



## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

### CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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## 10<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday 8 April 2025, at 12:00 GMT

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

Meeting ID: 873 7345 2927 - Passcode: 4h2Jjw

### MINUTES

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#### 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 9<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting**

*Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)* asked the GGN AC Members if they have any comments concerning the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting was unanimously approved by the GGN Advisory Committee members.

## **3. Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035 (Document A – Final Version)**

*N. Zouros (GGN President)* the document A of the strategy which has been adopted by the advisory committee at our previous meeting has some few grammatic corrections and the final version of the document is already distributed and adapted by the GGN Executive Board.

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

## **4. Participation of the GGN bodies in the GGN Long Term Strategy Implementation - Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 ( Document B)**

*Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)* asked GGN President to presented the Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 Document B to the members of the GGN Advisory Committee.

*N. Zouros (GGN President)* We want our network by writing proposals from each country which will reflect the priorities of each can these priorities will be discussed both at the regional level and at the executive board level and of course at the level of the advisory committee after collecting all the results which will be elaborated by the task force on strategy that we have established in the framework of the operation of GGN Advisory Committee and GGN Executive Board this will help to have a real strategy which will implement the goals that we have collectively adapted during the previous stages. Now is the moment for further work in order to fulfill the document that you have with your proposals and this document you should send to the secretariat in order to be distributed to all of us as members of the executive board and you are going to use this document to fulfill to write your proposals and at the end we are going to have a final document which will be the implementation of the long-term strategy for the period 2025 – 2027. We are waiting your proposals from the national level and of course in special meetings of all the working groups of GGN the proposals from the working group and the national fora will be collected and we have a timetable for that starting from today after the decision of today's adoption of this procedure which was

the proposal from both the long-term strategy task force and all of us if we adopted then we will have two months for all the GGN bodies to contribute to this building of the strategy in order to be in position to have a final global document for the period 2025 – 2027 to be discussed by the executive board to be discussed by the advisory committee and finally get the approval during the conference in Kütralkura by the general assembly of GGN following our strategic document which is the statutes says that the general assembly is the body will adapt who will adapt the strategy every two years so in order not to have a top-down both document as we had in the previous years; we invite all the members of the advisory committee to be active representing their countries to submit the document.

**M. Paskova (Czech Republic):** I was thinking just about feedback because I mean kind of control of implementation of the strategy because this is very important part of each strategy implementation of course the indicators proposed and the results is expected but finally as we know the strategy finally will be implemented by individual geoparks and I was just thinking of course we have national fora we have continental networks but anyway GGN has collaboration with UNESCO on a kind of quality control management through this system of evaluation and certification and validation and maybe probably UGGp council should consider even I hate the frequent changes in any formularies I think that maybe the council should consider kind of change or maybe slight change or addition in this formularies for revalidation I mean reports for revalidation because this is the final check we can probably use with UNESCO but GGN is of course as I told participating on this system of quality control and promotion so maybe this could be the part of the game or the check of this implementation of this strategy to have some additional part in these reports for revalidation to check how the action plans are implemented by individual geoparks maybe voluntarily but to somehow let the validators and then the council members how the individual geopark is trying to implement some of action plans activities or measures or the actions of the strategy adopted by GGN maybe then by the continental network maybe then by the national forum of the individual country but finally you need somehow to let the individual geoparks to implement the strategy.

**Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)** regarding the revalidation system or process so this is involving for example key nine, key ten and so on. This is the feedback from the AC or Executive Board member so national forum just suggest some requirement in order to be received by the executive board and task force. Afterwards we will compiled them and discuss with how to negotiate with UNESCO part and so on.

**M. Paskova (Czech Republic):** I am maybe a little bit ahead but I think after we had finished all the work on the strategy I'm thinking about how to improve the implementation of the strategy not to be of course too strict but to have some possibility to implement the strategy in the system of revalidations to progress but it's for consideration of all the bodies we have if this is good idea or not.

**N. Zouros (GGN President)** I think the proposal of Martina is one of the thoughts that we should make after at least two years. We need first to see if this mechanism which is implemented for the first time will be successful and i think we should not make the

colleagues feel any fear to participate because they are going to be evaluated on their proposals. At this stage we need to implement first the strategy and see how we can build collectively. This is the important thing for all of us to have a strategy collectively with the proposals of all after that of course we need to discuss but I think we need to be very careful and ask the Council first to have the proposals and not to discuss at our level. In my opinion it's too early to discuss this issue; in two years' time it will be the time after we see some results.

**M. Paskova (Czech Republic):** this is exactly what I'm thinking about after finishing the process of the strategy proposal and piloting these two years and then we can go ahead with the control and feedback so this is totally agree with Nickolas.

