



# GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

## 4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly

Friday 8 September 2023, at 14:00-18.00

**M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco)**





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## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

### CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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# 1



## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

Executive Board
<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

Members:
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

Observers
Coordinator of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network
BIDONDO Eugenio – Uruguay
Coordinator & Vice coordinator of the European Geoparks Network
JUSTICE Sophie – France
FASSOULAS Charalampos - Greece
IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage Chair
HILARIO Asier - Spain
Chair of the Geoparks Youth Forum
Deo Silalahi Immanuel - Indonesia

GGN Secretariat
BENTANA Konstantina

## 4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly

Friday 8 September 2023, at 14:00-18.00

M’Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco)

**Following the article 10 section 3 of the Global Geopark Network Statutes all members of the Global Geopark Network are invited to participate in the 4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly.**

The quorum for an Ordinary General Assembly is a simple majority of the number of members present, or members with the right to vote represented by a proxy. A member of the General Assembly may be represented by another member of the GGN, but no person may hold more than one (1) proxy.

If this quorum is not reached, the General Assembly will be convened again in the same location within twenty-four (24) hours at the latest. Whatever the number of members then present, the General Assembly has the power to deliberate.

The decisions of an Ordinary General Assembly are taken by a simple majority of the members present.

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

### Agenda

1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda
2. Status Report on the GGN Association 2022 - 2023
3. 2024-2025 GGN Action Plan
4. GGN 2024 Membership fees (Article 5, Section 1)
5. Liberation of the GGN Executive Board for the GGN 2021 and 2022 Accounts
6. Approval of GGN Honorary Members (Article 4, Section 2)

For the GGN Executive Board

Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS  
President



Dr. Guy MARTINI  
General Secretary





GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

## 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly (Digital)

Wednesday 15 December 2021, at 11:00GMT  
Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark

# MINUTES

## Agenda

1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda
2. Status Report on the GGN Association 2018 - 2021
3. Liberation of the GGN Executive Board for the GGN 2018, 2019 and 2020 Accounts
4. Anti-harassment and bullying policy
5. 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan
6. GGN 2022 Membership fees (Article 5, Section 1)
7. Approval of GGN Honorary Members (Article 4, Section 2)
8. GGN Executive Board candidatures presentation
9. GGN Elections
  - 9.1. Election of the GGN Executive Board
  - 9.2. Election of the GGN Advisory Committee Chair
  - 9.3. Election of the GGN Advisory Committee Vice Chair

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly was held in digital format due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. It was held in parallel to the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark which was organized by Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geoparks (Republic of Korea).

All necessary documents on the Agenda items were uploaded at the GGN website at the link: <https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=5991>

The 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly started at 11.00 GMT with 153 nominated Representatives of the GGN Institutional Members and 13 GGN Individual Members.

Observers were present from UNESCO Secretariat, Youth Forum and members of the Geopark teams. In total participated 77 observers.

### ELECTRONIC VOTING

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions the elections for the GGN Executive Board members and the GGN Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were conducted by e-voting. The <https://electionrunner.com> voting platform was used.

Before the 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly started, the GGN Election Committee and the GGN Secretariat informed all the nominated representatives of the GGN Institutional Members and the GGN Individual Members about the election procedure and they explained the technical issues on how the electronic voting will be done.

#### 1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) welcomed all members of the GGN and observers participating in the digital 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly. He informed that the newly elected representatives of the Youth Forum were invited to participate in the General Assembly. The representatives are: Deo

Silalahi Immanuel from Indonesia (Chair), Ms Thu-Trang Le from Vietnam (Vice Chair) and Mr Fa-is Jindewha from Thailand (Rapporteur).

Thanked the actual members of the GGN Executive Board for their work the last four years. Thanked Mr Kristof Vandenberghe, Chief of Earth Science and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction Section of UNESCO and the chair of the GGN Advisory Committee Prof. Setsuja Nakada for their participation in the GGN Executive Board as observers.

Kristof Vandenberghe (Chief of Earth Science and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction Section of UNESCO) greeted the delegates and informed that UNESCO's priority is not only the expansion of the sites and the growing of the network but also to support the sites in establishing and in maintaining the high standards that are required to be a UNESCO Global Geopark. UNESCO is very much interested in expanding the Network especially in Africa, the Arab states and in the SIDS and is very happy to work with the GGN towards that direction.

Deo Silalahi Immanuel (Chair of the Youth Forum) addressed to the 3rd General Assembly. Promised to promote youth as one of the most important actors of the Geopark, locally and globally. The Youth Forum will be collaborator and innovator for the Global Geoparks sustainability. Informed about the meeting of the Youth Forum which was held on the 14th of December 2021. Invited the members of the General Assembly to participate in the G20 Summit which will be held in 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed that it will be created a sector in the Global Geoparks Network website dedicated to the Youth Forum.

**DECISION:** The GGN Institutional and Individual members who were present unanimously agreed to the agenda of the 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly.

**"Zero" votes against the adaptation of the agenda of the 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly.**

**"Zero" abstentions for the adaptation of the agenda of the 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly**

#### 2. Status Report on the GGN Association 2018 - 2021

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) presented the Status Report of the GGN for the activities made during the last 3 years (September 2018 to December 2021).

Informed about the changes the GGN had to make in order to adjust its operation and activities to the new circumstances imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Reminded about the initiatives the GGN

took in order to encourage its members to continue their operation during the pandemic such as the new website for the promotion of the GGN, the film festival, the Youth Forum, the GGN digital forum and the Regional Networks' digital meetings. He referred to the initiatives on the Africa and the Arab States Grant as well as on the Grant for the SIDS developed in collaboration with UNESCO.

Reminded about the strategy that was prepared and distributed to all members of the GGN on the "UNESCO Global Geoparks in the "World after": a multiple goals roadmap proposal for future discussion", which outlines the future priorities, such as the climate change, the natural disasters and the sustainable development of the local communities.

Underlined the support of UNESCO and of the GGN Advisory Committee in the effort of enlarging the membership, supporting the regional networks, establish new initiatives and build a framework for the years to come.

Thanked all the members of the GGN General Assembly for their efforts and work during the last three years.

Emphasized that a lot of work has been done on the communication and promotion of the Geoparks as quality destinations of the 21st century, using also the social media and by participating in the celebrations of the international days.

Opened the floor for comments and questions on the report of the Executive Board from September 2018 to December 2021.

Martina Paskova (Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark/Czechia) thanked for the perfectly elaborated report and for encouraging the Geoparks to continue the efforts and activities. Mentioned that it was very important to keep the Global Geoparks Network alive during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jutta Weber (Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark/Germany) thanked for the tremendous amount of work that is presented in the report.

Don Hoang Xuan (Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark/Vietnam) expressed his worries as due to the pandemic there have not been organized face to face meetings during the last two years.

**DECISION:** The GGN Institutional and Individual members who were present unanimously agreed to the presented Status Report on the GGN Association 2018 - 2021.

**"Zero" votes against the adaptation of the Status Report on the GGN Association 2018 - 2021.**

**"Zero" abstentions for the adaptation of the Status Report on the GGN Association 2018 - 2021.**

### 3. Liberation of the GGN Executive Board from the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Accounts

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed that the liberation of the Executive Board members for the accounts of the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 accounts is requested by the GGN General Assembly. The agreement of the GGN members for the accounts of the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 was given by written statements during the Ordinary General Assemblies for accounts.

He asked the GGN members of the General Assembly on the liberation of the Executive Board on the accounts for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

**DECISION:** The GGN Institutional and Individual members who were present unanimously agreed on the liberation of the GGN Executive Board for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 accounts.

**“Zero” votes against the liberation of the GGN Executive Board for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 accounts.**

**“Zero” abstentions for the liberation of the GGN Executive Board for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 accounts.**

### 4. Anti-harassment and bullying policy

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed that the ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document has been distributed to all members and it is compiled according to the international standards of all similar international organizations. Asked the Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee Setsuja Nakada to inform the General Assembly if the Advisory Committee has adopted the document.

Setsuja Nakada (Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee) informed that the majority of the Advisory Committee members agreed with the ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document.

Miguel Angel Cruz Perez (Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark/Mexico) commented on behalf of the Working Group on Gender Equality, which was established in 2020 among the Latin America Geoparks. The Working Group welcomes this new initiative of ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document which is of key importance to the development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks working philosophy. In the Working Group participates members from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Rio Coco, Grutas del Palacio, Araripe, Kütralkura, Colca y Volcanes de Andagua and Comarca Minera, Hidalgo. The Working Group established a master plan which is available in Spanish for the moment. Aim of the Working Group is to expand and include also members from the other GGN Regional Networks.

Monica Bueno (Rio Coco UNESCO Global

Geopark/Nicaragua) (**CHAT**): “I am sending the email of the Working Group on Gender Equality: generogeolac@gmail.com”.

Beth Peterkin (Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark/Canada) (**CHAT**): “Is it possible for the GGN or UNESCO to translate Miguel’s document from Spanish and circulate it to all of us?”

Miguel Angel Cruz Perez (Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark/Mexico) (**CHAT**): “I will ask the coordination committee of the Working Group on Gender Equality to produce a translation to English to circulate to the GGN members”.

Artur Sá (Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark/Portugal) expressed his support to the ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document as it is an important tool for the management of the territories in order to avoid any kind of harassment or bullying in the network.

Sarah Gatley (GGN Individual member) (**CHAT**): “Point 23. The end of the sentence is missing - “... either personally.”, such as, “or through a third party”.

Melanie Border (English Riviera/UK) mentioned that she is extremely pleased that the ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document has been brought to the General Assembly for consideration. Mentioned that the unfinished sentence in point 23, that commented by Sarah Gatley in the chat, is a simple typographical error.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed that this small typographical error will be corrected before the voting.

**DECISION:** The GGN Institutional and Individual members who were present unanimously agreed to the adoption of the presented ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document.

**“Zero” votes against the adoption of the ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document.**

**“Zero” abstentions for the ‘Anti-harassment and bullying policy’ document.**

### 5. 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) presented the 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan document. Outlined that the action plan has 10 strategic actions:

GGN Functioning and Communication with GGN members

Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks

GGN Regional Networks

GGN Members

GGN Working Groups, Task Forces and

Committees, GGN Initiatives

Geoparks Marketing and Communication

Strategy

Financial stability

Capacity building activities

Promotion of the Geopark Brand

GGN and International Networking

Additional to the action Plan there is the document “UNESCO Global Geoparks in the “World after”: a multiple goals roadmap proposal for future discussion”.

Asked the Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee Setsuja Nakada to inform the General Assembly if the GGN Advisory Committee has agreed with the 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan.

Setsuja Nakada (Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee) informed that in the Advisory Committee meeting participated 34 representatives out of 44 countries and 6 Executive Board members. One of the results of the Advisory Committee meeting was that more frequent discussions and meetings are needed among the Advisory Committee members. Concerning the 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan most of the Advisory Committee members agreed with it in general. The Advisory Committee requested to make some improvements by including its suggestions which will be presented through the debating period of the strategic plan. The Advisory Committee believes that the endorsement of the strategic plan is essential. One of the points outlined in the Advisory Committee meeting about the strategic plan is that the SDGs approach should be clearly marked. The Advisory Committee believes that the strategic plan is very useful for the national Geoparks fora and the national committees to monitor and evaluate their activities in the national level. Then the evaluated results can be included in the annual reports of the national Geoparks fora and the national committees of the member countries.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) opened the floor for discussion about the 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan.

Jutta Weber (Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark/Germany) strongly supported the comments from Setsuja Nakada regarding the SDGs, because the UGGps are considered as model territories for the implementation and communication of the Global Agenda 2030 and a lot of the goals are partly already mentioned, but not in detail in the different actions of the Action Plan.

Martina Paskova (Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark/Czechia) mentioned that the reference on the indigenous people is missing in the Action Plan. Suggested also to have

representation of the Youth Forum in the GGN Regional Networks.

Theodore Brown (Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark/Japan) offered his support to the suggestions of Setsuja Nakada on having more information on the SDGs in the GGN Action Plan. Supported also Martina Paskova’s suggestion on including actions on indigenous peoples in the action plan. He mentioned that it is overall an excellent strategy for the coming years, but there is place for enhancing communication not only within the Geoparks, but also outside the Geoparks with related organizations, with UNESCO, with the general public through marketing strategies and also enhancing the collaboration within and between the regional networks. Agreed strongly with the promotion of the Geoparks’ brand proposed in the action plan.

Andreas Schüller (Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark/Japan) (**CHAT**): “It is a very comprehensive Action plan, it is challenging. Think that we all can contribute the fulfillment within our respective capacities so that the GGN as a common entity will be successful in implementing the work load of this Action plan”.

Elizabeth Silva (GGN Individual member) informed that there was a very good discussion in the AC meeting about the importance of the SDGs and the communication among the members of the GGN. The document is very good and with some minor adjustments it will become even better. Commented that it is necessary to connect the working groups with the relevant SDGs. The GGN should be able to send a report with the achievements connected with the SDGs not only to UNESCO, but also to the UN, because the SDGs belong to the agenda proclaimed by the United Nations and UNESCO supports it. It is very important that the GGN has a strong strategic regarding the SDGs like the WHS and the MAB have so that we can demonstrate how much the GGN has worked contributing to the achievement of the goals of the SDGs. For UNESCO it would be very important to have a good feedback on the work that has been done regarding this.

Kazuhiro Nobe (Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark/Japan) (**CHAT**): “We wanted to comment, that we think it is very important to have indicators to measure whether the strategic actions are achieved, and setting specific targets would be a good idea too”.

Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark/UK) mentioned that the strategic plan document, with the addition of some indicators and the written links to the SDGs, will be a very strong document. Proposed to adopt the

strategy subject to the relatively minor changes being made.

Jose Maria Barrera (Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark/Spain) informed that the strategic plan document has been discussed among the colleagues in Spain. They support the document as it is clear and strong and it will be very helpful for the activities in the Spanish Forum. The annual reports of the fora could be a good tool in order to follow the progress of the strategy.

**DECISION:** The GGN Institutional and Individual members who were present unanimously agreed to the adaptation of the presented 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan including the suggestions made on the SDGs, the indigenous people, the strengthening of the GGN Regional Networks collaboration and the indicators.

“Zero” votes against the adaptation of the 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan including the suggestions made on the SDGs, the indigenous people, the strengthening of the GGN Regional Networks collaboration and the indicators.

“Zero” abstentions for the adaptation of the 2022-2023 GGN Action Plan including the suggestions made on the SDGs, the indigenous people, the strengthening of the GGN Regional Networks collaboration and the indicators.

**6. GGN 2022 Membership fees (Article 5, Section 1)**

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) presented the GGN Executive Board proposal on the GGN Annual Membership Fee 2022. Informed that the GGN Executive Board members taking into account the current situation unanimously proposed to have no changes on the membership fee policy of the Network which is as follows:

(TABLE\_1)

**DECISION:** The GGN Institutional and Individual members who were present unanimously agreed to the proposed Annual

CATEGORY OF INCOME	ANNUAL FEE	ESTIMATION	INCOME
Institutional members	1.500 €	177 * 1.500 €	265.500 €
Individual members	100 €	33 * 100 €	3.300 €
Conference participant fee	50 €	800 * 50 €	40.000 €
Supporting members	2.000 €	1 * 2.000 €	2.000 €
Supporting members (non profit)	3.000 €	1 * 3.000 €	3.000 €
TOTAL			313.800 €

Annual Membership Fee 2022 (agreed GGN Budget 2022)  
Annual Membership Fee equal for all Institutional Members 1.500€

(TABLE\_1)

**Membership Fee 2022.**  
“Zero” votes against the proposed Annual Membership Fee 2022.  
“Zero” abstentions for the proposed Annual Membership Fee 2022.

**7. Approval of the GGN Honorary Members (Article 4, Section 2)**

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) presented the GGN Executive Board proposal for the Honorary Members:

Professor Patrick McKeever,  
Professor Kazo Oike.

The CVs of the proposed GGN Honorary Members were uploaded at the GGN website at the following link:  
<https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=5991>

**DECISION:** The GGN Institutional and Individual members who were present unanimously agreed on the proposal for the GGN Honorary Members: Professor Patrick McKeever and Professor Kazo Oike.

“Zero” votes against the proposed GGN Honorary Members.

“Zero” abstentions for the proposed GGN Honorary Members.

**8. GGN Executive Board candidatures presentation**

Jin Xiaochi (P.R. China) candidate for Vice president of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

Ibrahim Komoo (Malaysia) candidate for Vice president of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

Guy Martini (France) candidate for General Secretary of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

Kristin Rangnes (Norway) candidate for Treasurer of the GGN Executive Board presented her candidature

Driss Achbal (Morocco) candidate for member of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

Melanie Boarder (UK) candidate for member of the GGN Executive Board presented her candidature

John Calder (Canada) candidate for member of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

Marie-Luise Frey (Germany) candidate for member of the GGN Executive Board presented her candidature

Kana Furusawa (Japan) candidate for member of the GGN Executive Board presented her candidature

Artur Sá (Portugal) candidate for member of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

Jianping Zhang (P.R. China) candidate for member of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

Nickolas Zouros (Greece) candidate for president of the GGN Executive Board presented his candidature

**9. GGN Elections**  
**9.1. Election of the GGN Executive Board**  
Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) announced that the voting for the elections of the GGN Executive Board members will open at 14:00 GMT on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and will close at 02:00 GMT on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

**9.2. Election of the GGN Advisory Committee Chair (ROUND I)**  
Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) announced the results of the elections for the GGN Advisory Committee Chair:  
18 votes (44%) for Professor Setsuja Nakada,  
16 votes (39%) for Dr Elizabeth Silva,  
7 votes (17%) for Professor Francisco do O’ de Lima Junior.

According to the GGN Statutes as no candidate has more than 50% of the votes, a second round of voting needs to be done between the two first candidates.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) announced that the voting for the elections of the GGN Advisory

Committee Chair between Setsuja Nakada and Elizabeth Silva will take place in parallel to the elections for the GGN Executive Board members.

**9.3. Election of the GGN Advisory Committee Chair (ROUND II)**  
Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) provided technical information on the voting procedure. Announced that the voting platform will open at 14:00 GMT on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and will close at 02:00 GMT on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. The results will be announced during the closing ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and they will be published at the GGN website.

**10. Any other business**  
**10.1. Proposal for 8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks**  
Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) informed that at the UNESCO website (<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-global-geoparks-council-proposes-8-new-unesco-global-geoparks>) was published the list of the territories that have been positively evaluated to become UNESCO Global Geoparks. These territories are:

Ries (Germany)
Platåbergen (Sweden)
Mëllerdall (Luxembourg)
Buzău Land (Romania)
Salpausselkä (Finland)
Kefalonia-Ithaca (Greece)
Caminhos dos Cânions do Sul (Brazil)
Sérito (Brazil)

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) thanked everybody for the work that has been done and the achievements accomplished up to now. Thanked also the organizers for the support and for organizing the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNSCO Global Geoparks.

The meeting closed at 14.00 GMT.



# 2.1

## Global Geoparks Network Executive Board Elections 2021

**Total votes: 159**

**The results of the election for the new Executive Board 2021-2025 are:**

Position: President	Seats: 1	Votes: Up to 1 vote
	<b>Candidates</b>	
	Nickolas ZOUROS – Greece	155
Position: Vice President	Seats: 2	Votes: Up to 2 votes
	<b>Candidates</b>	
	Xiaochi JIN– P.R. China	125
	Ibrahim KOMOO – Malaysia	143
Position: Secretary General	Seats: 1	Votes: Up to 1 vote
	<b>Candidates</b>	
	Guy MARTINI – France	157
Position: Treasurer	Seats: 1	Votes: Up to 1 vote
	<b>Candidates</b>	
	Kristin RANGNES – Norway	157
Position: Member	Seats: 8	Votes: Up to 5 votes
	<b>Candidates</b>	
	Driss ACHBAL – Morocco (AUGGN)	94
	Melanie BORDER – UK (EGN)	125
	John CALDER – Canada (CGN)	114
	Marie-Luise FREY – Germany (Individual Member)	117
	Kana FURUSAWA – Japan (APGN)	115
	Artur SÁ – Portugal (EGN)	110
	Jianping ZHANG – P.R. China (APGN)	74

# 2.2

## Global Geoparks Network Advisory Committee Elections 2021

### ROUND I

**Total votes: 42**

**The results of the election for the Advisory Committee Chair 2021-2025 are:**

Position: Chair	Seats: 1	Votes: Up to 1 vote
	<b>Candidates</b>	
	Setsuya NAKADA	18
	Elizabeth SILVA	16
	Francisco do O' LIMA Junior	7

According to the GGN Statutes as no candidate has more than 50% of the votes a second round of voting needed to be done between the first two candidates.

