGN Advisory Committee meeting

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) informed the participants that the minutes of the 5th GGN Advisory Committee meeting had been agreed upon at the previous meeting. However, the UK Geoparks Forum had requested some amendments, which were reflected in this new minute's documents.

2. Minutes of the 6th GGN Advisory Committee meeting

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) presented the minutes of the 6th GGN Advisory Committee meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the 6th GGN Advisory Committee meeting were unanimously approved by the GGN Advisory Committee members.

Implementation of the GGN Strategic Plan 2023-2025

3. Registration of the Global Geoparks Network logo

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked GGN President to inform the Advisory Committee members about the procedure for the registration of the Global Geoparks Network logo and name.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) presented the coherent GGN logo for all the GGN bodies and explained the background of the decision and the procedure for registering the GGN logo and name:

The GGN Executive Board, recognizing the need for legal protection of the GGN logo and name, initiated efforts last summer to register them. The process has progressed smoothly so far, and the GGN has already received certification for EU countries hosting GGN members. Subsequently, the GGN Executive Board decided to apply for the registration of the logo and name in all countries hosting UNESCO Global Geoparks. This crucial step will protect all GGN members against the misuse of the logo and name. The GGN is expecting to receive certificates for 21 countries. The registration process is being handled by a German law firm specializing in international logo registration. The firm is coordinating with international authorities in all countries hosting Geoparks to ensure legal protection. With this legal protection, only GGN bodies, as defined in the GGN Statutes, can use the GGN logo. No other entity, including non-GGN members and non-UNESCO Global Geoparks, can use the logo. The certificates will be uploaded to a specific section of the GGN website. GGN members can use these certificates to defend against any illegal use of the GGN logo and name. From now on, the GGN logo will be accompanied by the letter "R" in a circle, indicating that it is registered. The GGN has covered the financial costs for all registrations.

4. Use of the combined GGN logo from all the GGN bodies (Regional Networks, National Networks, etc.)

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the GGN President to inform the Advisory Committee members about use of the Global Geoparks Network combined logo by the GGN bodies.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the participants that the GGN logo, the GGN regional networks logos and the graphic charter with information about the GGN logo had already been distributed to all members. He highlighted the following:

- the GGN logo, GGN unified regional networks logos and graphic charter can also be downloaded from the GGN website (<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/about/use-global-geoparks-network-logo>);
- unified logos will be created for all the GGN bodies upon request;
- GGN bodies should submit their request to the GGN Secretariat, including their name in both their national language and English;
- unified logos will be bilingual, displaying the name in both the national language and English;
- there is no deadline for requesting a unified GGN logo.

Daniela Rocha (Portugal) shared her experiences using the unified logo. The Portuguese network has already incorporated it into tourism fair materials in Lisbon fair, flyers and social media.

5. GGN 20th Anniversary celebration

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the GGN President and the GGN General Secretary to inform the Advisory Committee members about the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration.

5.1. GGN 20th Anniversary Logo

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the participants that the GGN 20th anniversary logo had already been distributed to all the GGN Advisory Committee members. He encouraged all national bodies of Geoparks to:

- organize national events to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Geoparks and to inform local communities, media and authorities about the network of UNESCO global Geoparks;
- organize national events at a time that is most appropriate for each country;
- promote their events and activities throughout their country;
- inform the GGN about the organization of national events so that the GGN can add them to the 20th Anniversary calendar of events.

5.2. Communication Platform / Tools and Contests

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) pointed out the following:

- the GGN 20th Anniversary communication platform will be in English but will also be translated into all national languages to enable each national body to distribute information about contests and activities, and use them to encourage participation from school students and members of the local community in each country;
- the information needed for the translation (in national languages) of communication tools and contests has already been distributed in the last GGN Newsfeed;
- The GGN 20th Anniversary communication platform will be launched on April 22nd, coinciding with International Mother Earth Day and the organization of the Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks.

He thanked Guy Martini, GGN General Secretary, for his huge efforts to coordinate and prepare all promotional material for the 20th Anniversary celebration, ensuring everything will be ready for April 22nd.

