

*5th ORDINARY GGN GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

*Report of the GGN Executive Board*

*Activities 2023-2025*

SUMMER 2025

# *5th ORDINARY GGN GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

## *Report of the GGN Executive Board*

### *Activities 2023-2025*

## **CHAPTER I**

### **Introduction**

This is the 5th Global Geoparks Network Executive Board Report on the activities of the Global Geoparks Network in the period September 2023 – September 2025 submitted to the Global Geoparks Network General Assembly.

The GGN was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership developed under the umbrella of UNESCO. Since its foundation, the GGN serves to develop models of best practice and set quality-standards for territories that integrate the protection of Earth heritage sites in a strategy for regional sustainable economic development.

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in September 2014 became a non-profit, non-governmental organization subject to French legislation (the 1901 law on associations) after a unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the Network held in Saint John, Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada on September 20, 2014. At the same General Assembly of the Network the Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) were agreed and adopted.

Following the provisions of the GGN Statutes, during the 1st Ordinary General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) which took place at the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark on September 28th, 2016, the GGN Executive Board was elected.

During the 2nd Ordinary General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), which took place in Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark on September 12th, 2018., the strategic plan for the period 2018-2020 was adopted.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the GGN Executive Board elections and the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly were postponed following the postponement of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which was finally organized digitally by Jeju Island

UNESCO Global Geopark of the Republic of Korea in December 2021. The new Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network was elected during the 3rd General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network on December 15th, 2021.

During the 4th Ordinary General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), which took place in M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark in September 2023., the strategic plan for the period 2023-2025 was adopted.

The 5th Global Geoparks Network Executive Board Report covers the last two-year period September 2023 – September 2025 corresponding to the second two years of the elected GGN Executive Board.

The GGN Executive Board members during the period 2023 – 2025 worked for the implementation of the GGN Statutes and the effective operation of the Association.

During the last two years the GGN Executive Board implemented decisions aiming the strengthening of the GGN and its effective operation with special emphasis on the transparency, the distribution of information among members and the engagement of greater number of GGN members to the operation of the GGN Association.

The main decisions on that frame are the following

- The registration/ protection of the GGN name and logo
- The participation of all the Regional Network Coordinators in the GGN Executive Board meetings as observers
- The strengthening of the role of the GGN AC with at least 4 meetings per year
- The strengthening of the operation of the GGN Working groups and the organization of thematic workshops
- The establishment of new Thematic Working Groups
- The launching of the framework for the establishment of National GGN and the creation of National GGN in several countries
- The launching of several promotional campaigns
- The celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GGN with various activities
- The strengthening of the GGN presence in social media

The GGN through the GGN AC meetings prepared for the first time a GGN Long Term Strategy for the decade 2025-2035 and finalized the GGN Long Term Strategy Documents A and B.

The GGN through the GGN AC meetings prepared the GGN Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 through the finalization of the Implementation document for the biennium Action Plan 2025-2027.

Moreover, GGN executive worked hard for the restart of the GGN Working Groups by redefinition of the WG Thematics and the members, achieving lot of meetings, activities, initiatives, workshops etc.



## CHAPTER II

### GGN ADMINISTRATION

#### II.1. The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) for the period 2022-2025 is composed by the following individuals:

<b>Executive Board</b>
<b>President:</b> ZOUROS Nickolas - Greece
<b>Vice – President:</b> JIN Xiaochi – P.R. China
<b>Vice – President:</b> KOMOO Ibrahim - Malaysia
<b>General Secretary:</b> MARTINI Guy - France
<b>Treasurer:</b> RANGNES Kristin – Norway
<b>Members</b>
ACHBAL Driss – Morocco (AUGGN)
BORDER Melanie – UK (EGN)
CALDER John – Canada (CGN)
FREY Marie-Luise – Germany (Individual Member)
FURUSAWA Kana– Japan (APGN)
SÁ Artur – Portugal (EGN)
ZHANG Jianping – P.R. China (APGN)
<b>Ex-officio:</b> UNESCO Representative VANDENBERGHE Kristof
<b>Ex-officio:</b> GGN Advisory Committee Chair NAKADA Setsuya
<b>Regional Networks Coordinators</b>
Coordinator of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network ROSADO Emmaline – Mexico
Coordinator & Vice coordinator of the European Geoparks Network JUSTICE Sophie – France FASSOULAS Charalampos - Greece

<b>Observers</b>
IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage Chair HILARIO Asier – Spain

The role and function of the GGN Executive Board is described in the GGN Statutes. Main challenges of the GGN Executive Board during the period 2023 – 2025 were:

- The strengthening of the operation of the different operational bodies of the GGN.
- The creation of new communication tools which are used to spread information to all GGN members regarding the news and activities of the GGN.
- The creation of new GGN Working Groups / Task Forces (SDG's, Gastronomy, Therapeutic Landscapes) and the activation of the existing ones which produced a lot of gave the opportunity to many colleagues to actively contribute to the life of the Network.
- The implementation of the framework for the Cooperating Members and Sponsors.
- The close coordination with the Regional Networks APGN, EGN, GEOLAC, African UNESCO Global Geoparks and Canadian Geoparks Network.
- The implementation of the framework for the National Geopark Networks and the strengthening of their operation
- The Financial stability of the Association.

The GGN Executive Board during the period 2023-2025 had meetings regularly to deal with various issues of the GGN's activities and implement the GGN Strategic Plan for the period 2023 – 2025 which was agreed by the 4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly on 8th September 2023, in Morocco.

The GGN Executive Board during the period July 2023 – June 2025 met every first Tuesday of the month and also organized extraordinary meetings. The GGN Executive Board arranged 31 meetings.

Main issues for the GGN were:

1. Implementation of the GGN General Assembly decision for the establishment of the GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035
2. Implementation of the GGN General Assembly decision for the Strategic Action Plan 2023-2025
3. Operation of the GGN Working Groups / Task Forces / Committees.
4. GGN promotional and capacity building activities

5. GGN communication and promotional tools maintenance

6. Close collaboration with UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme

7. Close collaboration with UNESCO for the implementation of the new initiatives for the expansion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in areas that are not well represented in the programme

8. Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GGN

All decisions and actions of the GGN Executive Board were presented through the GGN communication tool for the GGN members' internal communication, the GGN Newsfeed.

### **II.1.1. GGN Treasury - Financial Operation**

The GGN Executive Board adopted in March 2024 the GGN Accounts for 2023 and the GGN Budget for 2024 for the implementation of the GGN Action Plan.

The GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts on 30 April 2024 agreed the 2023 Accounts and the 2024 Budget for the implementation of the GGN Action Plan.

GGN Treasurer managed during 2024 the collection of the GGN Annual Fees, the payment of the GGN contribution to UNESCO as well as the payments of the GGN expenses with the support of the Executive Assistant in the GGN Secretariat.

The GGN Executive Board adopted in February 2025 the GGN Accounts for 2024 and the budget for 2025.

The GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts on 30th of April 2025 agreed the 2024 Accounts and the 2025 Budget.

## II.2. GGN Secretariat

The GGN Secretariat continued its operation and communication with the Global Geoparks on GGN issues.

The GGN Secretary Executive Assistant has been responsible for providing administrative support services for the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board activities including administrative support for the Global Geoparks Network General Assembly and to update the Roster of Geopark Evaluators' data base.

The GGN Secretary Executive Assistant K. Bentana has been working under the overall authority of the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board and the direct supervision of the President and the General Secretary of the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network following the 4.4./63/28.10.2019 GGN Executive Board decision.

During the last year the Secretariat is supported by the Lesvos Geopark Team Members:

Bentana Konstantina, Lamprakopoulos Angelos, Dimitris Mpatsios and other staff members.

## II.3. GGN Membership

The GGN Executive Board had to deal with the implementation of the GGN Statutes regarding the inscription of its members with the following actions:

- Inscription of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks (18 new members in 2024 and 16 new members in 2025)
- Inscription of the new GGN Individual Members
- Nomination of 1 Honorary Member in 2023 (agreed by 4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly)

<b>The current Membership of the GGN:</b>
Institutional Members: 229
Individual Members: 39
Honorary Members: 9
Cooperating Members: -

A great challenge for the operation of GGN is the continuous update of the contact details of the Geopark Representatives in the GGN members' lists. This can be achieved only with the

regular update of the GGN member's communication list. For this the GGN asks for support from its members and their representatives.

## **II.4. General Assembly**

According to the GGN Statutes the GGN General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN.

The General Assembly consists of all individual, supporting, and honorary members and the designated representatives of institutional members.

The Ordinary General Assembly makes decisions on recommendations from the Executive Board on changes the conditions on application for membership.

The Ordinary General Assembly at its session once every four years on the same dates and in the same place as the International Conference on Geoparks elects the members of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board establishes the agenda of the General Assembly and convenes the Assembly at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the meeting. The meetings of the GGN Ordinary General Assembly takes place at the location indicated in the official invitation.

### **II.4.1. 4th Ordinary General Assembly**

The GGN Executive Board took special care in collaboration with the Organizing Committee of the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks at the M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, for the organization of the 4th Ordinary General Assembly of GGN on Friday 8th of September 2023, in Morocco.

### **II.4.2. Annual General Assembly for Accounts**

The Annual General Assembly for Accounts can be made by written statements sent by the GGN members in good standing by e-mail to the Executive Board within one month after receiving the Report on the accounts of the previous year. This decision needs simple majority of the GGN members in good standing.

The GGN Executive Board during the period 2024 – 2025 organized two digital Annual General Assemblies for Accounts in which were adapted the GGN annual Accounts and Budget:

- On 30th of April 2024 for the agreement of the 2023 Accounts and the 2024 Budget.

- On 30th of April 2025 for the agreement of the 2024 Accounts and the 2025 Budget.

### **A. GGN 2023 Accounts and 2024 Budget**

The GGN Executive Board in its 126th session of the GGN Executive Board Meeting on 7th of March 2023 agreed to the 2023 Accounts and the 2024 Budget of the Association.

The income of the 2023 was 288.748,84 €.

The expenditure of the 2023 was 307.847,07 €.

The expenditure for 2023 standing at € 307.847,07 was less than the provisional expenditure predicted in the 2023 Budget.

The 2023 GGN contribution to UNESCO € 184.860 (approx 60% of the expenditure) was transferred to UNESCO (Paid in January 2024). The remaining approx 40% of the budget was spent to support the Operation of the GGN and Geoparks activities and it is described below in the 'DETAILED ANALYSIS'. It should be mentioned that the amount of € 20.137,28 representing 2023 expenses that were paid at March 2024, are included in the GGN Annual Accounts of 2023.

The 10th GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts on May 15th, 2024 with positive replies that reached 80% of the GGN Association Members, agreed to the GGN 2023 Accounts and the 2024 GGN Budget.

### **B. GGN 2024 Accounts and 2025 Budget**

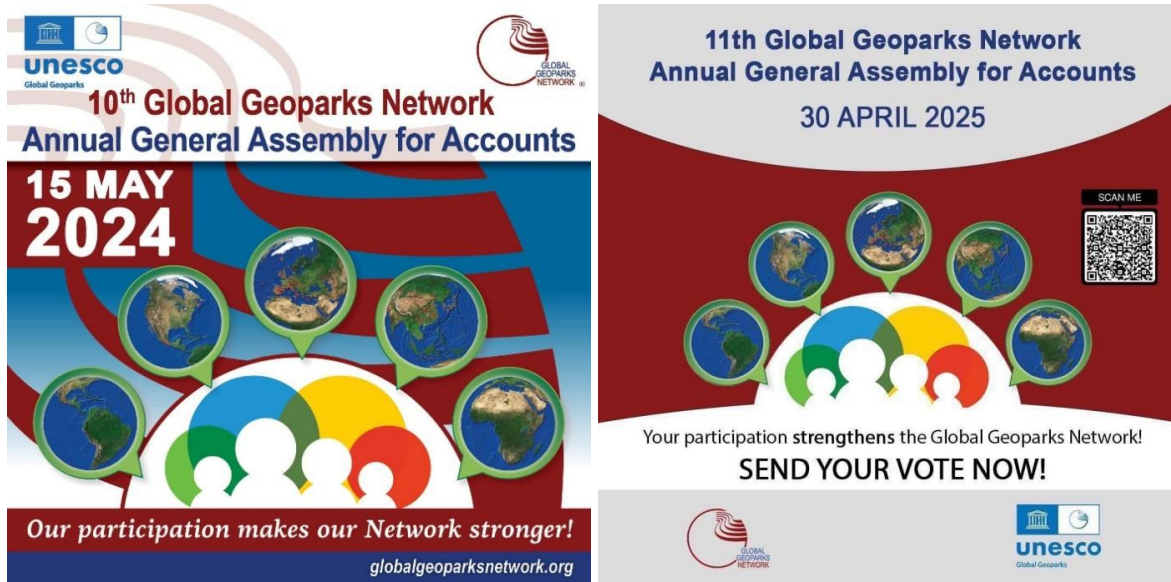
The GGN Executive Board in its 157th meeting on the 18th of February 2025 agreed to the 2024 Accounts and the 2025 Budget of the Association.

The income of the 2024 was 362.438,45€.

The expenditure of the 2024 was 377.452,21€.

The contribution of the GGN to UNESCO for the year 2024 amounted to € 202.062,45, which represents approximately 56% of the annual income for that year and 54% of the total expenditures. This amount was transferred to UNESCO and was paid in February 2025. The remaining amount approximately 44% of the annual income in 2024 and 46% of the total expenditure was spent to support the Operation of the GGN and Geoparks activities.

The 11th GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts on April 30th, 2025 with positive replies that reached 73% of the GGN Association Members, agreed to the GGN 2024 Accounts and the 2025 GGN Budget.



## II.5. GGN Advisory Committee

The Global Geoparks Network Advisory Committee operated aiming to support the GGN Executive Board, implementing the decisions of the GGN Ordinary General Assembly.

During the last two years had intense meetings for the preparation of the GGN Long Term Strategy as well as the GGN Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027.

The following GGN AC meetings hosted through Zoom platform:

- 6th GGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (15 January 2024)



- 7th GGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (8 April 2024)



- 8th GGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (29 November 2024)



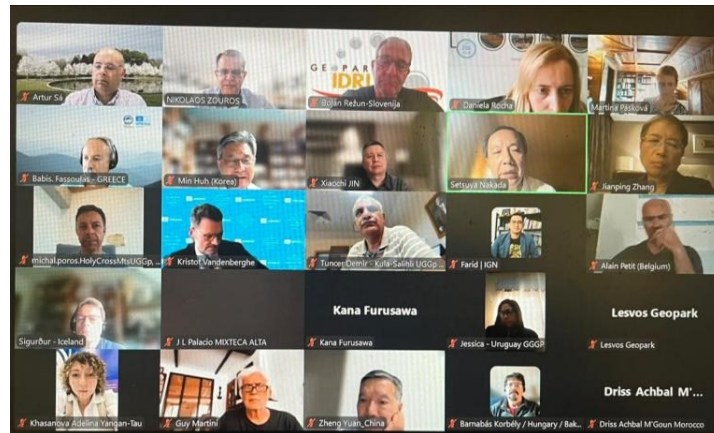
- 9th GGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (28 January 2025)



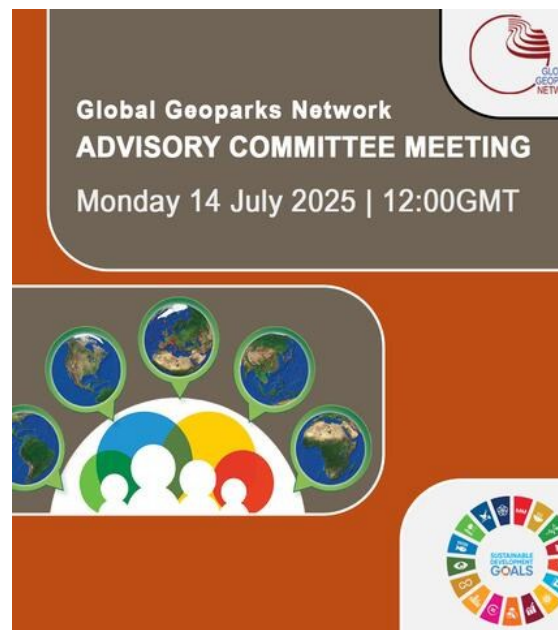
- 10th GGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (8 April 2025)



➤ 11th GGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (11 June 2025)



➤ 12th GGN Advisory Committee Digital Meeting (14 July 2025)



## II.6. GGN Working Groups

Working Groups are nominated by the Executive Board to implement programmes and activities and to serve as channels of communication between members of the GGN with similar scientific and professional interests.

The GGN Executive Board decided to establish thematic GGN Working Groups. Working Groups have geographical representation.

The following GGN Working Groups have been established (2022-2025):

1. Geohazards
2. Geological heritage and Geodiversity
3. Geodiversity and Biodiversity
4. SDG's
5. Climate Change
6. Island and Coastal areas / Water / Ocean
7. Education
8. Tourism
9. Gastronomy
10. Heritage
11. Indigenous People
12. Geoparks as Therapeutic Landscapes
13. International Networking
14. Communication

The GGN Executive Board is encouraging all Regional Networks to form similar working groups with the participation of representatives from UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The GGN Working Groups have been worked intensively and produced very good results, organized workshops and prepared strategic documents and campaigns.

