



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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9th GGN Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday 28 January 2025, at 12:00 GMT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373452927?pwd=dp2bmqrjszblAJkna9xEoFH4JCBLc.1>

Meeting ID: 873 7345 2927 - Passcode: 4h2Jjw

MINUTES

1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

1.1. Welcome from the Chair

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) welcomed the participants. According the voting procedure, he reminded that only AC members can vote.

1.2. Agreement of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. Minutes of the 8th GGN Advisory Committee meeting

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) presented the minutes of the 7th GGN Advisory Committee meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the 7th GGN Advisory Committee meeting was unanimously approved by the GGN Advisory Committee members.

3. Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035 (Document A - Strategy, Document B - Implementation)

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) presented the Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035, Document A – Strategy to the members of the Advisory Committee. He explained briefly the outline of document A.

1. **Chapter 1 - Preamble:** Introduction and expansion of the outline of this document with some process of GGN and relationship of UNESCO and also the meaning of the preparation of this document. In the second page are described the contents of document A.
2. **Chapter 2 - Our Mission, Our Vision:** In this chapter describes the mission and the vision of GGN, a very strong concept of GGN showing the vision of GGN future.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President): Underlined that this was a request to have this chapter at the previous meeting and that's why the Working Group, which is preparing this document, have worked in order to prepare this mission and vision because our activities need to have the framework about the mission of GGN and the vision that we have and this is the result of the comments of the members of the Advisory Committee at the previous meeting.

3. **Chapter 3 – Our key strategic priorities:** This chapter is showing the 4 pillars in which are several key strategic priorities. These strategic priorities were similar with the ones we presented in the last meeting, more classified under these 4 pillars. Setsuya Nakada presented all 4 pillars, 12 key priorities and 53 strategic actions one by one and asked the members for comments and interventions.

Pillar 1: Preserving Our Earth, Environment and Resources

M. Paskova (Czech Republic): I have some comment on Key 2, action 4 could be a little bit enlarged like “Promoting Cultural Heritage and its links to Biodiversity and Natural Heritage”. I think there is missing the connection to biodiversity and natural heritage.

S. Nakada(Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): I think in action 5 there is the link of biodiversity.

M. Paskova (Czech Republic): Okay, maybe we can add action 6 which could be “using local and indigenous knowledge about nature conservation or geological heritage”.

N. Zouros (GGN President): We have this under Pillar 2, action in Key 6, Action 6 “Documenting and promoting local knowledge, traditions, and intangible heritage”.

M. Paskova (Czech Republic): Yes, I have seen that, but I think this is something different because this pillar is mainly about strengthening local communities and documenting and promoting local knowledge. So, maybe we can make a change here if you prefer like “Documenting, promoting and practicing or applying of local knowledge in protection of traditions, and intangible heritage”.

S. Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): Okay, we will consider adding an additional action 6 under the Key 2 “Protecting and Conserving Geoparks Heritage, Biodiversity and Resources”.

T-V. Tran (Vietnam): In my opinion, I would like to reduce the number of key actions because I think we have too many, so in Key 2 for example, instead of adding one more action, I would like to suggest in each action we can add the enhancing its linked with other types of heritage. So, we can remove action 5 “Enhancing links between all types of heritage and Promoting Geodiversity and Biodiversity links”, because we have it in all the above actions. For example, action 4 could be “Promoting Cultural Heritage and Enhancing links between all types of heritage”.

Pillar 2: Strengthening Communities: Fostering Inclusion and Resilience

A. Amorfini (Italy): In Key 7, Action 2, maybe the term population already includes but, we could also add specific reference to schools.

M. Paskova (Czech Republic): I agree with Alessia and also, I think that probably in this Key 7, Action 2 should be also not only creating specific tools designed for the population to help them detect risks and respond effectively”, but also to understand capacitation of kind of education, because it is specified like creating comic book etc. So maybe to help them understand to detect the risks more effectively. Additionally, in Key 5, Action 2 “Reporting from each Geoparks on its contribution to SDGs” to change “Geoparks” into “Geopark”. Also, another typo is to put everywhere in the document a capital I to the word Indigenous.