Guy Martini (GGN General Secretary) pointed out the following:

- most of the GGN 20th Anniversary tools, contests and websites are ready;
- the contest will be an important undertaking, as Geopark will directly receive the candidacies related to its territory. This will involve selections at the local, national and regional levels before the final GGN selection for the three different contests.

He encouraged the participants to ask any questions or doubts they may have about the GGN 20th Anniversary contests process.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) added an important comment regarding the GGN 20th Anniversary contests:

- the GGN Advisory Committee members, together with their respective national bodies, are responsible for the contests before the national selection;
- national bodies in each country should select three national champions, representing the best contribution;
- GGN will then make the final selection at the global level;
- encouraging widespread participation at the national level is crucial to ensure strong national-level results;
- it's important to foster a sense of collective involvement, where everyone shares responsibility and works together.

Guy Martini (GGN General Secretary) added further details about the contests:

- each Geopark will directly receive candidacies and must manage them, including thanking participants;
- each Geopark is responsible for choosing and deciding on the award it will give;

- national awards will be decided by each national organization;
- the GGN will only provide the award for the final global winner.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked if alternative translations for the word “Odyssey” could be considered (for example, ‘long adventure’, or some other word), as might not be widely recognized in Japan, as the word ‘Odyssey’ is not popular in Japan.

Guy Martini (GGN General Secretary) replied that countries can adapt names and approaches to inspire participation.

Farid Mohamad Zaini (Indonesia) inquired about the possibility of finding sponsors for awards at the national local (for example companies or similar).

Guy Martini (GGN General Secretary) suggested exploring partnerships with companies or organizations to provide attractive awards and motivate participation.

GGN 20th Anniversary - PROMOTIONAL TOOLS

<https://platform.ggn20anniversary.com>

Username: ggn20birthday - Password: 12345678

GGN 20th Anniversary – CONTESTS

<https://ggn20anniversary.com>

5.3. Calendar of Events

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed that the GGN calendar of events includes all the events that will be organized on the occasion of the GGN 20th Anniversary. He focused on the following:

- the calendar of events will be updated with the new events organized at the national level by each Geopark National Forum/Committee;
- the calendar of events has been uploaded to the GGN website

Calendar of Events:

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0

5.4. Welcome Digital Event for the New UNESCO Global Geoparks

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) encouraged all the GGN Advisory Committee members to participate in the Welcome Digital Event for the new 18 UNESCO Global Geoparks. The event will be held on April 22nd. He also requested members to inform and encourage all Geoparks in their respective countries to participate in the event.

5.5. GGN Anniversary Celebration in UNESCO Global Geoparks

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) encouraged all GGN Advisory Committee members to:

- utilize the GGN logo celebration and organize their own events within the framework of this year's celebration. This will strengthen the presence of Geoparks and amplify the network's voice worldwide;
- contact all Geoparks in their respective country, encouraging them to participate in the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration.

5.6. International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Lesvos

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the GGN Advisory Committee members that the course will be organized in Lesvos as part of the GGN 20th Anniversary. It will be a face-to-face event only. While over 70 registrations have already been received, a few more Geopark managers are expected to attend the course, who will be given priority as previously announced. The final selection of participants will follow.

International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024 website: https://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2024/

5.7. GGN Event during the 37th International Geological Conference – Korea

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the GGN Advisory Committee members that a major event celebrating the GGN's 20th Anniversary will be held during the 37th International Geological Conference. The event will feature panels will be organized in collaboration with UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The event will take place on August 28th.

5.8. GGN Events during the Regional Geopark Network Conferences

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the GGN Advisory Committee members the GGN is collaborating with Regional Networks to organize events dedicated to the GGN's 20th Anniversary celebration, which will take place during the following regional conferences:

- 8th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium, Non Nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam (11 September 2024);
- 17th European Geoparks Conference, Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland (3 October 2024);
- 7th Conference of Geoparks Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, Southern Canyons Pathways, Brazil (6 November 2024).

During these events, the GGN will award individuals who have made a significant contribution to the development of the GGN.

He encouraged all GGN Advisory Committee members to work together to celebrate the GGN's 20th Anniversary and raise the network's global profile by organizing promotional activities for Geoparks throughout the year.