### 1. WG on Geohazards

<b>Setsuya Nakada</b> , University of Tokyo (Japan) - Chair
<b>Charalampos Fassoulas</b> , Psiloritis UGGp (Greece) - Vice Chair
<b>Ibrahim Komoo</b> , University Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia)
<b>Alessia Amorfini</b> , Apuan Alps UGGp (Italy) - EGN WG on Geohazards Catalyst
<b>Min Huh</b> , Mudeungshan UGGp (Rep. of Korea)
<b>Manuel Schilling</b> , University Austral de Chile (Chile)
<b>Driss Achbal</b> , M'Goun UGGp (Morocco) - AUGGN
<b>Rafael Soares</b> , Araripe UGGp (Brazil) - GeoLAC WG on Geohazards
<b>Javier Mir Pellicer</b> (Origens UGGp, Spain) - EGN WG on Geohazards Vice-Catalyst
<b>Eileen van der Flier-Keller</b> , Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC (Canada) - Representative of CGN

## 2. WG on Geological heritage and Geodiversity

<b>Asier Hilario</b> , IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage Chair, Basque Coast UGGp (Spain)
<b>Jianping Zhang</b> , University of Geosciences (P.R. China)
<b>Ibrahim Komoo</b> , University Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia)
<b>Xiaochi Jin</b> , Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (P.R. China)
<b>Marie-Luise Frey</b> , GGN ExB, (Germany)
<b>John Calder</b> , Cliffs of Fundy UGGp/CGN (Canada)
<b>Ding Haiyang, Taishan UGGp (P.R. China)</b> - APGN Representative
<b>Thiago Marinho, Ubebaba UGGp (Brazil)</b> - GeoLAC Representative
<b>João Carlos Carreiro Nunes, Azores UGGp (Portugal)</b> - EGN Volcanic WG Catalyst
<b>Tobias Fisher</b> , TerraVita UGGp (Germany) - EGN WG on Fossils Catalyst
<b>Agnes Gidna, Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania)</b> - AUGGN Representative

## 3. WG on Geodiversity and Biodiversity

<b>Stéphane Legal</b> , Luberon UGGp (France)
<b>Chris Woodley-Stewart</b> , North Pennines AONB UGGp (UK)
<b>Joshua Mwankunda</b> , Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania)
<b>Manuel Schilling</b> , Kütralkura UGGp (Chile)
<b>Xiaochi Jin</b> , Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (P.R. China)
<b>Norhayati Ahmad</b> , National University of Malaysia (UKM)
<b>Manda Maggs</b> , Tumbler Ridge UGGp (Canada)

## 4. WG on SDG's

<b>Jutta Weber</b> , Bergstraße-Odenwald UGGp (Germany)
<b>Elizabeth Silva</b> , GGN Individual member (Portugal)
<b>Mega Fatimah Rosana</b> , Ciletuh – Palabuhanratu UGGp (Indonesia)
<b>Emmaline Rosado</b> , Mixteca Alta UGGp (Mexico)
<b>Mohammed Boutakyout</b> , M'Goun UGGp (Morocco)
<b>Lulin Wang</b> , Arxan UGGp (P.R. China)
<b>Kana Furusawa</b> , Japanese Geoparks Network (Japan)
<b>Marie-Luise Frey</b> , GGN Individual member (Germany)

## 5 .WG on Climate Change

<b>Artur Sá</b> , University of Trás-os-Montes & Alto Douro, Arouca UGGp (Portugal)
<b>John Calder</b> , Cliffs of Fundy UGGp (Canada)
<b>Kirstin Lemon</b> , GSNI (UK) - EGN WG on Climate change Catalyst
<b>Agness Gidna</b> , Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania) - AUGGN Representative
<b>Yuanyuan Zheng</b> , Chinese Geoparks Network (China) - APGN Representative
<b>Jennifer Dingman</b> (Canada) – CGN Representative
<b>Leandro de Godoi Pinton, Uberaba UGGp, (Brazil)</b> - GEOLAC Representative

## 6. WG on Island and Coastal areas / Water / Ocean

<b>Kazuhiro Nobe</b> , Oki Islands UGGp (Japan)
<b>Elizabeth Silva</b> , GGN Individual member (Portugal)
<b>Elena Mateo</b> , Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UGGp (Spain)
<b>Alireza Amrikazemi</b> , Qeshm Island UGGp (Iran)
<b>Melanie Border</b> , English Riviera UGGp (UK)
<b>Nickolas Zouros</b> , Global Geoparks Network President, Lesvos Island UGGp (Greece)

## 7. WG on Education

<b>José María Barrera</b> , Villuercas Ibores Jara UGGp (Spain).
<b>Sarah Gamble</b> , Canadian Geoparks Network (Canada).
<b>Noritaka Matsubara</b> , San'in Kaigan UGGp (Japan).
<b>Artur Sá</b> , University of Trás-os-Montes & Alto Douro, Arouca UGGp (Portugal).
<b>Thiago Marinho</b> , Uberaba UGGp (Brazil).
<b>Konstantina Bentana</b> , Lesvos Island UGGp (Greece).
<b>Ye Qingzi</b> , Xiangxi UGGp (P.R. China). APGN Representative
<b>Naomi Foster</b> , North Pennines UGGp (United Kingdom).EGN WG on Education
<b>José Luis Palacio</b> . UNAM - Mixteca Alta UGGp (México) GeoLAC Representative
<b>Agness Gidna</b> . Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania). AUGGN Representative
<b>Jianping Zhang</b> , University of Geosciences (P.R. China)

## 8. WG on Tourism

<b>Carlos Neto de Carvalho</b> , Naturtejo UGGp (Portugal)
<b>Marie-Luise Frey</b> , GGN Individual member (Germany)
<b>Aniello Aloia</b> , Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UGGp (Italy)
<b>Frances Heydeman</b> , Stonehammer UGGp (Canada)
<b>CHAN Yu Nam</b> , Hong Kong UGGp (P.R. China)
<b>Zhu Guohang</b> , Ningde UGGp (P.R. China)
<b>Leandro Bazotti</b> , Southern Canyons Pathways UGGp (Brazil)

<b>Alain Petit</b> , Famenne-Ardenne UGGp (Belgium)
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## 9. WG on Gastronomy

<b>Soma Sayedyounesi</b> , Aras UGGp (Iran)
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<b>Kana Furusawa</b> , Japanese Geoparks Network (Japan)
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<b>Driss Achbal</b> , M'Goun UGGp (Morocco)
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<b>Aniello Aloia</b> , Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UGGp (Italy)
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<b>Daniela Rocha</b> , Arouca UGGp (Portugal)
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<b>Emmaline Rosado González</b> , Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UGGp (Mexico)
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## 10. WG on Heritage

<b>Alexandru Andrasanu</b> , Hațeg Country UGGp (Romania)
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<b>Guy Martini</b> , UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair (France)
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APGN Representative
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GEOLAC Representative
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CGN Representative
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## 11. WG on Indigenous People

<b>Guy Martini</b> , UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair (France)
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<b>Patricio Melo</b> , Universidade Regional do Cariri (Brazil)
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<b>Ibrahim Komoo</b> , University Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia)
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<b>Martina Paskova</b> , Bohemian Paradise UGGp (Czechia)
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<b>Ramadhani Khatibu</b> , Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania)
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<b>Sarah Behn</b> , Canadian Geoparks Network (Canada)
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## 12. WG on Geoparks as Therapeutic Landscapes

<b>Hartmut Escher</b> , TerraVITA UGGp (Germany)
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<b>Artur Sá</b> , UNESCO Chair on Geoparks, SDG and Healthy Lifestyles, University of Trás-os-Montes & Alto Douro, Arouca UGGp (Portugal)
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<b>Kristin Rangnes</b> , Gea Norvegica UGGp (Norway)
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<b>Kana Furusawa</b> , Japanese Geoparks Network (Japan)
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<b>Farid Z Mohamad</b> , Rinjani Lombok UGGp (Indonesia)
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<b>Emmaline Rosado</b> , Mixteca Alta UGGp (Mexico)
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<b>Mikko Kiuttu</b> , Rokua UGGp (Finland)
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### 13. WG on International Networking

<b>Artur Sá</b> , University of Trás-os-Montes & Alto Douro, Arouca UGGp (Portugal)
<b>José Luis Palacio Prieto</b> , Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mixteca Alta UGGp, Oaxaca UGGp (Mexico)
<b>Driss Achbal</b> , M’Goun UGGp (Morocco)
<b>Asier Hilarrio</b> IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage Chair, Basque Coast UGGp (Spain)
<b>Nickolas Zouros</b> , Global Geoparks Network President, Lesvos Island UGGp (Greece)

### 14. WG on Communication

<b>Nickolas Zouros</b> , Global Geoparks Network President, Lesvos Island UGGp (Greece)
<b>Guy Martini</b> , UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair (France)
<b>Kana Furusawa</b> , Japanese Geoparks Network (Japan)
<b>Tony Ramsey</b> , Fforest Fawr UGGp (UK)
<b>Javier López Caballero</b> , Villuercas Ibores Jara UGGp (Spain)
<b>Sarah Behn</b> , Canadian Geoparks Network (Canada)
<b>Zheng Yuanyuan</b> , CGN (P.R. China)
<b>Silas dos Santos Costa</b> , Serido UGGp (Brazil)

## **II.7. GGN Reporting**

Reporting by GGN Bodies and UNESCO Global Geoparks is essential for the assessment of the efficiency of our operation.

Annual reports are published in GGN website:

(<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/annual-reports>)

### **II.7.1. Geoparks Annual Reports (Institutional Members)**

All GGN Institutional Members have to submit to the GGN Executive Board an Annual Report on their activities.

GGN Institutional Members' Reports for the years 2023 and 2024 uploaded on the GGN website (<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/node/1174>).

### **II.7.2. GGN Regional Networks Annual Report of Activities**

Annual Reports of the GGN Regional Networks for the years 2023 and 2024 were uploaded on the GGN website (<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/annual-reports/regional-geoparks-network-annual-reports>).

### **II.7.3. GGN National Networks / Fora / Committees Annual Report of Activities**

The GGN National Networks / Fora / Committees were also invited to submit to the GGN Executive Board an Annual Report on their activities. The GGN National Networks / Fora / Committees' Annual Report on their activities were uploaded on the GGN website.

(<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/annual-reports/national-foracommittees-annual-reports>).

### **II.7.4. GGN Working Group Annual Report of Activities**

The GGN Working Groups' Coordinators were invited to submit to the GGN Executive Board an Annual Report on their activities.



## CHAPTER III

### Contribution and participation in UNESCO Global Geoparks programme operation

The GGN is the partner of UNESCO for the “UNESCO Global Geoparks” with an important role in its operation:

1. GGN proposes 12 individuals members to the UNESCO Geoparks Council
2. Is an ex-officio member to the UNESCO Geoparks Council
3. Participates ex-officio to the UNESCO Geoparks Bureau
4. Forms a pool of Experts for Geopark Evaluations and Revalidations
5. Collaborates with UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section for the realization of the Geoparks’ Field

#### Evaluations and Revalidations

6. Provides annual financial support to UNESCO by a donation of US\$ 1,000 per Geopark (for the current number of UGG’s) for Global Geopark activities

7. Facilitates networking and cooperation among all the recognized UNESCO Global Geoparks

8. Organizes meetings, capacity building and promotional activities.

The GGN facilitated the duties of the GGN according to the IGGP statutes, with a series of actions aiming the

improvement of the effectiveness of the UNESCO Global Geoparks functioning as described below:

- The GGN President participated in the meetings of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council for the evaluation

and revalidation report assessment. UNESCO Global Geoparks Council adopted the new UNESCO Global

Geoparks documents regarding the evaluation and revalidation Doc A templates and self evaluation check list

for aspiring Geoparks.

- The GGN President participated in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau which is responsible for the nomination

of the Evaluators for the Geoparks' Evaluation and Revalidation missions. UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau

decisions regarding the function of the UNESCO Global Geoparks made through electronic communication.

- The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section facilitated the organization of the Geoparks' Evaluation and Revalidation missions.

- The GGN provided to UNESCO Global Geoparks special Account the Geopark's financial support for specific Programme activities.

- The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section launched in 2024 the call for hosts of the 12th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and 5 applications have been submitted.

### **III.1. Roster of Evaluators**

The Roster of evaluators is one of the duties of the Global Geoparks Network according to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Operational Guidelines.

#### **III.1.1. Contribution to the management of the Roster of Evaluators**

The GGN in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section launched annually calls for the enrichment of the Roster of Geoparks' evaluators. The applications received were assessed with the criteria and the Roster served for the Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation missions.

#### **III.1.2. Evaluation / Revalidation missions**

Geopark evaluators coming from Green Card holding UNESCO Global Geoparks participated in Geoparks evaluation and revalidation missions supporting the operation of the programme on a volunteer basis during the years 2024 and 2025.

More specific, in the year 2024 were organized 69 evaluation and revalidation missions and in the year 2025 were organized 60 evaluation and revalidation missions.

### III.2. Financial Contribution to UNESCO

The GGN is responsible for contributing annually to UNESCO with the amount of 1000 USD per UNESCO Global Geopark.

The GGN is contributing the amount to a special account for Geoparks.

#### TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE GGN TO UNESCO

	YEAR	Number of UNESCO Global Geoparks	Amount of contribution	
	2016	120	120.000	
	2017	127	127.000	
	2018	140	140.000	
	2019	149	149.000	
	2020	161	161.000	
	2021	169	169.000	
	2022	177	177.000	
	2023	195	195.000	
	2024	213	213.000	
	2025	229	229.000	
		TOTAL	1.678.000	

### **III.3. UNESCO / GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT for Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States**

UNESCO and Global Geoparks Network Grants supports the creation of Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States.

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network launched a joint initiative to promote the Geopark concept in Africa and the Arab States, in April 2022.

The UNESCO/Global Geoparks Network Grant is a tailor-made consultancy service specifically designed to support local teams to develop a UNESCO Geopark project.

The grant includes several steps and actions, like:

- Analysis of the territory
- Field missions.
- On-line assistance
- Training.

The following field missions were organized

- Field mission in Baringo Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (Kenya)
- Field mission in Dahar Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (Tunisia)
- Field Mission in Madagascar

### **III.4. UNESCO / GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK Grant for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) have launched a joint initiative to promote the Geopark concept in Small Island Developing States.

The UNESCO/Global Geoparks Network Grant is a tailor-made consultancy service specifically designed to support local teams to develop a Geopark project. The grant includes several steps and actions. GGN Experts advise and accompany the granted territory from the initial idea to the official application as UNESCO Global Geopark.

The UNESCO/Global Geoparks Network Grant is a tailor-made consultancy service specifically designed to support local teams to develop a UNESCO Geopark project. The grant includes several steps and actions, like:

- Analysis of the territory
- Field missions.
- On-line assistance
- Training

The Field mission in Vinalles, Cuba was organized in the frame of the initiative.

## CHAPTER IV - NETWORKING

### GGN Networking at the Regional and National Level

#### IV.1. Regional Networks

Recognizing the very strong role networking has played in the success of the Global Geoparks movement and recognizing the valuable role it plays in facilitating the sharing of experience, formation of joint initiatives and projects and in capacity-building, the GGN encouraged the strengthening of Regional Geoparks Networks. The Regional Geoparks Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level.

The GGN Executive Board supported the operation of the APGN, the EGN, the GeoLAC, the Africa and the Canadian UNESCO Global Geoparks Network regarding their function as Regional Networks of GGN in Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa and Canada respectfully.

More specifically the GGN Executive Board decided to invite as observers the Coordinators of GeoLAC and EGN aiming better coordination between GGN and Regional Networks. The GGN Executive Board also endorsed the following documents:

- The APGN Annual Report of Activities 2023 and 2024 as submitted by the APGN Coordinator.

The continuous communication and collaboration of the GGN Executive Board with the Regional Network Coordinators is essential for the operation of the GGN.

##### IV.1.1. The European Geoparks Network

The Coordinators and the Advisory Committee members of the EGN continue their duties since the last elections which took place during the 49th European Geoparks Spring Meeting on March 2024 – Kula Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark (Turkey):

##### ***EGN Advisory Committee members:***

Coordinator: **Sophie Justice**, Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark (France)

Vice Coordinator: **Babbis Fassoulas**, Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece)

<b>Alesia Amorfini</b>	Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)
<b>Christian Ciobanu</b>	Hateg Country UNESCO Global Geopark (Romania)
<b>Daniela Rocha</b>	Aruca UNESCO Global Geopark – PORTUGAL

<b>Ilias Valiakos</b>	Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece)
<b>Javier López Caballero</b>	Viluercas Ibores Jara, UNESCO Global Geopark – SPAIN
<b>Kristin Rangnes</b>	Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway)
<b>Mikko Kiuttu</b>	Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark (Finland)
<b>Suzana FAJMUT ŠRTUCL</b>	Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark (Slovenia)
<b>João Carlos Nunes</b>	Individual Member (Portugal)
<b>Martina Paskova</b>	Individual Member, (Czech Republic)
<b>Tony Ramsey</b>	UK (EGN Editorial Board)
<b>Guy Martini</b>	France (Founder member)
<b>Andreas Schüller</b>	Germany (Founder member)
<b>Nickolas Zouros</b>	Greece (Founder member)

<b>UNESCO:</b> Kristof Vandenberghe, France
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<b>IUGS:</b> Asier Hilario, Spain
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<b>IUCN:</b> Tim Badman, Switzerland
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### IV.1.2. The Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

The new APGN Coordinators and the APGN Advisory Committee were elected in September 2022 during the 7th APGN Symposium which was held in Satun UNESCO Global Geopark in Thailand. The Coordinators and the Advisory Committee members of the APGN continue their duties since the last elections:

#### **APGN Coordinators:**

<b>JIN Xiaochi</b> , Coordinator (China)
<b>KOMOO Ibrahim</b> , Vice-Coordinator (Malaysia)
<b>FURUSAWA Kana</b> , Vice-Coordinator (Japan)

#### **APGN Advisory Committee (AC):**

JIN Xiaochi (China)	Elected Member
TRAN Tan Van (Vietnam)	Elected Member
KOMOO Ibrahim (Malaysia)	Elected Member
FURUSAWA Kana (Japan)	Elected Member
ZHENG Yuanyuan (China)	National Representative
KUSHMHBATA Yunus (Indonesia)	National Representative
AMRIKAZEMI Alireza (Iran)	National Representative
SUGAWARA Hisanari (Japan)	National Representative
HUH Min (Republic of Korea)	Coordinator of Korean (R.) GGN
MOHD BUKHARI Azmil Munif (Malaysia)	National Representative
TECHAWAN Sommai (Thailand)	National Representative
TRINH Hai Son (Vietnam)	National Representative
PINAT Joanne (The Philippines)	One UGGp country
ZOUROS Nickolas	GGN Representative
VANDENBERGHE Kristof	UNESCO Representative

### IV.1.3. The Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network

The Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network CC Meeting in March 2024. The GeoLAC members elected the new team for GEOLAC's coordination and management for the next two years (2023-2024).

Coordinator: <b>Emmaline Rosado</b> – Mixteca Alta UGGp (Mexico)
Vice Coordinator: <b>Eduardo Guimarães</b> - Araripe UGGp (Brazil)
Treasurer: <b>Adriano Severo Figueiro</b> – Quarta Colônia UGGp (Brazil)
Secretary General: <b>Edinéia Maria Pallú</b> – Southern Canyons Pathways UGGp (Brazil)
Member: <b>James Posso</b> - Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UGGp (Peru)



#### IV.1.4. The African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network

The African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network consists of:

(a) two representatives of M’Goun UGGp (Morocco):

- **Driss Achbal** - President of the M’Goun Geopark Association
- **Mohamed Boutakiot** - Vice-president of the M’Goun Geopark Association and president of the scientific committee

(b) two representatives of Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania):

- **Agnes Gidna - Geologist Scientific Coordinator**
- **Ramadhani Khatibu** - Geologist.

#### IV.1.5. North American Global Geoparks Network

In North America there are 5 UNESCO Global Geoparks located in Canada.

The Canadian Geoparks Network (formerly Canadian National Committee for Geoparks) is a national committee that was formed in 2009 under the auspices of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES) to address the need for coordination of Global Geopark applications from Canada.

The CNCG became the Canadian Geoparks Network (CGN) in 2019 and it is now a committee under the auspices of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

Chair: <b>Frances Heydeman</b> - Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
Vice-Chair: <b>Sarah Behn</b> - Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark
Treasurer: <b>Manda Maggs</b> - Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark

## **IV.2. GGN National Bodies/Networks/Committees/Fora**

The GGN Executive Board taking into account the current situation of the Network, the need of the coordination of activities of the GGN at the national level and the increasing number of UNESCO Global Geoparks encourages the operation of a GGN National Body including all the members of the GGN in each country (which can use the name National Geoparks Network).

In P.R. China and Japan there are well operated National Geoparks Networks. The same model follows the Republic of Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia in Asia.

There are already operating National Geoparks Networks in Spain, Germany, France, UK, Ireland, Greece, Portugal, Austria, etc.