### ROUND II

**Total votes: 38**

**The results of the election for the Advisory Committee Chair 2021-2025 are:**

Position: Chair	Seats: 1	Votes: Up to 1 vote
	<b>Candidates</b>	
	Elizabeth SILVA	21
	Setsuya NAKADA	17

## STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

### GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK STATUS SEPTEMBER 2016

#### INTRODUCTION

The internal Rules of the GGN, and the Code of Ethics define and complete these Statutes.

The internal Rules and Regulations of the GGN, the Code of Ethics and the Anti-harassment policy define and complete these Statutes. The practices of the GGN must be based on honesty, fairness and mutual respect, as well as service to the international Global Geopark community.

Global Geoparks are tools to conserve and enhance the value of areas of geological significance in Earth history, including landscapes and geological formations, which are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for our future and to promote sustainable development for example through geotourism.

Global Geoparks promote the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, clearly demonstrating that geodiversity is the foundation of all ecosystems and the basis of human interaction with the landscape.

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

Networking and collaboration among Global Geoparks is an important component of the GGN.

UNESCO encourages this cooperation especially in the fields of education, management, tourism, sustainable development; regional planning among Network members and especially encourages an equitable geographical development of Global Geoparks.

The GGN promotes networking on a regional basis. For Global Geoparks in Asia – Pacific the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) acts as the Regional Network of the GGN. For Global Geoparks in Europe, the European Geoparks Network (EGN) acts as the Regional Network of the GGN. The GGN prioritises the creation of similar Regional Networks, reflecting local conditions, elsewhere in the world.

#### The objectives of the GGN are:

- to promote the equitable geographical establishment, development and professional management of Global Geoparks,
- to advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, function and role of Global Geoparks;
- to assist local communities to value their natural and cultural heritage;
- to preserve Earth heritage for present and future generations;
- to educate and teach the broad public about issues in geo-sciences and their relation with environmental matters and natural hazards.
- to ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development on the natural (or geological) system

- to foster multi-cultural links between heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity, using participatory schemes of partnership and management;
- to stimulate research when appropriate;
- to promote joint initiatives between Global Geoparks (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, twinning).

The GGN establishes ethical standards which must be adopted and respected by Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals.

The GGN organises co-operation and mutual assistance between Global Geoparks and between Global Geopark professionals.

The GGN initiates and co-ordinates Regional Geoparks Networks which will foster international co-operation and promotion of sustainable development.

The GGN represents, advances, and disseminates knowledge in Geodiversity management and other disciplines related to studies in Geo-conservation, Geo-tourism, Geo-education and/or the management and activities of Global Geoparks.

#### Article 01 – Name, Legal Status, Location, Duration and Fiscal Year

##### Section 1. Name.

The name of the Organisation is the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). The use of the name and acronym is restricted to functions authorised by, and for the benefit of, the Organisation and its members.

##### Section 2. Legal Status.

Established in 2014, the GGN is a non-profit organisation subject to French legislation (the 1901 law on associations) and a non-governmental organisation maintaining formal relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

##### Section 3. Location.

The registered office of the GGN is in the Haute Provence Global Geopark at the Musée Promenade, Montée Bernard Dellacasagrande, 04000 Digne les Bains, France. The location may be modified by a decision of the GGN Executive Board.

##### Section 4. Duration of the Mandate.

The duration of the GGN shall be indefinite.

##### Section 5. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December of each year.

#### Article 02. Mission and Purpose

##### Section 1. Mission

The GGN is the international organisation of the Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals which is committed to the conservation, management and communication to society of the Earth heritage as an integral part of the world's natural and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible.

Global Geoparks are tools to conserve and enhance the value of areas of geological significance in Earth history, including landscapes and geological

formations, which are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for our future and to promote sustainable development for example through geo-tourism and education.

Global Geoparks are living, working landscapes where science and local communities engage in a mutually beneficial and safe way.

Global Geoparks encourage awareness of the story of the planet as read in the rocks and landscape.

Global Geoparks promote the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, clearly demonstrating that geodiversity is the foundation of all ecosystems and the basis of human interaction with the landscape.

##### Section 2. Purpose

The GGN establishes professional and ethical standards for Global Geopark activities, makes recommendations on such issues, promotes training, advances knowledge and raises public awareness on Earth heritage through global, regional and national Global Geopark networks and co-operation programmes.

#### Article 03. Definition of Terms

Whenever used in these Statutes, the following terms, beginning with a capital letter, will bear the meaning defined in this article, without any distinction when used in the singular or the plural.

##### Section 1. Global Geopark

A Global Geopark is an area recognised by UNESCO, open to the public, which is responsible for the protection and rational management of a unified territory with a single boundary that comprises a number of internationally important geological heritage sites on any scale, or a mosaic of geological entities of special scientific importance, rarity or beauty. These features are representative of a region's geological history and the events and processes that formed it.



A Global Geopark protects, preserves, conserves, researches, acquires, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible Earth heritage sites of international value and their environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment. Global Geoparks adopted a “bottom-up” or community-led approach to ensure that an area’s geological significance not only could be conserved but also promoted for the service of society through science and education and used as a sustainable economic asset, for example through the development of responsible tourism.

Section 2. **Global Geopark Professionals**

Global Geopark professionals include individuals with combined or proven professional experience in Global Geopark management, geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues according to the internal rules document.

These Global Geopark professionals can be personnel of Global Geoparks or personnel of educational, training and research institutions which are beneficial to Global Geopark activities, having received specialised training, or possessing an equivalent practical experience, in any field relevant to the management and activities of a Global Geopark, respecting the GGN Code of Ethics and working for and with Global Geoparks.

Section 3. **Member in “Good Standing”**

A GGN member in “good standing” is an institutional or individual member whose request for membership to the GGN has been accepted under the conditions defined in Article 4, Section 2 of these Statutes, and has paid the annual membership fee (dues) at the time and in the amount determined by the GGN Executive Board.

Section 4. **State**

For the purposes of establishing National Committees, a State is defined as a self-governing country which is a member of the United Nations or any of its Specialised Agencies, or is a party to the Statutes of the International Court of Justice.

**Article 04. Membership**

Section 1. **Members**

Membership in the GGN is obligatory for Global Geoparks. Global Geoparks upon their nomination as UNESCO Global Geoparks become members of GGN by submitting a statement voluntary accepting their duties and membership commitments.

Membership shall be open to Global Geopark Professionals, and such other persons or institutions considered to be beneficial for the advancement of the Global Geopark community.

All persons eligible for membership shall indicate to the GGN that they wish to become Members, that they accept and will comply with the GGN Code of Ethics, and shall complete the application form to request membership.

Membership in the GGN shall not be available to any person or institution (including its employees) which trades (buys or sells for profit) Earth heritage property including works of art, natural and scientific specimens, taking into consideration national legislations and international conventions. This disqualification applies to persons or institutions engaged in an activity which could cause a conflict of interest.

Section 2. **Approval of Membership**

Membership to the GGN is granted by the GGN Executive Board after submission of a Membership application form and annual subvention to the GGN Secretariat.

Honorary Members, as defined below in Section 3 of this Article, are proposed by the Executive Board to the General Assembly, which decides to accept or reject it, by a simple majority.

Section 3. **Categories of Membership.**

1. Institutional Members — Global Geoparks.
2. Individual Members – Global Geopark Professionals — Persons who have combined or proved professional experience in Global Geopark management (geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues)<sup>1</sup>.
3. Honorary Members — Persons who have rendered exceptional services to the international Global Geopark community or to the GGN.
4. Cooperating Members — International Organizations, institutions or persons providing substantial financial or other assistance to the GGN because of an interest in Global Geoparks and international co-operation between Global Geoparks.

Section 4. **Termination of Membership**

Membership of the GGN may be discontinued by voluntary withdrawal or by a decision of the GGN Executive Board for one of the following reasons:

1. Change of professional status;
2. Breach of professional ethics;
3. Actions considered to be substantially incompatible with the objectives of the GGN;
4. Non-payment of fees after formal notice of the payment due.
5. If a member loses its status as UNESCO Global Geopark

<sup>1</sup> Global Geopark professionals, as defined in Article 3, still working or retired, or other persons who, because of their experience or professional services rendered to the GGN, as specified in the Internal rules document , are eligible to become individual members

**Article 05 - 5. Annual Membership Fee**

Section 1. **Amount and Payment of the Membership Fee**

Each Individual, Institutional and Cooperating Member of the GGN shall pay an annual membership fee (dues) at a rate recommended by the GGN Executive Board and approved by the General Assembly. Every year, the GGN Executive Board shall announce the amount of the annual membership fee for the following year.

Section 2. **Period Covered by the Membership Fee**

The annual membership fee shall cover the calendar year in question.

**Article 06. Membership Privileges**

Section 1. **Membership Card**

Individual Members in “good standing” receive a membership card that grants them special privileges as determined by the GGN.

Section 2. **Right to Seek Election**

Representatives of Institutional Members in “good standing” and Individual Members in “good standing”, can stand for election: to the GGN Executive Board (see Article 14, Section 5), as the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (see Article 14, Section 3).

Section 3. **Designated Representatives**

Institutional Members and Cooperating Members can designate (1) person to represent them at the General Assembly.

Section 4. **Special Status**

Honorary and Cooperating Members are entitled to membership rights and privileges but may not hold an elected office in the GGN.

**Article 07 - Voting Rights**

Section 1. **Voting Rights.**

The voting rights of Members at the General Assembly and for the election of the Executive Board are prescribed in the following sections of this Article, Article 10, Sections 2, 3 and 6, as well as Article 14, Section 5.

During the sessions of the General Assembly and notably during the election of the Executive Board, each member in “good standing” has one vote. A member of the General Assembly may be represented by another member of the GGN, but no person may hold more than one (1) proxy.

Section 2. **Affiliated Vote.**

Each Affiliated Organisation has the right to appoint one (1) of its voting members (individual members or representatives of institutional members of the GGN), under the same conditions.

**Article 08 - Components of the GGN**

The GGN is composed as follows:

- General Assembly
- Executive Board
- President
- Two Vice-Presidents
- Treasurer
- General Secretary
- Members
- Advisory Committee
- National Geopark Fora / Committees v. National Correspondents
- International Committees / Task Forces / Working groups
- International Conference on Geoparks
- Regional Geopark Networks
- Affiliated Organisations
- Operational Secretariat

**Article 09 - Governance Structure**

The primary authority of the GGN resides through its Members.

The Executive Board, composed of Institutional Member representatives and Individual members elected by the General Assembly, is responsible for the managerial aspects of the GGN.

The Advisory Committee, composed of the Chairpersons of National Committees and designated representatives from Affiliated Organisations, has an advisory role to represent its membership in the activities of the GGN.

**Article 10 – GGN General Assembly**

Section 1. **Authority**

The General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN.

Section 2. **Members**

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

Section 3. **Meetings**

3.1. **Ordinary General Assembly**

The General Assembly will hold an ordinary session at least once every two years on the same dates and in the same place as the International Conference on Geoparks.

The quorum for an Ordinary General Assembly is a simple majority of the number of members present, or members with the right to vote represented by a proxy. A member of the General Assembly may be represented by another member of the GGN, but no person may hold more than one (1) proxy.

If this quorum is not reached, the General Assembly will be convened again in the same location within

twenty-four (24) hours at the latest. Whatever the number of members then present, the General Assembly has the power to deliberate.

The decisions of an Ordinary General Assembly are taken by a simple majority of the members present. **The decisions of the Ordinary General Assembly are valid only if they are supported by at least the 60% of the votes of the Institutional members present.**

The Ordinary General Assembly makes decisions on recommendations from the Executive Board on changes to 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 (Article 11, section 1 and Article 14, section 5).

3.2. **Annual General Assembly**

A General Assembly with special mission to rule on the accounts, meets every March.

This **annual** General Assembly 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 need simple majority of the GGN members in “good standing”. In case of positive written statements less than the 50% of the members in “good standing”, then an Ordinary General Assembly will be necessary to rule on the accounts.

3.3. **Extraordinary General Assembly**

The Executive Board and/or 2/3 of members in “good standing” can convene by written statements sent by by e-mail to the Executive Board an Extraordinary General Assembly to adopt amendments to the Statutes and items of importance proposed by the Executive Board and/ or the Advisory Committee, and Regional Geopark Networks as well as by National Geopark Fora / Committees and Affiliated Organisations.

The quorum for an Extraordinary General Assembly is a two-thirds majority of the number of members present, or members with the right to vote represented by a proxy.

The decisions of the Extraordinary General Assembly are taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present and represented.

The Extraordinary General Assembly has the authority to amend all aspects of the Statutes. In case of necessity this General Assembly vote could be done by written statements sent by e-mail to the Executive Board.

3.4. **List of Participants** - An attendance sheet will be signed during every General Assembly by the members who are present and by representatives having received a proxy. The Chairperson reviews

the attendance sheet and guarantees its accuracy.

3.5. **Minutes** - A report on the deliberations and decisions of each Assembly will be prepared by the General Secretary according to the internal rules document and approved by the President. Copies or extracts are made available to members in an electronic or printed version.

The Minutes must indicate the date, place and agenda of the meeting, the mode of convening, the names of the members present and represented, the documents and reports submitted for discussion, a summary of the debates, and the texts of the resolutions with the results of the votes.

Section 4. **Official invitation to the assemblies**

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 assemblies will take place at the location indicated in the official invitation.

I) An official invitation is sent at least thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting by the General Secretary to all the members of the GGN composing the assembly.

II) An announcement is published on the website of the GGN.

The official invitation includes the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda of the assembly and can be communicated by e-mail.

Section 5. **Authority of the President.**

The President of the GGN Executive Board chairs the General Assembly. If the President does not wish to exercise this function, one of the two Vice-Presidents shall chair the General Assembly.

Section 6. **Vote.**

During the sessions of the General Assembly and notably during the election of the Executive Board, each Individual or Institutional member has one vote.

A member of the General Assembly may be represented by another member of the GGN, but no person may hold more than one (1) proxy.

Each Affiliated Organisation has the right to appoint one (1) of its voting members (individual members or representatives of institutional members of the GGN), under the same conditions.

**Article 11 - Executive Board Section**

1. **Organisation.**

The Executive Board is the decision making body of the GGN.

It consists of not less than nine (9) and not 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 Executive Board elected members consists of: One elected representative from each Regional Geoparks Network having up to 20 members.

Two elected representatives for each Regional Geoparks Network having more than 20 members.

Three (3) to five (5) Global Geopark Professionals nominated due to their professional curricula, elected by the General Assembly.

The members of the Executive Board are elected by the Ordinary General Assembly and serve a four (4)-year term of office.

Members of the Executive Board may serve not more than three (3) consecutive terms, if elected.

The President chairs the Executive Board.

When the President is unable to serve his or her elected term, the Executive Board will select one of the Vice-Presidents by a simple majority to act as President until the next election.

When a Vice-President is unable to complete his or her term, the Executive Board will select one of the members by a simple majority to act as Vice-President until the next election.

When a Treasurer is unable to complete his or her term, the Executive Board will select one of the members by a simple majority to act as Treasurer until the next election.

When a General Secretary is unable to complete his or her term, the Executive Board will select one of the members by a simple majority to act as General Secretary until the next election.

If a member is unable to complete his or her term, the position shall remain vacant until the next election.

Persons elected to the Executive Board shall not hold additional offices within the GGN unless authorised to do so by the Executive Board.

Section 2. **Meetings.**

The Executive Board shall meet in ordinary meeting at least once a year. The ordinary annual meeting should take place during September. Additional meetings can be arranged.

The GGN Executive Board meeting will take place during each International Conference on Geoparks or at such times and places a Regional Geoparks Conference and/or Symposium should take place, at Global Geoparks Headquarters and at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

In case of the need of an urgent decision the Executive Board meeting may be organized by tele-conference.

Section 3. **Duties of the GGN Executive Board.**

The GGN Executive Board ensures the good management of the GGN. It oversees the various resources of the GGN (financial, human, intellectual and technical) and their development. It safeguards the GGN's reputation, international esteem and public regard.

It recommends an amount for the membership fees to be approved by the General Assembly.

The GGN Executive Board will establish a roster of field evaluators whose purpose will be to undertake field evaluations of new applications for areas

wishing to become UNESCO Global Geoparks. These evaluators will have combined or proved professional experience in Global Geopark management (geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues).

These evaluators will also conduct revalidation missions.

Section 4. **Quorum and Majority**

The quorum of a meeting of the Executive Board shall be a simple majority of the members. The Executive Board takes its decisions by simple majority. In case of tie the chair of the meeting has a decisive vote.

Section 5. **International Committees / Task Forces / Working groups.**

The Executive Board may appoint standing committees, task forces, and working groups, and define their duties. Unless re-appointed by the Executive Board membership in committees, task forces, and working groups ceases in the year following the elections of the Executive Board.

Section 6. **Candidates for the Executive Board.**

Candidates for election as officers and members of the Executive Board of the GGN may only among representatives of institutional members in “good standing” and individual members in “good standing”. Each nomination followed by the candidate's CV must be accompanied by letters signed by at least three members of the General Assembly, which endorse the nomination.

**Article 12. The Executive Board Officers**

Section 1. **The President**

The President is elected by the General Assembly for a four (4)-year term of office and can be re-elected for a second term of the same duration. The President sets the strategic orientations for the activities of the GGN in its capacity as an international organisation representing Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals. The President represents the GGN in all civil acts. The signature of the President binds the GGN in agreements with third parties. The President convenes and chairs the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

Section 2. **The two (2) Vice-Presidents**

The two (2) Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly for a four (4)-year term of office and can be re-elected for a second term of the same duration. The Vice Presidents carry out the functions and tasks assigned to them by the Executive Board, they provide any assistance required by the President and, in his/her absence, convene and chair meetings.

Section 3. **The Treasurer**

The Treasurer is elected by the General Assembly for a four (4)-year term of office and can be re-elected

for a second mandate of the same duration. The Treasurer establishes the guidelines necessary for the financial policy of the GGN, in collaboration with the General Secretary, for the approval of the Executive Board, examines the financial results of GGN, and reports periodically to the Executive Board and the Advisory Committee.

Section 4. **The General Secretary**

The General Secretary is elected by the General Assembly for a four (4)-year term of office and can be re-elected for a second mandate of the same duration. The General Secretary is responsible for the distribution of invitations to the members, the minutes of the meetings, coordinates the representation of the Institutional and Cooperating Members, proposes the guidelines necessary for the financial policy of the GGN, in collaboration with the Treasurer, for the approval of the Executive Board, is responsible for the relation with the affiliated organizations in collaboration with the President, and reports periodically to the Executive Board and the Advisory Committee.

Section 5. **The Bureau of the Officers**

The Bureau of the Officers may address urgent issues and provide ad hoc solutions. All actions taken by the Bureau will be reported to the full Executive Board at the earliest opportunity, with an explanation of the emergency and the subsequent action.

**Article 13 - Auditing of Accounts**

At its annual meeting, the Executive Board shall appoint a qualified chartered accountant and fix the emoluments.

