

JAPANESE GEOPARKS FORUM

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG TERM STRATEGY 2025-2027

Pillar 1: Preserving Our Earth, Environment and Resources				
Key 1. Climate Change Adaptation– Roadmap for Resilience				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Raising General Community Awareness on Climate Change	Japan GGN (JpGGN)	Review the current state of activities related to climate change, especially in school education, in JpGGN members.	1 report per year as JpGGN	Results are used as indicators for monitoring climate change related activities and fostering the next generation.
2. Encouraging Population's Actions on Waste Management and Recycling Material Use - Introducing zero plastic policy.	JpGGN	Review the current state of clean-up efforts targeting litter on coastal areas, riverbank and lake areas in JpGGN members.	Annual report as JpGGN based on the members' activities	The next targets for efforts to combat river and marine pollution in JpGGN members? will be set using the survey results.
3. Analyzing UGGps Energy Use	JpGGN	Monitor energy consumption at major facilities in JpGGN members, and consider conducting a survey on green energy usage rates, if possible,, and promote initiatives that reduce fossil fuel consumption.	Conduct an annual survey of energy consumption at JpGGN members' main facilities so that comparisons with the previous year can be made.	The effort will be understood by local residents and visitors how much fossil fuel energy consumption at the major facilities is reduced. It contributes to improving environmental performance

				by promoting initiatives that reduce fossil fuel consumption based on the survey results.
4. Evolving the Network's Operation				
5. Adoption of a GGN Carbon Offset Policy and Procedure	JpGGN	Promote environmentally friendly transportation within each JpGGN member, such as cycling, roads, and infrastructure for electric vehicles.	Conduct an annual survey of the number of newly established, improved, or existing environmentally friendly transportation facilities, such as bicycle lanes and EV chargers.	It can encourage visitors and local residents to use sustainable transportation.
6. Collecting and using of Carbon Offsetting	JpGGN	Support tree planting and forest maintenance activities that take ecosystems into consideration	1 survey per year on the current status of this initiative with the relevant organizations and partners in each JpGGN members.	People will develop a deeper connection with nature as awareness of local ecosystems and the environment increases.
7. Promoting Annual UGGp action plan on climate change adaptation	JpGGN	Climate change initiatives are explicitly stated within each JpGGN member's action plan.	All members will confirm by 2027.	Strengthen community engagement with nature.

Key 2. Protecting and Conserving Geoparks Heritage, Geodiversity, Biodiversity and Resources

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Raising General Community Awareness on Geopark Heritage and enhancing links between all types of heritage	JpGGN	Promote the traveling exhibition, such as "Journey Through Earth Time," in domestic Geopark areas and related institutions in Japan.	Targeting more than 10 areas in Japan every year.	Can raise Japanese people's understanding of Geopark activities
3. Protecting and Conserving Geological Heritage				
4. Collaborating on the management of Protected Natural Areas and Protecting Biodiversity	JpGGN	Promote JpGGN members to actively participate in the Ecology Working Group that has already been established by the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN).	Holding of a session meeting at the Japan Geoparks National Conference once a year	Raising awareness of Japan's ecological heritage
5. Promoting Cultural Heritage and enhancing links between all types of heritage	JpGGN	Cooperation in establishing a working group on cultural heritage within the Japanese Geoparks Network.	Aiming to establishing the working group within 2 years	Activating Cultural Heritage-Related Projects in JpGGN members
Key 3. Collaborating on the management of Water Resources				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Encouraging sustainable management of Water Resources in Geoparks				
2. Promoting conservation of existing water sources				
6. Sustaining rivers and healthy water-dependent ecosystems	JpGGN	Conduct a survey on aquatic organisms in rivers and lakes in Geopark areas of JpGGN members.	JpGGN members will endeavor to include the protection of aquatic organisms in	Initiatives to protect aquatic organisms to be started.

			their conservation plans.	
Key 4. Protecting Ocean and Marine Ecosystems				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Protecting coastal resources and combat marine pollution in Geopark	JpGGN	Carry out coastal, river, and lake cleanup activities held in conjunction with World Oceans Day (June 8)	Cleanup activities in all JpGGN members	Raising awareness among Japanese people about coastal and river environments.
2. Reducing plastic pollution in the oceans and coasts	JpGGN	Monitor the amount of Japanese plastic wastes collected during beach, river, or lake cleanups, and conduct awareness campaigns to reduce plastic product use.	Once a year at each JpGGN member	Reducing the amount of discarded plastic products in Japan will result in less pollution of beaches, rivers, and lakes raising awareness of marine pollution and environmental issues.
3. Supporting Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	JpGGN	In collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and local authorities, implement events related to marine protected areas.	At least, once a year in JpGGN	Increased awareness of marine conservation among Japanese citizens