Recently in June 2023 the Brazilian Geoparks Network was founded with the participation of the 5 Brazilian UNESCO Global Geoparks.

## CHAPTER V

### COMMUNICATION TOOLS & EVENTS

#### V.1. GGN Communication Tools

The GGN developed a variety of communication tools in order to facilitate the communication between the GGN Executive Board and the GGN Members as well as the coordination of the GGN activities and events. The GGN communication tools are the following:

##### **A. GGN websites**

The GGN operational website (**[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)**) which includes all data, documents, activities and news of the GGN and its members.

The GGN operational website works in complementarity with the GGN website operated by the GGN office in CAGS – Beijing (**[www.globalgeoparks.org](http://www.globalgeoparks.org)**).

Both sites avoid duplication of the information. The GGN operational website presents mainly the GGN activities while the UGGp's activities are presented by the Beijing website.

The GGN promotional website (**[www.visitgeoparks.org](http://www.visitgeoparks.org)**) was launched in 2020. The main aim of this website is the promotion of Geoparks to society and to the tourism industry, allowing visitors to easily understand, feel and experience the territories. This site is also connected, by links, to the existing administrative sites of the GGN, in order to transmit all kinds of information to members and visitors. The GGN asked members for contribution to make the webpage more effective in disseminating the information and raising every Geopark's profile by sending information, photos and videos of every Geopark and its activities.

##### **B. GGN News Feed**

The GGN Executive Board continues the regular communication with GGN members through the GGN NewsFeed, which has monthly and special issues. For better distribution of the GGN NewsFeed the regular update of the GGN members' contact and communication data is necessary.

There is a regular edition of the GGN NewsFeed every month as well as Special Editions for the Important Events as the organization of Geopark Conferences and Capacity Building Activities, the celebration of International Days, important events, etc.

### ***C. GGN presence in Social Media - GGN page in Facebook***

All Geoparks can use the GGN page in Facebook to promote their news and activities (<https://www.facebook.com/globalgeoparksnetwork>). The page includes a variety of information on Geopark events as well as Geopark promotional campaigns.

### ***D. GGN map and brochure***

The Global Geoparks Network during the period 2024 – 2025 created three editions of the GGN Map for the years 2024/2025, 20th Anniversary and 2025/2026.

The GGN Map is the annual GGN publications on nominations of new UNESCO Global Geoparks.

GGN Map is circulated during the UNESCO General Assembly and distributed to all GGN members, tourism fairs, GGN Meetings and Conferences etc. Main target of the GGN map is the unified presentation of all UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The GGN Map for the years 2024/2025 included the new UNESCO Global Geoparks and presented all 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 48 countries.

The GGN Map for the years 2025/2026 included the new UNESCO Global Geoparks and now presents all 229 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 50 countries.

### ***E. GGN Magazine***

The GGN Magazine presents the GGN structure and Activities and is distributed in GGN Events and Tourism Fairs

### ***F. GGN Newsletter***

The GGN Newsletter, is the official magazine of GGN, published by the GGN Office in CAGS Beijing significantly improved in article quality and representativeness and includes articles covering the Geoparks' activities worldwide. During 2022 published the issues 1 & 2 ([https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page\\_id=1562](https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=1562)). The GGN members are encouraged to send their articles on their activities.

### **G. GGN Promotional Video**

The following promotional videos have been prepared for the promotion of the Global Geoparks Network and its activities:

Geoparks and Music
GGN Contest
GGN Member's Platform
Global Geoparks Network and Climate Change
Global Geoparks Network and Disaster Reduction
Global Geoparks Network and Geological Heritage Conservation
Global Geoparks Network and Geotourism
Global Geoparks Network and Sustainable Development
Global Geoparks Network and Education
What is "GGN" (Global Geoparks Network)
What is "GGN" (Global Geoparks Network) with subtitles in different languages

The GGN promotional videos have been uploaded on the GGN website:

[https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/ggn\\_videos](https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/ggn_videos)

and at the GGN facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/globalgeoparksnetwork>).

The GGN encourages the presentation of GGN activities in the Internet through videos and will continue to produce similar promotional videos in the future.

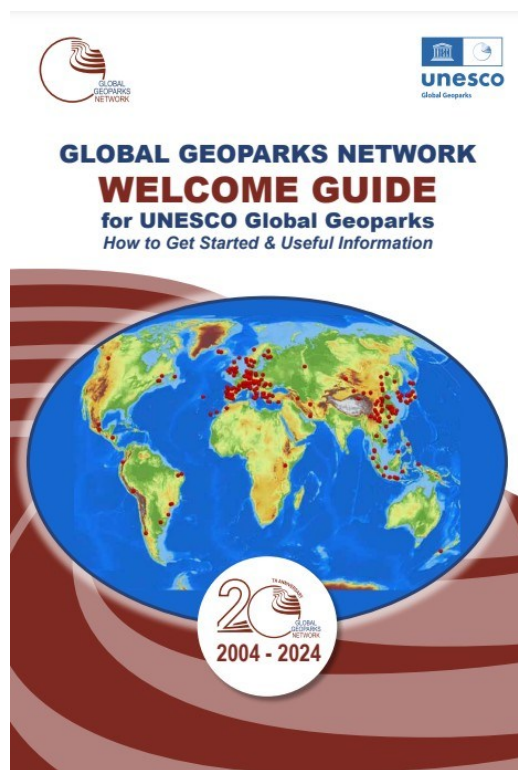
## V.2. Thematic publications

### V.2.1. Welcome Guide for the New UNESCO Global Geoparks

The revised Welcome Guide for the UNESCO Global Geoparks was published by the Global Geoparks Network and includes all the updated information. The Welcome Guide provides information for the new Geoparks but also the existing members of the Global Geoparks Network with step-by-step descriptions of how to get started through the GGN operational procedures, how to continue and participate in active networking and how to stay informed and connected with all the members of the Global Geoparks Network.

The Welcome Guide was first presented in 2022. The publication has been updated in 2024 and is uploaded on the GGN website at the following link:

[https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/WELCOME\\_2024\\_13\\_05\\_2024\\_F1.pdf](https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/WELCOME_2024_13_05_2024_F1.pdf)



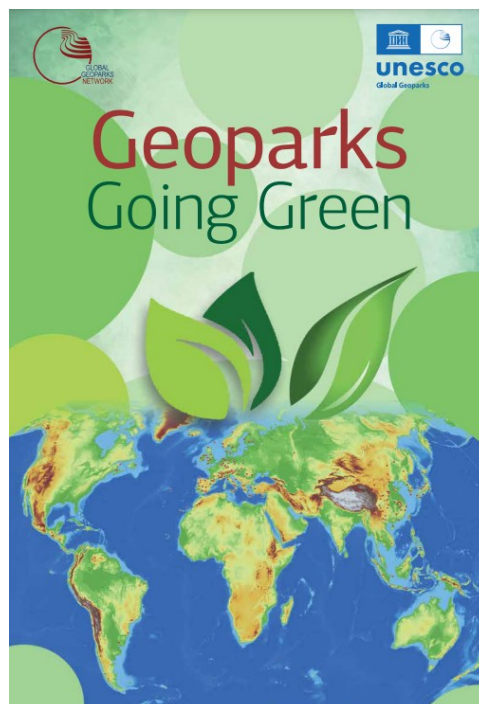
### V.2.2. Geoparks Going Green

**Every year on April 22nd**, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), in collaboration with UNESCO's Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section, celebrates **International Mother Earth Day** to promote harmony with nature and raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity crises caused by human activity.

UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide mark this day by organizing actions and initiatives that emphasize the urgent need for a **sustainable, green economy**. These actions include:

- Upgrading buildings to be energy-efficient
- Tackling environmental issues like noise, air quality, water conservation, and marine pollution
- Promoting circular economy models and sustainable consumption
- Replacing plastic and fossil fuels with alternative materials
- Conducting educational programs and community activities
- Utilizing both indigenous knowledge and digital tools
- Sharing best practices across regions

The recently published magazine **“Geoparks Going Green”** showcases these efforts, inviting all to join the Geoparks community in taking action for the planet.



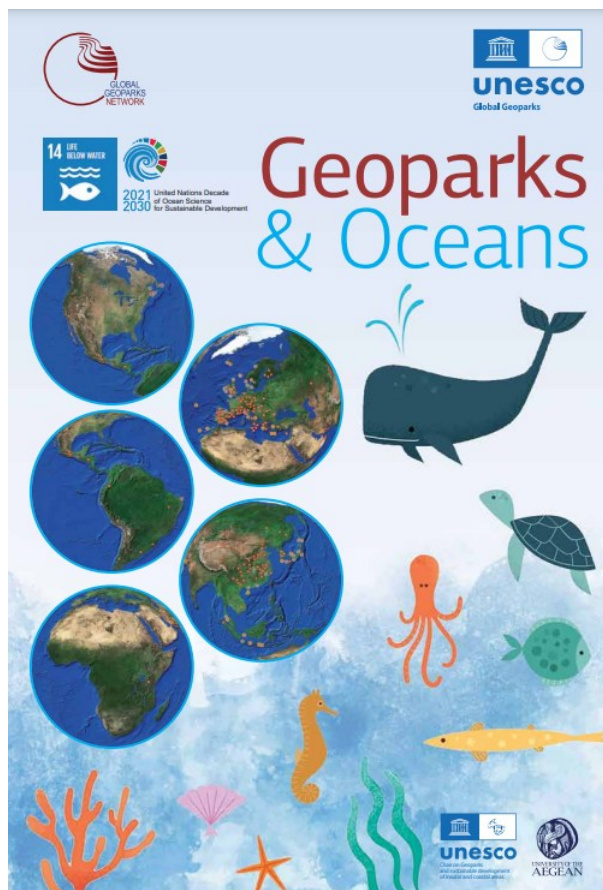
### V.2.3. Geoparks and Oceans

The **Global Geoparks Network**, in collaboration with **UNESCO**, celebrates **World Oceans Day** by encouraging all UNESCO Global Geoparks, partners, and stakeholders to raise awareness about the critical challenges facing our oceans and to take action to protect marine ecosystems and promote sustainable use of water resources. Oceans cover over 70% of the Earth's surface and are vital to life, yet they face serious threats from human activities such as pollution, overfishing, plastic waste, and climate change.

More than **30% of UNESCO Global Geoparks** have a marine component or preserve evidence of ancient seas. These Geoparks actively contribute to several **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, including SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Through the promotion of traditional practices like sustainable fishing, education, conservation, and innovation, Geoparks support the **UN Decade of Ocean Science**.

Join the movement to protect our oceans—explore, learn, and act together for a more sustainable future.

<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WorldOceansDay4.mp4>



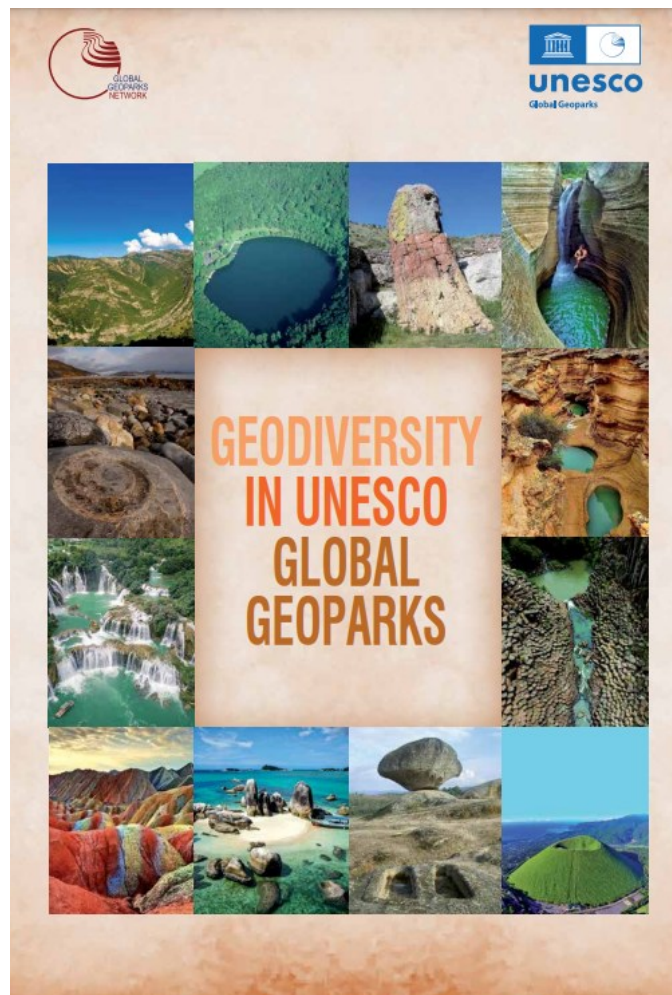


#### V.2.4. Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN), in collaboration with the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, celebrates International Geodiversity Day every October 6th, highlighting the importance of geodiversity and the unique geological heritage preserved in UNESCO Global Geoparks. First celebrated in 2022, following its official proclamation by 193 UNESCO Member States, this day raises awareness of geodiversity as the foundation of biodiversity, cultural development, and sustainable living.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are regions with outstanding geological features—rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms—that tell the story of Earth’s dynamic history. Through exhibitions, field trips, educational events, and social media campaigns, Geoparks around the world engage local communities and visitors in exploring and valuing these landscapes.

Join the celebration by exploring videos, digital events, and the GGN publication “Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks” to discover the extraordinary geological stories behind each Geopark.



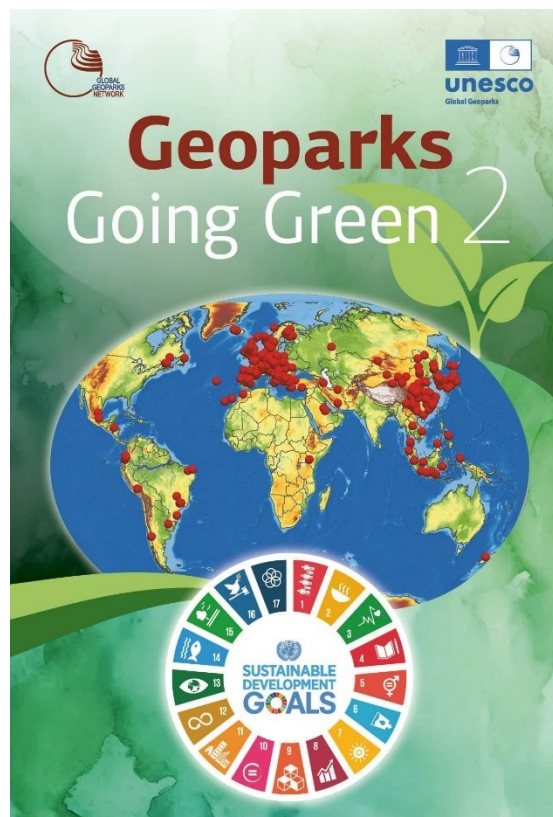
### V.2.5. Geoparks Going Green II - SDG's

UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide organize actions and initiatives that emphasize the urgent need for a **sustainable, green economy**.

These actions include:

- Upgrading buildings to be energy-efficient
- Tackling environmental issues like noise, air quality, water conservation, and marine pollution
- Promoting circular economy models and sustainable consumption
- Replacing plastic and fossil fuels with alternative materials
- Conducting educational programs and community activities
- Utilizing both indigenous knowledge and digital tools
- Sharing best practices across regions

The recently published magazine **“Geoparks Going Green II”** showcases these efforts, inviting all to join the Geoparks community in taking action for the planet.



## CHAPTER VI

### EVENTS & CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

#### VI.1. GGN digital events

##### VI.1.1. Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks (22 April 2024)

A Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks was organized on April 22nd 2024 in the frame of the celebration of the International Earth Day 2024. UNESCO ADG and all Geoparks were present to welcome the 18 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and to celebrate their participation in the Network. The event was jointly organized by the GGN Executive Board in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section.

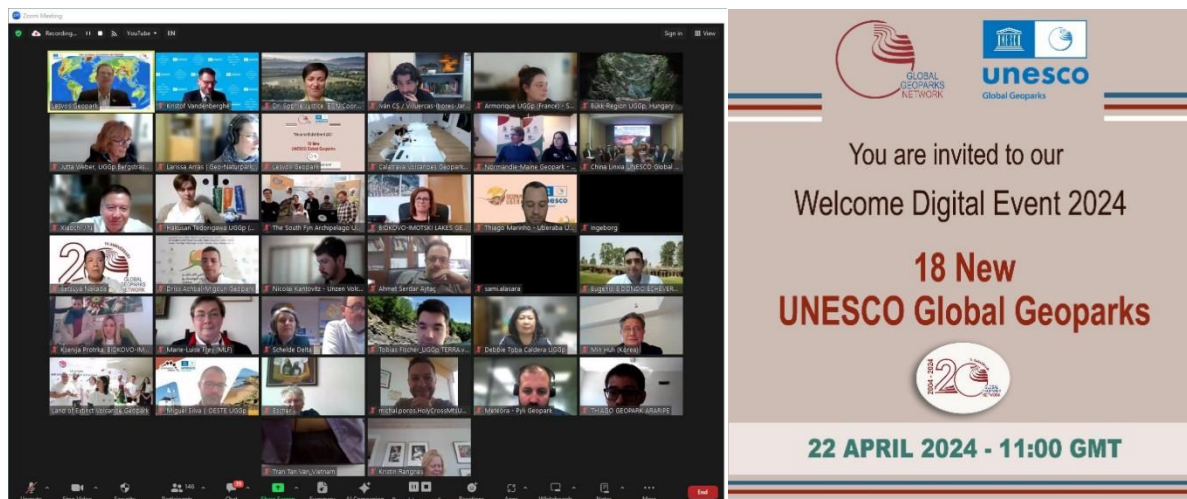
The new UNESCO Global Geoparks were greeted by the President of the Global Geoparks Network Prof. Nickolas Zouros, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair and GGN General Secretary Dr. Guy Martini and the Chief of UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section and UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, Kristof Vandenberghe.

The Representatives of the 18 New UNESCO Global Geoparks and one major extension presented their territories and received the wishes of all participants:

#### 18 NEW GEOPARKS 2024

Schelde Delta UNESCO Global Geopark (Belgium and Kingdom of the Netherlands)
Uberaba (Brazil)
Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave (P.R. China)
Linxia (P.R. China)
Longyan (P.R. China)
Mount Changbaishan (P.R. China)
Wugongshan (P.R. China)
Xingyi (P.R. China)
Biokovo-Imotski Lakes (Croatia)
The South Fyn Archipelago (Denmark)
Impact Crater Lake (Finland)
Armorique (France)
Normandie-Maine (France)
Meteora Pyli (Greece)
Bükk Region (Hungary)
Land of Extinct Volcanoes (Poland)
Oeste (Portugal)
Calatrava Volcanoes. Ciudad Real (Spain)

Nickolas Zouros, President of the Global Geoparks Network presented the basic principles served by the Geoparks with the aim of highlighting the natural and cultural heritage of rural areas and their use as sustainable development tools.



The representatives of the GGN Regional Geoparks Networks Kristin Rangnes (EGN), Xiaochi Jin (APGN), Emmaline Rosado (GeoLAC), Driss Achbal (AUGGN) and John Calder from the North America welcomed the new members.

