



Report from the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee (Irish Global Geoparks Network) – 2024

The Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee (IUGGC) operates on an all-island basis to allow for networking and exchange of knowledge from all those involved and interested in UNESCO Global Geoparks across the island. The IUCCG also acts as the Irish Global Geoparks Network.

Chair: Clare Glanville (clare.glanville@decc.gov.ie)
Geological Survey Ireland

1.0 Members:

Clare Glanville (Chair) – Geological Survey Ireland
Kirstin Lemon (Vice-Chair) – Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
Grainne O'Connor – Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark
Martina O'Neill – Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark
Carol Gleeson – Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
Eamon Doyle – Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
Robbie Galvin – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
John Galloway – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
Sarah Gatley – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
Darren Rice – Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark
Michelle Boyle – Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark

2.0 Aspiring UNESCO Geoparks

2.1 Active UGGp applications:

- The application was submitted to UNESCO from the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) in November 2022 and the geopark was evaluated in June 2023 by two members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks evaluation team. The IUGGC offered support to Joyce Country Western Lakes in relation to their evaluation via several online meetings and sharing of information. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council at their meeting in September discussed the report from the evaluators and the decision was made to defer the Geopark application pending the successful completion of a number of recommendations. The Geopark has until August 2025 to submit a progress report outlining how the recommendations have been met. The geopark is progressing work on these recommendations with the support of the IUGGC.

2.2 Interested territories:

- Antrim Northern Ireland

2.3 UGGp revalidations:

- No revalidations in 2024

2.4 UGGp Evaluations (Aspiring Geoparks)

- Joyce Country and Western Lakes Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) continues to be supported by the IUGGC (Irish Geopark Network). The Geopark is working on the recommendations made as part of the deferred decision by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council in 2023. The Geopark is making good progress and has until August 2025 to submit a progress report outlining how the recommendations have been met.

3.0 Committee Activities

- The IUGGC held three committee meeting in 2024 which took place in January, June and November. Items discussed were updates of progress from each of UGGps and relevant information from both Geological Survey Ireland and Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. Other items on the agenda were review of carbon footprint on attending multiple in-person network meetings per year at regional and global level. Discussion and feedback provided to GGN on 10yr strategic plan development. 20 year anniversary activities and support. Implementation of use of new UNESCO geopark logos was also discussed and adopted. The vice Chair of the committee attended the GGN taskforce on updating procedures.
- The UGGps on the island of Ireland attended the 17th European Geoparks Conference hosted by Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland. The conference took place from October 2 - 4, 2024. There were a number of presentations from Irish UGGps and aspiring UGGps including on climate change, sustainable tourism and the implementation of the SDGs within Irish UGGps.
- The IUGGC organises an annual Irish Geoparks Forum to allow for networking and engagement amongst all those interested in UGGps on the island of Ireland. This was hosted by Cuilcagh Lakelands UGGp on the 7th & 8th of November. The theme of the forum was language of landscapes and was supported by three guest speakers and a number of stakeholders as well as local politicians and community groups from around the country. Each geopark and aspiring geopark gave updates of their work and activities during the year.



CUILCAGH LAKELANDS GEOPARK **unesco** Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee

Keynote Address: Bruce Misstear

Guest Speaker: Liam Ó hAisibéil

Guest Speaker: Anne O'Donoghue

You are cordially invited to:

The Irish Geoparks Forum
Thursday 7 & Friday 8 November 2024
Slieve Russell Hotel, Co Cavan

Theme: The Language of Landscapes

Book your FREE Ticket