6. New GGN Working Group Initiatives

A. GGN Working Group on SDGs

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) reminded the participants that, as agreed upon in a previous meeting, a working group on SDGs and has been established. He asked the GGN President to provide a brief summary of the working group's activities.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the GGN Advisory Committee members that significant progress has been made in the collaboration between the GGN Working Group on SDGs and regional working groups on SDGs. The following workshops on SDGs have been organized the:

- GGN Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (online) - 5 February 2024;
- EGN Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark) - 6 March 2024;
- APGN Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (online) - 22 March 2024.

Upcoming SDGs workshops include:

- SDGs Workshop for Geoparks in Africa, Canada and Latin America (online) - 16 April 2024;
- SDGs Tutorial event, a special coaching event for further guidance (online) - 19 April 2024.

He emphasized that these events demonstrate the GGN's commitment to reporting network activities in relation to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. He expressed his congratulations to both the GGN Working Group on SDGs and the regional Working Groups on SDGs for their excellent collaborative work.

Jutta Weber (Germany) acknowledged the support by the GGN President and Secretariat and highlighted the significant progress made by the GGN Working Group on SDGs, particularly in collaboration with regional working groups. She emphasized the importance of the recent workshops on SDGs and the upcoming coaching session to ensure all members are well-informed about SDGs reporting. The working group will focus on collecting and analyzing the templates, with a particular emphasis on quantification. The plan is to integrate the activities of the GGN Working Group on SDGs into the working group's action plan, then integrate it into the GGN Action Plan, and present a summary of the work has been done at the end of the year. She also acknowledges the success of the EGN regional workshop.

Emmaline Rosado (GeoLAC Coordinator) mentioned that the different countries of GeoLAC are working within the GGN for the organization of a successful workshop on SDGs involving also Canadian and African Geoparks.

Xiaochi Jin (APGN Coordinator) informed that the APGN Workshop on SDGs was very successful and the APGN members are looking forward for the SDGs Tutorial

event, which will help them to find ideas of how to fill in the template. Most of APGN members now know how to report, but probably they are few Geoparks that have problem and still need assistance.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed the GGN Advisory Committee that 98 templates for the SDG's has been received so far, and more 100 templates expected to be submitted. The deadline has been extended to April 30th. He urged all Geoparks to submit their templates, as their answers are crucial for preparing the report.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) encouraged all GGN Advisory Committee members to inform the Geoparks in their respective countries about the need to submit the template of SDGs.

Online Template on SDGs

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1is9kz6llHDVdAPqQh7-zdSbM-x-3DiEo4ALZNBp7mh3EZw/viewform>

Deadline: 30 April 2024

B. GGN Working Group on Gastronomy

Alireza Amrikazemi (Iran) informed the participants that the GGN has recently established a new working group focused on gastronomy. The working group aims to identify and promote the gastronomic heritage and products of Geoparks worldwide. Soma Sayedyounesi has prepared the basic identification and criteria of this new working group. The group is currently finalizing its action plan and plans to present its initial findings on the occasion of the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration. All Geoparks will be invited to contribute to this initiative and seeks the support of representatives from different countries to help complete the action plan and establish gastronomy standards for Geoparks.

C. GGN Working Group on Geohazards

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) informed the participants that the Working Group on Geohazards have prepared a questionnaire which asked the attendees who experienced the earthquake in Morocco to fill in. The working group is now waiting the responses and experience of the attendees.

Alessia Amorfini (Italy) informed the participants that the EGN Working Group on Geohazards has prepared a book about geohazards, which was presented during the EGN meeting in Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark. The book has also been uploaded online. Regarding the GGN Working Group on Geohazards there is a questionnaire about the earthquake that most of the GGN members experienced in Morocco last September. She invited all members to fill it in. So far, 120 answers have been received. An email was sent to Driss Achbal to request him to distribute the questionnaire to people who most of them are not GGN delegates. After collecting all answers, there will be discussion on how to use and to share this experience.

D. GGN Working Group on Tourism

Alain Petit (Belgium) informed the participants that the working group has prepared a questionnaire about tourism promotion. The questionnaire has been distributed to all members, and so far, 88 replies have been received. The main goal of the questionnaire is to gather information on Geopark participation in major fairs, individual Geopark initiatives, tools needed by Geoparks (e.g. mascots, website), development for visitgeoparks.org website etc. He invited GGN Advisory Committee members to further participation in order to gather more valuable insights for improving tourism efforts within the GGN.