There were 171 unique connections to the Zoom platform during the event but the total number of participants is estimated to be much higher as at every connection there were more than one attendee. It is interesting that many of the event participants were not members of the close family of the Geoparks.

The video of the Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks has been uploaded on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUDPq671cY4>

### **VI.1.2. Digital event for the celebration of the International Geodiversity Day (6 October 2024)**

The Global Geoparks Network participated in the second celebration of the International Geodiversity Day on 6th October 2024. The Global Geoparks Network organized an online campaign "Geodiversity is for everyone" through its social media (Facebook page) to celebrate the International Geodiversity Day on 6th of October 2023.

In addition, a second campaign was organized with posters presenting the geological heritage sites within the UNESCO Global Geoparks which were recognized by IUGS as the first 100 sites globally.

Also, another campaign took place with posters presenting outstanding geological heritage sites in the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

A promotion video for the celebration of the International Geodiversity Day among geoparks was uploaded in the GGN Social Media pages and in the GGN Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ogxSbzsPaE>

An online webinar was organized by Khorat UNESCO Global Geopark (Thailand) and Merangin Jambi UNESCO Global Geopark (Indonesia), in the frame of celebration of the International Geodiversity Day "Geodiversity is for everyone". During the webinar key note speeches from GGN executive board members took place.



The poster is for an online webinar titled "Celebrating International Geodiversity Day" with the theme "Geodiversity is for Everyone". It is organized collaboratively by Khorat UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand and Merangin Jambi UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia. The event is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 13:00-19:00 (Indochina Time: GMT +7), and will be held online via ZOOM Cloud Meetings with ID: 889 1382 7111 and Password: 231016GEO. The poster features portraits of the speakers and moderators, including Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros (President of Global Geoparks Network), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Artur Abreu Sá (GGN Executive Board Member), Ms. Helga Chulepin (External Technical Advisor, Individual Member GGN), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanot Unjah (Co-chair of Geological Heritage Group of Malaysia), Ms. Tran Nhi Bach Van (Vice Director, Dak Nong UGGP - Vietnam), Ms. Kaori Wada (Sakurajima Kinkowan Geopark - Japan), Ms. Emmaline M. Rosado (Micteca Alta UGGP, Mexico), Amalla Rainita Indra (Moderator), and Asst. Prof. Dr. Jaroon Duangkrayom (Moderator). The poster also displays logos for UNESCO Global Geoparks, the Indonesian Geoparks Network, and various participating geoparks.

online webinar

unesco Global Geopark

Dr. Agnes, S. Sim, M. Huan

Asst. Prof. Dr. Prabang Jitmarakul

Prof. Niya Pongsa  
Indonesia National Geoparks Committee

**Celebrating International Geodiversity Day**  
*Geodiversity is for Everyone*

organized collaboratively by  
Khorat UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand and Merangin Jambi UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Time 13:00-19:00 (Indochina Time: GMT +7)  
Online via ZOOM Cloud Meetings  
ID: 889 1382 7111 Password: 231016GEO

Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros  
President of Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Artur Abreu Sá  
GGN Executive Board Member

Ms. Helga Chulepin  
External Technical Advisor, Individual Member GGN

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanot Unjah  
Co-chair of Geological Heritage Group of Malaysia

Ms. Tran Nhi Bach Van  
Vice Director, Dak Nong UGGP - Vietnam

Ms. Kaori Wada  
Sakurajima Kinkowan Geopark - Japan

Ms. Emmaline M. Rosado  
Micteca Alta UGGP, Mexico

Amalla Rainita Indra  
Moderator

Asst. Prof. Dr. Jaroon Duangkrayom  
Moderator

Indonesian Geoparks Network

unesco Global Geopark



### VI.1.3. Welcome Event to welcome in GGN the new UNESCO Global Geoparks (12 September 2025) KUTRALKURA, CHILE

16 NEW UNESCO Global Geoparks!

UNESCO designated 16 new Geoparks, bringing the total number of sites in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network to 229 in 50 countries. The network now covers an area of almost 855,000 km<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to the size of Namibia.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme, which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary, and the Global Geoparks Network bring together territories recognized for their rich geological heritage – rock formations, mountain or volcanic ranges, caves, canyons, fossil sites or ancient desert landscapes – which bear witness to our planet's history, evolution and climate. These sites are also places for conservation and environmental education, where local and indigenous communities can promote their culture and know-how.

“In ten years, UNESCO Geoparks have become models for the conservation of geological heritage. But their role goes much further: they support educational projects, promote sustainable tourism and keep the knowledge and traditions of these territories alive through the active participation of local and indigenous communities. This is the case, for example, in Iceland's Katla Geopark, where local schools are actively involved in the scientific research that is carried out on this landscape, which preserves the memory of volcanic and glacial systems through its lava flows and black sand beaches,” said Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO.



**WELCOME 16 NEW GEOPARKS**

**229 UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS IN 50 COUNTRIES**

10th Anniversary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme

**UNESCO Global Geoparks**  
2015 - 2025

SCAN ME  
UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme

SCAN ME  
Global Geoparks Network official website

SCAN ME  
Visitgeoparks.org website

Each year, new sites are added to the network by decision of UNESCO's Executive Board, after an evaluation of the applications by the Global Geoparks Council made up of international experts.

## 16 NEW GEOPARKS 2025

Kanbula	China
Yunyang	China
Mt Paektu	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Napo Sumaco	Ecuador
Tungurahua Volcano	Ecuador
Kebumen	Indonesia
Meratus	Indonesia
MurGeopark	Italy
Fjord Coast Regional and Geopark	Norway
Danyang	Republic of Korea
Gyeongbuk Donghaean	Republic of Korea
North Riyadh	Saudi Arabia
Salma	Saudi Arabia
Costa Quebrada	Spain
Arran	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Lang Son	Vietnam

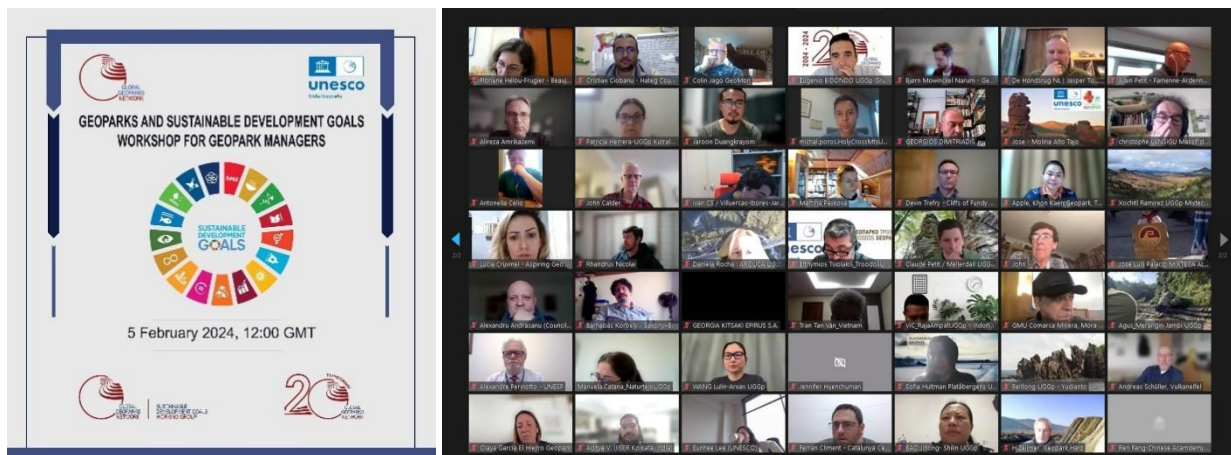
The 16 newly designated geoparks are located in China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea –marking its first geopark and contribution to the protection of the shared mountain range with China –, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia — hosting its first two geoparks —, Spain, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

UNESCO continues to promote the programme in areas where geoparks are less common, notably in Africa, the Arab States and Small Island Developing States. UNESCO does this by facilitating expert missions, tailored training sessions and individual consultations on both a national and local scale, to guide the preparation of applications for UNESCO Global Geopark status.

#### VI.1.4. DIGITAL WORKSHOPS organized by the GGN Working Groups SDG's online WORKSHOP 5 February 2024

With great participation of over 300 participants from the 195 UNESCO Global Geoparks, UNESCO and aspiring Geoparks, the Workshop on Geoparks and Sustainable Development Goals organized today by the GGN Working Group on SDG's was a real success!

Welcome by Prof. Nickolas Zouros, President of GGN and Kristof Vandenberghe, Chief of Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section.



The Global Geoparks Network Working Group on SDG's presented :

1. The general introduction "UNESCO Global Geoparks and SDGs: Why are they perfect places for SDG implementation" by J. Weber and E. Silva
2. The SDG template for UNESCO Global Geoparks and its aims by J. Weber
3. Presentations of best practice examples by Geoparks from different Regional Networks
  - Farid Mohamad Zaini, Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark (Indonesia)
  - Emmaline Rosado González, Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark (Mexico)
  - Cristian Ciobanu, Hațeg Country UNESCO Global Geopark (Romania)
  - Driss Achbal, M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco)
  - Jennifer Dingman, Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark (Canada)
4. Question and answer session with many questions from the participants.
5. General information about current activities and perspectives of the Working Group by J. Weber



## 6. Summary and outlook to Regional SDG Workshops (APGN, GeoLAC, EGN, AUGGN, North American Network) by Nickolas Zouros

The outcomes of the Workshop will be published in the next GGN NewsFeed with further information and clarifications on the next steps.

### SDG's online WORKSHOP 14 February 2025

The **Global Geoparks Network**, together with the **GGN Working Group on SDG's**, hosted an online workshop on **February 14, 2025**, focused on aligning UNESCO Global Geoparks with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** of Agenda 2030.

The Workshop had 172 representatives who participated through the ZOOM Platform. Workshop aimed at geopark managers and their teams, the workshop reviewed key insights from the **2023 SDG reporting**, spotlighted practical SDG achievements in many geoparks around the globe, and introduced updated reporting tools and action plans for 2024.

It underscored how geoparks serve as **model territories** for SDG implementation and fostered networking and knowledge exchange to strengthen their role in global sustainable development efforts.

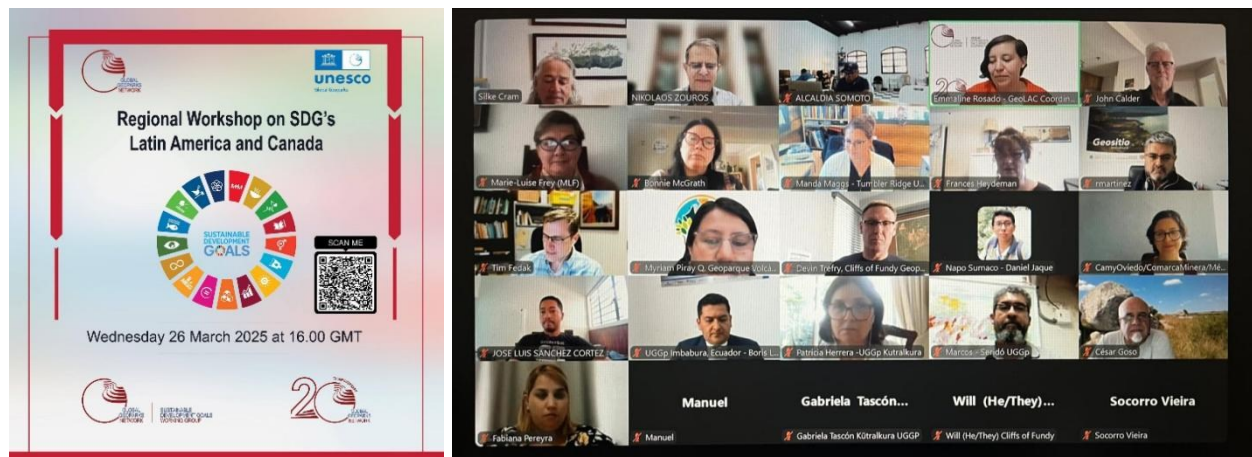


The Global Geoparks Network, in collaboration with GGN Working Group on SDG's, organized an online regional workshop with more than 90 participants on **"UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 in Africa and Europe"** on **March 28, 2025**. The event brought together managers and staff of UNESCO Global Geoparks from around the world to exchange good practices, lessons learned, and future strategies in implementing the SDGs. Participants explored how Geoparks serve as model territories for sustainability through education, conservation, and community engagement. The workshop highlighted successful examples from 2023 and presented the roadmap for the 2024 SDG reporting process.



## Regional online WORKSHOP on SDG's Latin America and Canada 26 March 2025

The Global Geoparks Network, in collaboration with GGN Working Group on SDG's, organized an online regional workshop with more than 45 participants on **"UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 in Latin America and Canada"** on **March 26, 2025**. The event brought together managers and staff of UNESCO Global Geoparks from around the world to exchange good practices, lessons learned, and future strategies in implementing the SDGs. Participants explored how Geoparks serve as model territories for sustainability through education, conservation, and community engagement. The workshop highlighted successful examples from 2023 and presented the roadmap for the 2024 SDG reporting process.



## Regional online WORKSHOP on SDG's Asia and Pacific 26 March 2025

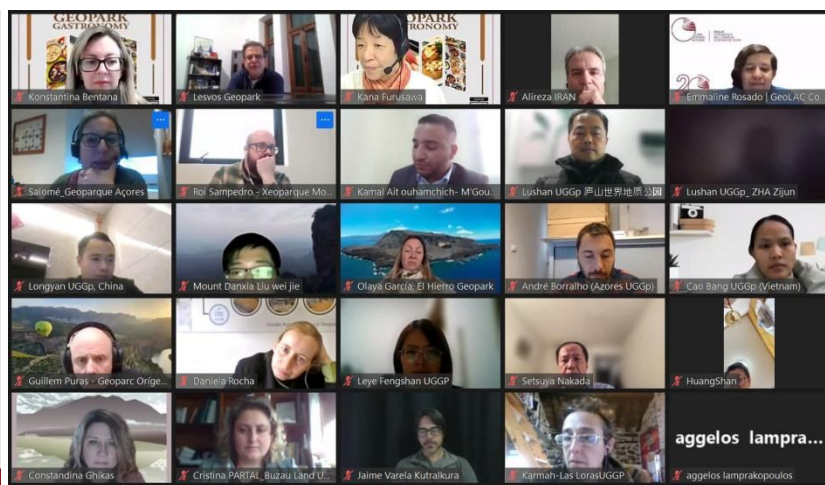
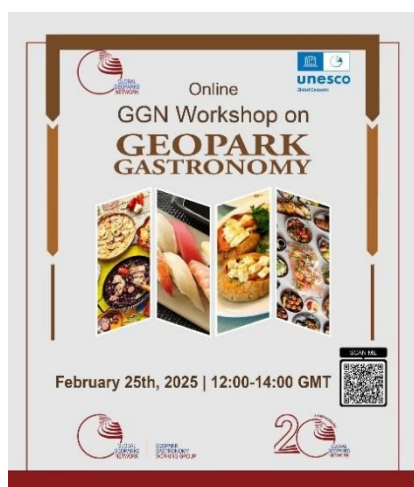
The Global Geoparks Network, in collaboration with GGN Working Group on SDG's, organized an online regional workshop with more than 110 participants on **"UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 in Asia and Pacific"** on **March 24, 2025**. The event brought together managers and staff of UNESCO Global Geoparks from around the world to exchange good practices, lessons learned, and future strategies in implementing the SDGs. Participants explored how Geoparks serve as model territories for sustainability through education, conservation, and community engagement. The workshop highlighted successful examples from 2023 and presented the roadmap for the 2024 SDG reporting process.





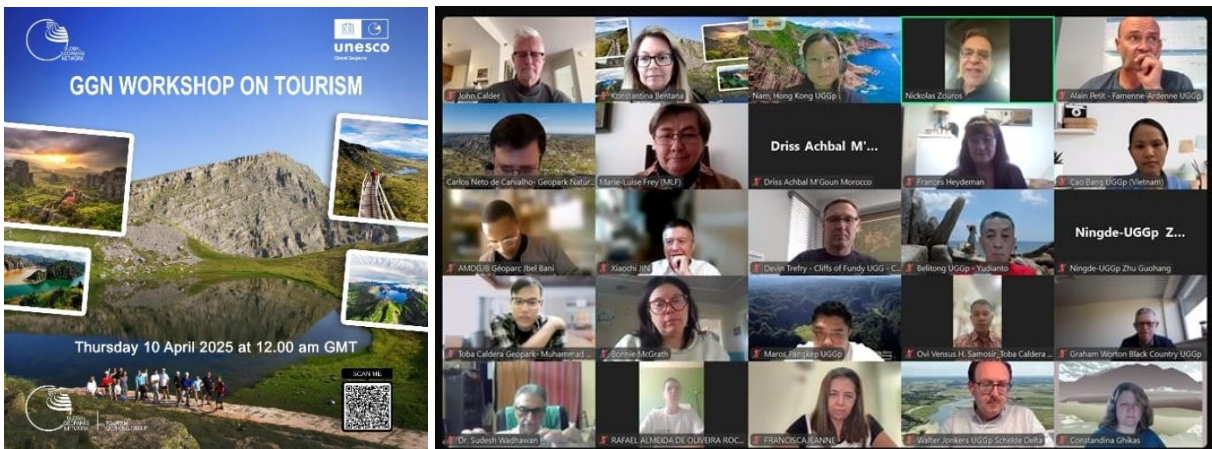
## Gastronomy online WORKSHOP 25 February 2025

The Global Geoparks Network, in collaboration with the GGN Working Group on Gastronomy, organized a successful **online workshop - with more than 170 representatives from Geoparks all over the globe - on “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Gastronomy”**. The event focused on the role of gastronomy in UNESCO Global Geoparks as a key element of local identity, sustainability, and cultural heritage. Participants shared best practices, innovative approaches, and successful initiatives that connect food traditions with geological heritage, sustainable tourism, and community development. The workshop showcased how Geoparks promote local products, traditional knowledge, and sustainable food systems, strengthening the bond between people, place, and plate.






# Tourism online WORKSHOP 10 April 2025

The Global Geoparks Network organized in collaboration with the GGN Working Group on Tourism an **online workshop on “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Tourism”** in 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. The event brought together Geopark managers, experts, and stakeholders from 48 different countries to exchange knowledge and experiences on sustainable tourism practices within UNESCO Global Geoparks. The workshop highlighted how Geoparks can act as models for responsible tourism, promoting geotourism, conserving natural and cultural heritage, and supporting local economies while minimizing environmental impact. Through case studies and collaborative dialogue, participants explored effective strategies to balance tourism growth with sustainability goals.



## Hazards online WORKSHOP 10 April 2025

The Global Geoparks Network organized a **Digital Workshop on Geohazards**, coordinated by the GGN Working Group on Geohazards. The event brought together experts and UNESCO Global Geopark representatives to discuss the role of Geoparks in raising awareness, monitoring, and educating about geohazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides etc. Through best practices, case studies, and open discussion, the workshop showcased how Geoparks act as key platforms for risk communication, disaster preparedness, and resilience building at the local and regional level.