The chartered accountant appointed as auditor will draw up an annual report on the accounts of the GGN.

**Article 14 – GGN Advisory Committee**

Section 1. **Organisation.**

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 Organisations.

Section 2. **Functions of the Advisory Committee.**

The Advisory Committee advises the Executive Board and the General Assembly on matters concerning the policies, programmes, procedures and finances of the GGN, and may propose amendments to the Statutes.

It advises on matters and activities in the general interest of the GGN, as recommended by the Executive Board.

The tasks of the GGN Advisory Committee include mentoring for regions wishing to create a Global Geopark.

The activities of the Advisory Committee shall be reported to the General Assembly for approval at its next meeting.

Section 3. **Officers.**

The Chairperson and 2 Vice-Chairpersons of the Advisory Committee shall be elected by the membership for a four (4) year term of office.

Advisory Committee officers may serve two consecutive terms.

The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall convene and chair the meetings of the Committee, and shall serve as an ex officio member of the Executive Board and as the Elections Officer of the GGN.

Section 4. **Annual Meeting.**

The Advisory Committee meets at least every two years in ordinary session, on the same date and at the same location as one of the Executive Board meetings.

Section 5. **Voting by proxy.**

A member of the Advisory Committee (other than the Chairperson) may be represented by another member of the GGN at a meeting of the Committee, but no person may hold more than one (1) proxy.

Section 6. **Quorum and Majority.**

The quorum for a meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be one-half (50%) of the members present and represented by proxy. If this quorum is not reached, the Advisory Committee shall be convened again at the same place within twenty-four hours. Whatever the number of members then present, the Advisory Committee has the power to deliberate. The Advisory Committee decisions are taken by a simple majority of the members present and represented.

**Article 15 - National Geopark Fora / Committees**

A National Geopark Forum or Committee, including all the members of the GGN resident in a State, may be authorised by the Executive Board to represent the interests of Global Geoparks and the Global Geopark profession and to organise activities of the GGN in that State.

National Geopark Committees may also include:

- 1 representative of the Government body in charge of Geoparks;
- 1 representative of the national geological organization or survey;
- 1 representative of the national environmental/protected area organization; 1 representative of the national cultural heritage body;
- 1 representative of the national tourism organization;

Additional members may be included as seen

appropriate to fit the particular national context.

National Geopark Committees activities will conform to the Rules for National Geopark Fora / Committees.

All National Geopark Fora / Committees shall submit an Annual Report of Activities to the GGN Executive Board.

**Article 16 - National Correspondents**

Where no National Committee exists in a State, a member of the GGN may be designated by the Executive Board to be the National Correspondent of GGN for that State.

**Article 17 - International Committees / Task Forces / Working Groups**

An International Committee / Task Force / Working Group may be authorised by the Executive Board to implement programmes and activities, and to serve as a channel of communication between members of the GGN with similar scientific and professional interests. International Committees' activities will conform to the Rules for International Committees / Task Forces / Working Groups.

GGN International Committee / Task Force / Working Group should submit periodically a report on their activities to the the GGN Executive Board.

**Article 18 - Regional Geopark Networks**

Recognising 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 the highly significant role it plays in capacity-building, the GGN will encourage the strengthening of Regional Geopark Networks. Regional Geopark Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level.

Regional Geopark Networks serve for the coordination of GGN activities at a regional or continental level and as fora for the exchange of information and co-operation between Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals in the region.

The activities of Regional Geopark Networks include the organisation of Regional Geopark Conferences, workshops and seminars, capacity building activities, common projects, promotional activities and common publications.

Each Geopark Network forms a Coordination Commission which is the governing body of the Regional Network and elects two Coordinators and an Advisory Committee according to the Regional Geopark Network Rules of operation.

All Regional Geopark Networks shall submit an Annual Report of Activities to the GGN Executive Board.

**Article 19 - Affiliated Organisations**

The GGN may grant affiliated status to an international organisation having cognate interests, provided the aims, objects and constitution of such associations are compatible with those of the GGN.

The relations with the affiliated organizations may have a thematic or a regional character. Affiliated Organisations' activities will conform to the Rules for Affiliated Organisations.

The GGN Executive Board having determined that the Statutes of the Association proposed for affiliation satisfy these conditions, shall recommend to the General Assembly that affiliation be granted.

The affiliation terminates when the General Assembly of the GGN or the Affiliated Organisation so decides and the other organization has been duly informed.

All Affiliated Organisations shall submit an Annual Report of Activities to the GGN Executive Board.

**Article 20 - International Geopark Conference**

Section 1. **International Geoparks Conference.**

The GGN shall hold an International Geoparks Conference every two years.

Section 2. **Resolutions.**

The International Geoparks Conference may propose resolutions arising from its discussions for consideration by the General Assembly.

Section 3. **Conference Host.**

Fully detailed submissions from Global Geoparks to host the conference shall be addressed to the GGN Executive Board.

When a submission has been accepted, the organisation and financing of the conference shall, subject to the other provisions, be the responsibility of the host country or countries.

However, the GGN Executive Board shall advise on the programme planned for the conference.

It shall be the responsibility of the host country or countries that:

suitable facilities are provided for the meeting of the General Assembly;

provision shall be made for the meetings of the GGN Executive Board;

detail bids to host the conference arrangements shall be submitted to the GGN Executive Board at least two years in advance of the date of the conference. The GGN Executive Board shall satisfy itself that the proposals are compatible with the statutes of the GGN.

A representative of the Organising Committee of the next conference shall normally be invited to attend the meeting of the GGN Executive Board at which the proposals are considered, and the host country shall be asked to invite a member or members of the Executive Board for consultation.



Session 4. **Conference language**

The working languages of the International Conference on Geoparks shall be English. With the approval of the GGN Executive Board the language of the host country may be used in discussions provided that appropriate translation facilities have been arranged.

Session 5. **Report.**

The organising committee of the International Conference on Geoparks or meeting will be invited to report on its activities to the GGN Executive Board. After the conclusion of the conference or meeting, the organising committee shall submit a final report to the GGN Executive Board.

**Article 21 – Conferences, Meetings and Capacity building activities**

Session 1. **Regional Geopark Conferences**

The GGN Executive Board may accept proposals to support Regional Geopark Conferences which should not be organized at the same year of the International Geoparks Conference. Regional Conferences are organized by the Regional Geopark Networks.

Session 2. **International meetings and symposia.**

The GGN Executive Board may accept proposals to support international meetings of a more restricted character or for special purposes or may itself sponsor or organise such meetings. GGN may also operate or support other conferences and workshops relevant to the GGN. These initiatives may be organized in collaboration with relevant public or private organisations.

Session 3. **Capacity building activities**

GGN will seek to support regional workshops for capacity-building. Additionally, the GGN will play an active role in nurturing partnerships and the sharing of best practice between existing Global Geoparks and aspiring geoparks and, where possible, help an exchange of expertise between them. In addition, the GGN will seek to support one annual training course for new members of its evaluator roster.

GGN may also operate or support other training courses and other capacity building activities relevant to the GGN. These initiatives may be organized in collaboration with relevant public or private organisations.

The GGN will support applications from underrepresented regions with advisory missions.

Session 4. **GGN Website**

The GGN will establish a GGN website which will be the official communication tool between its members for communication and sharing information. The GGN will investigate the establishment of a web-based tool to document and exchange experiences and best practice of the Geopark community.

Session 5. **Annual Reports.**

All GGN Institutional Members will be invited to report on their activities to the GGN Executive Board with the submission of a Geopark Annual Report. These reports will be published at the GGN website.

**Article 22 - Operational Secretariat**

Section 1. **Role.**

The Operational Secretariat, consisting of the General Secretary and other staff members of GGN, is the operational centre of GGN. It evaluates and initiates programmes, handles membership files, records and manages finances, and protects and promotes the identity of the Organisation.

Section 2. **Operations.**

The General Secretary in collaboration with the President are responsible to the Executive Board for the efficient and effective management of the GGN Secretariat, the resources required for GGN’s functioning and the daily operations of the Secretariat, as well as for the promotion of the interests of GGN and communications with its members, regional networks, committees, task forces and working groups. In day-to-day matters, the General Secretary reports directly to the President of GGN.

**Article 23 - Income and Disbursements**

Section 1. **Income.**

The financial resources of the GGN consist of the following:

- annual fees paid by the Members,
- income from GGN assets and activities,
- grants and private donations, received directly, and contributions from the GGN Contributing Members,
- payments received within the framework of contractual agreements for services rendered by the GGN.

Section 2. **Disbursements.**

Expenditure of GGN funds may be made only in accordance with the annual budget prepared under the guidelines established by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Board. The Global Geopark Network will make a voluntary annual contribution to UNESCO equivalent to no less than 1000 USD per Global Geopark

**Article 24 - Languages**

Section 1. **Official Languages.**

English and French shall be the official languages of the GGN. English will be used as the working

language at GGN meetings. Section 2. **Other Languages.** The General Assembly may adopt other languages provided the costs of doing so are met by the Members.

**Article 25 - Policies and Rules of Procedure**

Section 1. **Adoption of Policies.**

The Executive Board shall adopt, and may amend, such Policies and Rules as are required to give effect to the provisions of these Statutes.

Section 2. **Rules of Procedure.**

The General Assembly and the Advisory Committee shall adopt, and may amend, its own Rules of Procedure.

**Article 26 - Relations with Other Organisations**

Section 1. **UNESCO.**

The GGN shall maintain consultative relations with UNESCO, as defined though a Memorandum of Understanding.

Section 2. **Other Partners.**

The GGN may establish working relations with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the International Union of Geological Sciences and other international organisations as may be deemed appropriate.

Section 3. **Participation of Other Organisations.**

The GGN may invite representatives of international organisations with which it has established official relations to participate in its General Assembly, Advisory Committee, International Geoparks Conference and other meetings.

**Article 27 - Validation and Amendment**

Section 1. **Implementation.**

These Statutes shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the General Assembly.

Section 2. **Official Document.**

Since the GGN is registered in France as an Association governed by the 1901 law, the statutes will have to be registrated in a French-language. Therefore the official document on which all future translations are to be based will be on the english version adopted by the General Assembly which will be used in case of event of litigation or misunderstanding.

Section 3. **Amendments.**

The Executive Board, the Advisory Committee, Regional Geopark Networks, National Committees, and Affiliated Organisations may propose amendments to these Statutes.

**Article 28 – Dissolution**

Section 1. **Authority for Dissolution.**

Members of the GGN may decide to dissolve the Organisation through a decision taken at an Extraordinary General Assembly by a three-fourths (75%) majority of the Members present or represented. All Members must be duly convened, in compliance with Section 4 of Article 10.

Section 2. **Assets of the Organisation.**

Any assets owned by the GGN at the time of dissolution shall be transferred, in consultation with UNESCO and in accordance with the provisions of the French 1901 law relating to associations, to an organisation having similar aims to those of the GGN.

3.2 Global Geoparks Network  
AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

**Article 4 – Section 3**

4. Cooperating Members — International Organizations, institutions or persons providing substantial financial or other assistance to the GGN because of an interest in Global Geoparks and international co-operation between Global Geoparks.

**New proposal**

4. Cooperating Members — International non-profit Organizations, non-profit institutions or persons providing substantial financial or other assistance to the GGN because of an interest in Global Geoparks and international co-operation between Global Geoparks.

# Global Geoparks Network

## INTERNAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

### Article 1 - PURPOSE

The purpose of these Internal Rules and Regulations is to set out the rules governing the operation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) pursuant to its Statutes.

### Article 2 - MEMBERS

The GGN has the following categories of Membership (Article 4 GGN Statutes):

1. Institutional Members — UNESCO Global Geoparks.
2. Individual Members – Global Geopark Professionals — Persons who have combined or proved professional experience in Global Geopark management (geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues).
3. Honorary Members — Persons who have rendered exceptional services to the international Global Geopark community or to the GGN.
4. Cooperating Members — International Organizations, institutions or persons providing substantial financial or other assistance to the GGN because of an interest in Global Geoparks and international co- operation between Global Geoparks.

The GGN Secretariat will publish the updated GGN Member list on the GGN Internet site at least 3 months before the Ordinary General Assembly.

#### 2.1. Institutional Members

##### 2.1.1. Institutional Members definition

A Global Geopark is an area recognised by UNESCO through their certification “UNESCO Global Geopark”, open to the public, which is responsible for the protection and rational management of a unified territory with a single boundary that comprises a number of internationally important geological heritage sites on any scale, or a mosaic of geological entities of special scientific importance, rarity or beauty. These features are representative of a region's geological history and the events and processes that formed it.

A Global Geopark protects, preserves, conserves, researches, acquires, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible Earth heritage sites of international value and their environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

Global Geoparks adopted a “bottom-up” or community-led approach to ensure that an area's geological significance not only could be conserved but also promoted for the service of society through science and education and used as a sustainable economic asset, for example through the development of responsible tourism.

#### 2.1.2. Inscription procedure

Territories once recognized as UNESCO Global Geoparks should submit an official application letter for membership in the International Association “Global Geoparks Network (GGN)” (duly signed and stamped). The application letter should be compiled in English.

The GGN Executive Board decides on the application.

#### 2.1.3. Exclusion procedure

In the case where a territory loses its UNESCO recognition as a UNESCO Global Geopark, then it will automatically lose its GGN Membership, by a decision of the GGN Executive Board, which will take into consideration the communication of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat.

Exclusion shall be effective as of the date the Executive Board's decision is delivered.

In the case where an action (see definition Code of Ethics) is brought against a Member (or its Representative) on serious grounds by a GGN Committee or another Member, the Secretariat of GGN will prepare a file containing all elements. This file will be presented to the President who will decide whether or not to initiate a disciplinary procedure.

A Member subject to a disciplinary procedure will be called before the Executive Board.

The notice of meeting shall set out the alleged actions or violations for which the Member is held accountable by the procedure of exclusions, the sanction he or she may incur, his or her defence in writing or verbally before the Executive Board and the specification that the Member may choose a representative. After the Member in question has been heard or his or her written statement read, the Executive Board shall deliberate.

In case of an Executive Board decision for exclusion of the member then the exclusion shall be effective as of the date the Executive Board's decision is delivered.

### 2.2. Individual Members

Global Geopark Professionals include individuals with combined or proven professional experience in Global Geopark management, geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues according to the internal rules document.

These Global Geopark professionals can be personnel of Global Geoparks or personnel of educational, training and research institutions which are beneficial to Global Geopark activities, having received specialised training, or possessing an equivalent practical experience, in any field relevant to the management and activities of a Global Geopark, respecting the GGN Code of Ethics and working for and with Global Geoparks.

#### 2.2.1. Approval of membership procedure

##### 2.2.1.a. Procedure for inscription

Each individual wishing to become individual member of the GGN should submit an application using the established forms published on the GGN Internet site accompanied by a CV including the necessary documentation and references and a declaration for the respect of the GGN statutes, GGN Code of Ethics and GGN Operational rules and guidelines.

The GGN Executive Board decides on the application.

##### 2.2.1.b. CRITERIA FOR INSCRIPTION

Each GGN Individual member should cover at least one of the criteria below:

- At least 4 years manager or representing geoscientist in a Global Geopark.
- Member of the former GGN Bureau, the European Geoparks Network Advisory Committee (EGN - AC), or the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN - AC), respectively.
- At least 5 years combined experience in Global Geopark management, geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development - promotion and environmental issues or proven professional experience in each of the fields of Global Geopark management, geological heritage, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues in relation with Geoparks.
- At least 5 years personnel of educational, training and research institutions which are beneficial to Global Geopark activities, having received specialized training, or possessing an equivalent practical experience, in any field relevant to the management and activities of a Global Geopark.

#### 2.2.2. Exclusion procedure

In the case where an action is brought against a Member on serious grounds by a GGN body (Article 8 of the GGN Statutes) or a GGN Member, the Secretariat of the GGN prepares a file containing

all elements. This file is addressed to the President who decides whether or not to initiate a disciplinary procedure.

The Member subject to a disciplinary procedure is called before the Executive Board. The notice of meeting shall set out the alleged actions or violations for which the Member is held accountable by the procedure of exclusions, the sanction he or she may incur, his or her defence in writing or verbally before the Executive Board and the specification that the Member may choose a representative. After the Member in question has been heard or his or her written statement read, the Executive Board shall deliberate.

In case of an Executive Board decision for exclusion of the member then the exclusion shall be effective as of the date the Executive Board's decision is delivered.

The Executive Board decision shall be delivered to the Member by registered mail, with acknowledgment of receipt requested. His or her National Geoparks Committee is also informed of this decision.

### Article 3 - ELECTION TO THE GGN EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### 3.1. Candidacies

##### 3.1.1. Nomination of candidates - Candidacy forms

Candidates for election as Members of the GGN Executive Board and for the seats of the Executive Board Officers: President, Two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and General Secretary of GGN can be individuals either representatives of the Institutional Members either Individual Members.

A candidate can apply for a single function only, either as Executive Board member or as Executive Board officer.

##### a. Nomination of candidates

The GGN Institutional Members shall nominate individuals (Representatives of GGN Institutional Members or GGN Individual Members) as candidates for election as Members of the GGN Executive Board and for the seats of the Executive Board Officers: President, Two Vice- Presidents, Treasurer, and General Secretary of GGN.

The GGN Individual Members shall be nominated as candidates for election as Members of the GGN Executive Board and for the seats of the Executive Board Officers:

President, Two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and General Secretary of GGN, solely by:

- the Advisory Committees (AC) of the GGN Regional Networks, or
- the GGN National Forum/Committee of the country where he or she resides; or
- at least 5 GGN Institutional Members coming from at least two different states than the candidate.

## b. Candidacy forms

The candidacy forms presented by the GGN Institutional Members, Regional AC or GGN National Fora/Committees must be sent to the GGN Secretariat in accordance with the election procedure rules using the established forms published in the GGN Internet site.

Each form must contain the name(s) of the Institutional member or GGN Regional or GGN National Forum/Committee that is nominating the candidate and must include a biographical profile of the latter.

### 3.1.2. Ineligibilities

The following individuals are ineligible for membership of the Executive Board:

- persons employed by GGN, GGN Regional Networks, GGN National Fora/Committees
- persons employed by UNESCO Secretariat or National UNESCO Committees

“Employee” refers to each individual who carries out functions for GGN, UNESCO, UNESCO Nat. Com. or its Committees and receives remuneration for these functions.

### 3.2. Candidacy application - Election

**Committee** Candidacy forms must be filed by the fixed date, which is set by the GGN Secretariat in accordance with an elections calendar adopted by the GGN Executive Board.

This calendar must be published to the GGN website at least 80 days before the GGN General Assembly.

Candidacies must be addressed to the GGN Secretariat. In the case where a candidacy is deemed inadmissible, a decision to that effect must be submitted to the Institutional Member, Regional or National Committee that put forward the candidacy, offering them the opportunity to correct the candidacy application within an allotted time.

Once the GGN Secretariat has examined the admissibility of the candidacy the applications are forwarded to the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee is comprised of three (3) GGN Members who are not candidates for election to the Executive Board.

They are appointed by the GGN Executive Board for an indefinite term of office. The Elections Committee elects its Chairperson. The GGN General Secretary takes part in the Elections Committee meetings.

The Elections Committee must validate the admissibility of candidacies within no more than 15 days following the filing deadline.

Upon expiry of the allotted time limit to check the candidacy application, the Elections Committee authorizes the GGN Secretariat to publish in the

GGN website a list of candidates for membership on the Executive Board.

### 3.3. Presentation of candidates

A candidate presentation document is published in English and put on GGN’s Internet site.

This document shall contain a presentation of each candidate and a description of the election process.

### 3.4. Election of Members to the Executive Board

The election of Members of the GGN Executive Board and for the seats of the Executive Board Officers, shall take place during the General Assembly meeting held during the General Conference.

The Members of the GGN Ordinary General Assembly constitute the voting Members. Voting rights are set forth in the Statutes. Each Institutional and Individual member has one vote.

