



Global Geoparks Network

Celebrating Earth Heritage
Sustaining Local Communities



ISSUE 7

UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Their bottom-up approach of combining conservation with sustainable development while involving local communities is becoming increasingly popular. At present, there are 229 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 50 countries. They are all institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our Earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disasters-related risks. By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.

A bottom-up approach

UNESCO Global Geoparks empower local communities and give them the opportunity to develop cohesive partnerships with the common goal of promoting the area's significant geological processes, features, periods of time, historical themes linked to geology, or outstanding geological beauty. UNESCO Global Geoparks are established through a bottom-up process involving all relevant local and regional stakeholders and authorities in the area (e.g. land owners, community groups, tourism providers, indigenous people, and local organizations). This process requires firm commitment by the local communities, a strong local multiple partnership with long-term public and political support, and the development of a comprehensive strategy that will meet all of the communities' goals while showcasing and protecting the area's geological heritage.



Global Geoparks Network



The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a non-profit and a nongovernmental organization. It was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership of territories, recognized as Global Geoparks, which was developed under the umbrella of UNESCO.

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) was officially registered as an association in 2014 subject to French law.

The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Networking and collaboration among UNESCO Global Geoparks is an important component of the Global Geoparks Network.

The Global Geoparks Network also promotes networking on a regional basis.

The four Regional Geoparks Networks are the:

- African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN)
- Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)
- European Geoparks Network (EGN)
- Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GEOLAC).

North America hosts 5 UNESCO Global Geoparks, located in Canada.

The Canadian Geoparks represents this region in the Global Geoparks Network.

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

The Global Geoparks Network organizes co-operation and mutual assistance between Global Geoparks and between Global Geopark professionals.

The Global Geoparks Network created and coordinates thematic Working Groups which will foster international cooperation is a variety of issues related with Geopark operation and activities.

The Global Geoparks Network represents, advances, and disseminates knowledge on Geodiversity management and other disciplines related to Geoconservation, Geotourism, Geoeducation and/or the management and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The objectives of the Global Geoparks Network 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 relationship with environmental matters and natural hazards;
- to ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development based on the natural (or Earth) 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);



Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark, China



Papuk Geopark UNESCO Global Geopark, Croatia

GGN Statutes & Bylaws

The Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is the basic document of the Organization. The internal Rules of the GGN, and the Code of Ethics define and complete these Statutes.

● GGN Statutes (September 2016)

The Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network adopted in September 2014 by the GGN General Assembly in Saint John, Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada, having as a model the statutes of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The Statutes of the Global Geoparks Network define the structure, operation and membership of the Organization. The GGN statutes were modified in September 2016 by the GGN General Assembly in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, UK.

Members (Article 4)

The GGN has the following categories of Membership:

1. Institutional Members — UNESCO Global Geoparks.
2. Individual Members — Global Geopark Professionals — Persons who have combined or proven 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.

<http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GGN-Association-Statutes-FINAL-SEPTEMBER-2016.pdf>

● GGN Internal Rules & Regulations (September 2016)

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.

http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GGN-RULES-AND-REGULATIONS-07-07-2016_.pdf

● GGN Code of Ethics (September 2016)

The GGN Code of Ethics for GGN Members is a basic document for GGN operation following the provisions of GGN Statutes.

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.

<http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GLOBAL-GEOPARKS-NETWORK-CODE-OF-ETHICS-final.pdf>

● Anti- bullying and harassment Policy

The GGN Anti- bullying and harassment Policy document covers behaviour at all GGN events including the meetings of any subgroups or project groups, the activities of National Fora and the fulfilment of advisory, assessment or revalidation visits.

https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Anti-harassment-and-bullying-policy_GGN_2_A-final.pdf

Mission

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

UNESCO 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 and education.

UNESCO 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.

GGN Structure

The structure of the Global Geoparks Network includes the following bodies:



General Assembly: The General Assembly is the legislative body of the GGN.

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

Executive Board: The Executive Board is the decision making body of the GGN. It is elected by the General Assembly for a four (4)-year term of office.

It is composed of: the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the General Secretary and up to 11 Members.

Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee is the advisory body of the GGN Executive Board and the General Assembly. It consists of the Chairpersons of the National Geopark Network / Fora / Committees, and the designated representatives of the Affiliate Organizations.