**DIGITAL**  
**WORKSHOP ON**  
**GEOHAZARDS**  
Learning from past disasters  
related to Geohazards in the  
UNESCO Global Geoparks

**JUNE | 4th | 2025**

**12:00-14:30 GMT**

**Development of the Geohazards Concept in Geoparks**

- ◆ The **Shimabara Declaration** at the Geoparks 2012, which clearly defined the role of Geoparks in geohazards.  
It emphasizes the role of Geoparks in reducing disaster risk by promoting education, community engagement, and awareness of natural hazards. The goal is to build resilience and support sustainable development by utilizing geological heritage and stakeholder cooperation.
- ◆ The **Sendai Framework**, adopted in 2015, together with the Paris Agreement, forms the basis of the SDGs, which guide Geoparks' activities.  
It emphasizes 1) understanding risk, 2) strengthening governance, 3) investing in resilience, and 4) enhancing disaster preparedness. The goal is to reduce the loss of lives, livelihoods, and assets through inclusive, proactive, and coordinated actions.

GGN Workshop on Geohazards | 04.06.2025

## VI.2. Capacity Building Activities

### VI.2.1. 7th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development

The 7th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development was held from 8th to 13th October 2023. The Course was organised by the China University of Geosciences, the Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark, the Office of Chinese Geoparks Network, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences with the contribution of the Aegean University, Greece with the support of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), the Department of Protected Area Management, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China and the Secretariat of Chinese Commission for UNESCO.

The course was attracted by more than 100 delegates from UNESCO Global Geoparks, Aspiring Geoparks, technical institutions and related companies.



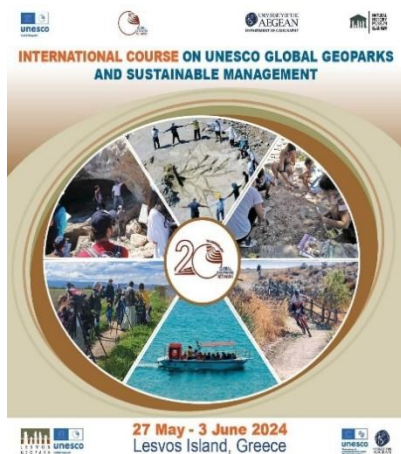


## VI.2.2. International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024 “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainable Management” (27 May – 03 June 2024)

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network co-organised the International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024 with the topic “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainable Management”, which was held from 27th of May to 3rd of June, 2024 in Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece and hosted 80 participants from 52 countries.

The International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024 is the main capacity building activity of the Geoparks.

The Course included lectures and field trips on outstanding geological heritage sites and a variety of conservation activities.



Lectures were given by Geoparks experts and academic staff with long experience on heritage and geodiversity management, sustainable tourism and Geoparks.

The course provided an opportunity to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to sustainable management, how they can make a real impact in local communities and on society as a whole but also provided conceptual issues on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

### VI.2.3. 8th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development

The annual International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development has been successfully operated by China University of Geosciences (Beijing) since 2016. This Course receives full support of UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat and Global Geoparks Network, as well as Asia Pacific Geoparks Network. With the close collaboration of Yanqing, Fangshan, Taishan, Songshan, Yimengshan, and Zhangye UGGPs, the last six sessions of this Course took place successively in these geoparks, starting with just field lectures and gradually turning into both indoor and field lectures in geoparks. Such a collaboration has not only facilitated the healthy development of the course, but also significantly increased the visibility of these geoparks and strengthened the managing ability of geopark teams. This training course has become an important mechanism of capacity building for UNESCO Global Geoparks.

On the occasion of celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network, the 8th Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development will be held from 9 to 15 October 2024 in the Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, with the strong support of the Hunan Provincial Forestry Bureau and the Government of Xiangxi Autonomous Prefecture.

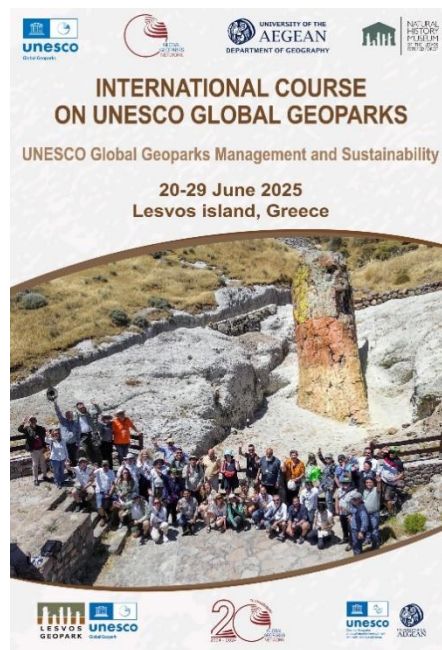


The lecturers of this course are top international geopark experts and experienced geopark managers from UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, Global Geoparks Network Executive Board, academic institutions and several Global Geoparks. They will give in-depth and specific explanations on the philosophy and criteria of Global Geoparks, the procedures and concerns of evaluation and revalidation, as well as Geopark management, building and sustainable development. The course also provides the opportunities for problem analysis, participant discussion, and targeted training on the concepts, criteria, application, evaluation, and revalidation of Global Geoparks.

#### **VI.2.4. International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025 “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainable Management” (20– 29 June 2025)**

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network are co-organizing the International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025 which will deal with the topic “UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Sustainability”.

The Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held from 20th to 29th of June 2025 in Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece) and it is organized in collaboration with the University of the Aegean-Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest / Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark.



The course provides an opportunity to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks can make a real impact in local communities and on society as a whole but also provides conceptual issues on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Lectures will be given by Geoparks experts and academic staff with long experience on Geoparks management and development, geoheritage – geodiversity protection and conservation, education for sustainability and sustainable local development.

The course is open to Geopark’s managers, Geoparks’ staff members with a degree in Geosciences, to PhD and Master students working on Geoparks, geotourism, geosites, geomorphosites and landscape topics, as well as to Geoscientists having a special interest on the topic.



### VI.2.5. 6th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks

The 6th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks was successfully organized from 21st to 23rd of October 2023. The theme of the course was “Geosite developments and Geotourism”.

It was hosted by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark in Malaysia, with Co-organizers the Global Geoparks Network, the Asia Pacific Global Geoparks Network, Institute for Environment and Development, and the University Kebangsaan of Malaysia.



### VI.2.6. 7th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks

The 7th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks was successfully organized from 26th to 29th of April 2024. It was hosted by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark in Malaysia with Co-organizers the Global Geoparks Network, the Asia Pacific Global Geoparks Network. The theme of the course was “Management and Community Involvement in Geopark”.



### VI.2.7. 8th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks

The 8th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place from 25th to 28th of July 2025. It will be hosted by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, in Malaysia.

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, a proud member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network since 2007, is delighted to host the 8th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark and the 6th Geotourism Festival (Geofest 2025). This momentous event will bring together geopark managers, scientists, community leaders, and geotourism enthusiasts to share experiences and foster meaningful connections that advance the visibility and impact of geoparks across the globe.

With the theme Geopark Networking and Visibility, this 4-day program emphasizes the importance of collaboration among geoparks to enhance their roles in conservation, education, and sustainable development. The course offers a blend of theoretical knowledge, practical fieldwork, and opportunities to explore Langkawi's stunning geosites.

We invite you to join us in Langkawi this July for a transformative experience that celebrates the power of geoparks.

More information: <https://langkawigeopark.com.my/rgc/>



### **VI.3. Support of digital meetings & events**

The Global Geoparks Network continued to support the operation of various Geopark events and meetings. Main target of the GGN was to support the networking and the organisation of digital meetings and events for up to 1000 participants.

The digital platform was used during the period 2023 - 2025 for the organisation of various activities and events bringing in contact UNESCO Global Geoparks colleagues from all around the globe giving them the opportunity to contact each other.

- GGN Executive Board meetings
- GGN Advisory Committee meetings
- GGN Working Group meetings and workshops
- Regional Network digital meetings and workshops



## CHAPTER VII


### DIGITAL PROMOTION

#### VII.1. Social media promotional campaigns


##### VII.1.1. Campaign “Geoparks Gastronomy”

The Global Geoparks Network with the collaboration of the GGN Working Group on Gastronomy, launched a dynamic Facebook campaign dedicated to **Geoparks Gastronomy**, aiming to showcase how traditional food practices across UNESCO Global Geoparks are intrinsically linked to the Earth’s geological heritage, local culture, and sustainability.



Through a series of engaging visuals and stories, the campaign highlighted how each Geopark's cuisine is shaped by its unique landscapes, from volcanic soils that nurture specific crops to ancient preservation techniques like root cellars and drying methods. It also featured local producers, agrotourism and culinary festivals, women’s cooperatives, and innovative efforts to promote food sustainability and cultural identity. This campaign emphasized that gastronomy in Geoparks is more than just food—it is a reflection of the land, the people, and their shared history, contributing to community resilience and environmental awareness.

**Geopark** 


**a s t r o n o m y**




**Qurud-Qayla Potage**  
Aras UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran



Qurud-Qayla, a traditional dish, is composed of two components in the local language. The term 'qurud' refers to curd, while 'qayla' signifies minced meat that is corned and potted traditionally. The essential ingredients for this dish include bulgur wheat, green beans, eggplant, tomatoes, curd, and aromatic herbs like basil and parsley. Presently, this culinary delight can be savored at numerous restaurants in Aras UNESCO Global Geopark and the tourist hubs within this geopark.

**Geopark** 


**a s t r o n o m y**




**Agrotourism Festivals**  
Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece



Lesvos Island UNESCO Agrotourism Festivals that promote local producers and women's cooperatives. The festival celebrates the island's agricultural heritage with product tasting, showcasing traditional farming methods and women's cooperative efforts. Collaborating with local communities and producers, the event highlights the variety of local goods and landscapes. Attendees can engage with producers, taste regional dishes, watch cooking demonstrations, and participate in workshops connecting food production to cultural heritage. These initiatives foster rural entrepreneurship, strengthen community resilience, and support the local economy while raising awareness of sustainable agriculture. By blending tradition and innovation, the Geopark serves as a model for sustainable rural development and cultural preservation.

**Geopark** 

**a s t r o n o m y**



**Gastronomic Diversity in the Geopark**  
Gŵmŵn UNESCO Global Geopark, Wales

Gŵmŵn UNESCO island was historically referred to as Mam Cymru (Mother of Wales) and recognized as the bread basket of Wales because of its fertile soils, favorable climate, and agricultural yield. Today, the island continues to produce quality seafood, cheese, and meat, celebrated in restaurants dedicated to the diversity of its food producers. Gŵmŵn works to show local communities and visitors how the geosensitivity of the island underpins its gastronomic diversity today, just as its geology underpinned its agricultural importance in the past. We support restaurants that utilize local artisan food and drink producers that encompass meat, milk, cheese, eggs, vegetables, seafood, honey, wine, and salt. Such is the breadth of food products, restaurant goers can experience a rich gastronomic culture and sample superlative foods seasoned with soil from the island's coastal waters.



## VII.1.2. Campaign for the promotion of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geoparks, Kütralkura, Chile

The Global Geoparks Network launched a Facebook campaign to promote the **11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks**, set to take place in September 2025 in Chile. Through compelling visuals and key messages, the campaign aimed to raise awareness and encourage participation from Geopark professionals, researchers, educators, and stakeholders from around the world. Highlighting the conference's themes, location, and importance as a global platform for sharing best practices and innovations, the posts invited the international Geopark community to engage, connect, and collaborate. The campaign also emphasized the unique opportunity to explore the geological, cultural, and natural heritage of Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark in Chile.



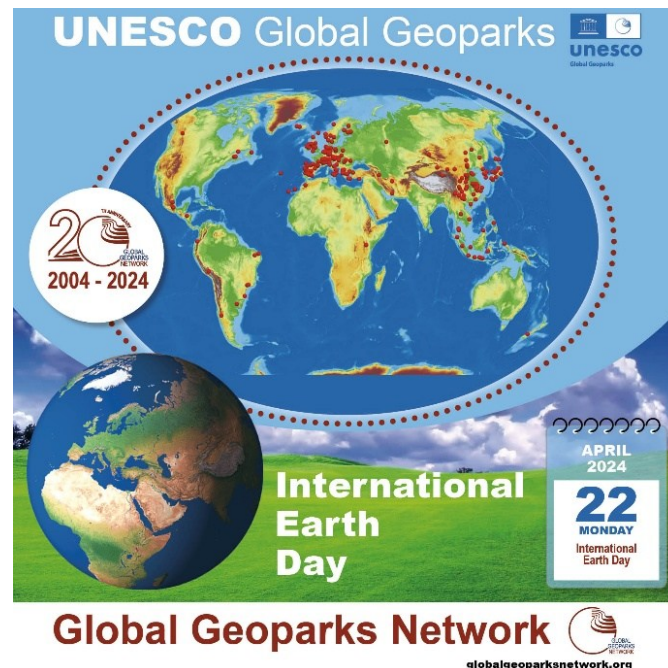
## VII.2. Celebration of International Days

### VII.2.1. International Mother Earth Day (22 April 2024)

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section participated in the celebration of the International Mother Earth Day 2024 on 22nd of April and encouraged each of its members to recall how the Earth provides life and sustenance.

Climate change and other environmental degradations have broken our natural systems, leading to new and fatal diseases as well as a breakdown of the global economy.

The Global Geoparks Network during the EARTH DAY 2024 on 22nd of April realized the digital welcome event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks, because all Geoparks together are stronger in promoting Earth heritage and sustain our local communities!



## VII.2.2. International Museum Day 2024 (18 May 2024)

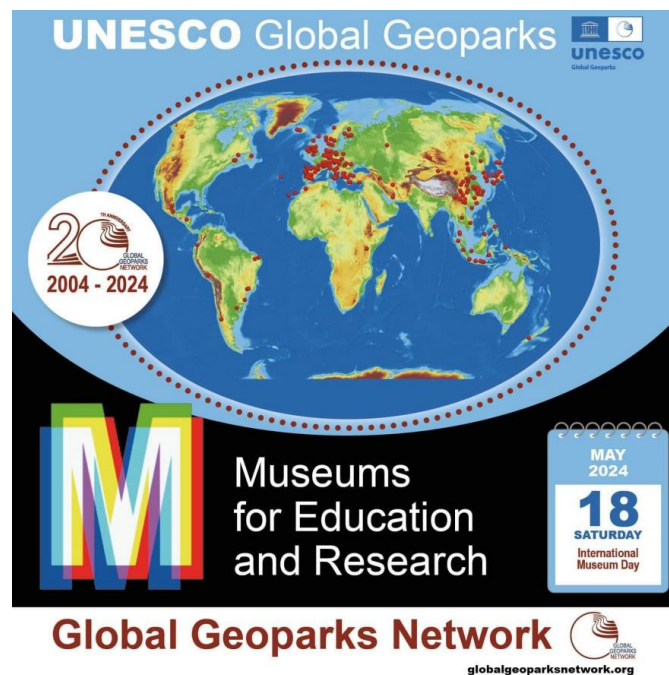
On 18th May 2024 UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated the International Museum Day 2024.

This year's theme, "Museums for Education and Research," aims to underscore the significance of museums as dynamic educational institutions fostering learning, discovery, and cultural understanding.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are the main heritage interpretation infrastructure in UNESCO Global Geoparks, supporting Earth science popularization and education activities for students and citizens.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are offering a variety of environmental education activities, field courses, and thematic educational programmes to communicate their message to the society at large and especially to youth and students.

The time is now to strengthen our relationship with the communities we serve and to strongly reaffirm the essential value of our UNESCO Global Geoparks and their Museums and Visitor Centres for the construction of a just and sustainable future.



The International Museum Day, established by ICOM and celebrated annually on May 18th, serves as a global platform to promote the role of museums in cultural exchange and development. Museums worldwide will join forces to organize events, exhibitions, and

educational programs centered around the theme, emphasizing the invaluable contribution of museums to society.

Each year since 2020, the International Museum Day supports a set of Goals from the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. In 2024, we will focus on:

Goal 4: Quality Education – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

As museums prepare to engage audiences through a myriad of activities, the International Museum Day 2024 promises to be an enriching and enlightening celebration.

### VII.2.3. International Museum Day 2025 (18 May 2025)

229 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 50 Countries around the Globe celebrate IMD2025 presenting their Geopark Museum - Interpretation Center!

A Geopark's Museum - Interpretation Center is the main interpretation infrastructure of a UNESCO Global Geopark. It acts as the communication and awareness raising mechanism to the public. It presents, interprets and promotes the value of the Geological heritage sites and attractions of a UNESCO Global Geopark.

A Geopark's Museum - Interpretation Center researches, interprets, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of education and enjoyment, material evidence of the Geopark's geological, heritage linked with our planet Earth's history and evolution. It also presents the relationship between abiotic nature, modern ecosystems and human communities and their environment.



It acts as the interpreter and promoter of the material elements of the Geopark's heritage.

A Geopark's museum should be of a sufficient size to demonstrate the geology and geomorphology of the geopark territory and its natural and cultural heritage. It should also demonstrate the uniqueness of the territory being part of the Networks of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.



#### VII.2.4. World Ocean Day (8 June 2024)

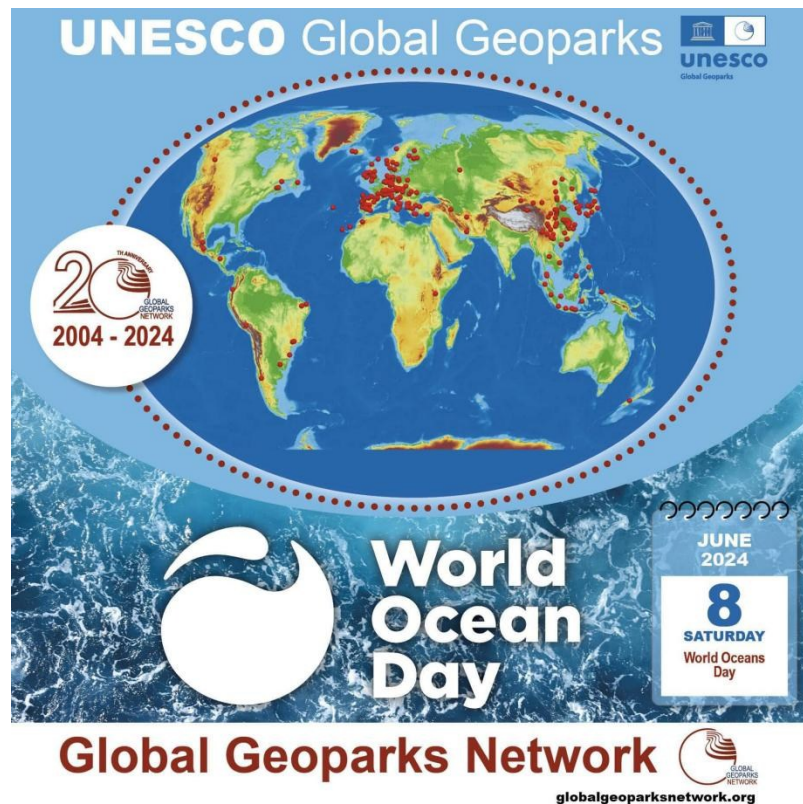
UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrate World Ocean Day 2024!