Survey on GGN tourism promotion

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8D7mY2QkASMOZljK2JpmF0RGUTLVe1jHLIT-Fr03njlXZEw/viewform?usp=sf_link

7. Procedure for the establishment of a Long Term GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) informed the GGN Advisory Committee members about the following:

- the formation of the GGN Task Force for the Long-Term Strategy Plan and the GGN Task Force on Indicators for monitoring the implementation of current and future strategies. Members of the long-term strategy plan task force include José-María Barrera, Kristin Lemon, Van Tran, Artur Sá, Marie-Luise Frey, representatives of regional networks, the GGN President, and the GGN Acting Chair of the Advisory Committee. Martina Paskova and Alex Andrasanu are also participating in the indicator task force;
- the schedule and the steps to reach the goal of the strategic plan, as prepared during the preparatory meeting held two weeks ago (ANNEX I);
- the three key priorities for the Long-term Strategy Plan:
 - strengthening Geoparks, especially in Africa, Arab States, Central Asia, South America, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
 - maintaining active working groups and utilizing the SDGs as a framework;
 - promoting Geoparks at the national level and supporting countries with weaker networks.

He also encouraged all Advisory Committee members to send their comments and suggestions for the GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035.

Jose-Maria Barrera (Spain) informed the participants that the Spanish Geoparks Forum has prepared a strategic actions plan until 2025, which includes actions like collaborating with Latin America, Portugal and Morocco, inviting aspiring Geoparks in Morocco to join Spanish network, ongoing work with the Andalusian government.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) emphasized the importance of involving all GGN members to the preparation of the GGN Long-Term Strategy to ensure the strategy reflects the wishes and ideas of the entire network. He encouraged all members to participate in the online questionnaire which will be distributed to collect ideas and suggestions for the preparation of the GGN Long-Term Strategy.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked GGN Advisory Committee members for additional comments or suggestion regarding the GGN Long-Term Strategy and indicators.

8. Any Other Business

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) proposed holding the next Advisory Committee meeting in September.

The meeting close at 13:30 GMT.

Summary & Useful links

The Advisory Committee of the GGN are invited to:

A. GGN unified logo

- download the GGN logo, GGN unified regional networks logos and graphic charter from the GGN website
<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/about/use-global-geoparks-network-logo>
- submit their request for the unified logos

B. GGN 20th Anniversary

- organize national events on the occasion of the GGN 20th Anniversary and inform the GGN accordingly
- encourage Geoparks in their respective country to participate in the GGN 20th Anniversary celebration and organize local events
- spread the information about the GGN 20th Anniversary communication platform, tools and contests

GGN 20th Anniversary - PROMOTIONAL TOOLS

<https://platform.ggn20anniversary.com>

Username: ggn20birthday - Password: 12345678

GGN 20th Anniversary – CONTESTS

<https://ggn20anniversary.com>

Calendar of Events

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0

C. International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024

- register on the International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024 (Deadline: 31 May 2024)

<https://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2024/>

D. Template on SDGs

- Fill in the template on SDGs (Deadline: 30 April 2024)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1is9kz6lIHdVdAPqQh7-zdSbM-x-3DiEo4ALZNBp7mh3EZw/viewform>

E. GGN tourism survey

- participate in the survey on GGN tourism promotion

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8D7mY2QkASMOZljK2JpmF0RGUTLve1jHLIT-Fr03njlXZEw/viewform?usp=sf_link

F. Long Term GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035

- send their comments and suggestions for the GGN Strategic Plan 2025-2035

Participants & Observers

a/a	PARTICIPANTS	Country
1	NAKADA Setsuya	GGN Advisory Committee Acting Chair / Japan
2	GULAS Oliver	Austria
3	PETIT Alain	Belgium
4	HEYDEMAN Frances	Canada
5	HERRERA Patricia	Chile
6	ZHENG Yuanyuan	China
7	PAVIC Goran	Croatia
8	TSIOLAKIS Efthimios	Cyprus
9	PASKOVA Martina	Czech Republic
10	WALLØE Hansen Jakob	Denmark
11	HERMANSSON Terttu	Finland
12	PAGÈS Jean-Simon	France
13	WEBER Jutta	Germany
14	FASSOULAS Chararalmpos VALIAKOS Ilias	Greece
15	KORBÉLY Barnabás	Hungary