Voting Members who are unable to be present on the days of voting may choose to vote by proxy, whereby they may designate another voting Member to vote on their behalf. A voting Member may have a single proxy only for a single absent voting Member.

Only proxy forms established by the GGN Secretariat and published on GGN’s Internet site shall be accepted at the time of voting. Upon presentation of the proxy, the voting Member shall receive the voting ballot of the Member he or she is representing.

The voting ballot for ordinary membership on the Executive Board should set forth the candidates’ names in alphabetical order. In order to be valid, a vote must provide the

option to select, by ticking a box, a maximum of five (5) candidates for ordinary membership on the Executive Board.

If this condition is not satisfied, the voting ballot shall be deemed invalid.

In addition, for each seat of the Executive Board Officers, the voting ballot must provide the option to select, by ticking a box, no more than one candidate.

If this condition is not satisfied, the vote for the relevant seat of the Executive Board Officer shall be deemed invalid.

Only voting session pertaining to an election are to be held by secret ballot.

The Elections Committee shall determine the date and time open as well as other procedures for the election and the voting stations.

Candidates for seats of the Executive Board Officers obtaining the largest number of votes shall be elected.

Candidates for seats on the Executive Board obtaining the largest number of votes shall be elected, as prescribed in the GGN Statutes Article 11, Sections 1.

Electoral rules reiterating and specifying these guidelines shall be drawn up by the Executive Board and validated by the Elections Committee for each election.

The voting ballot system may be replaced by any technical means making it possible to use an electronic voting or remote voting system, approved by the Elections Committee and the GGN Secretariat.

The election of Members of the Executive Board is effective from the close of the General Assembly meeting during which they were elected.

### 3.5. Vacancies

In case of vacancy of the office of President, the Executive Board appoints one (1) of the Vice-presidents to assume the presidency until the following election of Members of the Executive Board by the General Assembly (article 11 of the Statutes).

In case of vacancy of the office of Vice- president, the Executive Board appoints an ordinary Member to assume this function until the following election of Members of the Executive Board by the General Assembly (article 11 of the Statutes). The choice is made by simple majority vote.

In case of vacancy of the office of Treasurer or General Secretary the Executive Board appoints one of its Members one (1) to assume this function until the following election of Members of the Executive Board by the General Assembly. The choice is made by simple majority vote.

In case of vacancy of the office of an Executive Board Member, the office remains vacant until the following election by the General Assembly.

## Article 4 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is the advisory body of GGN. Members of this Advisory Committee are individuals, official representatives of Institutional Members or Individual Members of GGN.

### 4.1. Advisory Committee’s composition

The Members of the GGN Advisory Committee are:

- i. the appointed representative of the GGN National Fora/Committees, which is a GGN member;
- ii. the appointed representative of the GGN Affiliated Organizations;

In countries where no GGN National Forum/ Committee exists, the existing GGN Institutional Member representative is the member in the

Advisory Committee.

The Members of the Executive Board, Coordinators of the Regional Networks and all National Correspondents (member of GGN) may attend Advisory Committee meetings as observers.

Observers do not have the right to participate in the vote.

The status of Member of the Advisory Committee shall be forfeited in the case of:

- suspension of the function of the appointed representative of a GGN National Forum/ Committee or of an Affiliated Organization of GGN;
- unexpected obstacle to, loss or withdrawal of GGN membership, or resignation transmitted by a formal written note addressed to the GGN Secretariat.

### 4.2. Duties of the Advisory Committee

The duties of the Advisory Committee shall be to:

- advise the Executive Board and the General Assembly on issues relating to GGN’s policies, programmes, procedures and finances;
- give its opinion on issues and actions in GGN’s general interest;
- propose modifications or amendments to be made to the Statutes.

The Advisory Committee reports its proceedings in an annual report to be submitted to the President and the Secretary General of GGN. This report is to be presented by the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee to the Executive Board.

### 4.3. Advisory Committee Meetings

The Advisory Committee shall hold an ordinary meeting at least every 2 years, simultaneously with a session of the General Assembly. Its Chairperson shall give the notice of meeting. The meetings shall be held on the dates designated by the President of GGN.

An extraordinary Advisory Committee meeting may be held at the request of the Executive Board. The Advisory Committee Chairperson must ask the participants to attend the meeting within a reasonable time limit. The extraordinary session must be held within three

(3) months after receipt of the request from the Executive Board, preferably simultaneously with a session of and at the place of a Regional Conference.

### 4.4. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee

The appointed representatives of GGN National Fora/Committees and Affiliated Organizations shall elect the Chairperson, then the Vice- Chairperson during the General Assembly.

The Chairperson’s and Vice-Chairperson’s terms



of office will last four (4) years, shall expire upon the election of their successors and can be renewed for another four (4) year term once.

At least three (3) months prior to the expiry of the current terms of office, the General Secretary shall write a letter to the Chairperson and the Vice- Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, to Chairpersons of all the GGN National Fora/ Committees, calling for candidacies for the offices of Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

At least two (2) months prior to the expiry of the current terms of office, the General Secretary shall write a letter to the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, to Chairpersons of all the GGN National Fora/ Committees, calling for candidacies for the offices of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

The General Secretary must receive the candidacies no later than 40 days before the election date as set forth in the call for candidacies. The General Secretary shall submit the names of the candidates, together with any biographical profiles, to the Members of the Advisory Committee at least one (1) months before the election is to be held.

As an exception to the previous provisions, candidates wishing to run in the election for Vice-Chairperson shall also be able to come forward during the General Assembly, at the close of the result announcements for the elections of the Executive Board and of Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

The candidate for each office having received the largest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided that he or she obtains more than 50% of the votes in the first voting round. If no candidate obtains more than 50% of the votes, a second voting round is to be organized between only the two candidates having received the highest number of votes in the first voting round.

At the conclusion of the second voting round, the candidate having received the majority shall be declared elected.

The elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall take office once the results of their election have been declared.

**4.5. Duties of the Advisory Committee Chairperson**

The Advisory Committee Chairperson carries out the following tasks:

- convene and preside over the Committee meetings;
- represent the Advisory Committee at Executive Board meetings without voting rights;
- ensure that GGN’s election procedures are enforced.

In the case of absence of the Chairperson or of unforeseen obstacles, the Vice-Chairperson presides at the Advisory Committee meeting and carries out the duties and responsibilities incumbent upon the Chairperson.

**4.6. Duties of the Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee**

The Vice-Chairperson assists the Chairperson in overseeing the Advisory Committee and may represent it at Executive Board meetings in case of absence of the Chairperson or unforeseen obstacles.

The Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee performance of all duties conferred upon him or her by the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

**4.7. Vacancies**

If the office of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson becomes vacant, during its next meeting, the Committee shall elect one of its Members to be Chairperson or Vice- Chairperson to deputies the former Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for the duration of his or her remaining term of office.

**4.8. Voting at Advisory Committee meetings**

The Chairpersons of the Advisory Committee and the appointed representatives of the National Fora/Committees, and Affiliated Organizations shall each have one (1) vote. Resolutions are adopted by a single majority vote of the Members present in person or represented by proxy.

A Member of the Advisory Committee may designate another Member of his or her Committee or Organization to represent him by proxy at Committee meetings but no one Member may hold more than one proxy. Only proxy forms established by the GGN Secretariat and published on GGN’s Internet site shall be accepted at the time of voting.

**Article 5 - TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

All committees, task forces and working groups will be referred to as “Technical Committees”. The GGN Executive Board may establish Technical Committees; define their mission, term of office, membership and their duration.

Technical Committees have a maximum four (4) years term, after which time they will be automatically dissolved, unless a renewal decision is expressly taken.

The President of GGN shall appoint a Chairperson in consultation with the Executive Board and shall appoint the members of each Committee in consultation with the Chairperson of the aforementioned Committee.

The Chairperson of each Technical Committee submits its annual report to the GGN Executive Board who will report to the General Assembly.

**Article 6 - DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN GGN GOVERNING BODIES**

**6.1. The General Assembly**

The General Assembly adopts the policy report presented by the President, approves the accounts of the previous year, grants discharge 6.1. The General Assembly The General Assembly adopts the policy report presented by the President, approves the accounts of the previous year, grants discharge to elected officers from their organizational tasks, elects Members of the Executive Board, approves the strategic plan, approves the amount of membership fees proposed by the Executive Board, modifies the Statutes and decides on whether to dissolve the Association.

**6.2. The Executive Board**

The Executive Board oversees the proper management of the Association, votes on the budget, approves decisions relating to the acquisition, exchange and transfer of immovable property as may be necessary to pursue the Association’s objectives, relating to taking out mortgages on such immovable property and leases with terms exceeding nine (9) years and loans.

The Executive Board approves the closing of the accounts.

The Executive Board establishes the General Assembly’s agenda.

**6.3. The President**

Pursuant to GGN’s historical and on-going practices and in the spirit of collective responsibility, the President may consult and collaborate with members of the Executive Board.

The President may settle all matters within the framework of the Strategic Plan, the budget and other issues of the Executive Board.

He or she may delegate authority to the General Secretary or Vice Presidents to handle issues dealing with the management of day-to-day GGN operations.

He or she establishes the Executive Board’s agenda.

**6.4. Vice - Presidents**

The Vice Presidents carry out the functions and tasks assigned to them by the Executive Board, they provide any assistance required by the President and, in his/her absence, convene and chair meetings.

**6.5. General Secretary**

The General Secretary is responsible for the distribution of invitations to the members, the minutes of the meetings, coordinates the

representation of the Institutional and Cooperating Members, proposes the guidelines necessary for the financial policy of the GGN, in collaboration with the Treasurer, for the approval of the Executive Board, is responsible for the relation with the affiliated organizations in collaboration with the President, and reports periodically to the Executive Board and the Advisory Committee.

**6.6. The Treasurer**

The Treasurer sets up the framework necessary to ensure the financial management of the Association by common agreement with the President and the General Secretary and ensures that it is observed.

**Article 7 - ELECTED AND NOMINATED MEMBERS CHARTER**

An elected Member’s Charter is signed by each candidate standing for election or each Member appointed to a seat on a commission or in a Committee. The Charter sets forth the principles that each elected Member or candidate agrees to abide by, in particular:

- Respect for GGN’s ethical principles and the commitment to serve its interests;
- The safeguarding of confidentiality in particular with respect to discussions and documents;
- The duty of loyalty, any Member of one of GGN’s governing bodies must uphold and comply with the decisions made within that body;
- The obligation to exercise restraint, elected Members or Members of Committees must not use their position for self-interest ;
- The use of GGN resources is prohibited outside his or her functions. Any breach or failure to abide by these principles may result in disciplinary action.

**Article 8 - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

These Internal Rules and Regulations complete the GGN Statutes.

In the event of a contradiction or discrepancy between these Internal Rules and Regulations and GGN Statutes, the Statutes shall prevail over the Internal Rules and Regulations. The official working language of the GGN will be English. In the event of a contradiction or a difficulty in interpreting both English and French versions of the present Rules and Regulations, the English version shall prevail over the French version.

# Global Geoparks Network

## CODE OF ETHICS FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS AND GLOBAL GEOPARK PROFESSIONALS

### SUMMARY

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- C. Translations of the GGN Code of Ethics for UNESCO Global Geoparks

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### PREAMBLE

#### A. Status of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Code of Ethics for UNESCO Global Geoparks and Global Geopark Professionals

The GGN Code of Ethics has been prepared by the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network. It is the statement for the Code of Ethics as referred to in the GGN Statutes.

The Code reflects principles generally accepted by the UNESCO Global Geoparks community.

Through their membership in the GGN and payment of the annual subscription individual and institutional members, herein afterwards referred to GGN Members, have affirmed the GGN Code of Ethics

#### B. A Minimum Standard for GGN members

The GGN Code represents a minimum standard for GGN Members. It is presented as a series of principles supported by guidelines for desirable professional practice. In some countries, certain minimum standards are defined by law or government regulation. In others, guidance on and assessment of minimum professional standards may be available in the form of 'Accreditation', 'Registration', or similar evaluative schemes. Where such standards are not defined, guidance can be obtained through the GGN Secretariat, a relevant GGN National Geoparks Forum / Committee or the appropriate Regional Network of GGN. It is also intended that individual nations and the specialized subject organizations connected with the Global Geoparks Network should use this Code as a basis for developing additional standards.

#### C. Translations of the GGN Code of Ethics

The GGN Code of Ethics is published in the official languages of the organisation: English and French. GGN welcomes the translation of the Code into other languages. However, a translation will be regarded as "official" only if it is endorsed by at least one GGN National Geoparks Forum / Committee of a country in which the language is spoken, normally as the first language. Where the language is spoken in more than one country, it is preferable that the National Committees of these countries also be consulted. Attention is drawn to the need for linguistic as well as professional Geopark expertise in providing official translations. The language version used for a translation and the names of the National Committees involved should be indicated. These conditions do not restrict translations of the Code, or parts of it, for use in educational work or for study purposes.

The GGN Code of Ethics for GGN Members was endorsed at the 20th Meeting of the GGN Executive Board on August 12th, 2016 and was finally approved by the 1st Ordinary General Assembly of GGN, on September 28th, 2016.

### INTRODUCTION

The GGN Code of Ethics for GGN Members is a basic document for GGN operation following the provisions of GGN Statutes. The whole ethos of the document continues to be that of celebrating Earth heritage, sustaining local communities and the professionalism of Geopark practitioners.

The GGN Code of Ethics provides a means of professional self-regulation and sets minimum standards of conduct and performance to which all GGN Members throughout the world may reasonably aspire as well as a providing a statement of reasonable community expectation from the Geopark profession.

The present GGN Code of Ethics provides a global minimum standard on which national and specialist groups can build to meet their particular requirements.

The GGN encourages the development of national and specialist codes of ethics to meet particular needs and will be pleased to receive copies of these. They should be sent to the Secretary-General of the GGN, Haute Provence Geopark, Musée Promenade, 10 Montée Bernard Dellacasagrande, BP 156, 04005 Cedex Digne les Bains – France.

#### The GGN Ethics Committee

The GGN General Assembly elects the GGN Ethics Committee for a period of two years composed by five elected members of the GGN General Assembly. The five elected members nominate the Committee Chair.

Members of the GGN Ethics Committee may serve not more than three (3) consecutive terms, if elected.

The GGN Ethics Committee deals with any issue which may consist breached of this Code of Ethics and reports to the GGN Executive Board. Ethical issues that require the attention and/or consideration of the GGN Ethics Committee may be addressed to its Chair.

The GGN Executive Board is the decision making body on any issue dealing with the implementation of the GGN Code of Ethics.

#### ARTICLE 1. GGN Institutional Members Administration and Management

Principle: GGN Institutional Members, as UNESCO Global Geoparks, should contribute (subject to national legislation) to the protection and rational management of the geological heritage sites as well as to other tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritages within their territory. Through the promotion of these different expressions of heritage they should provide sustainable economical development for the direct benefit of the areas communities.

## 1.1. INSTITUTIONAL STANDING

### 1.1.1. Management body

GGN Institutional Members should be areas with a management body having legal personality recognised under national legislation. The management bodies should be appropriately equipped to adequately address their territories.

GGN Institutional Members management bodies and those concerned with the strategic direction and oversight of a UNESCO Global Geopark have a primary responsibility to protect and promote the significant geological heritage sites and other heritage sites under its remit, as well as the human, physical and financial resources made available for that purpose.

### 1.1.2. Statement of the Mission, Objectives, and Policies

The GGN Institutional Member management body is encouraged to prepare, publicize and be guided by a statement of the mission, objectives, and policies implemented within the UNESCO Global Geopark territory and of the strategy of the management body to involve local authorities, communities, schools and local stakeholders to their activities.

## 1.2. PHYSICAL RESOURCES

### 1.2.1. Premises - Infrastructure

The GGN Institutional Member management body should ensure adequate premises and infrastructure to present the territory and its resources and to fulfill the basic functions defined in its mission. A Geopark Museum or Info-center is recommended for this purpose.

### 1.2.2. Access

The GGN Institutional Member management body should ensure that the UNESCO Global Geopark territory is available to visitors during reasonable hours and for regular periods. Particular regard should be given to those persons with special needs.

### 1.2.3. Health and Safety

The GGN Institutional Member management body should ensure that institutional standards of health, safety, and accessibility apply to its personnel, visitors and evaluators.

### 1.2.4. Protection Against Disasters

The GGN Institutional Member management body is encouraged to develop and maintain policies to protect the public and personnel, the Geological heritage sites and other heritage sites and resources, against natural and human-made disasters.

### 1.2.5. Security

The GGN Institutional Member management body is encouraged to develop the appropriate security policy to protect the geological heritage sites and others territorial heritages against theft or damage in open air parks, museums, displays, exhibitions, working or storage areas..

## 1.3. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

### 1.3.1. Funding

The management body should ensure that there are sufficient funds to carry out and develop its activities.. All funds must be accounted for in a professional manner.

### 1.3.2. Income-generating Policy

Management bodies are encouraged to adopt a clear written policy regarding sources of income that it may generate through its activities or accept from outside sources. Regardless of funding source, GGN Institutional Members should maintain control of the content and integrity of their programmes, exhibitions and activities. Income-generating activities should not compromise the standards of the institution or the local communities.

## 1.4. PERSONNEL

### 1.4.1. Employment Policy

GGN Institutional Members management bodies should ensure that all action concerning personnel is taken in accordance with national, regional, local and indigenous legal procedures.

Each GGN Institutional Members should have available on a daily basis the presence of at least one geoscientist however, it is strongly recommended to include at least one geoscientist on its permanent staff

### 1.4.2. Appointment of the Director or Head

The director or head of GGN Institutional Members is a key post and when making an appointment, management bodies should have regard for the knowledge and skills required to fill the post effectively. These qualities should include adequate intellectual ability and professional knowledge, complemented by a high standard of ethical conduct.

### 1.4.3. Access to Management Bodies

The director or head of a GGN Institutional Members should be directly responsible, and have direct access, to the relevant management bodies.

### 1.4.4. Competence of GGN Institutional Member Personnel

The employment of qualified personnel with the expertise required to meet all relevant responsibilities is necessary.

### 1.4.5. Training of Personnel

Adequate opportunities for the continuing education and professional development of all GGN Institutional Members personnel should be arranged to maintain an effective workforce.

### 1.4.6. Ethical Conflict

The GGN Institutional Members management body should never require its personnel to act in a way that could be considered to conflict with the provisions of this Code of Ethics, or any national, regional, local or indigenous law or specialist code of ethics.

### 1.4.7. GGN Institutional Member Personnel and Volunteers

The GGN Institutional Members management body should develop a written policy on volunteer work which promotes a positive relationship between volunteers and members of the Geopark profession.

### 1.4.8. Volunteers and Ethics

The GGN Institutional Members management body should ensure that volunteers, when conducting Geopark and personal activities, are fully conversant with the GGN Code of Ethics for Geoparks and other applicable codes and laws.

### 1.4.9. Networking Cooperation and networking is a core value for Geoparks.

GGN Institutional Members should acknowledge and endorse the need for co-operation, networking and consultation between other GGN Institutional Members and other institutions with similar interests and practices. This is particularly so with institutes of higher education and certain public utilities.

A GGN member must work within the Global Geopark Network to further the network's construction and cohesion.

A GGN member must work with local partners, enterprises and stakeholders to promote and support the creation of activities, events and by- products linked with the geological heritage, other natural and cultural heritage and the territorial characteristics in a spirit of complementarity with the other Global Geoparks Network members.

## ARTICLE 2. GGN Members and Geological Heritage

Principle: GGN Institutional Members have the duty to protect, preserve and promote their Geological Heritage. GGN Institutional Members must respect national, regional, local and indigenous laws relating to the protection of geological heritages.

The defining geological heritage sites within a UNESCO Global Geopark must be legally protected.