The Global Geoparks Network, in collaboration with UNESCO celebrates the World Oceans Day 2024 and asks all UNESCO Global Geoparks management bodies, partners and stakeholders to join the campaign to raise awareness of the challenges the oceans are facing and inspire actions to protect them to use marine and water resources sustainably

The oceans cover over 70% of the Earth's surface and have been associated with human evolution since ancient times.

Today marine life and biodiversity in the oceans are threatened by many human activities like overfishing, pollution and plastic waste which ends up in the oceans, but also by climate change.

The marine environment is one of the important parts of some UNESCO Global Geoparks. More than 30% of UNESCO Global Geoparks have a maritime component and many of them despite being located in continental areas, are the guardians of the evolution of former oceans.



Geopark Activities contribute significantly to SDG 14 (Life below water) and to other SDGs such as SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The marine environment is fully included in the UNESCO Global Geoparks guidelines for the sustainable use of Earth's natural resources. Geoparks are working towards achieving clean oceans. They are concerned about how they can interact with the oceans without disturbing the ecosystem, the measures that they need to take for dealing with pollution and how to achieve balance between human activities and sustainability.

Geoparks also promote traditional activities like fishing and implement various good practices which are in line with the United Nations Decade of the Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

### VII.2.5. World Ocean Day (8 June 2025)

The GGN in collaboration with UNESCO celebrated the World Oceans Day 2025.

World Ocean Day has been celebrated on June 8 every year since 1992, and since 2009, it has been under the auspices of the UN.

The Global Geoparks Network encouraged all UNESCO Global Geoparks management bodies, partners and stakeholders to join the campaign and present initiatives on how they protect the ocean and its biodiversity based on their geodiversity heritage and current activities.

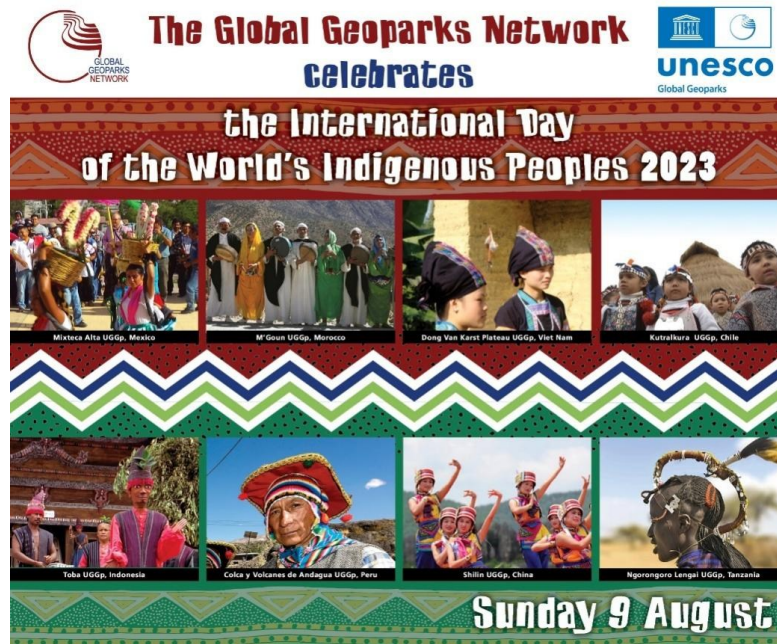


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## VII.2.6. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2022 (9 August 2023)

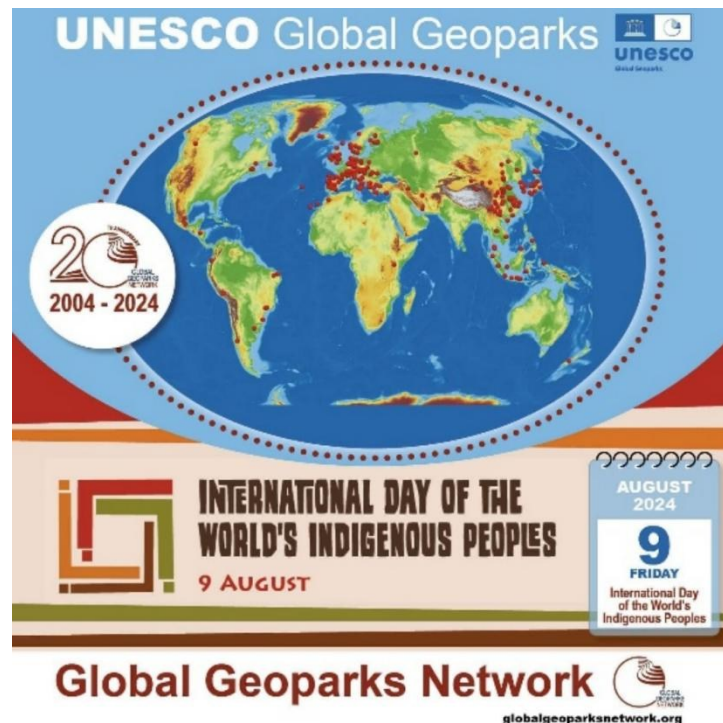
On Sunday 9th of August 2023, UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated a very special day, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples as indigenous peoples have a vital role in the preservation and celebration of their culture, their human rights, languages, ancient histories.



The GGN invited all the Geoparks to celebrate with their indigenous peoples for their culture, their human rights, languages, ancient histories, to join the campaign and to promote through social media the important role of their indigenous peoples, their culture and their communities. By involving indigenous communities, UNESCO Global Geoparks recognize the importance of these communities, their culture and the link between these communities and their land. It is one of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks that local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems, alongside science, are included in the planning and management of the area.

### VII.2.7. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2024 (9 August 2024)

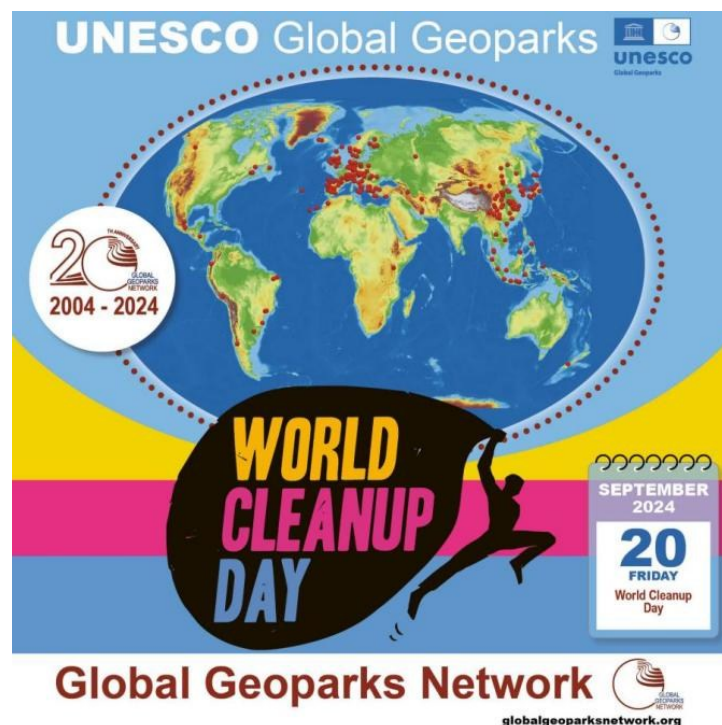
The Global Geoparks Network proudly joined the global celebration of the **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, highlighting the vital role of Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and stewardship in shaping and protecting our planet's geodiversity and biodiversity. Through a dedicated social media campaign, the Network recognized the deep-rooted cultural connections Indigenous communities have with their landscapes—many of which are part of UNESCO Global Geoparks. The campaign shared stories and examples from Geoparks around the world where Indigenous voices are honored, local heritage is preserved, and inclusive practices are embraced. With this initiative, the GGN reaffirmed its commitment to respect, promote, and collaborate with Indigenous communities as key partners in sustainable development and Earth heritage conservation.



### VII.2.8. World Cleanup Day 2024 (17 September 2024)

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide participated in the World Cleanup Day on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2024. Volunteers and partners of many UNESCO Global Geoparks come together to rid our planet of cleaning up litter and mismanaged waste from forests, beaches, villages etc.

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geoparks Section encouraged all the UNESCO Global Geoparks to participate in the World Cleanup Day campaign and promoted their events through social media but also encourage them to use all these activities as inspiration to take actions and to ensure ongoing activities for the environment and our communities.



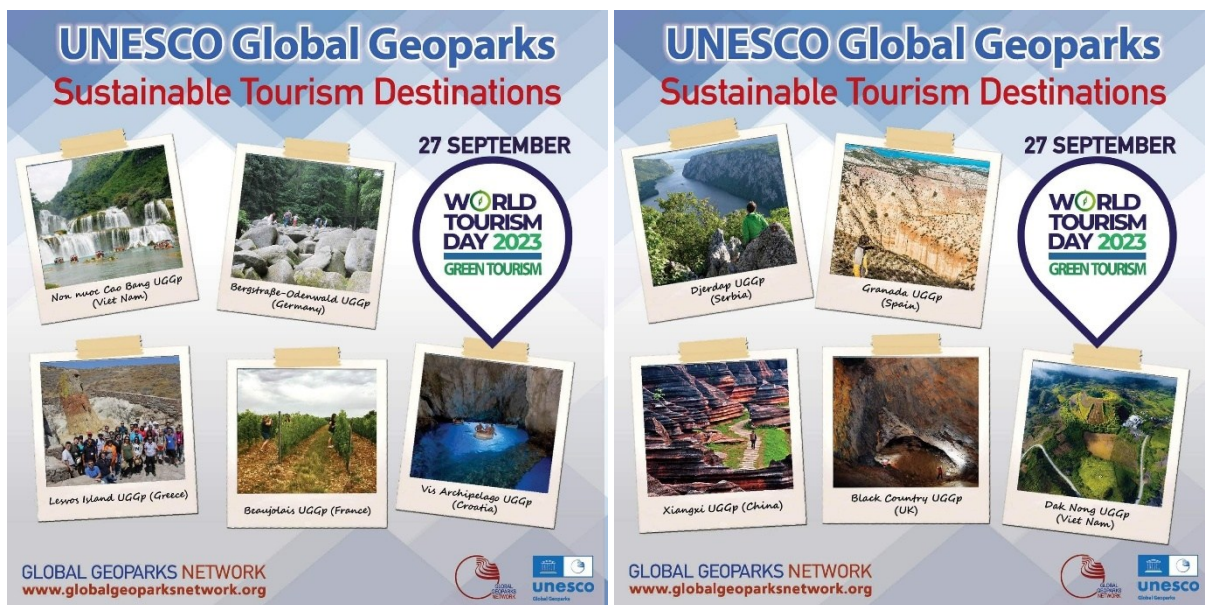
The World Cleanup Day is a voluntary cleaning action of our Earth. It is an action of positive collaboration with the spirit of unity and its main target is to mobilize all local communities, through their participation to cleanup and to find solutions to tackle mismanaged waste in our home, Earth.

### VII.2.9. World Tourism Day 2023 (27 September 2023)

The Global Geoparks Network invited all UNESCO Global Geoparks, their partners, associated agencies, businesses and individuals to celebrate World Tourism Day 2023.

World Tourism Day of 2023 was focused on the future. As the sector's recovery gets underway and building on unprecedented political and public recognition for the sector, UNWTO was highlighting the opportunity to rethink how we do tourism.

World Tourism Day put people and planet at the centre of key discussions, bringing everyone from governments and businesses to local communities together around a shared vision for a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient sector. The Global Geoparks Network and all UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated World Tourism Day 2023 as a day to focus on Tourism for Inclusive Growth.



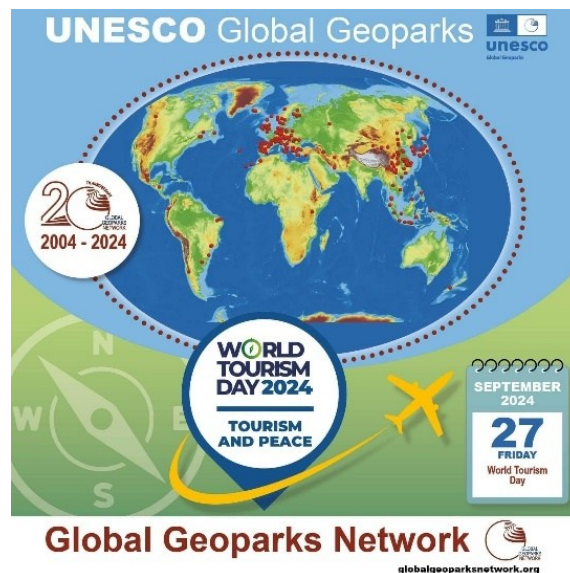


## VII.2.10. World Tourism Day 2024 (27 September 2024)

The Global Geoparks Network and the 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks share the UNWTO decision to designate World Tourism Day 2024 as a day to focus on Tourism and Peace

The Global Geoparks Network celebrates this year it's 20th anniversary encouraging all UNESCO Global Geoparks to organize activities on this World Tourism Day focusing on the benefits that sustainable tourism brings to our communities!

The 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 Countries, are territories hosting geological landscapes, geosites and landforms of international significance, are protecting and promoting geological heritage attractions as key elements for sustainable tourism development!



The 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks promote tourism for inclusive growth collaborating with local entrepreneurship and especially women cooperatives and family jobs in their territory, supporting local communities and creating new job opportunities for all.

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote local products and local gastronomy, support the use of traditional techniques in the production of local products and traditional recipes in food preparation, connecting the local traditions with the territorial geological heritage and landscapes.

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer to their visitors unique experiences and a broad variety of activities such as hiking, trekking, horse riding, mountain biking, surfing, climbing, mountain running, bird-watching, sailing, rafting, and many more

The Global Geoparks Network invites all the 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks, their partners, associated agencies, businesses and individuals to celebrate World Tourism's Day 2024 focusing on Tourism and Peace.

## VII.2.11. International Geodiversity Day (6 October 2023)

UNESCO Global Geoparks host unique geological heritage sites of international significance! Some of these outstanding geological heritage sites in UNESCO Global Geoparks, are included among the 100 first IUGS Geological Heritage Sites, that mark important moments in Earth history and evolution.

The Global Geoparks Network celebrates the International Geodiversity Day 2023 promoting these exceptional sites in collaboration with IUGS and other international initiatives. Collaboration between all international initiatives involved with geoheritage and geodiversity can lead to their further appreciation, to their sustainable use as educational resources, and, most importantly, to their preservation for the good of society, for future generations, and for our Planet's well-being.



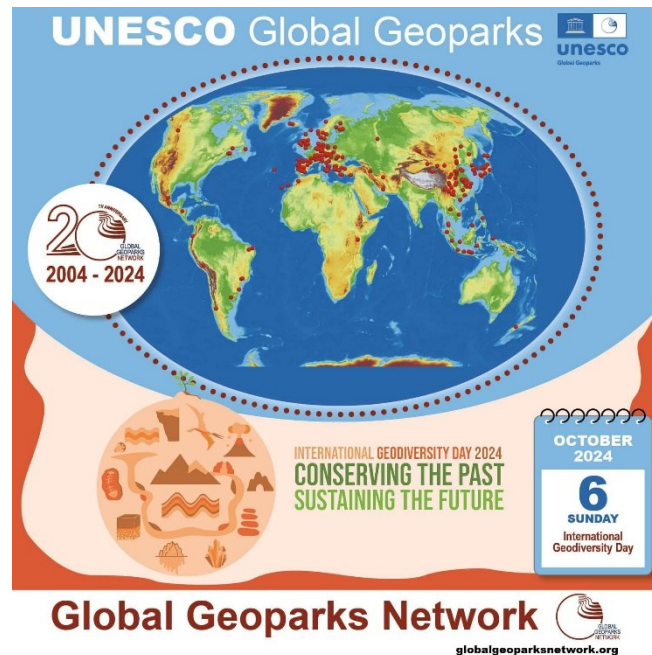
The Global Geoparks Network encourages all 195 UNESCO Global Geoparks to participate in the celebration of the International Geodiversity Day 2023 and organize events with the involvement of their local communities, visitors and local schools!



## VII.2.12. International Geodiversity Day (6 October 2024)

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) celebrates the International Geodiversity Day on October 6th, 2024 'Conserving The Past – Sustaining The Future'.

The celebration of the International Geodiversity Day is an opportunity to spread information on the value of the Geoparks as special territories hosting Geological Heritage Sites of international significance and custodians of the Memory of the Earth!



The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2024 and encourages all the 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 Countries, to organize events on the International GEODIVERSITY Day 2024 and share the value of their Geological Heritage treasures with the members of their communities and the world!

The International Geodiversity Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2021, following a grassroots campaign by geoscience organisations around the world. The Global Geoparks Network backed this initiative and actively supported its establishment during the UNESCO General Conference in November 2021.

Geodiversity is all around us, and includes the parts of nature that aren't alive; like minerals, fossils, soils, and landscapes. Geodiversity is the foundation of all biodiversity. It allows life to develop and thrive, and underpins all ecosystems on Earth.

The International Geodiversity Day is a worldwide celebration to bring people together in promoting the many aspects of geodiversity, and its importance to society.



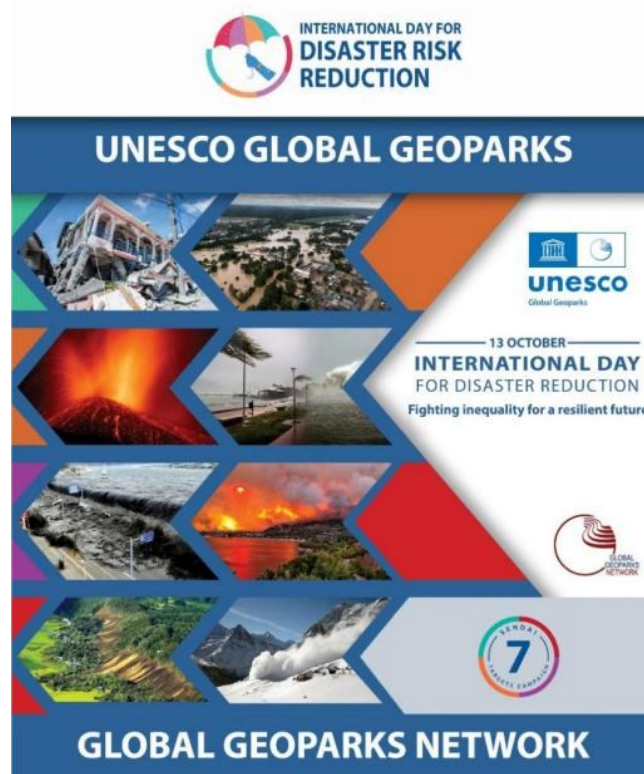
### VII.2.13. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 (13 October 2023)

The UN General Assembly in May 2023 adopted a political declaration to accelerate action to strengthen disaster resilience.

The International Day's for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 theme aligns with the Sendai Framework, the international agreement to prevent and reduce losses in lives, livelihoods, economies and basic infrastructure. It has seven global targets and 38 indicators for measuring progress.