**M-L Frey (GGN Executive Board member / Germany):** I would like to highlight as a member of the working group that we have seen in the discussions there is really a lot of understanding necessary for the colleagues our dear colleague Jose Maria Barrera is a professional in this topic and some other colleagues too but we also need to see there are many colleagues who need to understand first and therefore I fully agree to what Nickolas has said.

**S. Karmah (Spanish Geoparks Forum):** speaking about the results and not to be afraid of this new system we are trying to work with Jose Maria suggested to the Spanish National Fora for the Spanish National Network to make the exercise a very first exercise and we have developed it one week ago and we only work at the in the key action six the power local communities and for that we had two possibilities to face this exercise with a SWAT analysis or with a focus group we started with the SWAT analysis and now we have all these boxes with all the possibilities all the measures and the for the different actions 12 all the action in the action in the key action six now we have to prioritize all this action and later we will work and we present the results but also we want to try to do a second exercise with the focus with the focus group method and we are going to try to do it in the key 11 and after that it maybe it's interesting to share our results with the rest of the of the National Fora or the National Networks because it's not hard it's not very difficult to do it but it takes time but I think that we are ready enough to do it okay so just this this example but something interesting that results from the diverse exercises is that it's necessary to work all together. This the GGN strategy should be a converse also with the other regional and national strategies and it's one of the results most important result that we have seen in this first exercise.

**A. Sà (GGN Executive Board member / Portugal)** I agree with all these observations but there are something that is important to remember that it is after the key actions in order to use in the future and to evaluate the real impact of our work we need to consider and it's something that is ongoing the creation of the indicators so with the indicators we will be able to know to evaluate the real impact that we will achieve with this long-term strategy and this will allow us to redefine to make the readjustments and the others through the time and for the biennial strategy we are able to make corrections to make a new or to redefine some things that are not only in the accordance or are creating some difficulties so it's something that we are working on and for sure that in the short term we will talk about.

Decision: The GGN Long Term Strategy Implementation - Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 (Document B) was adopted unanimously by the members of the GGN Advisory Committee.

## **Road map for the procedures for the GGN strategic Action Plan**

*Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)* asked the GGN President to present the roadmap for the procedures for the GGN strategic Action Plan.

*N. Zouros (GGN President)* presented the road map to the GGN AC members. **CORRECTION:** “May 31st” not “May 3rd” 2025 (Collection of the submitted proposals (Document B) by the GGN secretariat.

It's much more difficult to have another timetable because the statutes say that the members should have in advance the proposal of the executive board in order to have the discussion in September so the draft document has to be prepared in June to be uploaded in the website then the bodies of the GGN can comment on this draft document and all these proposals together with the advisory committee opinion will be again uploaded so all the members of the general assembly of GGN will have all the information during the discussion in September and the final approval of these documents will be made by the ordinary general assembly which is planned to meet on September 10th 2025.

Decision: New meeting at June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, 12:00 GMT to discuss keys 9 and 10 and confirm the submission of document B

## **5. GGN Working Groups activities and workshops**

*N. Zouros (GGN President):* in the last months from January till today many of the GGN working groups have been activated and I have to tell you that each week we have more than two even three meetings of different working groups and it's really a period of producing a lot of material first of all i would like to thank the members of the SDG's working group that started already in the previous year the preparation of a very good and very effective list of activities for our network and for our regional networks already the GGN on SDG's produced four workshops one in the beginning of February the general one and then three regional workshops for the SDG's and have welcomed the receiving of the report on SDG's from individual geoparks for 2024 then we had the working group on gastronomy which has already prepared one workshop online and have worked strongly in order to prepare the activities for the next period both the SDG's works working group and the gastronomy working group are going to have a workshop in Kütralkura during the conference then we have the educational working group who again has several meetings has adopted a lot of proposals for the next period and they are planning workshop then we had the GGN working group on geological

heritage they started to have meetings and they are preparing a workshop which will take place in Kütralkura where we're going to discuss about the value of international recognition of geological heritage sites within UNESCO Global Geoparks taking as example the already nomination of more than 38 geological heritage sites from UNESCO Global Geopark by IUGS and how we can increase our visibility to the exceptional geological heritage sites that are hosted in UNESCO Global Geoparks then we have the working group on tourism the working group on tourism has already prepared a research among the geopark network on how we are how we see the priorities in promoting at the tourism and tomorrow the day after tomorrow on April 10<sup>th</sup> we have an online workshop with where all the results will be presented the tourism group is also preparing a workshop for Kütralkura on tourism and we have the working group on geological hazards the geological this group is also very active and prepare you have seen also the message after the Myanmar destruction seismic destruction that we had a few days ago and also they are preparing a workshop online and a workshop in Kütralkura in general I have to tell you that most of the working groups on geoparks are preparing new activities and now with the new working group that has been fixed with the participation of all regional networks on climate change adaptation I think that we will have a very good result and very good activities from these working groups which will bring more people to be involved in activities at the global level and at the same time will show how dynamic how diverse how inclusive and how effective is the operation of our network so I would like to thank all the members of the different working groups that have spent so much time preparing activities for GGN and I would like to congratulate all the chairs vice chairs and members of these working groups for preparing so interesting workshops for the Kütralkura meeting where we will have the opportunity to discuss with each other I should not avoid to say that also other working groups are preparing their workshops for Kütralkura for example I know that I have a request from the indigenous working group coordinator to organize a workshop in Kütralkura and probably we are going to have a working group another a workshop from other working groups which I'm not in position now to announce but during the next weeks and before June we will have the full list of thematic workshops which will be organized by the working groups of GGN during the Kütralkura conference which will be a unique opportunity to celebrate all together how important is the activities of our geoparks.

**Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)** asked the representatives or the members of the different GGN Working Groups to take the floor.

**J. Weber (German Geoparks Forum):** I am just back to work, and I was very happy to see and to hear and to realize how active my colleagues from the SDG working groups were and are together with Lesbos and Nicolas and what they have reached together and therefore I would like to hand over to Marie Louise, to Nicholas, to Emmaline and to others who have participated, who have prepared and who have worked together for this big success of the four successful workshops.

**Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)** I am the coordinator of the working group of Geohazards so after Morocco meeting we summarize the report regarding on the mechanism and the effect of earthquake in

Morocco and Alessia got anchored regarding the earthquake so this will be introduced to the future and we had the working group meeting and our activity regarding to recent to Geohazards we issue the message here through the GGN this is very important action to show our presence regarding to many Geohazard which happened in these years. So we already discussed our future action plan for two years in the working group so there are several action plans first is we will ask the action to take the international day or disaster risk reduction so this is a very important contribution also to the united nation so we will report the summary of our activity to the united nation and the second is we are providing training or geopark staff to improve their understanding and the response to Geohazard so this is not so difficult to see but we will use the existing platform for the aspect of Geohazards and the third is so we are not sure this is completed within the two years but we are proposing a publishing simple very understandable e-book for the public to raise awareness of Geohazards but also the importance of Geopark initiative for Geohazards and last the target is holding Geohazards workshop and the first is the scheduled the middle May and also second one is in Kütralkura so these action plans are already discussed and tomorrow we will meet again we will discuss the content of the next workshop and also we continue the discussion on the action plan of our working group so this is just an outline of our working group.

**A. Amrikazemi (Qeshm Island UGGp / Iran):** we had a very successful online workshop about Gastronomy with too many participants I think it was a very successful one because it's a very new initiative we need to promote it as much as possible and we are planning for a very good and perfect workshop in Kütralkura from September and also after the online workshop we sent some information to the Geoparks to contain the idea about the Gastronomy promotion for the Geoparks we already prepared something about our Geopark as a template to send to other Geoparks to be involved in this working group and hopefully this year similar to the last year we will present this initiated this new working group in the last year and in China of course to have the more possibility to let the Geoparks know about each other and in working group because there are some similar activities of brands it's not comparable with Gastronomy is a very comprehensive idea similar to a very specific type of branding or some beneficiary activity so we need to promote it as much as possible we will send or action plan as much as possible to all to plan for their activity in this case.

**M-L Frey (GGN Executive Board member / Germany):** tomorrow we have the workshop where we present the results and some additional topics we want to raise that come from the results we have got from the questionnaire kindly being answered by our members.

**K. Bentana (GGN Secretariat / Greece):** we are working on preparing a term of strategies and we are also working for a proposal for the creation of a geopark school network these are our main tasks for the next period but also we are discussing about the relationship with the GGN regional networks on education and the relationship with the UNESCO associated school network ASPnet and the preparation of a workshop of the GGN working group on education during the international conference in Chile these are our main discussion on the working group on education.

## **6. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events**

*N. Zouros (GGN President)*: presented the 2025 GGN calendar of events to all members of GGN Advisory Committee.

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

Calendar of Events:

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

Decision: No additional comments on the Calendar of the GGN 2025 events.

## **7. Any Other Business**

*Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)* asked the members if they want to discuss on any other business and closed the meeting.

Decision: No other business.

The meeting closed at 13:35 GMT.



## Summary & Useful links

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

1. [Implementation starting point](#) (Powerpoint Presentation)
2. [Action Plan 2025-2027 Template](#)
3. [Road map for the procedures for the GGN strategic Action Plan](#)

### B. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events

- **Calendar of Events**  
[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0](http://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	<b>OBSERVERS</b>	
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	GGN Secretariat Assistant / Greece

## **ANNEX I**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting**
- 3. Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035 (Document A) Final version**
- 4. Participation of the GGN bodies in the GGN Long Term Strategy Implementation - Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 ( Document B)**
- 5. GGN Working Groups activities and workshops**
- 6. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events**
- 7. Any Other Business**

Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS

GGN President

Prof. Setsuya Nakada

GGN Advisory Committee acting Chair