## 2.1. Geological heritage site conservation

### 2.1.1. Geological Heritage site conservation policy

The GGN Institutional Member management body should adopt and publish a written geological heritage conservation policy that addresses the protection, conservation, care and wise use of geological heritage sites.

### 2.1.2. Prohibition of selling of geological heritage items.

A GGN member must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage.

In order to be seen to be impartial in its mission on geological heritage protection, a GGN member must not participate in the sale of geological objects within the Geopark (no matter from where they are) and should actively discourage unsustainable trade in

geological materials as a whole, including shortsighted selling of Earth heritage, minerals and fossils . Selling or destruction of the geological values of a UNESCO Global Geopark or of material either from within a UNESCO Global Geopark or from anywhere else in the world by organizations that form part of the Global Geopark structure and/ or are entitled to use the Global Geopark brand is not permitted. This typically refers to fossils, polished rocks and mineral specimens of the type normally found in so-called “rock shops.”

It does not refer to quarried or mined material for industrial or domestic use that is quarried or mined under national legislation.

Where clearly justified as a responsible activity and as part of delivering the most effective and sustainable means of site management, a GGN member may permit sustainable collecting of geological materials for scientific and educational purposes from naturally renewable sites within a UNESCO Global Geopark territory.

Trade of geological materials based on such a system may be tolerated in exceptional circumstances, provided it is clearly and publicly explained, justified and monitored as the best option for the Geopark in relation to local circumstances. Such circumstances will be subject to debate and approval by the GGN on a case by case basis.

### 2.1.3. Preventive Conservation

Preventive conservation is an important element of GGN policy and geological heritage site care. It is an essential responsibility for GGN Institutional Members to create and maintain a protective environment for the geological heritage sites in their care.

### 2.1.4. Geological Heritage sites Conservation and Restoration

GGN Institutional Members should carefully monitor the condition of geological heritage sites to determine when a site may require conservation-restoration work and the services of a qualified conservator-restorer. The principal goal should be the stabilization of the site. All conservation procedures should be documented.

## 2.2. Acquiring geological heritage collections

### 2.2.1. Collections Policy

The GGN Institutional Member management body is recommended to adopt and publish a written collection policy.

When collecting for museums, the policy should clarify the position of any material that will not be catalogued, conserved, or exhibited.

GGN Institutional Members should not acquire geological specimens that have been collected, sold, or otherwise transferred in contravention of international, national, regional, local or indigenous law or treaty relating to natural history conservation.

### 2.2.2. Objects and Specimens from Unauthorized or Unscientific Fieldwork

GGN Institutional Members should not acquire any objects where there is reasonable cause to believe



their recovery involved the unauthorized, unscientific, or intentional destruction or damage of any geological, natural or cultural site or involved the illegal or unethical use of labour. In the same way, no acquisition should occur if there has been a failure to disclose the finds to the owner or occupier of the land, or to the proper legal or governmental authorities or traditional land owners as appropriate (i.e. indigenous people).

**2.2.3. Repositories of Last Resort**

Nothing in this Code of Ethics should prevent a GGN Institutional Member from acting as an authorized repository for unprovenanced, illicitly collected or recovered specimens and objects from the territory over which it has lawful responsibility.

**2.3. Open air geological heritage sites and geological heritage collections**

**2.3.1. Site and collection continuity**

GGN Institutional Members should establish and apply policies to ensure that their geological heritage sites, collections (both permanent and temporary) and associated information, properly recorded, are available for current use and will be passed on to future generations in as good and safe a condition as practicable, having regard to current knowledge and resources.

**2.3.2. Documentation on Geological Sites and Collections**

Geological sites and collections should be documented according to accepted professional standards. Such documentation should include a full identification and description of each site/ item, its associations, provenance, condition, treatment and present location. Such data should be kept in a secure environment and be supported by retrieval systems providing access to the information by any legitimate user.

**2.3.3. Availability of Geological heritage sites**

GGN Institutional Members have a particular responsibility for making geological heritage sites and all relevant information available as freely as possible, having regard to restraints arising for reasons of confidentiality and security.

**2.3.4. Field Collecting**

GGN Institutional Members undertaking field collecting should develop policies consistent with academic standards and applicable national, regional, local and indigenous law and international treaty obligations. Fieldwork should only be undertaken with respect and consideration for the views of local communities, their environmental resources and cultural practices as well as efforts to enhance the cultural and natural heritage.

**2.3.5. Research**

Research by a the personnel of the GGN Institutional Members should relate to that members mission and objectives and conform to established legal, ethical and academic practices.

**2.3.6. Shared Expertise**

Employees of GGN Institutional Members have an obligation to share their knowledge and experience with colleagues, scholars and students in relevant fields. They should respect and acknowledge those from whom they have learned and should pass on such advancements in techniques and experience that may be of benefit to others.

**ARTICLE 3. GGN Members and Natural and Cultural Heritage**

Principle: GGN Institutional Members need to link their geological heritage with all other aspect of their territories’ heritages. They have a specific responsibility to assist and support the protection, conservation and promotion of their natural, cultural and intangible heritages and biodiversity.

**3.1. GGN Institutional Members and protected natural areas within its territory**

GGN Institutional Members should have a coherent knowledge, cartography and data base of the protected natural areas and cultural sites (indigenous, local, regional, national or international) present inside in its territory. It is recommended to establish written agreement of collaboration and partnership with different authorities/institutions legally in charge of the administration of these natural protected areas and cultural sites.

**3.2. GGN Institutional Member Museum**

GGN Institutional Member Museums should not acquire or keep non-geological specimens that have been collected, sold, or otherwise transferred in contravention of international, national, regional, local or indigenous law or treaty relating to artifact protection or conservation or in breach of international ethical standards.

**3.3. Non protected sites of interest**

Depending of the national policies or necessities, in many territories several natural or cultural sites of regional or local interest doesn’t have any legal status. In this case and in cooperation with the adequate authorities, the UNESCO Global Geopark has the duty to develop their inventory, cartography, knowledge on this site and to support, if necessary, their eventual protection and conservation.

**3.4. Availability of natural and cultural heritage sites**

When the public visit of a natural or cultural heritage site is possible without interferences with conservation necessities, the GGN Institutional member management body has a particular responsibility for making natural and cultural heritage sites and all relevant information available as freely as possible, having regard to restraints arising for reasons of confidentiality and security.

**3.5. Information**

The GGN Institutional Member management body has to promote widely towards its visitors all elementary information connected with the protected natural and cultural sites located inside its territory. Also, the GGN Institutional Member management body has to integrate inside its own promotion the main natural and cultural sites (protected or not) of its territory accessible for the public visit.

**3.6. Conservation partnership**

The GGN Institutional Member management body has , through its formal partnership, to actively support the natural and cultural sites management bodies to improve conservation. In particular by participating in the transmission of information against commercialization or deterioration of natural elements (animals and plants) or cultural relics or remains.

**ARTICLE 4. GGN Institutional Members and Intangible Heritage**

Principle: Intangible Heritage is, in all the world, the more endangered heritage. This specific heritage linked with the intimous relation between man and the Earth and is often related with the Geological heritage of the places. The GGN Institutional Member management body has to be involved in the conservation, knowledge, transmission and promotion of this heritage

**4.1. Intangible Heritage knowledge**

By developing specific partnership with intangible heritage specialist , the GGN Institutional Member management body has the responsibility to actively participate in the identification, inventory, knowledge, conservation, transmission and promotion of the Intangible Heritages still existing inside its territory

**4.2. Respect of local population**

Communities, groups and, individuals should have the primary role in safeguarding their own intangible cultural heritage. Their right to continue the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills necessary to ensure the viability of the intangible cultural heritage should be recognized and respected.

**4.3. Cooperation**

All interactions of the GGN Institutional Member management body with the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals who create, safeguard, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage should be characterized by transparent collaboration, dialogue, negotiation and consultation, and contingent upon their free, prior, sustained and informed consent.

**4.4. Access to Intangible heritage**

The GGN Institutional Member management body should be aware and participate to assure the necessary access of communities, groups and individuals to the instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural and natural spaces and places of memory

whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage . Customary practices governing access to intangible cultural heritage should be fully respected, even where these may limit broader public access.

**4.5. Property rights**

The GGN Institutional Member management body has to take care that the communities, groups and individuals who create intangible cultural heritage should benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from such heritage, and particularly from its use, research, documentation, promotion or adaptation by members of the communities or others.

**4.6. Cultural diversity**

Cultural diversity and the identities of communities, groups and individuals should be fully respected. In the respect of values recognized by communities, groups and individuals and sensitivity to cultural norms, specific attention to gender equality, youth involvement and respect for ethnic identities should be included in the design and implementation by the GGN Institutional Member management body of promotion and safeguarding measures. Respect of culture diversity does not automatically support and should not be used to support a handful of rare traditions and/or habits, which are considered by most people (universal value) as inhuman, cruel and horrible.

The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is of general interest to humanity as such, the GGN Institutional Member management body has to participate in the adapted transmission of the intangible heritage which should also constitutes new strategies for a sustainable and integrated economical development.

**ARTICLE 5. GGN Institutional Members supporting sustainable development**

Principle: GGN Institutional Members need to assist an integrated and sustainable economic development for its territory. A GGN Institutional Member has direct impact on the territory by influencing its inhabitants’ living conditions and environment. The objective is to enable the inhabitants to re-appropriate the values of the territory’s heritage and actively participate in the territory’s cultural revitalization as a whole. The territorial sustainable economic development strategy should be in accordance with the principals defined in the 2030 United Nation Agenda for Sustainable Development .

The sustainable development of a GGN Institutional Member is only possible with the full participation, of all its population and stakeholder without any kind of discrimination of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin., prosperity, birth, sexual orientation or other status.

**5.1. Sustainable territorial development**

**5.1.1. Poverty**

Poverty is more than the lack of income and resources to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education, health and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. GGN Institutional Members’ sustainable economic development strategies should prioritise the eradication of poverty in all its forms inside its territory.

**5.1.2. Education**

GGN Institutional Members need to develop strategies towards increasing access to education at all levels and increasing enrolment rates in schools particularly for female residents. In the respect of human diversity and local ethnic groups GGN Institutional Members should give special attention to the adapted transmission of local culture and tradition and the transmission and survival of local languages.

**5.1.3. Water access and sanitation**

GGN Institutional Members should help to ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, provide sanitation facilities and encourage hygiene at every level. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems such as forests, mountains, wetlands and rivers is essential.

**5.1.4. Affordable and clean energy**

GGN Institutional Members should ensure universal access to affordable energy (electricity), and engage in the promotion and, when possible, demonstration of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal.

**5.1.5. Sustainable consumption and production**

GGN Institutional Members should help promote and develop sustainable consumption and production. GGN Institutional Members should assist to define clear quality criteria for local products, and promote them through a written branding policy .

**5.1.6. Climate Change and Natural Disasters**

GGN Institutional Members should participate actively to combat human activity- induced climate change and its impact. GGN Institutional Members should use their geological heritages, in connection with all other aspects of their heritages, to promote awareness of key issues facing society in the context of the dynamic planet, increasing knowledge and understanding of: geo-processes; geo-hazards; climate change and the need for the sustainable use of Earth’s natural resources.

**5.2. Tourism and Geotourism**

**5.2.1. Tourism and Geotourism**

Geotourism is a responsible tourism and is one of the main development tool for UNESCO Global Geoparks. Geotourism should be defined as tourism which sustains and enhances the identity of a territory, taking

into consideration its geology, environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents. (Arouca Declaration 2011).

**5.2.2. Geotoursim activities**

Geotourism activities should be conducted in harmony with the attributes and traditions of the host UNESCO Global Geopark territory and in respect for their laws, practices and customs;

**5.2.3. Responsibilities in geotourism development**

The GGN Institutional Member management body, on the one hand, and local professionals, on the other, should acquaint themselves with and respect the tourists. It is the task of the public authorities to provide protection for tourists and visitors and their belongings.

The GGN Institutional Member management body in close collaboration with all the stakeholders in tourism development should safeguard the heritage sites laying within a UNESCO Global Geopark with a view to achieving continuous and sustainable economic growth geared to satisfying equitably the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

The staggering in time and space of tourist flows, should be sought so as to reduce the pressure of tourism activity on the environment and enhance its beneficial impact on the tourism industry and the local economy;

Geotourism infrastructure should be designed and tourism activities programmed in such a way as to protect the heritages and the environment of GGN Institutional Members. Quality standards for geotourism infrastructure should be clearly defined and established.

**5.2.4. Geotourism incomes**

The GGN Institutional Member management body should safeguard that the financial resources derived from visits to heritage sites should, at least in part, be used for the upkeep, safeguard, development and embellishment of these sites.

**5.2.5. Geotourism and local culture**

Geotourism activities inside a GGN Institutional Member should be planned in such a way as to allow traditional cultural products, crafts and folklore to survive and flourish, rather than causing them to degenerate and become standardized.

**5.2.6. Geotourism and local population**

In a GGN Institutional Member local populations should be associated with tourism activities and share equitably in the economic, social and cultural benefits they generate, and particularly in the creation of direct and indirect jobs resulting from them. Geotourism policies should be applied in such a way as to help to raise the standard of living of the populations of the territory.

**5.2.7. Geotourism and human rights**

The exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly to children, conflicts with the fundamental aims of geotourism.

**5.3 GGN Institutional Members and territorial partnerships**

**5.3.1. GGN Institutional Member partner**

In its partnership strategy a GGN Institutional Member has to establish written partnership agreements which define precisely quality criteria and respective commitments between the partner and the GGN Institutional Member. Partners of a GGN Institutional Member could be: restaurants, hotels, guides, museums, producers, open air activities sites, tourism offices, associations, factories, etc.

A GGN Institutional Member partner should fully approve and adopt the GGN Code of Ethics.

**5.3.2. Participating**

GGN Institutional Member should develop contacts with key individuals in local communities. GGN Institutional Member should nominate among those individuals as Geopark Ambassadors. Those individuals should participate in the visibility and understanding of the Geopark territory. For that the individuals and local stakeholders needs to be regularly trained by the UNESCO Global Geopark to provide the public the best updated information on the territory and on the partner proximity resources.

**5.3.3. Promotion**

GGN Institutional Members have to promote its partners through all of its promotional tools (website, leaflets, publications,..). When possible it is recommended that GGN Institutional Members participate in the organization of promotional fair of its local branded products and partners.

**ARTICLE 6. GGN Members must operate in a professional manner**

Principle: Employees, partners and associates of the GGN Institutional Members and GGN Individual Members should behave in a way that respects the dignity and philosophy of the GGN.

They should safeguard the public against illegal or unethical professional conduct. Every opportunity should be used to inform and educate the public about the aims, purposes, and aspirations of the GGN to develop a better public understanding of the contributions of the GGN to society.

**6.1. Professional conduct**

**6.1.1. Familiarity with Relevant Legislation**

Every member of the GGN should be conversant with relevant international, national, regional, local and indigneous legislation and the conditions of their employment. They should avoid situations that could be construed as improper conduct.

**6.1.2. Professional Responsibility**

Every member of the GGN has an obligation to follow the policies and procedures of their employing institution. However, they may properly object to practices that are perceived to be damaging to the GGN or in relation to matters of professional ethics.

**6.1.3. Professional Conduct**

Loyalty to colleagues and to the employing GGN Member is an important professional responsibility and must be based on allegiance to fundamental ethical principles applicable to the profession as a whole. They should comply with the terms of the GGN statutes, the GGN Internal Rules and Regulations and the GGN Code of Ethics and be aware of any other codes or policies relevant to GGN work.

**6.1.4. Academic and Scientific Responsibilities**

Every member of the GGN should promote the investigation, preservation, and use of information inherent in Earth heritage sites. They should, therefore, refrain from any activity or circumstance that might result in damage to or in the loss of such sites.

**6.1.5. The Illicit Market**

Every member of the GGN should peacefully and legally oppose the illicit traffic or market in natural and cultural property, directly or indirectly.

**6.1.6. Confidentiality**

Every member of the GGN must protect confidential information obtained during their work.

**6.1.7. Site Security**

Information about the security of sensitive sites or locations visited during official duties must be held in strict confidence by every member of the GGN.

**6.1.8. Exception to the Obligation for Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is subject to a legal obligation to assist the police or other proper authorities in investigating possible stolen, illicitly acquired, or illegally transferred property.

**6.1.9. Personal Independence**

While members of a profession are entitled to a measure of personal independence, they must realize that no private business or professional interest can be wholly separated from their employing institution.

**6.1.10. Copyright**

All individuals must distinguish between their own work and that of others. Credit shall always be given when referring or mentioning other people’s work. Knowingly allowing others to represent your work as their own is as serious an offense as plagiarizing another’s work.

Misrepresentation, falsification or alteration of data and documents or unauthorized use of data or other’s work is also considered as misconduct. Recording or taking photography of another individual’s work or presentation without explicit permission is also not allowed.

**6.2. Conflicts of interest**

**6.2.1. Private Geopark consultancy**

All members of the GGN and their employees cannot

provide private paid consultancy (by contract) to any UNESCO Global Geopark or Aspiring Geopark. Any official consultancy mission to other UNESCO Global Geoparks or Aspiring Geoparks should take place after a request by GGN and UNESCO.

**6.2.2. Gifts, Loans, or Other Personal Benefits**  
Members of the GGN and their employees must not accept high value gifts, loans, or other high value personal benefits that may be offered to them in connection with their duties for UNESCO Global Geoparks. Occasionally professional courtesy may include the giving and receiving of gifts but this should always be open to justification.

**6.2.3. Dealing with geological, natural or cultural heritage.**  
Members of the GGN and their employees should not participate directly or indirectly in dealing (buying or selling for profit) with geological, natural or cultural heritages.

**6.2.4. Private Collecting**  
Members of the GGN and their employees should not compete with their institution either in the acquisition of objects or in any personal collecting activity. An agreement between a Geopark professional and a Geopark’s management body concerning any private collecting must be formulated and scrupulously followed.

**6.2.5. Use of the Name and Logo of GGN**  
The name of the organization, its acronym or its logo may not be used to promote or endorse any for-profit operation or product.

**6.2.6. Other Conflicts of Interest**  
Should any other conflict of interests develop between an individual and the GGN the interests of the GGN will prevail.

**6.2.7. Notification**  
All individuals shall notify the GGN Ethics Committee or superior when they are at risk of causing a conflict of interest or other situation that may affect the overall confidence of the GGN.

**ARTICLE 7. A standard of conduct which applies to all GGN Institutional members employees, to the Global Geopark professionals and volunteers**  
Principle: Geoparks aim to enable every man, woman and child to live in dignity and personal integrity, and to promote a set of basic principles that form the ethical and philosophical underpinnings of every society. These guiding principles are integrity, loyalty, accountability, transparency, independence, impartiality, tolerance, understanding, freedom from discrimination, gender equality, dignity and respect for different customs and cultures. Geoparks promote a safe, inclusive, productive and supportive environment. Membership in the GGN means to abide a strict code of conduct. Individuals

who experience inappropriate behavior are encouraged to make a formal complaint to the appropriate bodies within the GGN.

**Standard of conduct**  
**7.1. Individual responsibility**  
All individuals shall take responsibility for their own actions and for being aware of and complying with this standard of conduct.

**7.2. Interchange with others**  
All individuals shall set a good example. All individuals will treat everybody with respect, dignity, courtesy and consideration. This involves positive communication, building trust, being supportive, valuing a diversity of views and opinions and working collaboratively, while having a professional approach when interacting with others.

**7.3. Unacceptable behaviour**  
All individuals shall abstain from any kind of disruptive and/or unacceptable behavior. Online behaviour is considered equivalent to face-to- face behaviour.

**7.4. Offensive behaviour**  
All individuals shall not cause or contribute in any way (verbally, physically, written or using image material) to discrimination, intimidation, humiliation, Vilification, harassment (including sexual harassment) or offensive treatment either directly or indirectly which is unwanted and unwelcome to the recipient, whether it is based on a person’s gender, physical appearance, parental or relationship status, origin, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age. The same applies to bullying or other victimization regardless of cause.