The Sendai Framework complements the Paris Agreement on climate change, with both frameworks interlinked to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2023, the International Day will look at the reciprocal relationship between disasters and inequality. Inequality and disaster vulnerability are two sides of the same coin: unequal access to services, such as finance and insurance, leaves the most at risk exposed to the danger of disasters; while disaster impacts exacerbate inequalities and push the most at risk further into poverty.





These ideas are core principals in the operation and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks and the initiatives inspired by the Global Geoparks Network from the very beginning!

Build a global network of cooperation, sharing knowledge, best practice and experiences, protect our geological heritage sites and use recorded indicators of the past disasters as key elements for understanding of our natural environment and hazards, support sustainable local development and fight inequalities in our communities at all levels, build capacity through educational activities and inform the society at large on geohazards and disaster mitigation.

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks work together with the local people and the local authorities in order to promote awareness of geological hazards, like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and to help preparing disaster mitigation strategies. They also emerge as educators on current climate change and work for adaptation of best practice approach to prevent climate-related events like floods, droughts, storms. This day is a good opportunity to start developing risk reduction strategies.

## VII.2.14. International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 (13 October 2024)

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with the UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section celebrated on 13th of October, the International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction.

On the occasion of the **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024**, the Global Geoparks Network highlighted the crucial role that **UNESCO Global Geoparks** play in building community resilience and raising awareness about geohazards. Through educational programs, public campaigns, and scientific collaboration, Geoparks empower local communities to better understand the risks posed by natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and coastal erosion. The 2024 campaign focused on showcasing successful risk reduction strategies implemented across Geoparks worldwide and emphasized the importance of proactive planning, early warning systems, and community engagement. As living laboratories and educational platforms, UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute significantly to global efforts in disaster preparedness and sustainable development.



## VII.2.15. World Soil Day (5 December 2023)

Celebration of the WORLD SOIL DAY | 5 December 2023

The Global Geoparks celebrate on December 5th the World Soil Day, with the aim of highlighting the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and its contribution to human well-being of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Soil and water, a source of life" aiming, according to UN "to raise awareness of the importance and relationship between soil and water in achieving sustainable and resilient agrifood systems". (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-soil-day>).



Soil is a valuable natural resource, although its importance is often overlooked. It is a key component of rural life, agricultural development and ecological sustainability and it is the basis for food, feed, fiber production, while supporting many critical ecosystem functions. Soil is a non-renewable resource threatened by contamination, although its conservation is essential for food security and a sustainable future.

UNESCO Global Geoparks provide unique places for the protection and wise use of the soil and the Global Geoparks Network invite all Geoparks around the globe to participate in the celebration of the World Soil Day 2023 and organize field activities for its local people and visitors and raise awareness for the importance of Soil for the ecosystems and our life and relationship between soil and water.

## VII.2.16. World Soil Day (5 December 2024)

WORLD SOIL DAY. 5 December 2024

The Global Geoparks Network encourage all UNESCO Global Geoparks to celebrate on December 5th the World Soil Day, with the aim of highlighting the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and its contribution to human well-being of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems.

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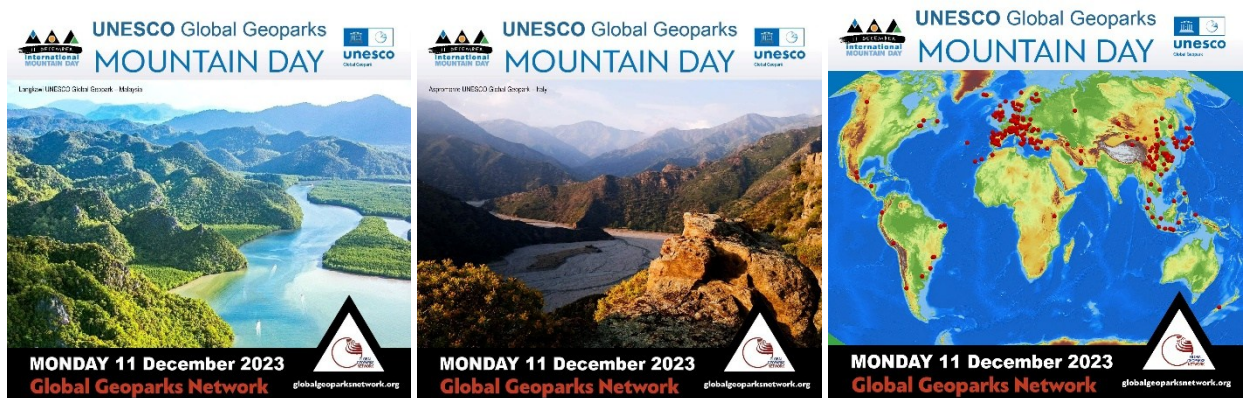
UNESCO Global Geoparks provide unique places for the protection and wise use of the soil and the Global Geoparks Network invite all Geoparks around the globe to participate in the celebration of the World Soil Day 2024 to raise awareness for the importance of Soil for the ecosystems and our life and relationship between soil and water.

## VII.2.17. International Mountain Day (11 December 2023)

On 11th of December 2023, UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrate the International Mountain Day

The Global Geoparks Network encourages all UNESCO Global Geoparks to join the celebration and promote their mountains, some of the most interesting geological features of UNESCO Global Geoparks, which create the conditions for a wide spectrum of life forms.

Mountains are home to 15% of the world's population and they provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. About half of the world's biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains and mountains support approximately one-quarter of terrestrial biological diversity.



Mountains are today under threat from climate change and overexploitation as we tend to forget that the mountains are important territories of biodiversity and life.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Restoring mountain ecosystems" aiming, according to UN "to increase awareness about the relevance of mountain ecosystems and call for nature-based solutions, best practices and investments that build resilience, reduce vulnerability and increase the ability of mountains to adapt to daily threats and extreme climatic events".



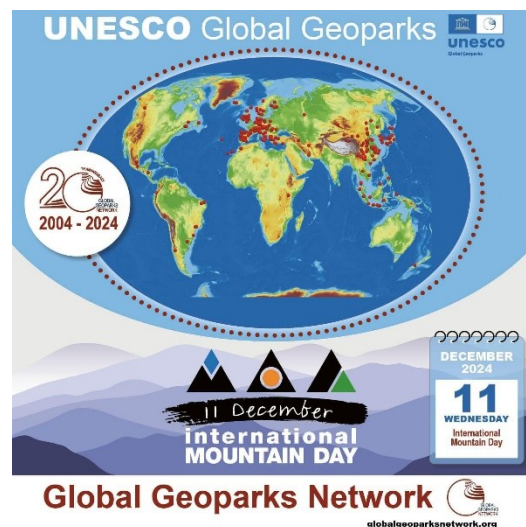
## VII.2.18. International Mountain Day (11 December 2024)

The Global Geoparks Network celebrates the International Mountain Day 2024 in the 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks around the globe and promotes the contribution of the Geoparks to their local communities offering decent work and quality employment for young persons, universal and accessible training, capacity building and awareness raising activities and entrepreneurship opportunities that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain resources.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are using the opportunity of the International Mountain Day 2024 to promote their mountains, some of the most interesting geological heritage features in their territory which create the conditions for a wide spectrum of life forms.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth", an opportunity to promote the contribution of the Geoparks towards territorial heritage management and sustainable development for mountainous communities!

Over centuries, mountain communities have developed solutions to adapt to their harsh environments, deal with climate change, reduce poverty and protect or restore biodiversity and ecosystems in mountain regions.



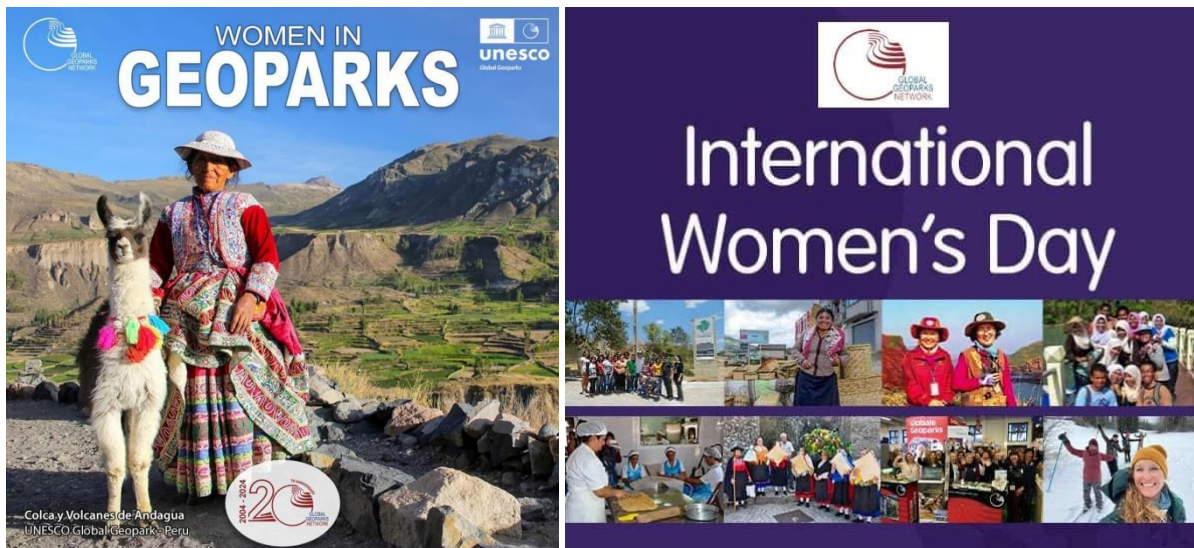
International Mountain Day 2024 aims to focus on innovative solutions, fostering adaptation strategies and empowering youth for a sustainable future.

Innovation is essential for addressing complex mountain-related issues. It encompasses technological advancements, such as digital solutions for monitoring and conservation, as well as creative problem-solving such as climate-smart agriculture and novel approaches to livelihoods, resource management and financing.

## VII.2.19. International Mountain Day (11 December 2024)

The Global Geoparks Network celebrated on 8th of March, the International Women's Day 2024.

In Geoparks we work together every day on empowering women in Geoparks management and operation, in geoconservation, in education, in tourism, in sustainable development.



We imagine a gender equal world, work every day towards this goal, to embrace equality everywhere. Gender equality and women empowerment is one of the focus areas of UNESCO Global Geoparks. UNESCO Global Geoparks have a strong emphasize on empowering women whether through focused education programmes or through the development of women's cooperatives. UNESCO Global Geoparks are a platform for the development, nurturing and promotion of local cottage industry and craft products. In some UNESCO Global Geoparks women's cooperatives also provide an opportunity for women to obtain additional income in their own area and on their own terms.

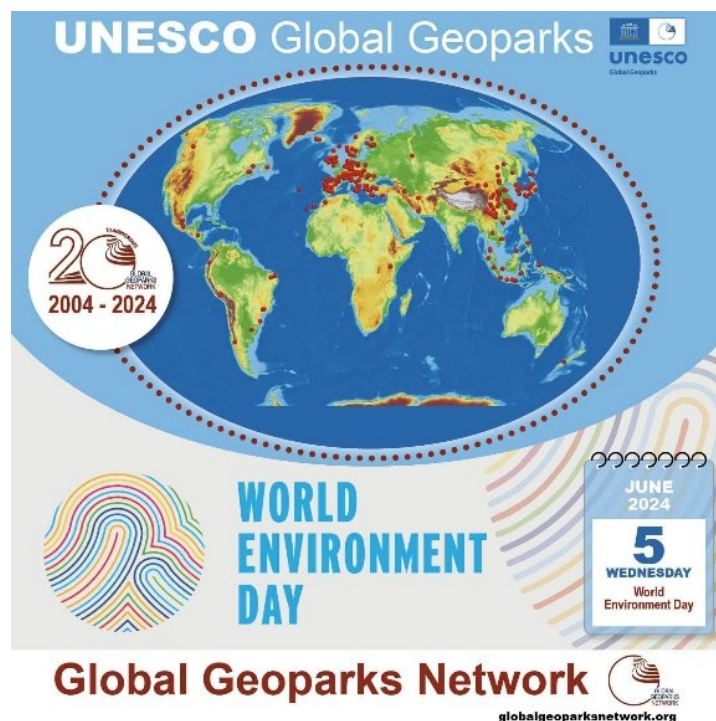


## VII.2.20. World Environment Day 2024 (5 June 2024)

On June 5th UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrate the World Environment Day.

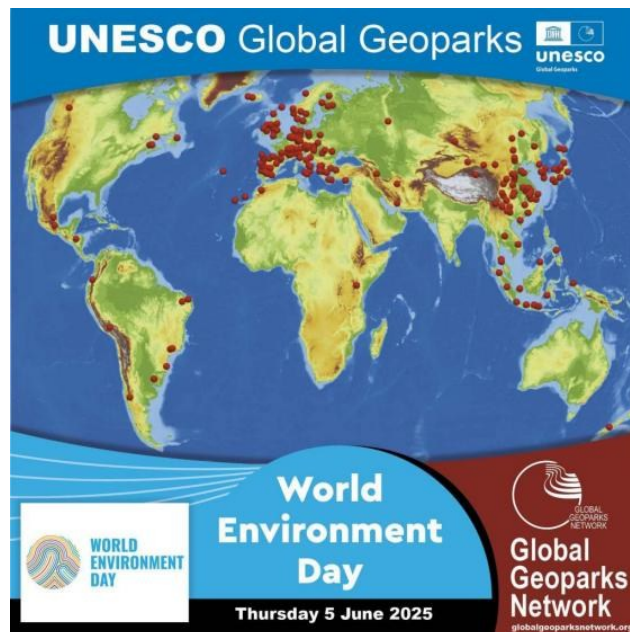
The World Environment Day has been designated by the UN General Assembly to highlight the protection of the environment and raise awareness on the problems facing our environment such as air pollution, plastic pollution, illegal wildlife trade, sea-level increase, food security, among others.

Global Geoparks Network celebrated the World Environment Day and invited all to take actions and focus on solutions against plastic pollution, to change our habits, sensitize the Geopark visitors, educate local communities and work towards plastic pollution.



### VII.2.21. World Environment Day 2025 (5 June 2025)

On **World Environment Day 2025**, the Global Geoparks Network joins the global community in raising awareness and taking action for the protection of our environment. Under this year's theme, UNESCO Global Geoparks showcased their ongoing commitment to sustainability, conservation, and education. Across the network, Geoparks organized clean-up campaigns, environmental education activities, biodiversity walks, and workshops focused on sustainable land use, water conservation, and climate action. As model territories for sustainable development, Geoparks promote harmony between people and nature, offering innovative solutions to environmental challenges through local engagement and traditional knowledge. Together, we celebrate the Earth's natural heritage and renew our dedication to protecting it for future generations.



## VII.2.22. World Wetlands Day 2024 (2 February 2024)

World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on 2 February to raise awareness about wetlands. This day also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

UNESCO Global Geopark host a significant number of wetlands.

Geoparks are working with an holistic concept on protection and management of protected areas. Geoparks are managing wetlands in natural areas, protecting habitats and raising awareness through the development of educational activities and the proportion of sustainable tourism.

Nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s, and we are losing wetlands three times faster than forests. Yet, wetlands are critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability, world economies and more.



It is urgent that we raise national and global awareness about wetlands in order to reverse their rapid loss and encourage actions to conserve and restore them.

World Wetlands Day is the ideal time to increase people's understanding of these critically important ecosystems.

This year's campaign spotlights how interconnected wetlands and human life are — with people drawing sustenance, inspiration and resilience from these productive ecosystems. Importantly, the theme for 2024 underscores how all aspects of human wellbeing are tied to the health of the world's wetlands.

## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **GEPARKS' CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

#### **VIII.1. 11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025**

According to the GGN Statutes “The GGN shall hold an International Geoparks Conference every two years”.

The GGN Executive Board discussed issues related with the effective organization of the 11th International Conference which will be organized in Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark (Chile) 8th to 12th September 2025. From 3th to 7th September 2025 parallel meetings will be organized .

The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is the most important event of our Network. The GGN Executive Board encourages all colleagues to participate in this important International Conference. The Conference will give the opportunity to all Geoparks to connect, discuss best practices deriving from successful projects, immerse themselves in diverse cultures, network and build stronger and effective partnerships and collaborations.

Conference website: <https://11thconferenceggn.kutralkura.cl>

#### **VIII.2. 12th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2027**

The GGN Executive Board in collaboration with UNESCO Secretariat circulated the Call for Host of the 12th International Conference on Geoparks 2027.

Five Geoparks submitted applications to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference.

- Belitong Geopark, Indonesia
- Kinabalu Geopark, Malaysia
- Khorat Geopark, Thailand
- Oeste Geopark, Portugal
- Salpausselka Geopark, Finland

The Host of the 12th International Conference on Geoparks 2027 will be announced during the Closing Ceremony of the 11th International Conference on Geoparks which will be held in Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark, Chile.

### VIII.3. Regional Geoparks Conferences

During Autumn 2024 three Regional Geopark Conferences were successfully organized by the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (8th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN Symposium), and the European Geoparks Network (17th European Geoparks Conference) and the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (7<sup>th</sup> GeoLAC Conference).

#### VIII. 3.1. 17th EGN Conference (02 - 04 October 2024)

The 16th EUROPEAN GEOPARKS CONFERENCE was organized by Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark in Iceland, and was held from 2 to 4 October 2024. The theme of the conference was “THRIVING AMIDST NATURE'S TEST”.

This biannual event is a unique opportunity to connect with professionals and specialists working within and with Geoparks all over Europe, to share knowledge, learn, and collaborate through projects.

The main conference days took place on the 2nd and 3rd of October with oral and poster presentations, and workshops. On the 4th of October, participants could take part in field trips in Reykjanes Geopark.

During the conference the president of the GGN, professor Zouros Nickolas gave a presentation about “Global Geoparks Network: 20th anniversary Protecting and managing Earth heritage - Building Sustainable Communities”. Also, a parallel event took place for the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of GGN during the closing ceremony of the conference.





### VIII. 3.2. 8th APGN Symposium (9-15 September 2024)

The 8th Asia Pacific Geopark Symposium took place in Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam.

The Symposium attracted over 800 participants from APGN, representatives from UNESCO, the European Geoparks Network, the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network, the African Geoparks and the North American Geoparks.

During the conference parallel events took place for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of GGN during the closing ceremony of the conference. Also, there were many presentations from the UNESCO Global Geoparks from Asia – Pacific celebrating the 20th anniversary of GGN.

The year 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). To commemorate this milestone, a special session was held following the opening ceremony. Distinguished guests from China who have played a key role in the development of geoparks were invited, including three GGN honorary members. The session featured a series of presentations: “20 Years of GGN” by N. Zouros, the history of the European Geoparks Network by G. Martini, the development of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network by I. Komoo, the early evolution of Chinese geoparks by Jiang Jianjun, and an overview of the achievements and contributions of Chinese geoparks by Tian Mingzhong. In the afternoon, a panel discussion focused on reflecting on the GGN’s journey—its beginnings, its current role, and its vision for the future.