Pillar 2: Strengthening Communities: Fostering Inclusion and Resilience				
Key 5. Promoting Geoparks as implementation fields for the SDGs and their extended programme beyond 2030				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Continuation of the activity of the GGN SDGs working group at international, regional and national levels				
2. Reporting from each Geopark on its contribution to SDGs				
7. Creation of a GGN Report on the contribution of Geoparks to SDGs				
Key 6. Empowering local communities and strengthening Geopark management				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Ensuring the participation of Local Communities in Geoparks management				
2. Strengthening the Geopark management body staff and partners (increasing of the number of staff, budget, number of partners)	JpGGN	Share basic information about management body of each JpGGN member, including the number of staff members, their areas of expertise, and their years of experience.	1 survey or 1 meeting once a year as JpGGN	This is the first step toward quality control for the operation of JpGGN members.

3. Ensuring the gender equality as a basic framework in the Geopark operation and communication of Geopark	JpGGN	Promote gender balance in the decision-making process of JpGGN members. Share information on seminars related to gender balance and participate in them.	One staff member from each JpGGN member will participate in the seminar once a year.	This is the first step toward gender balance for the operation of JpGGN members.
4. Ensuring the involvement of the young generation in all levels of Geoparks is essential to for the development and prosperity of these territories in the future				
5. Ensuring the recognition and representation of Indigenous communities in Geoparks	JpGGN	Conduct basic research on indigenous peoples and traditional communities in the region. Implement activities that introduce the cultures of these groups, such as holding lectures for residents and guides, producing publications, installing signs, and conducting guided tours.	Annual reporting by JpGGN based on the activities of the members.	Learning from the history and culture of indigenous peoples and local traditional communities that are nurtured by their environment contributes to regional sustainability resilience.
6. Documenting and promoting local knowledge, traditions, and intangible heritage	JpGGN	Reevaluate and document technologies, knowledge, skills, cultures, festivals, and indigenous communities that are in danger of shrinking or disappearing within the region, and carry out preservation and promotion activities as a geopark.	JpGGN members aim to compile a catalog of tangible and intangible regional cultural heritage by 2027.	
7. Creating policies and tools to preserve and promote local languages	JpGGN	Promote activities such as conducting surveys on the current status of the languages and dialects of indigenous and local traditional communities and creating tools for their preservation.	Implementation of events and tours using the developed tools	This will result in a more profound understanding of the region, enhance educational opportunities, and highlight the region's appeal.

8. Working to confront demographic challenges in rural areas				
Key 7. Mitigating Natural Disasters				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Strengthening the activity of the GGN Geohazards working group activity at the international, regional networks and national and community levels	JpGGN	<p>1) JpGGN members will conduct disaster mitigation awareness activities on IDDRR Day (Oct. 13) within their own areas. They will share information about these activities on social media.</p> <p>(2) JpGGN members will share information on activities related to climate change, earthquakes, volcanoes, and water damage. For instance, they will compile data from the Japan Meteorological Agency and create graphs illustrating annual temperature fluctuations.</p>	<p>1) JpGGN compiles the activities of its members and issues an annual report.</p> <p>2) Annual reporting from JpGGN.</p>	Organize the basic information necessary for the 10-year strategy.
2. Creating specific tools designed for the population as well as for schools to help them detect risks and respond effectively (e.g., Creating a comic book designed to help local populations in poor rural areas detect signs of possible landslides)	JpGGN	Assess the current status of disaster mitigation and share related educational materials among JpGGN members. For example, utilize data from academic societies and the Japan Meteorological Agency in doing so.	One share meeting a year as JpGGN	Organize the basic information necessary for the 10-year strategy.

3. UGGp action plan on geohazards and disaster mitigation		Organize points 1 and 2, and compile information to be disseminated in Japan, Asia, and around the world. Also, discuss measures to be taken in the event of an earthquake in the Nankai Trough, which is the most plausible mega-disaster to strike Japan's southwest coast in the next ~20 years.	One meeting a year as JpGGN	Can organize the basic information necessary for the 10-year strategy.
4. Preparation of an annual GGN report on geohazards and climate change	JpGGN	Organize 1, 2, and 3 and summarize the current status of JpGGN.	1 report per year as JpGGN	Can organize the basic information necessary for the 10-year strategy.