**7.5. Abuse of authority**  
All individuals shall not abuse their authority.

**7.6. Notification**  
All individuals who are the victim of discrimination, intimidation, humiliation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or offensive treatment shall clearly communicate this either directly or through a third party for example, the GGN Ethics Committee to the person engaging in the unwanted and unwelcome behaviour. In case of a dangerous situation or a person in distress, all individuals will be mindful of their surroundings and of others and will immediately notify a local responsible, the GGN Ethics Committee, or, in case of a serious threat of public safety the local police.

**7.7. Disciplinary actions and sanctions**  
All individuals are aware of the fact that behaviours and actions which violate this code of conduct may result in disciplinary actions and/or sanctions as all complaints will be investigated seriously. Effective and protective measures will be taken promptly to ensure that this misconduct will cease immediately.

# ANNEX

## GLOSSARY for article 1-6

**Conflict of interest:** the existence of a personal or private interest that gives rise to a clash of principle in a work situation, thus restricting, or having the appearance of restricting, the objectivity of decision making.

**Conservator-Restorer:** Museum or independent personnel competent to undertake the technical examination, preservation, conservation and restoration of Geological Heritage. Cultural Heritage: anything or concept considered of aesthetic, historical, scientific or spiritual significance.

**Dealing:** buying and selling items for personal or institutional gain.

**Geological Heritage:** any geological structure or item dealing with Earth history or Earth processes considered of scientific, aesthetic, historical or educational significance.

**Geotourism:** Geotourism should be defined as tourism which sustains and enhances the identity of a territory, taking into consideration its geology, environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents. Geological tourism is one of the multiple components of geotourism.

**Intangible Cultural Heritage:** includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.

**Geopark Management Body:** the persons or organizations defined in the enabling legislation of the UNESCO Global Geopark as responsible for its daily management, continuance, strategic development and funding.

**Income-generating activities:** activities intended to bring financial gain or profit for the benefit of the institution.

**Minimum Standard:** a standard to which it is reasonable to expect all Geoparks and Geopark personnel to aspire. Certain countries have their own statements of minimum standards.

**Natural Heritage:** any natural thing, phenomenon

or concept, considered to be of scientific significance or to be a spiritual manifestation.  
**Non-profit organisation:** a legally established body- corporate or unincorporated- whose income (including any surplus or profit) is used solely for the benefit of that body and its operation. The term “not-for-profit” has the same meaning.

**Provenance:** the full history and ownership of an item from the time of its discovery or creation to the present day, from which authenticity and ownership is determined.

**Sustainable development:** Sustainable development is a process for meeting human development goals while sustaining the ability of natural systems to continue to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend.

## GLOSSARY for Article 7

**Unacceptable Behaviour:** is behaviour in the workplace or study environment that has created or has the potential to create a risk to the health and safety of individuals covered by this procedure. Unacceptable behaviour includes, but is not limited to:

- bullying;
- emotional, psychological or physical violence or abuse;
- discrimination;
- coercion;
- aggressive/abusive behaviour;
- abuse of power;
- unreasonable demands and undue persistence;
- harassment (including sexual harassment);
- victimisation;
- vilification; and
- permitting, assisting or encouraging others to bully, discriminate, harass, victimise or vilify.

Unacceptable behaviour may include conduct occurring outside usual working or study hours, conduct occurring during work, field work, or study related activities or social events and conduct that has a relevant or significant connection to work or study.

**Bullying:** is repeated, unreasonable behaviour directed towards a person, that creates a risk to health and safety. Examples of behaviour that may constitute bullying include:

- aggressive or intimidating conduct;
- belittling or humiliating comments;



- spreading malicious rumours;
- teasing, practical jokes or 'initiation ceremonies';
- exclusion from work-related events;
- unreasonable work expectations, including too much or too little work, or work below or beyond an individual's skill level;
- displaying offensive material; and/or
  - pressure to behave in an inappropriate manner.

Bullying does not include any legitimate or reasonable use of performance management processes, lawfully based and fairly applied disciplinary action, allocation of work in compliance with systems, implementation of organisational change or downsizing, action taken to transfer or redeploy a staff member or a decision not to promote or reclassify the staff member.

**Discrimination:** is treating or proposing to treat, an individual unfavourably on grounds of a person's gender, physical appearance, parental or relationship status, origin, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age. Discrimination can be direct or indirect:

Direct discrimination can occur when a person or group is treated less favourably than another person or group in a similar situation, on grounds of a person's gender, physical appearance, parental or relationship status, origin, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.

Indirect discrimination involves imposing a requirement, condition or practice that operates to disadvantage a person on grounds of a person's gender, physical appearance, parental or relationship status, origin, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age., and it is not reasonable.

**Harassment:** is unwelcome conduct that might reasonably cause a person to be offended, humiliated or intimidated on grounds of a person's gender, physical appearance, parental or relationship status, origin, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age. Harassment can also happen if someone is working in a 'hostile' or intimidating environment. The behaviours can be overt or subtle, verbal, non- verbal or physical.

**Sexual Harassment:** is unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited behaviour of a sexual nature in circumstances in which a reasonable person,

having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated the possibility that the other person would feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. It may include:

- unwanted requests for sexual favours;
- offensive comments of a sexual nature;
- sexual or smutty jokes;
- comments, questioning or teasing about a person's alleged sexual activities or private life;
- persistent unwelcome invitation/s, telephone calls or emails;
- offensive hand or body gestures;
- physical contact such as patting, pinching, touching or putting an arm around another person;
- the display of sexually-suggestive material;
- unwanted ongoing declarations of affection or approaches for affection (including gifts and being followed);
- sexual assault and rape; and
- use of UNESCO Global Geopark computer systems for the retention and distribution of sexually explicit material.

Sexual harassment is not behaviour which is based on mutual attraction, friendship and respect. If the behaviour is consensual, it is not sexual harassment.

**Victimisation:** is any detriment suffered because a person has made or been involved in the expression of a concern or making of a complaint in good faith about conduct covered by these procedures, or intends to be so involved.

**Vilification:** is any form of conduct that incites hatred against, serious contempt for, or revulsion or severe ridicule of a person or group of people because of their race or religion. Such conduct can be a single event or series of events over a period. It may include the use of internet, social networks and e-mail to publish or transmit statements. Conduct may not be vilification where it can be shown to be reasonable, undertaken in good faith and it represents genuine artistic, academic, religious or scientific endeavors.

**Plagiarism:** is the wrongful appropriation and stealing and publication of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions and the representation of them as one's own original work. In 2014 after one decade of successful operation as a volunteer network the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) became an international non-profit association based in France, operating under the French law.

# 3.5

## Global Geoparks Network ANTI-BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY FOR THE GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

### PURPOSE

1. To ensure that:
  - Global Geoparks Network's (GGN) meetings, events and other activities provide a professional, respectful and harassment-free experience for all participants.
  - Any complaints made can be resolved satisfactorily.
2. To inform every participant in any GGN-related activity that they are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, respectful and responsible manner at all times

### SCOPE

#### Places and Events

3. This document covers behaviour at all GGN events including the meetings of any sub- groups or project groups, the activities of National Fora and the fulfilment of advisory, assessment or revalidation visits.
4. It applies to the duration of an event including but not limited to the main venue, official events hotels, or venues used for social functions as well as to any interaction among participants in preparation, during or follow-up of the event.

### People

5. This policy applies to:
  - a) anyone engaged in organising an event, meeting or activity within the scope of this policy, including those not physically attending the event but involved in its development and management, including volunteers;
  - b) all participants of such events and includes those attending virtually;
  - c) the general public, speakers and panellists, observers, exhibitors, donors, sponsors, and/or media.
  - d) any non-registered person who is visiting any freely accessible area of the event/meeting or activity.

### DEFINITIONS

6. Harassment refers to repeated, unreciprocated and/or unwelcome comments, gestures, actions, suggestions, symbols, and/or physical contact, based on, among other things, an individual's gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, ethnicity, race, national origin, age,

religion, working language proficiency, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity or other personal characteristics that are evidently and widely understood as intended to be demeaning, humiliating and/or intimidating.

7. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
  - Verbal comments or non verbal actions, jokes or pranks that reinforce social structures of domination related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, age, or religion.
  - Distribution or display of offensive or inappropriate messages, images, videos or other material whether private or public.
  - Threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts (including stalking or following) including lewd or suggestive comments directed at a particular group or an individual because of, for example, their sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, race or religion.
  - Repeated inappropriate behaviour (bullying), direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical or otherwise which involves an abuse or misuse of power by one person over another and which makes the recipient feel threatened or humiliated, gradually eroding his/her selfconfidence and which could reasonably be regarded as undermining the individual's right to dignity at work.
  - Sustained disruption of speakers or of a session in general with the intent to make the session a hostile event.
  - Inappropriate physical contact or uninvited and unwelcome touching of an individual's body or unwelcome sexual attention.
  - Undermining somebody's reputation and/or authority through malicious actions that include disparaging comments and/or gestures, or propagation of lies either in the presence of that person or in speaking to third parties about that person.
  - Psychological manipulation using persistent denial, misdirection, contradiction and/or lying with the attempt to destabilize and delegitimize a person's belief, memory and/or mental sanity.
  - Advocating for, or encouraging, any of the above behaviour.

8. Any form of harassment, including bullying, racism or sexual harassment is behavioural and therefore, does not require intent for it to be considered harassment.

### WHAT WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS HARASSMENT?

9. The dividing line between harassment and other work-related conflicts may, at times, be difficult to establish. Situations of conflict and tensions are not automatically nor necessarily harassment.

10. Bullying does not include appropriate criticism of a GGN member's behaviour or proper performance management. Any criticism must be delivered in a constructive manner with respect and appropriate sensitivity.

11. All situations will be assessed and considered with the utmost care.

### OBLIGATIONS FOR ORGANISERS OF MEETINGS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

12. Promote the principles of this policy to all Participants prior to and during the activity including but not limited to making the policy easily accessible via the event website (if applicable), including a formal acceptance during the registration process (if applicable), promoting it in pre-and onsite communication (emails, newsletters, signage, badges, presentation slides, etc.).

13 Ensure that all individuals / participants involved in the organisation of the activity are adequately briefed about this policy.

### ENFORCEMENT

14. If a Participant engages in harassing behaviour, the GGN Executive Board or its representative(s), together with the event organizers, reserve the right to take any actions to keep a welcoming environment for all Participants and Staff in preparation, during or follow-up of the event. This includes but is not limited to:

- challenging the alleged offender and where necessary asking him/her to immediately stop any inappropriate behaviour,
- revoking of the registration with no refund, expulsion from activities, denial of registration to future events.

15. If an external speaker or panellist engages in harassing behaviour, the GGN Executive Board or its representative(s) together with the organizers, reserve the right to interrupt that speech/presentation immediately and to take any other actions necessary to keep a welcoming environment.

16. If an allegation has demonstrably been made frivolously, in bad faith, maliciously, for personal gain or for revenge, the person having made such allegations may have their registration revoked and be removed from the activities; they may be refused registration or participation as speaker or panellist at future events or activities.

17. The GGN Executive Board or its representative(s) may take action to redress anything designed to, or with the clear impact of, disrupting the event or making the environment hostile for any Participants.

18. Participants, at events organised by the GGN or its representative(s) must comply with the local applicable laws.

19. Participants must adhere to this policy at all event/activity venues and related social activities. In addition, they must comply with the local applicable law.

20. With the adoption of this policy and related implementation measures, the GGN aims to ensure a harassment-free experience for all.

### REPORTING

#### When to report

21. The GGN encourages every Participant to report, as soon as possible, incidents that make them or someone else feel unsafe, unwelcome or harassed. Delayed reporting limits the options for action that can be taken. Concerned individuals should follow the general procedures outlined in the 'How to report' section of this document as well as any specific procedures applicable to the respective activity.

22. If an incident of bullying or harassment occurs within the meeting premises or in an event-related activity before, during or after the event including social events outside the meeting premises, then the aggrieved person or witness to the harassment should promptly report it.

#### How to report

23. Participants may make a report either personally. Individuals making an anonymous report need to be aware that the GGN will not be able to inform them about the status of any investigation.

24. Any reportable incident should be reported to the GGN Executive Board President. The GGN Executive Board President has the responsibility to bring it to the attention of the GGN Executive Board. The GGN Executive Board members have signed off on a declaration of confidentiality.

25. When reporting an incident, the following

information should be recorded:

- Name and, if applicable, badge number of the Participant(s) and or other person(s) involved.
- The date, time and location where it has happened or happens.
- The source of bullying or harassment behaviour if known.
- The bullying or harassing behaviour.
- The approximate time of the behaviour.
- The circumstances surrounding the incident.
- The identity of the person making the report (unless the report is submitted anonymously).
- Other people involved in or witnessing the incident, including photos and or videos etc.
- Any action taken to resolve the matter informally.
- Any reaction on an informally taken action.

26. When taking a report, the GGN Executive Board President will ensure the individuals are safe and cannot be overheard. The GGN Executive Board President may suggest involving other colleagues to ensure the report is managed appropriately.

27. All reports will be kept confidential. Allegations, whether made anonymously or not, should be supported by a written report as outlined in point 26. Without such factual evidence further action cannot be taken.

28. One can make a personal report:
- before, during or after the event
  - by sending an email to the GGN Executive Board President (E-mail: ggnassociation@hotmail.com)
  - Any emailed report should be marked as Urgent with the email title of HARASSMENT REPORT

### RETALIATION

29. The GGN will not tolerate any retaliation, threats or intimidation against anyone who has made a complaint or provided information in support of a complaint.

### ACTION ARISING FROM A REPORT OF BULLYING OR HARASSMENT

30. Following the report of an incident the GGN Executive Board President will do all it can to ensure the person making the report is reassured, safe and remains so during the remainder of the meeting and for further meetings up to 4 years time at least.

31. The GGN Executive Board President will gather information on the report. It will be submitted to the employing organisation / representative body of the person against whom the allegations are made (where known) and to the relevant National Commission for UNESCO where the person involved represents a UNESCO Global Geopark, requesting that the matter be investigated and supplying any material gathered as part of receiving a report.

32. The employing organisation / representative / participants will be requested to respond.

33. Should the complaint be upheld and deemed serious, the GGN Association reserve the right to ban the perpetrator from attending future meetings and information regarding them.

34. Regardless of whether or not the complaint is withheld records of the incident report will be confidentially held on record (for a period of 4 years).

35 The GGN Executive Board President will, in the case of an allegation involving potential criminality, strongly recommended that the alleged victim reports the incident to the authorities.

### ACTION ARISING FROM BEING BLAMED FOR BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

36 The person blamed for bullying and harassment shall give a personal and or written report on her/his/its perception.

## GGN STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2025

### INTRODUCTION

The Global Geoparks Network operates as the International Association of the Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals, which is committed to the conservation, management and communication to society of the Earth heritage as an integral part of the world's natural and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible. Global Geoparks are tools to conserve and enhance the value of areas of geological significance in Earth history, including landscapes and geological formations, which are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for our future, and to promote sustainable development for example through geo-tourism and education.

The Global Geoparks Network focuses its activities to support Geoparks development in areas that validate, protect and promote their Earth Heritage and other related natural and cultural heritage as a tool for sustainable local development. The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the implementation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme. The Global Geoparks Network is promoting the brand UNESCO Global Geopark as a label of excellence in sustainable tourism.

The governance of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is based on the decisions of the General Assembly, which is the legislative body of the Association. The General Assembly is open only to the participation of the nominated representative of each UNESCO Global Geopark, as well as all to the individual, cooperating, and honorary members.

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) organized the following General Assemblies:

- in 2016 the 1st Ordinary General Assembly, which adopted the strategy for the period 2016-2018 and elected of the Executive Board for the four-year period 2016-2020;
- in 2018 the 2nd Ordinary General Assembly, which adopted the strategy for the period 2018-2020;
- in 2021 the 3rd Ordinary General Assembly, which adopted the strategy for the period 2022-2023 and elected of the second Executive Board for the four-year period 2020-2024.

Based on the decisions taken during the period 2016-2021 main steps have been made for the operation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), the support of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme, the networking, collaboration, and capacity building among Geopark' teams and Geopark professionals and the promotion of the Geopark' brand worldwide.

The period 2018-2020 was critical for the operation and development of the Network in all continents and especially in regions that are currently underrepresented.

The period after 2020 was remarkably difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This reality has changed everybody's life and daily operation in all the UNESCO Global Geoparks and has had a significant impact on networking and communication.

Three years after the beginning of the pandemic, we still cannot fully understand all its consequences. However, thinking about the world after COVID-19 pandemic we understand how our world has changed! In this sense, during 2023 the world is slowly trying to overpass the global crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic, which seems to create a huge change in the lives of billions of people affecting our social and economic activities.

In the aforementioned context, our Global Geoparks Network has been also seriously affected during the last three years. In effect, in this moment, we are facing a very critical moment for our Network's operation and development. For that reason, it is the right moment to think, to analyze and to take the necessary decisions, in order to the present and near future challenges.

Taking into consideration this background, the strategy of the Global Geoparks Network in the coming period (2023-2025) should be based on the achievements made during the previous years and integrate new tools and activities at the operational level, in order to find in order to follow the best path and make the right decisions.

In this framework, it is clear that we need new initiatives and serious changes in our operation, in order to reply to new priorities and needs, to preserve our identity and traditions, and to drive innovation.

### OUR GOALS

This strategic document was prepared by the GGN Executive Board as a discussion platform for the current and new challenges we face.

The strategic plan 2024-2025 document takes into consideration the comments and opinions expressed by the GGN Advisory Committee. This also includes all contributions from national geopark networks from 46 countries, which have been discussed at various meetings over the last few years. It also includes the results of the discussion between the members of the GGN Executive Board about the strengths and weaknesses of the previous strategic plan (2022-2023), in order to better guide us in the action plan for the next two years.

The main goals of the GGN operation are:

- Continuous networking and communication between all UNESCO Global Geoparks and re-connection between these territories and their communities to support the social understanding on the Geopark values.
- Effective operation of the Global Geoparks Network and support of Geopark activities at the Global, Regional and National levels.
- Strengthening the operation of the GGN bodies (GGN Executive Board, GGN Advisory Committee, GGN Working groups), as well as the administrative mechanism to support the effective functioning of the Global Geoparks Network.
- Support the activities of the National Geoparks Networks and use the local language to spread the Geoparks' message. Promote best practices to support the Global Geoparks Network brand and visibility to the broader public. Promote the Global Geoparks Network at the national level as the mechanism to achieve global visibility.
- Support UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme through initiatives to support expansion in less represented geographical areas and through capacity building activities, particularly for Geopark staff and Geopark evaluators.
- Enforce the engagement of youth in all Geopark activities! Promote the creation of a Geopark Youth Forum with the participation of young

- volunteers in every UNESCO Global Geopark. Promote also a National Geopark Youth Forum with representatives of all Geoparks in each country, in order to support the role of young people for the Geopark operation and activities
- Support Geoparks to enforce their role in the SDGs implementation at local level, enhancing inclusive stakeholder engagement. At the same time, it is important to identify challenges and opportunities for mobilizing means of implementation at the local level, and help local authorities in ensuring that no one is being left behind in this process. Create a Geopark SDGs Platform, to support the promotion and diffusion of best practices in local-level actions that contributes for the indicators of the SDGs. Special attention will be given to the participation of the indigenous communities.
- Promote the role of Geoparks to support local communities to prevent natural hazards and the consequences of the climate change. Through awareness raising and educational activities, Geoparks support the popularization of scientific knowledge and contribute to the strengthening of local action plans and policies. Geopark communication with and within communities must be improved to act as an effective bridge between knowledge and the action in the territory. Geoparks should support local communities to have easy access to information on natural hazards, climate change risks and associated impacts, and the cost of inaction, in order to better assess the impact of their actions.
- Promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as a quality label for sustainable tourism, as safe and sustainable territories where the Earth's heritage is protected and properly managed, supporting the sustainable development of local communities.
- Adjust the GGN Communication and Marketing Strategy to the UNESCO logo guidelines, in order to provide visibility and elevate global awareness of UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Global Geoparks Network family, focusing on the value, mandates, and benefits they bring or can bring to these territories and their communities.