Pillar 3: Optimizing GGN, Building Capacity, Leadership, and Global Impact

C. Glanville (Ireland): In Key 9, there is a lot to be done and I know that is for a 10 years strategy so I’m just think in terms when we come and look at the actions maybe we have to prioritize the actions and decide which ones we do first because I don’t think we can do all of them straight away. So, I suggest to prioritize the actions of Key 9.

Z. Yuanyuan (China): I want to add an action about emphasize the use of GGN logo.

N. Zouros (GGN President): It could be an Action 6 in Key 9.

Pillar 4: Strengthening Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

M. Paskova (Czech Republic): In Key 12, I think this is probably much more for the future, because we are mentioning here already a lot of organizations where we already cooperating with, but in the strategic view we should also consider cooperation with ICOMOS, because this is about culture, monuments and many other sites which are dealing with our geosites interpretation.

S. Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): In the end says, “with other international relevant organizations”, you think it is not enough?

M. Paskova (Czech Republic): I just mentioned ICOMOS because they have a lot of experts for cultural heritage, as an example for natural heritage we have IUCN which is dedicated for assessing and evaluation for natural monuments and for cultural heritage the International Institution is ICOMOS.

T-V. Tran (Vietnam): In Key 10, Action 5, I don’t like very much the word “equalizing”, because it is sounds like our IGGP program is unfair to our UNESCO program.

N. Zouros (GGN President): We can take it off.

S. Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): I agree, it is better to remove it.

M. Paskova (Czech Republic): I don’t think we have to take it off, because it’s quite important but I agree to change the “equalizing” word with “enhancing” the position.

4. **Chapter 4 - Monitoring, progress and results:** In this chapter the next action plan should be developed, not only by the GGN Executive Board but should be developed a 2-years action plan, based on this strategic plan. And second paragraph is not necessary, and I think we should delete it, because it is the same thing with the last paragraph.

In the 4th paragraph “To ensure accountability and continuous improvement, each network will submit annual reports to the GGN Executive Board, outlining progress and achievements”, this is not limited to each network so WG or each geopark, also the National and Regional Networks should prepare such document.

And in the last paragraph, during 10 years a dynamic change may happen, so in this case we can revise the strategic plan in the Advisory Committee.

Decision: The Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035 – Document A was adapted by the majority of the members.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) presented the Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035, Document B – Strategy to the members of the Advisory Committee.

Document B has two main purposes:

- To define, through participatory procedures, biennial Action Plans to develop the strategic priorities described in document A. In this way, the bottom-up approach within the GGN is protected and made visible.

So, this should be the bottom-up approach for example, by implementation by each National Network, Working Group and each Geopark, it is very important.

- To help the UGGps for actively working on the proposed actions. In the same way, it must be a guide for the working groups and national and regional networks to decide and develop their own action plans whose expected results contribute to achieve both the GGN objectives and the strategic priorities and, consequently, to build our collective contribution to the Programme.

So here, we take the method of proses mapping which is analyzing the easy to understand a way what tasks are connected to and in which order etc. So according to proses mapping there are 3 categories:

1st is Strategic Processes, 2nd is Key processes and 3rd is Support processes.

According to proses mapping the translations into actions are showed in the page number 3.

Regarding this process asked Nickolas Zouros to explain more about this document.

N. Zouros (GGN President): I think this is a document in progress, it's not finalized yet. This is the methodology implementation of the 10-years strategic plan by the different GGN bodies. First of all, it is very important to adapt document A, which will be the description of the strategy and secondly to work on the implementation; on how we can implement. As you realize this document needs improvements based on the changes and the finalization of Document A. The first one, as you see, for example, is Strategic Processes and talks about how can work in order to update the GGN operation and gives a way to describe the expected results.

So, this all is totally in progress, we need to agree to Document A first and then to see a methodology and to decide about how we are going to have for each one of the priorities described before, expected results and which is the GGN responsible body which will work on each one of these pillars. This is the first time that this document is presented to the Advisory Committee we need time to understand this document. Please download the document and then we can discuss it during the next months and finally adapt it in the next AC meeting, which will be in April.