Pillar 3: Optimizing GGN, Building Capacity, Leadership, and Global Impact				
Key 8. Building Capacity, Strengthening Skills and Expertise across GGN				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Comprehensive and coordinated planning of the capacity building activities. Creation of an annual calendar by GGN in collaboration with UNESCO Secretariat for capacity building: aspiring Geoparks, Geopark evaluators, Geopark managers	JpGGN	Overview and report on Geoparks-related information in Japan, and creation of an annual calendar	Publishing and updating the calendar on website.	Information aggregation and planning
2. Capacity building activities for aspiring Geoparks: address the uneven distribution of UGGps and expand the GGN, in particular in African, Middle East, Central Asian countries, small islands developing states (SIDS), etc.				
3. Capacity building activities for Geopark evaluators: proving and maintaining the quality of evaluators as well as recruiting qualified volunteers who want to contribute to maintaining the quality of the IGGP	JpGGN	Establishment of a network of evaluators at the national level and exchange of information.	Information sharing between evaluators at least twice a year	Improvement of evaluators' skills

4. Capacity building activities for Geopark Managers: intensive courses for new managers of the GGN members	JpGGN	Hold online intensive courses for managers of Geoparks in Japan, including JpGGN members.	At least once a year	Improving administrator skills and understanding of Geopark philosophy and standards.
		Encourage JpGGN and JGN members' managers to participate in intensive training courses organized by UNESCO and GGN	Number of managers who participated.	Improving administrator skills and understanding of Geopark philosophy and standards.
5. Supporting capacity-building activities for GGN members at regional and national levels	JpGGN	Identification and recommendation of good practice examples in the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) including JpGGN members.	Number of best practice examples.	We can share and confirm the progress and issues of JpGGN members.
		Encourage the presentation of good practices in Japan at international conferences and symposiums on geoparks.	Number of presentations per year on best practice examples from Japan.	Improvement of GGN members' skills through sharing best practices.
6. Developing GGN digital tools for its members (Geoparks Educational e-Library, Geoparks e-Learning Database)	JpGGN	Lecture materials and videos from UGGp training courses (including international symposiums) held in Japan will be made available on websites and YouTube.	To be opened at the end of each training session.	improve the understanding of the concept and objectives of geoparks among domestic stakeholders and enhance their skills.

Key 9. Uplifting Leadership and Organizational Capacity of GGN

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Strengthening GGN's management structure and statutory bodies operation to				

ensure its long-term partnership with UNESCO. Strengthen functionality of the GGN, building on the achievements of the GGN over the past 20 years				
2. Strengthening networking among UGGps at regional and national levels	JpGGN	Hold an online workshop once a year with GGN member(s) from other countries.	At least, once a year	Promote human interaction and information exchange among Geopark stakeholders across UGGp areas.
3. Enhancing regional and national connections between UGGps with thematic targets to improve the quality and outcome of the GGN, emphasizing the use of GGN logo	JpGGN	Adding the GGN logo on signs and promotional materials in the territories of JpGGN members	Aiming to complete adding the GGN logo on signs and materials in all JpGGN members by 2027	The JpGGN members can be recognized by the local community and visitors clearly as part of the global GGN network.
4. Communication and promotion of the UGGp concept. Developing user-friendly materials (e.g., comics, videos, publications) to clearly communicate the UGGp concept and language to local communities	JpGGN	In order to spread the concept of Geopark among local residents and visitors, we will utilize the pamphlet that was published by JGN to reduce the collection and trade of geological items	Distribute and utilize the pamphlet in each JpGGN member.	This will allow the concept of Geopark to spread not only to the local community, but also to visitors.
5. Empowering national GGN Networks and strengthen their connection and collaboration with the National Commissions for UNESCO and the National Delegations at UNESCO	JpGGN	Strengthen information exchange with UNESCO-related parties such as members of the UNESCO National Commission.	Send information about the annual Geoparks National Conference to UNESCO-related parties in Japan.	Awareness of the Geoparks program will be promoted throughout Japan, and collaboration with other Japanese UNESCO

			Additionally, JpGGN members will participate in as many open domestic conferences related to UNESCO as possible.	programs will be encouraged.
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