## OUR PLANS

The GGN plans to initiate and incorporate the actions for 2022-2023 are the following:

1. Strengthening GGN Structure, Functioning and Communication with GGN members
  - GGN General Assembly
  - GGN Advisory Committee
  - GGN Working Groups
  - International Geoparks Conference
2. Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks
3. GGN Regional Networks
4. National Networks
5. GGN Members
  - 5.1. GGN Institutional members
  - 5.2. GGN Individual and Cooperating Members
6. GGN Initiatives
  - 6.1. GGN Awards
  - 6.2. GGN Film Festival
  - 6.3. Youth Forum
7. Geoparks and SDG's
8. Financial stability
9. Capacity building activities
10. Geoparks Marketing and Promotion
  - 10.1. Communication Strategy
  - 10.2. Promotion of the Geopark Brand
11. GGN and International Networking.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 1

### GGN operation

#### 1.1. Strengthening GGN Structure, Functioning and Communication with GGN members

The GGN should make efforts to the effective operation of the Global Geoparks Network bodies and support the Geoparks activities at the Global, Regional and National levels.

The GGN will continue to enhance the good practices of the period 2022-2023 and will focus on GGN operation and networking, information distribution and communication between members, implementation of the various new initiatives, the establishment of new activities, coordination of the Global Geoparks meetings, capacity building activities, and events.

To achieve the above, the following actions are recommended:

- Encourage the participation of all members in the GGN General Assembly. Improving their preparation in order to achieve effective participation;
- Strengthen the operation of the GGN Advisory Committee;
- Strengthen the operation of the National Geoparks Networks;
- Strengthening the operation of the administrative mechanism of the GGN bodies

to support the effective functioning of the Global Geoparks Network;

- Strengthening the operation of the GGN Secretariat;
  1. The GGN Headquarter, as well as the financial operation of the Association (GGN Bank Accounts, GGN External Accountant) is operated by Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark (France);
  2. The GGN will strengthen the functioning of the GGN Operational Secretariat;
- Support the visibility of the Global Geoparks Network by establishing a new strategy for the protection and the use of the GGN Logo. Improve the coherence and combination in the use of the GGN logos in Geopark activities, services, and products. Create a marketing toolkit for the GGN logos;
- Foster networking and continuous communication among all UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- Encourage Geopark activities aiming at the re-connection between these territories and their communities to support the social understanding of the Geopark values;
- Implementation of a strategy for legal protection and security for the protection of the members of GGN in their duties in the Network.

#### 1.2. GGN Working Groups

Strengthen the operation of the GGN Working Groups.

Encourage GGN Working Groups to work even more efficiently and professionally, and to generate concrete results.

- Encourage the coordination of thematic activities in synergy with the Regional Working Groups and enhance collaboration between GGN members;
- Encourage common realizations among the Global Geoparks Network members, such as the Intangible Heritage common exhibition.

#### 1.3. GGN Communication mechanism

- Maintain frequent communication among members through the updated GGN Mailing List, GGN website, GGN social media, and the GGN Newsfeed, which is the monthly communication tool for the GGN members;
- Frequently update the GGN calendar of events on the GGN website and avoid overlapping and duplications of Geopark events;
- Maintain continuous distribution of information through GGN Website to all GGN Members, and ask GGN Members to inform regularly the GGN regarding their activities on conferences, workshops, and other events, which will have broader interests for the Geoparks community;
- Improve digital communication of the members through GGN digital communication platforms;

- Improve the presence of GGN in the internet through GGN websites and GGN social media;
- Production of GGN corporative videos for use and promotion of GGN activities in GGN Events, Press Conferences, Communication events, International Tourism Fairs, etc.;
- Production of Geopark common publications, brochures, maps, banners, posters and other promotional materials.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 2

### Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Global Geoparks

- Continue to strengthen the collaboration with UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- Support the development of territories in regions that are currently underrepresented in the Global Geoparks family, like Africa, Arab states, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through initiatives such as the UNESCO and the GGN Grand for Africa and Arab States and for Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- Implement and support capacity-building activities on UNESCO Global Geoparks such as the International Geopark Courses, Seminars and Thematic Workshops;
- Ensure the current operation, quality control and maintenance of the Roster of Geopark Evaluators Data Base and organization of Evaluator's capacity building activities (Evaluator's Training Course);
- Support of the implementation of the Geopark Evaluation and Revalidation Missions.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 3

### GGN Regional Networks

- Encourage the existing regional branches of GGN (EGN, APGN, GEOLAC and AUGGN) to work even more efficiently and professionally, and support them to find solutions to any current challenges;
- Support the organization of the Regional Geopark Conferences.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 4

### GGN National Bodies

- 4.1. Operation of National Fora/ Committees, National Geopark Networks  
Strengthening the operation of the GGN National

Bodies including National Representatives in countries with only one Geopark, National Fora or Committees. Creation of National Geoparks Networks in countries with more than three UNESCO Global Geoparks.

#### 4.2. Creation of National Geoparks Networks

The GGN National Geoparks Networks are made up of all UNESCO Global Geoparks and all the GGN members (individual, honorary and cooperating) existing in the country.

The GGN will support the activities of the National Geoparks Networks, which will communicate the Geopark values and message to the local communities, as well as to national authorities and institutions using national and local languages.

Create a Guide on best practices to support the National Geoparks Networks to rise Geoparks brand visibility to the broader public at the national level. This includes the organization of various activities (i.e. National Geoparks Conference, participation in tourist fairs with a stand, organization of a Geopark Day, open to the public national events, Exhibitions, Publications, and Volunteers Programs).

Promote the Global Geoparks Network at the national level as the mechanism to achieve global visibility for the UNESCO Global Geoparks and their activities and products.

- Update the framework of the National Geopark bodies and provide an action plan model for the National Geoparks Networks;
- Support the organization of National Geopark Conferences and open to the public as many as possible activities to raise the visibility of the Geopark concept and results.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 5

### GGN Members

#### 5.1. GGN Institutional members

- Encourage all institutional members to work consistently throughout each four years period to constantly improve their quality and service;
- Provide a good practice guide for Geopark partners and a frame for the use of the GGN logo by Geopark partners;
- Encourage all institutional members to participate in GGN working groups (and Regional Networks Working groups) and contribute to the initiatives developed by working groups more actively;
- Publicize the GGN philosophy, emphasize active participation and involvement of local residents and stakeholders, especially in the territories where local residents are poorly informed about the knowledge of UNESCO



- Global Geoparks or even neglected by local governments;
  - Encourage the GGN institutional members to continue to produce new outstanding and good practices, which can be shared by other Geoparks and can result in positive influences, benefitting all and contributing to the creation of a more cooperative and peaceful future for all.
- GGN Executive Board has to:
- Encourage all institutional members to participate in conferences in other continental networks;
  - Encourage all institutional members to develop partnerships and exchange projects with partners on Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 of UN.

## 5.2. GGN Individual and Cooperating Members

- Work to improve further the collaboration between Institutional and Individual Members;
- Encourage GGN Individual Members to support GGN activities;
- Introduce GGN Cooperating Members to support GGN activities.

The GGN Executive Board should provide support engaging GGN members with recognized experience on specific issues;

The GGN Executive Board should create a strategy for the encouragement of new Cooperating members to join GGN.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 6

### GGN Initiatives

#### 6.1. GGN Awards

The GGN will continue the initiative of the GGN Awards also for the period 2024-2025.

This process will be promoted through the improvement of the procedures for the attribution of the GGN Awards. In this sense, will be identified the best practices in Geopark operation and services with the active involvement of the Geopark Managers and the Geopark Evaluators.

For the improvement of the system of the GGN Awards the following actions will be implemented:

- Every year, UNESCO Global Geoparks will be invited to submit their application for the GGN best practice awards;
- An application and an explanatory note will be prepared to support Geoparks for their application;
- The applications will be presented in a poster session every two years, during the International Geoparks Conference. A poster model will be prepared by the GGN which will be used by the Geoparks for their presentation;

- The selection of the best practice awards will be through electronic voting of the GGN members. One vote per Geopark and individual member will be allowed for the selection for the best practice awards;
- There will be the following nine categories for the best practice awards:
  1. Geoconservation,
  2. Interpretation,
  3. Education,
  4. Communication and collaboration,
  5. Visibility,
  6. Sustainable Development,
  7. Tourism,
  8. Community Engagement,
  9. Innovation

#### 6.2. GGN Film Festival

Continuation of the Geoparks Film Festival every two years and use of the Geopark Film Festival website <https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org> for the promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The selection of the GGN Film Festival awards will be done through electronic voting.

#### Awards and prizes of the Film Festival competition

A trophy and a financial award will be delivered:  
Winner: trophy + 3.000,00 €;

The second & third winners: trophy + 2.000,00 € (for each one).

#### 6.3. Geopark Youth Forum

Enforce the engagement of youth in all Geopark activities.

Promote the creation of a **Geopark Youth Forum** with the participation of young volunteers in every UNESCO Global Geopark;

The representatives of the **Geopark Youth Forum** in each Geopark will form the National Geopark Youth Forum, with the representatives of all Geoparks in each country, to support the role of young people to Geopark operation and activities;

The elected representatives from each National Geoparks Forum will represent the Country at the Regional and Global Youth Fora;

For the implementation of the initiative, the following procedure must be adopted:

- The age of the youth forum members will be from 16 until 29 years old;
- The GGN will support the operation of the National Geopark Youth Fora with the representatives of all UNESCO Global Geoparks in each country;
- The GGN will support the role of young people to Geopark operation and activities.

#### 6.4. Exhibition of the GGN National Fora/ Committees during the international conferences on UNESCO Global Geoparks

The GGN will support the organization of

exhibitions by the GGN National bodies during the international conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (this action will be part of the GGN national strategy).

There will be one stand for each country that has up to ten UNESCO Global Geoparks. Countries with more than 10 Geoparks will have double space.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 7

### Geopark activities on SDGs

Support Geoparks to enforce their role in SDGs implementation at the local level, enhancing inclusive stakeholder engagement, identifying challenges and opportunities for mobilizing means of implementation at the local level, and helping local authorities in ensuring that no one is being left behind in this process.

Create a Geopark SDGs Platform, to support the promotion and diffusion of best practices in local-level actions aimed at achieving the SDGs.

Promote the role of Geoparks to support local communities to prevent natural hazards and climate change consequences. In this sense, the Geoparks support the dissemination of knowledge and scientific evidence to strengthen local plans and policies, through awareness-raising and education activities. Geopark communication with and within communities should be enhanced to act as an effective bridge between knowledge and behaviour. Geoparks should support local communities to have easy access to information on natural hazards, climate change risks, associated impacts, and the cost of inaction, to better appreciate the impact of their actions.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 8

### Financial stability

The GGN seeks financial stability, and is prepared to support big promotional activities, which will support the image of Geoparks as territories of excellence in tourism and education.

GGN need to strengthen further financial resources through

- Qualified sponsors;
- Supporting Members.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 9

### Capacity building activities

GGN will continue to organize capacity-building activities in close collaboration with UNESCO,

which may include

- Intensive Courses on Geoparks;
- Seminars of Geopark Evaluators;
- Geopark Workshops;
- Geopark Seminars in regions with no or few Geoparks;
- Close and active collaboration with other UNESCO designations.

More specifically, for the 2024-2025 time frame will be implemented the following actions:

- Two levels of capacity-building activities will be implemented:
  - a) At international level will be implemented the two already existing Geopark capacity-building activities (in Lesvos and Beijing). The GGN will provide support to other international capacity-building activities on Geoparks organized in collaboration with other UNESCO bodies;
  - b) Capacity-building activities will also be organized at a national level with the collaboration of the GGN.
- The main UNESCO/GGN course on UNESCO Global Geoparks, with physical presence, which is organized by Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece), with the scientific supervision of the University of the Aegean, will continue to be implemented
- The Beijing course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will continue its implementation – The course will take place the second semester of each year organized by China University of Geosciences (Beijing), associated with Chinese Geoparks Network, and hosted by an each year selected UNESCO Global Geopark in China;
- A calendar with all the capacity buildings of each year will be prepared and will be announced at the beginning of each year. All national capacity building activities should be published in the calendar of the capacity-building activities of the Network to avoid overlapping of formative offers;
- The Evaluators course will be proposed to UNESCO to be organized at the end of January of each year;
- A video database with lessons by the GGN experts will be prepared and made public.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 10

### Marketing and Promotion

Adjust the GGN Communication and Marketing Strategy to the UNESCO logo guidelines to provide visibility and raise global awareness of UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Global Geoparks Network.

#### 10.1. Communication Strategy

The GGN should work on the implementation of

the Communication and Marketing Strategy to rise global awareness of UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Global Geoparks Network family, focusing on the value and mandates, and benefits they bring or can bring to the territories.

The GGN Executive Board should urgently and after the COVID-19 pandemic to review the outcomes and select priorities for the successful realization of the GGN Marketing and Communication Strategy through specific actions.

The implementation of the strategic plan on the GGN Marketing and Communication is crucial for the success of the Global Geoparks Network.

### 10.2. Promotion of the Geopark Brand

The GGN has special responsibility for the promotion of the Geopark brand worldwide, especially in the places where Geoparks are not well known for Government officials, international and national organizations dealing with environmental protection and management, International and national Tourism organizations, International and national educational organizations.

- The GGN will develop special activities in collaboration with the Regional Networks, the National Geoparks Networks, and GGN Individual Members to raise the profile of Geoparks and generate new Geopark initiatives;
- The GGN will develop special activities on International Days to raise the profile of Geoparks. Special emphasis should be given on International Geodiversity Day on October 6th and Earth Day on April 22nd.
- The GGN will initiate campaigns through social media to engage more individuals in its activities and initiatives and raise the profile of the UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- The GGN will develop special initiative for the promotion of the Geopark Gastronomy and local products using the GGN brand;
- The GGN will develop GGN souvenirs, with the

logo of the GGN, in collaboration with the members:

- The GGN will continue the coordination of the Geopark presence in International Tourism fairs, International Press Conferences and other promotional activities.

### 10.3. Celebration of the GGN 20th anniversary in 2024

- The GGN in 2024 will celebrate its 20th anniversary. For the promotion of the GGN and its member will be implemented the following:
- Preparation of a special logo for the celebration;
- Celebration on social media – each Geopark promotion during one day;
- Common celebration of all Geoparks during the Earth Day;
- Geoparks will organize events all around the year (in parallel with their already arranged activities);
- Special events will be organized during the conferences of the Regional Geoparks Networks;
- Production of a promotional video;
- Publication of a book presenting the history of the GGN;
- Preparation of a special poster;
- Preparation of Geoparks map.

## STRATEGIC ACTION 11

### GGN and International Networking

GGN is partner with UNESCO for the implementation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme. GGN attaches great importance to International networking and the collaboration of the GGN with IUCN and IUGS, as well as the presence in International Conferences i.e. IGC, IGU Conference, IAG, etc.



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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

## FINANCIAL ISSUES

5.1

### GGN 2023 ANNUAL BUDGET 9th Fiscal Year 7 March 2023

The Annual Budget of the GGN International Association was agreed in the 126th session of the GGN Executive Board Meeting held on the 7th of March 2023.

This is the ninth year of operation of the GGN International Association.

The main role and activities of the Global Geoparks Network as an International Association remains to: support the operation of the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS in the frames of the IGPP Program, in collaboration with UNESCO.

raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable territories and support Global Geoparks development and operation all around the globe, in collaboration with its Regional Geoparks Networks and its National Geoparks Fora/Committees.

The GGN 2023 Annual Budget was drawn up in accordance with the GGN Action Plan 2022 – 2023 which was approved in the 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly on 15th of December 2021.

### INCOME

The income of the GGN is based mainly on the annual membership fees but also a short amount is based on the contribution of 50€/participant of international and regional conferences and symposiums on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Following the decision of the 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly on 15th of December 2021 and the 3.1/125/07.02.2023 decision of the GGN Executive Board, the GGN membership fee for an Institutional Member remains 1.500 € out of which 1.000 \$ are donated to UNESCO. The remaining amount of the GGN membership fee (after the donation to UNESCO) and the amount by the international and regional conferences participants fee contributions are proposed to be used for activities to enhance the visibility of the GGN and UNESCO Global Geoparks and strengthen Geoparks promotional activities and capacity building activities.

Today the GGN has 177 Institutional members - UNESCO Global Geoparks and 37 Individual members - Geopark professionals.

The number of the Institutional members - UNESCO Global Geoparks will change during 2023 after the inscription of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks, which will be officially announced in May 2023. The number of the GGN Institutional members - UNESCO Global Geoparks will become 195.

The GGN General Assembly in 2016 decided to establish the international and regional Conference participants' fee as a new source of the GGN income. In 2023 is scheduled one International Conference which will be held in September 2023:

10th International UNESCO Global Geoparks Conference, M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco

The GGN Annual Budget 2023 includes also an estimation of income from cooperating members which is at present just an assumption. This needs to be realized by our common work to attract new supporters of Global Geoparks.



EXPENDITURE

A significant part of the expenditures is going to cover the Global Geoparks’ contribution to UNESCO. According to the number of the GGN Institutional Members – UNESCO Global Geoparks, an amount of **195.000 \$** (180.843 EURO - Rate 06.02.2023) will be donated to UNESCO for the needs of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2023.

The GGN is going to use resources to cover the cost of its operation, communication, activities, events, Geopark development and Geopark promotion: the GGN Secretariat, the secretariat staff, the accountant, lawyer, capacity building activities, administrative expenses, operational expenses, expenses for Geopark promotion and visibility as well as expenses for social media and promotional campaigns according to the GGN Action Plan for the years 2022-2023 agreed during the 3rd GGN Ordinary General Assembly on the 15th of December 2021.

The GGN digital communication, social media campaign and networking activities proved to be extremely useful for keeping networking, communication and exchange between UNESCO Global Geoparks alive, thus it is essential to include these activities in the budget.

Initiatives such as the GGN Awards and the GGN Film Festival will continue to be part of the GGN activities in 2023 and will be strengthen and promoted.

The initiatives “UNESCO / Global Geoparks Network Grant for Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States”, “UNESCO / Global Geoparks Network Grant for Geoparks in Small Island Development States (SIDS)” and initiatives for Global Geoparks development are also included in the budget as they are activities essential for the expansion of the Network to cover less reprehensive geographical areas.

In 2024, the GGN will celebrate 10 years by its officially established in 2014 as a non-profit International Association subject to French legislation and 20 years by its recognition as the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. These are very important milestones for our Network and in 2023 budget will also include expenses for preparatory meetings for the organization of the celebration of the GGN 10th & 20th Anniversaries in 2024, the organization of promotional events and activities, the publication of promotional materials etc.

Implementation of capacity building activities on UNESCO Global Geoparks such as the International Courses, GGN Forums and Evaluators’ Training Courses are also included in the budget.

At present the GGN communication is based on the GGN websites, social media pages, digital campaigns and publications i.e.

GGN webpages include: the GGN website [www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org), the GGN promotional website [www.visitgeoparks.org](http://www.visitgeoparks.org) and the Film Festival website [www.filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org).

Following the increase of the income based on the new sources (cooperating members, donations, projects, etc) the GGN Executive Board will be in position to introduce new activities.