National Geopark Networks / Fora / Committees:

A National Geopark Network / Forum or Committee includes all the members of the GGN resident in a State. The A National Geopark Network / Forum or Committee represents the interests of the GGN and its Members organize activities in that State.

International Committees / Task Forces / Working Groups:

The GGN Executive Board appoints committees, task forces and working groups, and defines their duties. The active Working Groups and Committees are presented in pages 12-15.

International Conference on Geoparks:

The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks takes place every two years. The GGN and UNESCO Secretariat organize an open call to select the Organizer of the Conference. The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is organized by a UNESCO Global Geopark. The organization and financing of the conference shall be the responsibility of the host country or countries. However, the GGN Executive Board shall advise on the programme planned for the conference.

Regional Geopark Networks:

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

Today five Regional Geoparks Networks operate:

- the European Geoparks Network – EGN (since 2000),
- the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN (since 2007),
- the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network – GEOLAC (since 2017),
- the African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network – AUGGN (since 2019).

The North American Geoparks Network currently includes the 5 Canadian UNESCO Global Geoparks.

GGN Executive Board

President

ZOUROS Nickolas, Greece

Vice President

JIN Xiaochi, P.R. China

Vice President

KOMOO Ibrahim, Malaysia

General Secretary

MARTINI Guy, France

Treasurer

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)

Observers

UNESCO Secretariat

VANDENBERGHE Kristof, UNESCO

GGN Advisory Committee Chair

NAKADA Setsuya, Japan

IUGS representative

HILARIO Asier - Spain

Regional Network Coordinators

GeOLAC Coordinator

ROSADO Emmaline – Mexico

EGN Coordinator & Vice coordinator

JUSTICE Sophie – France

FASSOULAS Charalampos – Greece



The GGN Executive board meets regularly to discuss the progress and to coordinate the operation of the Global Geoparks Network. The 158th meeting of the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network took place at UNESCO Headquarters Paris, 4 March 2025.



Members of the GGN Executive Board and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council at the GGN Stand in the Geopark fair during the 8th APGN Symposium in Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam, September 2024.



160th GGN Executive Board Meeting at the University of the Aegean, Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, June 2025.

Advisory Committee

Chair

Setsuya Nakada, Japan

Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Ecuador
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Indonesia
Iran
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Malaysia
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania

Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Tanzania
Thailand
Turkey
United Kingdom
Uruguay
Vietnam

Oliver Gulas, Austrian Geoparks Forum
Alain Petit, Representative of Famenne-Ardenne UGGp
Eduardo Guimarães, Brazilian Network of UNESCO Global Geoparks
Frances Heydemann, Canadian Geoparks Network
Patricia Herrera, Representative of Kütralkura UGGp
Yuanyuan Zheng, Chinese Geoparks Network
Goran Radonic, Croatian Committee on UNESCO Global Geoparks
Efthimios Tsiolakis, Representative of Troodos UGGp
Martina Paskova, National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic
Kim Song Ui Representative of Mt Paektu UGGp

Jacob Walløe, Representative of Geoparks in Denmark
José Boada, Ecuadorian Geoparks Committee
Terttu Hermansson, Finnish National Geoparks Committee
Marie-Pierre Berthier, National Committee for the Geoparks of France
Jutta Weber, German Geoparks Forum
Charalampos Fassoulas, Hellenic Geoparks Forum
Barnabás Korbély, Hungarian Geopark Committee
Sigurður Sigursveinsson, Icelandic Geoparks Forum
Farid Mohamad Zaini, Indonesian Geoparks Network
Alireza Amrikazemi, Representative of Geoparks in Iran
Clare Glanville, Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee
Alessia Amorfini, Italian Geoparks Committee
Setsuya Nakada, Japan Geopark Committee
Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari, Representative of Langkawi UGGp
Jose Luis Palacio, Representative of Geoparks in Mexico
Driss Achbal, Representative of M'Goun UGGp
Gretha Roelfs, Netherlands Forum for UNESCO Global Geoparks
Rachel Plieger, Waitaki Whitestone UGGp
Marcio Nunes, Representative of Rio Coco UGGp
Kristin Rangnes, Norwegian National Committee for Geoheritage and Geoparks
Yammil Ramirez, Representative of Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UGGp
Jovencia Ganub, Bohol UGGp
Michał Poros, Representative of Polish Geoparks
Daniela Rocha, Portuguese Network of UNESCO Global Geoparks
Min Huh, Korean Geoparks Network
Alexandru Andrasanu, Romanian National UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum
Adelina Khasanova, Yangan Tau UGGp
Hussam Ai Turki Representative of Geoparks in Saudi Arabia
Nenad Radakovic, Representative of Djerdap UGGp
Balázs György, Representative of Novohrad-Nograd UGGp
Bojan Režun, Slovenian Geoparks Forum
Karmah Salman, Spanish Geoparks Forum
Anna Bergengren, Platåbergen UGGp
Agness Gidna, Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp
Narongrit Thungprue, Representative of Satun UGGp
Tuncer Demir, Representative of Kula - Salihli UGGp
Kirstin Lemon, UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks
Eugenio Bidondo Echeveria, Representative of Grutas del Palacio UGGp
Tran Tan Van, Vietnam Geoparks Committee