We have to mention that the final agreement of these documents will be in the General Assembly of GGN so, all the proposals from all the members is very good to be integrated and it is very positive that the colleagues will read these documents and react and we are open for improvement in the future.

4. GGN Strategic Plan 2024-2025 Implementation

National [Country] Global Geoparks Networks - Implementation

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) asked the participants to share their experiences about their National Global Geoparks Network.

M. Poros (Poland): I would like to share some information about the establishment of the Polish Global Geoparks Network efforts. Now we have discussions about the rules of this network and among the 3 UGGp in Poland. We had 2 meetings discussion about the operational rules of the network as well as the different kinds of the members. I don't think about the institutional members because it is obvious but we think about individual, honorary and supporting members. We have plan to finalize all our efforts before the end of February and we will send information to the GGN secretariat about all our efforts including the final version of our operational rules based on the GGN guidelines.

N. Zouros (GGN President): I want to clarify something because I didn't understand well from Michal. I just want to underline that we are one organization and the membership to the organization is awarded either from the GGN Executive Board either from the General Assembly, so at National level we cannot have a different membership than the membership of GGN. That's why the proposal is that the members of GGN in a nation participate in this National GGN. Unfortunately, because it is an organization; the way that we add members has to follow the rules of the statutes which are at the global level and not at the National and Regional level. Regional and National levels cannot have different members than the GGN.

K. Salman (Spain): We adapted our National Fora for our National Network, and we presented also in our open days in Granada and also, we presented to our National Committee and all together we adapted the new name. Also, we asked GGN about the use of the logo and everything was approved it. I think it is also important to mention another thing that we developed in FITUR last week. It was a very successful event, and it was very important for us as a National Network because half of the booth was paid by the UNESCO National Commission, so it was very important. It was a booth for GGN and UNESCO Global Geoparks, many colleagues from GeoLAC were there. So, I would like to encourage for next year more geoparks also from other countries to participate in FITUR. Another thing that I would like to mention is that we are going to develop common activities with GeoLAC, especially in Kütralkura conference and I think it is important to show this collaboration among the GeoLAC, the Spanish and Portuguese Geoparks Networks.

A. Amrikazemi (Iran): We already agreed to establish National Level GGN in Iran and we already had Iranian National Geoparks Committee, and we are going to do some administrative legislation to change the name in "Iranian Global Geoparks Network". Additionally, every year we have International Tourism Fair in Teheran and this year we decided all geoparks attend the fair in the name of Iranian Global Geoparks Network.

Joanne (Philippines): We have created our National Geoparks Committee, in fact we are only one UNESCO Global Geopark, but at the moment we have 4 Aspiring Geoparks and we hope that this commission will strengthen and support our activities.

E. Guimarães (Brazil): Brazil has 6 UNESCO Global Geoparks and more than 30 projects and on behalf of the Brazilian Network I'm at your disposal.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): So, you say that the Brazilian Global Geoparks Network is already established?

E. Guimarães (Brazil): Yes.

Rama (Tanzania): We are in same situation like Philippines, we are the only one UNESCO Global Geopark in the country but we manage to support the National Geoparks Network.

A. Amorfini (Italy): The Italian Forum was established in 2011 and then according the rules and the statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks program it was established a National Committee, it comprises the initial coordinator of the Italian Geoparks, delegate from the National Commission for UNESCO, representatives from ministries and delegations for each geopark and a delegation from the National Geological Survey and also a representative from the National Federation for Parks and Protected Areas. We meet at least one time each year in presence and 3 to 4 times digitally. In May we will have the Italian Workshop with all members of the network.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): The Italian GGN is not established yet?

A. Amorfini (Italy): It is established we just need to change the name from National Committee to Italian Global Geoparks Network.

N. Sauer (Germany): Our situation is similar to Italy. We are preparing the transformational form into the German Global Geoparks Network. We are following the internal rules of procedure that are very close to the operational rules for the National Global Geoparks Network. We will have a meeting on 25th of February to discuss the final details.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): Please send to the secretariat of GGN according to the template you have regarding to National Global Geoparks Network, a report of your progress of national networks and also your activities.

5. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan): Asked GGN President to inform the Advisory Committee members about the calendar of the GGN 2025 events.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) presented the calendar of the GGN 2025 events and asked the members for suggestions and modifications.

You can find the calendar of the GGN 2025 events below:

Calendar of Events:

<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0>

6. Any Other Business

No other business

The meeting closed at 13:44 GMT.

Summary & Useful links

A. Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035 (Document A - Strategy, Document B - Implementation)

- The Advisory Committee adapted Document A and in the next meeting will be adapted the Document B which you can find it below:

Document A

<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/GGN%20LONG%20TERM%20STRATEGY%20-%20DOCUMENT%20A%20final.pdf>

Document B

<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/GGN%20LONG%20TERM%20STRATEGY%20-%20DOCUMENT%20B%20Draft.pdf>

B. National [Country] Global Geoparks Networks - Implementation

Please send to the secretariat of GGN according to the template you have regarding to National Global Geoparks Network, a report of your progress of national networks and also your activities.

C. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events

➤ Calendar of Events

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

➤ Send us your recommendations about any additional activities

Participants & Observers

a/a	PARTICIPANTS	Country
1	NAKADA Setsuya	GGN Advisory Committee Acting Chair / Japan
2	GULAS Oliver	Austria
3	GUIMARÃES Eduardo PINHEIRO Allysson	Brazil
4	PASKOVA Martina	Czech Republic
5	HERRERA Patricia	Chile
6	ZHENG Yuanyuan	China
7	PAVIC Goran	Croatia
8	WALLØE Hansen Jakob	Denmark
9	LOPEZ Boris	Ecuador
10	HERMANSSON Terttu	Finland
11	SAUER Nancy	Germany
12	THURIDUR Halldora Aradottir Braun	Iceland
13	FARID Zaini Mohamad	Indonesia
14	AMRIKAZEMI Alireza	Iran
15	GLANVILLE Clare	Ireland
16	AMORFINI Alessia	Italy
17	KAUSCH Birgit	Luxembourg
18	MUNIF Azmil RUHAIZA Nazatul	Malaysia
19	PALACIO Jose L	Mexico
20	ROELFS Gretha	Netherlands
21	JANSEN Helen	New Zealand
22	PINAT M. Joanne	Philippines
23	POROS Michał	Poland
24	ROCHA Daniela	Portugal
25	Min Hun	Republic of Korea
26	ANDRASANU Alexandru	Romania
27	REŽUN Bojan	Slovenia

28	SALMAN Karmah	Spain
29	BERGENGREN Anna	Sweden
30	KHATIBU Ramadhani	Tanzania
31	DEMIR Tuncer	Turkey
32	BIDONDO Eugenio	Uruguay
33	TRAN Tan Van	Vietnam

a/a	OBSERVERS	
1	ZOUROS Nickolas	GGN Executive Board President / Greece
2	JIN Xiaochi	GGN Executive Board President / China
3	RAGNES Kristin	GGN Executive Board Treasurer/ Norway
4	BORDER Melanie	GGN Executive Board member / UK
5	FREY Marie-Luise	GGN Executive Board member / Germany
6	FURUSAWA Kana	GGN Executive Board member / Japan
7	SÁ Artur	GGN Executive Board member / Portugal
8	JUSTICE Sophie	EGN Coordinator / France
9	FASSOULAS Charalampos	EGN Vice-Coordinator / Greece
10	ROSADO Emmaline	GeoLAC Coordinator / Mexico
11	BENTANA Konstantina	Executive Assistant GGN Secretariat / Greece
12	LAMPRAKOPOULOS Aggelos	Assistant GGN Secretariat / Greece

ANNEX I

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Minutes of the 8th GGN Advisory Committee meeting**
- 3. Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035 (Document A - Strategy, Document B - Implementation)**
- 4. GGN Strategic Plan 2024-2025 Implementation**
 - National [Country] Global Geoparks Networks - Implementation**
- 5. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events**
- 6. Any Other Business**

Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS

GGN President

Prof. Setsuya Nakada

GGN Advisory Committee acting Chair