### **VIII. 3.3 7th Conference of the GeoLAC 6-9 November 2024**

The Pathways of South Canyons UNESCO Global Geopark in Brazil hosted the 7th Conference of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (Red GeoLAC), taking place from November 6 to 9, 2024. The event brought together specialists from different areas of Geoparks, providing a unique opportunity to share experiences, best practices, and strengthen network collaboration.

The main objective of the Conference was to provide a practical forum for collaboration and innovation, promoting the preservation of geological and cultural heritage, inspiring actions that facilitate knowledge exchange, and stimulating initiatives that promote sustainable development and global awareness.

The event also marked the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN) through special presentations, panel discussions and events during the days of the conference, with the participation of nearly 400 domestic and international delegates.

The celebration marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment and development of GGN in carrying out the tasks of preserving, conserving and promoting geological heritage, biodiversity, natural landscapes, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, environmental protection activities, for community development and sustainable development; enhancing the spirit of solidarity among Network members in implementing the common goals of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

In his presentation, Prof. Nickolas Zouros, President of the GGN, thanked the efforts of the South Canyons Geopark and the support of the local authorities for the organization of the 7th GeoLAC Conference and the GGN Anniversary Ceremony. Affirming the important role of the GGN, it has made an important contribution to help GGN member's and their local communities to face the challenges of climate change and the consequences of natural disasters.

The GGN Executive Board awarded certificates and honored members of the Global Geoparks Network ExB, members of the GGN Advisory Committee, members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and individuals from international organizations who have made important contributions to the foundation and development of the GGN.





## VIII.4. Participation in International Conferences

### VIII.4.1. 37th International Geological Congress, Busan, Korea 25-31 August 2024

The **37th International Geological Congress (IGC 2024)** was held from **August 25–31, 2024** at **BEXCO in Busan, South Korea**—marking the first time in 28 years the event took place in East Asia and the first-ever in Korea.



Hosted by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and organized by the Geological Society of Korea, KIGAM, and Busan Metropolitan City, the congress embraced the theme **“The Great Travelers: Voyages to the Unifying Earth.”** It attracted over **7,000 participants from 121 countries**, making it the largest IGC yet.

The Global Geoparks Network celebrated its 20th Anniversary with representatives from UNESCO, IUGS, the IGC Organizing Committee, the Korean UNESCO Global Geoparks and the International community of Geosciences!



### VIII.5. 3rd Global Geoparks Network Film Festival 2025

The 3rd Global Geoparks Network Film Festival will be organized during the 11th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks from 8th to 12th September 2025 in Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark (Chile).

It is open to all UNESCO Global Geoparks and official nominees of Aspiring UNESCO Geopark.

The 3rd Global Geoparks Network Film Festival is a unique opportunity to promote our Geoparks and their unique characteristics but also to mobilize both Geopark directors and documentary directors – filmmakers to collaborate in order to create new documentary and promotional videos on Geoparks.

The electronic platform for more information and for uploading the videos for the 3rd Global Geoparks Network Film Festival 2025 is:

<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org>



#### **Awards & Prizes**

A trophy and a financial award will be delivered:

2025 winner: Trophy + 3.000€

2025 2nd & 3rd winners: Trophy + 2.000€ (for each one of the two nominee)

### ***Video thematic***

The candidate videos should:

a) present globally the UNESCO Global Geopark or aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark with all its features (geological, natural, cultural, intangible heritages, sustainable development, etc...) or

b) present specific UNESCO Global Geopark or aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark action or activity in one of the following thematic:

- Heritage conservation: conservation actions on geological or natural or cultural or intangible heritage.
- Education: UNESCO Global Geopark actions realized in education at all levels
- Research/innovation
- Poverty reduction
- Sustainable development: UNESCO Global Geopark actions on sustainable development, stakeholder involvement, partnership, local products, Geotourism activities, etc.
- Local population involvement: Involvement of population inside UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Gender equality: initiative or realization related with gender equality (women cooperative, etc.)
- Water resources
- Marine environments: action realized for marine environment conservation
- Good health: UNESCO Global Geopark or aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark sport event, etc.
- Networking: Networking UNESCO Global Geopark or aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark actions at national or international level
- Natural hazards mitigation
- Climate change adaptation



## VIII.6. Presentation and Promotion of Geoparks in International Tourism Market

The GGN Executive Board Members in collaboration with the Regional Geoparks Networks, and GGN members made special efforts to raise Geoparks visibility in the International Tourism Market and for the promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destination.

### A. International Tourism fair Madrid – FITUR Madrid 2024 (January 2024)

At the 44th edition of FITUR 2024, held in Madrid from January 24–28, the UNESCO Global Geoparks made a notable appearance, highlighting their 20th anniversary and promoting sustainable tourism. Hosted in collaboration with AECID, the Spanish Geoparks network showcased a dedicated booth that emphasized geotourism, cultural heritage, and cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean counterparts. FITUR itself welcomed over 250,000 visitors, including 153,000 tourism professionals, representing 152 countries and 9,000 companies—reinforcing its status as a global hub and prime opportunity for Geoparks to strengthen global visibility and partnerships.

Concerning the Global Geoparks Network, the participation in FITUR constituted the first of its events to commemorate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This network brings together the 195 UNESCO Global Geoparks distributed in 48 countries around the world, 16 of them in Spain. One of their common characteristics is their high degree of cooperation from the local to the international level. Cooperation, a basic tool of innovation, is carried out within the framework of the Network, an international association recognized by UNESCO for the development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Program.



## B. International Tourism fair Madrid – FITUR Madrid 2025 (January 2025)

The Global Geoparks Network proudly participated in **FITUR 2025**, one of the world's leading tourism fairs, to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable and innovative tourism destinations. This year's presence was particularly meaningful, as it marked the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network. Through a dedicated stand, informative materials, and networking activities, GGN highlighted the vital role of geoparks in geotourism, cultural preservation, and local development. Visitors had the opportunity to explore the stories of Earth told through geoparks, discover new destinations, and join in celebrating two decades of geoscientific heritage and international cooperation.

The opening of the Geoparks Stand in FITUR 2025 took place with the presence of the Spanish UNESCO Committee, the Global Geoparks Network, the Latin America Geoparks Network and the Spanish Geopark Network!

Geoparks stand was inaugurated with the interventions of Santiago Sierra, president of the Spanish National Geoparks Committee; Artur SA GGN Executive Board representative, Emmaline Rosado, coordinator of the Geoparks Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GeoLAC), and Karmah Salman, coordinator of the Spanish Network of Global Geoparks (REGM). The opening was marked by presence of the representatives of the 17 Spanish Geoparks and 1 aspiring Geopark!



## CHAPTER IX

### AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

#### IX.1. COLLABORATION WITH THE IUGS

The Global Geoparks Network has had a very close collaboration with IUGS since 2004. IUGS played a vital role to the development of the Global Geoparks Network since its foundation, as an IUGS representative was member of the GGN Bureau since 2005. Since 2016 with the creation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, an IUGS representative is member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council. The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board members with the 3.1./122/08.02.2022 decided to invite as observer in the GGN Executive Board meetings Dr. Asier Hilario, IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage Chair.

The IUGS and the GGN created a mixed working group to develop the new guidelines for the International significance desktop assessment. These guidelines will facilitate substantially the work of the applicants to create a well structured dossier and the work of the IUGS evaluators to make a clear desktop assessment.

The GGN inaugurate an affiliation status with IUGS since August 2024.

In 2022 the IUGS reactivated a long demanded programme of recognition of Geological Heritage Sites of the highest scientific value. GGN is partner of the IUGS for this initiative which was realized with the important support of the IGCP-731 project.



The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) has unveiled its Second 100 Geological Heritage Sites, recognizing locations of international scientific importance that contribute to our understanding of Earth's history and processes. This new selection follows

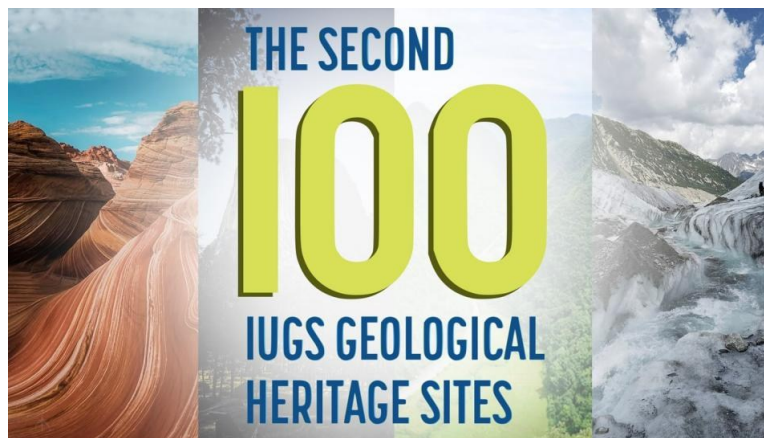


the successful launch of the First 100 Sites in 2022 and further highlights the planet's exceptional geological diversity. These sites, chosen by a panel of international experts, represent key milestones in geological research, education, and conservation. By identifying and promoting these sites, IUGS aims to support global geoscience awareness, encourage sustainable geotourism, and strengthen efforts to preserve the Earth's geological legacy for future generations.



According to the Commission, an IUGS Geological Heritage Site is defined as a site that has geological features and/or geological processes of international scientific importance, that is used as a reference and/or has made a significant contribution to the development of the geosciences over time.

Within these geological sites 36 are located in UNESCO Global Geoparks, which shows the contribution of GGN and UNESCO Global Geoparks on the promotion and protection of the geological heritage of the Earth.



## **CHAPTER X**

### **Global Geoparks Network 20th Anniversary**

**Awarding individuals from Asia and Pacific, Europe, Latin and North America, Africa, Australia, UNESCO and IUGS with significant contribution to GGN establishment and development!**

In any thriving organization, it's members are the cornerstone of success. But especially for the Global Geoparks Network - GGN, which was founded in 2004, as a voluntary network including 25 territories hosting geological heritage sites of international significance.

Within the last 20 years the GGN through the active participation and networking of it's members became an International Association, including 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 Countries and statutory partner of UNESCO for the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme!

It is more than evident that the contribution of the Geopark representatives and Geopark professionals made this Network a real success!

The GGN members during the last 20 years offer to the GGN voluntary contribution, hard work, dedication, solidarity and concrete achievements that drive the Global Geoparks Network forward.

Celebrating GGN's 20th Anniversary we feel the necessity to recognize the individuals with significant contribution to the GGN establishment, development and success. All those individuals, through different types of contributions, impact the overall success of the Global Geoparks Network.

Recognition of their contribution is not just about giving praise; it's about acknowledging the hard work and commitment to GGN.

Thus, the GGN organized special events during 2024 at the Regional Geopark Conferences and awarded with a special certificate the individuals with significant contribution to the GGN establishment, development and success. This was the minimum as a small gift in return to their contribution!

## Asia and Pacific

On 11 September 2024, at the Conference Center of Cao Bang Province (Northern Vietnam), the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) took place on the sidelines of the 8th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium (APGN), with the participation of nearly 500 domestic and international delegates and the presence of the UNESCO ADG Lydia Brito and Vietnamese Government officials!

The celebration marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment and development of GGN in carrying out the tasks of preserving, conserving and promoting geological heritage, biodiversity, natural landscapes, tangible and intangible culture, environmental protection activities, for community development and sustainable development; enhancing the spirit of solidarity among Network members in implementing the common goals of the UNESCO Global Geopark.



In his opening speech, Prof. Nickolas Zouros, President of the GGN, thanked the efforts of the Government of Vietnam and Cao Bang Province, especially colleagues at Non Nuoc Cao Bang Geopark for their great efforts to organize the 8th APGN and GGN Anniversary Ceremony.

The GGN Executive Board awarded certificates and honored members of the Geoparks Network ExB, GGN AC, GGN Bureau, organisers of the International Conferences on Geoparks and members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council who have made important contributions to the foundation and development of the GGN.

Below the list of individuals with significant contributions in GGN building from Asia and Pacific region:

- Zhang Jianping, China
- Jin Xiaochi, China
- Zheng Yuanyuan, China
- Long Changxing, China

- Hanang Samondra, Indonesia
- Amrikazemi Alireza, Iran
- Nakada Setsuya, Japan
- Watanabe Mahito, Japan
- Furusawa Kana, Japan
- Min Huh, Korea, Republic of
- Jeon Yongmun, Korea, Republic of
- Soo Jae Lee, Korea, Republic of
- Komoo Ibrahim, Malaysia
- Narongrit Thungprue, Thailand
- Van Tran Tan, Vietnam
- Vinh Truong The, Vietnam



## Europe

On 4 October 2024, at the Conference Center in Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark , the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) took place during the closing ceremony of the 17h European Geoparks Conference, with the participation of local authorities and nearly 500 domestic and international delegates.

The celebration marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment and development of GGN in carrying out the tasks of preserving, conserving and promoting geological heritage, biodiversity, natural landscapes, tangible and intangible culture, environmental protection activities, for community development and sustainable development; enhancing the spirit of solidarity among Network members in implementing the common goals of the UNESCO Global Geopark.

The GGN Executive Board awarded certificates and honored members of the Global Geoparks Network ExB, GGN AC, Organizers of International Geopark Conferences, members from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and officials from International Organizations who have made important contributions to the foundation and development of the GGN.

Below the list of individuals from Europe with significant contributions in GGN building (by country name alphabetical order):

- Oliver Gulas, Austria
- Heinz Kollmann, Austria
- Gerald Hartmann, Austria
- Alain Petit, Belgium
- Goran Pavic, Croatia
- Goran Radonić, Croatia
- Efthimios Tsiolakis, Cyprus
- Martina Paskova, Czech Republic
- Walløe Hansen Jakob, Denmark
- Vesa Krökki, Finland
- Juri Nenonen, Finland
- Mikko Kiuttu, Finland
- Jean-Luc Desbois, France
- André Guerraz, France
- Jean-Simon Pagè, France
- Sophie Justice, France
- Marie-Luise Frey, Germany
- Hartmut Escher, Germany
- Andreas Schüller, Germany
- Jutta Weber, Germany
- Henning Zellmer, Germany
- Kupetz Manfred, Germany

- Charalampos Fassoulas, Greece
- Ilias Valiakos, Greece
- Konstantina Bentana, Greece
- Korbély Barnabás, Hungary
- Imre Szarvas, Hungary
- Sigurður Sigursveinsson, Iceland
- Þuríður Aradóttir Braun, Iceland
- Daníel Einarsson, Iceland
- Patrick Mc Keever, Ireland
- Clare Glanville, Ireland
- Maurizio Burlando, Italy
- Aniello Aloia, Italy
- Alessia Amorfini, Italy
- Rosaria Modica, Italy
- Pasquale Li Puma, Italy
- Violette Masè, Italy
- Kausch Birgit, Luxembourg
- Gretha Roelfs, Netherlands
- Kristin Rangnes , Norway
- Michał Poros, Poland
- Jacek Koźma, Poland
- Armindo Jacinto, Portugal
- Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Portugal
- Artur Sá, Portugal
- Margarida Belém, Portugal
- Antonio Duarte, Portugal
- Daniela Rocha, Portugal
- Elisabeth Silva, Portugal
- Carlos Nunes, Portugal
- Dan Grigorescu, Romania
- Alexandru Andrasanu, Romania
- Bojian Rezun, Slovenia
- Suzana Fajmut Šrtučl, Slovenia
- Asier Hilario, Spain
- Jose Maria Barrera, Spain
- Luis Alcalá , Spain
- Anna Bergengren , Sweden
- Tuncer Demir, Turkey
- Melanie Border, UK
- Kirstin Lemon, UK
- Tony Ramsey, UK



- Chris Woodley-Stewart, UK
- Richard Watson, UK

## **UNESCO**

- Wolfgang Eder, UNESCO
- Robert Missotten, UNESCO
- Margaret Patzak, UNESCO
- Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO

## **IUGS**

- Marko Komac, IUGS
- Roland Oberhänsli, IUGS
- Stan Finney, IUGS

## Latin America and Caribbean

On 6 November 2024, at the 7th Latin America and Caribbean Conference which took place in South Canyon UNESCO Global Geopark in Brazil the Celebration Event for the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) took place, with the participation of nearly 400 domestic and international delegates.

The celebration marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment and development of GGN in carrying out the tasks of preserving, conserving and promoting geological heritage, biodiversity, natural landscapes, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, environmental protection activities, for community development and sustainable development; enhancing the spirit of solidarity among Network members in implementing the common goals of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.



In his presentation, Prof. Nickolas Zouros, President of the GGN, thanked the efforts of the South Canyons Geopark and the support of the local authorities for the organization of the 7th GeoLAC Conference and the GGN Anniversary Ceremony. Affirming the important role of the GGN, it has made an important contribution to help GGN member's and their local communities to face the challenges of climate change and the consequences of natural disasters.



The GGN Executive Board awarded certificates and honored members of the Global Geoparks Network ExB, members of the GGN Advisory Committee, members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and individuals from international organizations who have made important contributions to the foundation and development of the GGN.

Below the list of individuals with significant contribution in GGN building from Latin America, North America, Africa and Australia (name of countries in alphabetical order):

- Particio Melo, Brazil
- Eduardo da Silva Guimarães, Brazil
- John Calder, Canada
- Sarah Gamble, Canada
- Frances Heydeman, Canada
- Godfrey Nowlan, Canada
- Patricia Herrera, Chile
- Manuel Schilling, Chile
- Carlos Merizalde, Ecuador
- Jose Luis Palacio, Mexico
- Emmaline Rosado, Mexico
- Carles Canet, Mexico
- Driss Achbal, Morocco
- Marcio Nunes , Nicaragua
- Ramirez Angulo Joaquin Yammil, Peru
- Bilberto Zavala Carrión, Peru
- James Posso Sánchez, Peru
- Joshua Mwankunda, Tanzania
- Eugenio Bidondo, Uruguay
- Helga Chulepin, Uruguay
- Diego Izarabal, Uruguay
- Ross Dowling, Australia
- Denise Gorfinkel, UNESCO Montevideo



## GGN - Governing Structure

### General Assembly

The General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN. The General Assembly consists of all individual, supporting, and honorary members and the designated representatives of institutional members.

### Executive Board

The Executive Board is the decision-making body of the GGN. It consists of no less than nine (9) and no more than fifteen (15) elected members as well as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and a UNESCO Secretariat representative as ex-officio members. The members of the Executive Board are elected by the Ordinary General Assembly and serve a four (4)-year term of office.

### Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is the advisory body of the GGN. It consists of the Chairpersons (or their appointed representatives) of the National Geopark Fora / Committees, and the designated representatives of the Affiliated Organizations.

### Regional Geoparks Networks

(Logos)

Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network

European Geoparks Network

Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network

African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network

Canadian Geoparks Network

### Working Groups - Task Forces

### International Committees

The Executive Board appoints standing committees, task forces, and working groups, and defines their duties.






**11th International  
UNESCO Global Geopark Conference, 2025**  
September 2025 - Araucanía Region - Chile  
*Come and feel the Earth's beats*



**International Association  
on Geoparks**  
CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE  
SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Global Geoparks Network   
[globalgeoparksnetwork.org](https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org) 

**GEOPARQUE MUNDIAL  
UNESCO KÜTRALKURA**

Geoparque-Kütralkura 

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