16	ZAINI Farid Mohamad	Indonesia
17	AMRIKAZEMI Alireza	Iran
18	AMORFINI Alessia	Italy
19	KAUSCH Birgit	Luxembourg
20	MOHD BUKHARI Azmil Munif BINTI ARIF Furzannie Hanna (substitute)	Malaysia
21	PALACIO Jose Luis	Mexico
22	ACHBAL Driss	Morocco / GGN Executive Board member
23	ROELFS Gretha	Netherlands
24	RANGNES Kristin	Norway / GGN Executive Board member
25	DIN Karl Michael	Philippines
26	POROS Michał	Poland
27	ROCHA Daniela	Portugal
28	Soojae Lee	Republic of Korea
29	ANDRASANU Alexandru	Romania
30	RADAKOVIC Nenad	Serbia
31	GYÖRGY Balázs	Slovakia
32	FAJMUT ŠRTUCL Suzana REŽUN Bojan	Slovenia
33	BARRERA Jose Maria	Spain
34	BERGENGREN Anna	Sweden
35	DEMIR Tuncer	Turkey
36	TRAN Tan Van	Vietnam

a/a	OBSERVERS	
1	ZOUROS Nickolas	GGN Executive Board President / Greece
2	JIN Xiaochi	GGN Executive Board President / China
3	MARTINI Guy	GGN Executive Board General Secretary / France
4	BORDER Melanie	GGN Executive Board member / UK
5	CALDER John	GGN Executive Board member / Canada
6	FREY Marie-Luise	GGN Executive Board member / Germany
7	FURUSAWA Kana	GGN Executive Board member / Japan
8	SÁ Artur	GGN Executive Board member / Portugal
9	ZHANG Jianping	GGN Executive Board member / China

10	JUSTICE Sophie	EGN Coordinator / France
11	Emmaline Rosado	GeoLAC Coordinator / Mexico
12	BENTANA Konstantina	Executive Assistant GGN Secretariat / Greece

ANNEX I

GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035

Schedule of procedures and steps taken by the task force for the long-term strategy of GGN (2025-2035)

27 March 2024

27 March 2024: Task Force meeting; The first meeting for the long-term strategy, agreement on the Task Force schedule with steps and holding the meeting every month's third Friday.

8 April 2024: 7th Advisory Committee meeting: showing the procedures and steps taken by the task force with starting discussion on the long-term strategy.

April-May; Task Force meetings; Discussion for creating the preliminary draft of the long-term strategy. Preparation for a questionnaire for the GGN members.

Around the end of May: Submission of the questionnaire on the preliminary draft, (using the Google form), to all GGN members, and national fora/committees/networks.

June-July: Task Force meetings; Discussion for the second draft (revising the preliminary draft by reflecting the comments from the GGN members and national fora). Then, circulate the second draft a half month before the 8th AC Advisory Committee meeting.

4 September: 8th Advisory Committee meeting; discussion on the second draft.

September: Task Force meeting; Making the third draft by reflecting the comments from AC members.

September-November: Regional conferences; Explanation and discussion on the third draft.

October-November: Task Force Meetings: Discussion for the fourth draft by reflecting the comments by the GGN members. Circulating the fourth draft to the AC members a month before the 9th AC meeting

December 2024: 9th Advisory Committee meeting; Discussion on the fourth draft.

Task Force meetings; Finalizing the fourth draft by reflecting the comments in the AC meeting. Circulate the revised fourth draft among GGN members and national fora/committees (requesting the official comments from the later organizations).

January-February 2025: National Geoparks Fora meetings; Discussion and national proposals for the GGN Long Term Strategy.

February-March: Task Force meetings; Fixing the final version for the long-term strategy of GGN by reflecting the comments from the GGN members plus the official comments from the National Fora/Committees before March 2025.

April 2025: 10th Advisory Committee meeting; Adaption of the Final Draft of the GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035.