In detail, the GGN 2023 Annual Budget is as follows:

GGN Annual Budget 2023

INCOME	ESTIMATION	INCOME
ANNUAL FEES		
Institutional members	195* 1.500 €	292.500 €
Individual members	40* 100 €	4.000 €
Cooperating members	1 * 2.000 €	2.000 €
Cooperating members (non profit)	1 * 3.000 €	3.000 €
CONFERENCE FEES		
10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 600 * 50 €	600 * 50 €	30.000 €
Bank income		1.000 €
Other		1.000 €
TOTAL		333.500 €
Amount from GGN Bank Account of the previous year		380.570,76 €
TOTAL		714.070,76 €

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATION	2023
A. Contribution to UNESCO	195 * 1000 USD	180.843 €
B. ADMINISTRATION		
B1. BANK EXPENCES		2.000 €
B2. EXTERNAL SERVICES		
B.2.1. Accounting		5.000 €
B.2.2.Legal advice		3.000 €
B3. SECRETARIAT		
B.3.1.Secretariat Salary 12*(1200 + 500 public insurance)		20.400 €
B.3.2.Haute Provence Secretariat Expenses		3.000 €
B4. GGN Digital Communication		
B4.1. GGN website operation <a href="http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org">www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org</a>		5.000 €
B4.2. GGN website renovation <a href="http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org">www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org</a>		6.000 €
B 4.3. Geopark Film Festival website operation <a href="http://www.filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org">www.filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org</a>		3.000 €
B 4.4. GGN promotional website operation – <a href="http://www.visitgeoparks.org">www.visitgeoparks.org</a>		6.000 €
B.4.5. GGN Social media pages		4.000 €
B.4.6. GGN Digital facebook campaigns		6.000 €
B. 4.7. GGN Digital events support		5.000 €
B. 4.8. GGN NewsFeed		3.000 €
B5. GGN General Assembly Publications and materials		20.000 €
B6. GGN Executive Board meetings / operational expenses		30.000 €
B7. GGN Brochure and map 2023		10.000 €
C. CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS		
C1. Intensive Course on Geoparks (Grants)		10.000 €
C2. Evaluator’s Seminars		5.000 €
C3. Training courses		10.000 €
D. PROMOTION		
D1. TOURISM FAIRS		20.000 €
D2. NEW COMMUNICATION TOOLS		40.000 €
D3. PROMOTION/COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS		
D3.1. Promotional posters for celebration of digital activities, digital events and international days		10.000 €
D3.2. GGN magazines (Geoparks & Oceans, Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks, Geoparks Going Green)		15.000 €
D3.3. GGN publications		15.000 €
D3.4 GGN promotional videos		15.000 €
D4. UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS PROMOTIONAL EXIBITION AT UNESCO		60.000 €

E. GGN DEVELOPMENT		
UNESCO / Global Geoparks Network Grant for Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States		15.000 €
UNESCO / Global Geoparks Network Grant for Geoparks in Small Island Development States (SIDS)		15.000 €
UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum		20.000 €
GGN Film Festival 2nd session (Jury committee expenses+ Awards)		15.000 €
Travel expenses to represent GGN in conferences, meetings, workshops, events and courses		25.000 €
Expenses to support new initiatives aiming the GGN Development		50.000 €
Expenses for the preparation of the celebration of the GGN 10th & 20th Anniversaries in 2024		21.827,76 €
		<b>674.070,76 €</b>
E. CONTINGENCIES		
		15.000 €
F. TRASFER AMOUNT TO SAVING ACCOUNTS		
		25.000 €
TOTAL		714.070,76 €

For the GGN Executive Board

Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS  
President

Dr. Kristin RANGNES  
Treasurer

Dr. Guy MARTINI  
General Secretary

5.2

## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK Annual Membership Fee 2024

The GGN Executive Board proposes to the 4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly to keep the GGN Annual Membership Fee at the same level as decided by the 1st GGN Ordinary General Assembly.

**Annual Membership Fee equal for all Institutional Members 1.500€**  
**Annual Membership Fee equal for all Individual Members 100€**

ESTIMATION OF THE GGN ANNUAL INCOME

CATEGORY OF INCOME	ANNUAL FEE	ESTIMATION	INCOME
Institutional members	1.500 €	195 * 1.500 €	<b>292.500 €</b>
Individual members	100 €	40 * 100 €	<b>4.000 €</b>
Conference participant fee	50 €	600 * 50 €	<b>30.000 €</b>
Supporting members	2.000 €	1 * 2.000 €	<b>2.000 €</b>
Supporting members (non profit)	3.000 €	1 * 3.000 €	<b>3.000 €</b>
TOTAL			331.500 €

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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

## GGN HONORARY MEMBERS

The GGN Executive Board at its 131st meeting decided to propose to the GGN General Assembly the nomination of the following individual as GGN Honorary Members due to his outstanding contribution to the GGN activities:

**Tony Ramsay**, Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark (UK)

**Dr Tony Ramsay**  
**Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark**  
**E-mail- tonhel@btinternet.com**

### PROFILE

After completing a PhD in Micropalaeontology at Swansea University in 1966, I was employed as a Research Associate in the University of Cambridge and as a Senior Research Associate at the University of East Anglia. In 1971 I was engaged as a Lecturer in Geology by Swansea University and was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1978. In 1988 I joined the staff of Cardiff University and retired as Senior Lecturer in the School of Earth Ocean and Planetary Sciences in October 2004. During my university career I held visiting appointments in McGill University, Montreal Canada, the University of Illinois, Urbana, USA, and the Ocean Drilling Project, Texas A&M University, Texas, U.S.A.

In 2005, in partnership with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the British Geological Survey, I co-authored the successful application for membership of the European and Global Geoparks Networks. This resulted in the creation of Fforest Fawr Geopark, Wales' first European Geopark, now recognized as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

At present I am Scientific Director of the Fforest Fawr Geopark, a member of the European Geoparks Advisory and Coordination Committees, Publication Editor of the European and Global Geoparks Networks Magazines, a member of the UK UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee, and an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University. In these roles I contribute to furthering the development of the European Geoparks and Global Geoparks networks and promote Cardiff University and the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences within

the Geoparks Networks through presentations at conferences and scientific activities within the Geopark. As Scientific Director of Fforest Fawr Geopark, I facilitate collaboration between the Geopark and Cardiff University, promote these organizations within local schools and businesses and contribute to creating research links between Schools within Cardiff University, Fforest Fawr Geopark and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. The role also involves engaging with the Geopark's ambassadors, partners and stakeholders and creating a series of themed geotrails within the Geopark for educational as well as recreational purposes. I also engage with the Geopark's involvement with the UK National Commission for UNESCO in developing a UNESCO Trail in Wales and have contributed to National Committee Projects including producing the The Waterfall Project - Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark, UNESCO in Wales Briefing, and an Initial Meeting with the First Minister of Wales and his team.

My role as an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University has involved initiating research projects, the co-supervision of MSc degree student projects, leading Year 1 (Geology) and Year 2 (Environmental Geoscience) field trips for the School of Earth and Ocean and Sciences in the Geopark, and contributing to Year 3 and Year 4 structural geology fieldwork. I have also led fieldtrips for the Linnean Society, the Open University, Devon Geological Society, and the University of the Third Age.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- One of a group of 15 scientists who, in 1974, initiated the study of Palaeoceanography.
- Published the first palaeobathymetric reconstructions



- for the Atlantic Ocean.
- Edited the two- volume edition of Oceanic Micropalaeontology.
- Authored two articles and co-authored two articles in the journal Nature.
- Directed and pursued research funded by National Environmental Research Council Grants
- Co-authored the paper Palaeobathymetry of the Southern Hemisphere.
- Managed and developed the successful Environmental Degree Scheme in The School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University.
- Designed and delivered a successful course in Hydrogeology in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences.
- Publications Editor of the European and Global Geoparks Networks Magazines.
- Initiated, with Prof Mike Bruford, Prof Tom Blenkinsop and Dr Peter Brabham Research Partnerships between Cardiff University, Fforest Fawr Geopark, and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
- Developing Ffoest Fawr Geopark’s Cribarth geosite for undergraduate training in practical field related observations and map making by Cardiff University.

#### EMPLOYMENT

- 1966 -1968: - Research Associate, Department of Geology, Cambridge University**
- Pursued and published research on North Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Caribbean deep –ocean sediments and microfossils.
  - Micropalaeontologist and sedimentologist on the Canadian Survey Ship, Hudson Scientific Cruise to the Caribbean, Spring 1968.
- 1968 - 1971:- Senior Research Associate, School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia.
- Pursued and published results of research on North Atlantic, Indian Ocean sediments and microfossils.
  - Micropalaeontologist on the National Institute of Oceanography Discovery Cruise to NE Atlantic Rockall, King’s Trough, Spring 1970.

- 1971- 1978: - Lecturer in Geology, University College Swansea**
- Teaching: Developed and delivered new courses in Physical Geology (Year 1), Field Training Courses in Pembrokeshire (Year 1), Carbonate Sedimentology (Year 2), Micropaleontology (Year 3) and Carbonate Sedimentology for Oceanographers.
  - Research: Pursued and published results of research on deep ocean sediments, micropaleontology, palaeoceanography, and Phanerozoic climate.
  - Supervision: One Masters thesis, two PH. D. theses and several undergraduate geological mapping projects.
  - Administration: Examinations Officer for the Geology

- Department.
- 1978 -1988: - SENIOR LECTURER IN GEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SWANSEA**
- Teaching: In addition to the courses outlined above (1971 -78). I also developed and delivered new courses in Vertebrate Palaeontology (Year 3), The Evolution of Man (Year 3) and contributed to the Field training course in the Midland Valley, Scotland (Year 3).
  - Research: Pursued and published the results of research on deep ocean sediments, micropaleontology, and carbonate sedimentology. See List of Publications.
  - Supervision: Two Ph. D. theses and several undergraduate mapping projects.
  - Administration: Examinations Officer and sometime finance officer for the Geology Department

- 1988 – 2004: - Senior Lecturer in the School of Earth, Ocean, and Planetary Sciences, Cardiff University**
- Teaching: Developed, and delivered new courses in Sedimentology (Year1), Carbonate Sedimentology (Year 2), Micropaleontology (Year 3), Hydrogeology (Year 3) and Field Training in Environmental Geoscience (Year 2).
  - Research: Pursued and published the results of research on deep ocean sediments, palaeo-oceanography, micropalaeontology, and carbonate sedimentology. See List of Publications.
  - Supervision: Three Ph. D. theses and several undergraduate projects for the Environmental Geoscience Degree Scheme and mapping projects for the Geology Degree Scheme.
  - Administration: Course Convenor for the Environmental Geoscience Degree Scheme.
  - External Examiner: University of Glamorgan 1988 -1992.

#### 2005 – 2023: - Scientific Director of the Fforest Fawr Geopark

#### Fforest Fawr Geopark Activities

#### Administration

- A member of the Geopark’s Implementation Group.
- A member of the Fforest Fawr Geopark Management Group.
- Representative on the Geopark’s Partnership Board.
- Contributed to the successful EGN revalidation of The Fforest Fawr Geopark in 2008.
- Contributed to the organization and activities of the 2011 Spring Meeting of the EGN Coordination Committee in Fforest Fawr Geopark.

#### Geotourism

- Contributed to the development of a successful training programme for tourist providers.
- Involvement in the production of the Geopark’s Information Panels.
- Contributed to the production of the Fforest Fawr Geopark Leaflet.
- Co-author of four geo-trails in the Geopark.
- Excursion leader during Geoparks Week and speaker at Geopark events.
- Designed an information panel for the Exhibition Centre at Penderyn Whisky Distillery explaining the hydrogeology of their water supply.

#### Education and Research

- Involved with the development of training days in geological mapping for Second Year Environmental Geoscience and First Year Geology students for Cardiff University in the Geopark.
- Established links with The Open University and University of the Third Age.
- Established links with and gave presentations on the Geopark to the Earth Science Education Forum in Wales.
- British Association for the Advancement of Science Science and Engineering Week in Wales 2007 & 2008. From Ground to Bottle – The Story of our Water Assets.
- Contributed to initiating and supervising a Ph.D project in the Geochemistry and microbiology of Alkaline Springs in the Fforest Fawr Geopark.
- Student and Research Projects: Contribution to a seminar, organized by Dr Peter Brabham School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, on 18th February 2011 focussing on the potential use of Fforest Fawr Geopark as a resource for student projects and research projects.
- M.Sc Project with the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University - Rediscovery, Representation and Application of Local Value in the Fforest Fawr Geopark (Wales) and the Muroto Geopark (Japan). This international project involving a Japanese student, Yukiko Shibata is supervised by Professor Susan Baker, Cardiff University. I will supervise and oversee the scientific input.

#### European Geoparks and Global Geoparks Activities

#### Administration

- Member the EGN Coordination Committee.
- Member of the EGN Advisory Committee since 2009.
- Member of the Intangible Heritage Thematic Group.

#### Editing

- Edited Issues 4 - 20 of the European Geoparks Magazine.
- Edited articles for the European Geoparks Newsletter, issues.
- Edited the contributions to the European Geoparks Book 1st Edition.
- Guest Editor 10th European Geoparks Conference Volume.
- Edited Global Geoparks Magazines Geoparks & Oceans, Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks, Geoparks Going Green.

#### Evaluation and Revalidation Missions

- 2009: Revalidation Mission - Eisenwurzen Geopark, Austria.
- 2010: Evaluation Mission - Basque Coast Geopark, Spain.
- 2011: Revalidation Missions - TERRAvita and Vulkaneifel Geoparks, Germany.
- 2012: Revalidation Mission - Yuntaishan, Henan Province, China.
- 2013: Revalidation Mission - Arouca Geopark Association (AGA), Portugal.
- 2014 Evaluation Mission – Erz der Alpen Geopark, Austria.
- 2015 Evaluation Mission –Pollino Geopark, Italy.
- 2016 Evaluation Mission – Bohemian Paradise Geopark, Czech Republic.
- 2017 Evaluation Mission – Swabian Alb Geopark, Germany.
- 2018 Evaluation Mission – Papuk Geopark, Croatia

#### IUGS Geoheritage Commission’s Geosites sub-commission

- Reviewing applications dossiers for UNESCO Global Geoparks to determine if the proposed Global Geopark contains geology of International Scientific Significance.

#### Presentations at European and UNESCO Geoparks Conferences

- Developing an Integrated Concept for a Successful Application to the European and UNESCO Global Geopark Network. 1st UNESCO Geoparks Conference. Belfast. September 2006.
- From Ground to bottle in the Fforest Fawr Geopark: An Educational Programme. 7th European Geoparks Network Open Conference, Scotland. September 2007.
- Geoparks tell Stories from the Past with a Message for the Future. The 3rd International UNESCO-Conference on Geoparks. Osnabrück, Germany. June 2008.
- Communicating the Story of Climate and Man.

- 8th European Geoparks Conference, Portugal, September 2009.
- Fforest Fawr Geopark: An Ice Age Geopark. 9th European and Geoparks Conference, Lesvos, Greece. October 2010
- The Cultural History of Fforest Fawr Geopark: An Educational and Recreational Resource. 9th European and Geoparks Conference, Lesvos, Greece. October 2010.
- Geological and Cultural Heritage as drivers for Sustainable Economic Development in Fforest Fawr Geopark. Proceedings of the 10th European and Geoparks Conference, Gea Norvegica, Norway. September 2011.
- A story creates a trail linking the Geology, Landscapes and Cultural Heritage of south Wales and Fforest Fawr Geopark. Proceedings of the 10th European and Geoparks Conference, Gea Norvegica, Norway. 17-18 September 2011.
- Using ancient DNA from Sediment at Traeth Mawr Peat Bog, Fforest Fawr Geopark to investigate the effects of Climate Change and human activity on the Environment. 13th European Geoparks Conference, Rokua, Finland. September 2015.
- Anomalous faults and folds in Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark. English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. September 2016.
- Craig y Dinas: A Landscape with a fascinating Geological, Industrial and Intangible Heritage. 14th European Geoparks Conference. The Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, September 2017.
- Climate Change, Environmental Degradation & Mass Extinction Events in the Existence of a Habitable Planet. 15th European Geoparks Conference. European Geoparks Conference. Parque Natural Sierra Norte de Sevilla. September, , 2019

**2005 –2023: - HONORARY SENIOR LECTURER, SCHOOL OF EARTH AND OCEAN SCIENCES, CARDIFF UNIVERSITY**

**Cardiff University Activities**

**Research Projects**

- In 2014 I represented Fforest Fawr Geopark at a workshop organized by Prof Terry Marsden, Cardiff University, and Paul Sinnadurai, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, focused on promoting joint research projects within these institutions. Outcomes with respect to the School involve:
- The successful application to Natural Resources

- Wales for coring at the Illtud Pools SSSI site in the Brecon Beacons National Park and initiation of the research Project - Investigating the sediment DNA record and biodiversity patterns in the ancient lake and peat bog deposits from Traeth Mawr SN 967 255 in the Brecon Beacons National Park.
  - Contributors to this project include Dr Peter Brabham (EARTH), Dr Tony Ramsay (EARTH and Fforest Fawr Geopark) and Prof Mike Bruford (School of Biosciences).
  - A research project concerned with - The mechanics of synsedimentary folding associated with the Swansea Valley and Vale of Neath Disturbances.
  - Contributors to this project include Prof Tom Blenkinsop (Cardiff University), Dr Tony Ramsay (Cardiff University and Fforest Fawr Geopark) and Dr A. Abu Sharib, (Geology Department, Beni Suef University, Egypt).
- Supervision of Post-graduate Projects**
- In 2011 I represented Fforest Fawr Geopark at a seminar, organized by Dr Peter Brabham School of Earth and Ocean Sciences focused on the potential use of Fforest Fawr Geopark as a resource for student projects and research projects. Outcomes with respect to the School involved the co-supervision of the following Msc and MRes research projects:
  - Yukiko Shibata 2013 - MSc Project with the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University - Rediscovery, Representation and Application of Local Value in the Fforest Fawr Geopark (Wales) and the Muroto Geopark (Japan). This international project involving a Japanese student, Yukiko Shibata was co- supervised with Professor Susan Baker, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University.
  - David Hull 2013 - A Geoenvironmental Assessment of the Penderyn Distillery Site. M.Sc. Applied Environmental Geology. Co-supervised with Dr Tim Jones and Dr Peter Brabham, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences.
  - Camilla Ryan 2015. The use of ancient DNA from sediment as a viable measure of historic biodiversity within the Brecon Beacons National Par. Co-supervised with Prof Mike Bruford, School of Biosciences, Cardiff University.

**External Examiner**

- Ala Ghafur 2013 - Sedimentology and Reservoir Characteristics of the Oligocene-Early Miocene Carbonates (Kirkuk Group) of Sothern Kurdistan. PhD thesis, Cardiff University.

**Teaching**

- Contributing to Year 1 Field Trips and training in fieldwork for the Environmental Geosciences Degree Scheme, and Year 3 and Year 4 Structural Geology Fieldwork

**Administration**

- Representing Cardiff University and the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences on the Management Group and Partnership Groups of the Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark.

**VISITING APPOINTMENTS**

- 1968-1969: Research Associate at the Marine Centre, McGill University, Montreal Canada (4 months appointment)
- 1971: Visiting Professor in the Department of Geology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A (6 months appointment)
- 1991 – 2000: Visiting Research Scientist, Ocean Drilling Project, Texas A & M University, Texas, U.S.A.

**QUALIFICATIONS/EDUCATION**

- BSci (Hons) 2.1 in Geology, University of Wales (1963)
- Ph.D in Micropaleontology, University of Wales (1966)

**INTERESTS**

**Outdoor Pursuits**

- Gardening.
- Hill Walking.
- Sea Fishing.

**Literature, Music and Art**

- 19th and 20th Century Classical music and Opera.
- Friend of the Welsh National Opera and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden.
- Medieval, 19thand 20th Century Literature.
- History of Art

**General Science**

- History of science
- Cosmology
- Particle Physics
- Genetics and evolutionary biology
- Economics & Politics

***Dr Tony Ramsay***  
***31 July 2023***



## 4th GGN Ordinary General Assembly

Friday 8 September 2023, at 14:00-18.00

**M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco)**