5th GGN Advisory Committee meeting, M' Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, 6 September 2023, Morocco



11th GGN Advisory Committee Meeting took place digitally on June 11th 2025 with the participation of representatives of 48 different countries as well as the Members of the GGN ExB and UNESCO representatives

GGN Working Groups

GGN Working Groups, GGN Task Forces and GGN Committees have a maximum term of four (4) years.

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

A GGN Working Group consists of 9-10 GGN Members with proven experience of the subject. GGN Working Group members have a broad geographical distribution.

The main goal of a GGN Working Group is the coordination of activities at the global level (on a specific subject), coordination of exchange of ideas and best practices, proposal of new regulations and concepts.

A GGN WG:

- encourages the activities of similar working groups at the Regional level where broad participation is welcome;
- submits to the GGN Executive Board an annual report of activities;
- communicates to all GGN members the activities and results;
- disseminates information about their work to all GGN members via the GGN website.



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

● Climate Change working group
Artur Sá , University of Trás-os-Montes & Alto Douro, Arouca UGGp (Portugal)
John Calder , Cliffs of Fundy UGGp (Canada)
Kirstin Lemon , GSNI (UK) - EGN WG on Climate change Catalyst
Agness Gidna , Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania) - AUGGN Representative
Yuanyuan Zheng , Chinese Geoparks Network (China) - APGN Representative
Jennifer Dingman , (Canada) - CGN Representative
Leandro de Godoi Pinton , Uberaba UGGp, (Brazil) - GEOLAC Representative
● GGN Working Group on Geoparks as Therapeutic Landscapes
Hartmut Escher , TerraVITA UGGp (Germany)
Artur Sá , UNESCO Chair on Geoparks, SDG and Healthy Lifestyles, University of Trás-os-Montes & Alto Douro, Arouca UGGp (Portugal)
Kristin Rangnes , Gea Norvegica UGGp (Norway)
Koki Nagata , Aso UGGp (Japan)
Farid Z Mohamad , Rinjani Lombok UGGp (Indonesia)
Emmaline Rosado , Mixteca Alta UGGp (Mexico)
Mikko Kiuttu , Rokua UGGp (Finland)

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

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



● GGN Working Group on Geoparks, Geoheritage Accessibility and Security
Marie-Luise Frey , GGN Individual member (Germany)
John Calder , Cliffs of Fundy UGGp (Canada)
Kana Furusawa , Japanese Geoparks Network (Japan)
APGN Representative
EGN Representative
Geolac Representative
AUGGN Representative
North American Representative

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



● Tourism working group

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



● Island and Coastal areas / Water / Ocean working group

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



● Education working group

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



● Indigenous people working group

Guy Martini , UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair (France)
Patricio Melo , Universidade Regional do Cariri (Brazil)
Ibrahim Komoo , University Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia)
Martina Paskova , Bohemian Paradise UGGp (Czechia)
Ramadhani Khatibu , Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp (Tanzania)
Sarah Behn , Canadian Geoparks Network (Canada)



● Heritage working group

Alexandru Andrasanu , Hațeg Country UGGp (Romania)
Guy Martini , UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair (France)
APGN Representative
GEOLAC Representative
CGN Representative



● International Networking working group

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



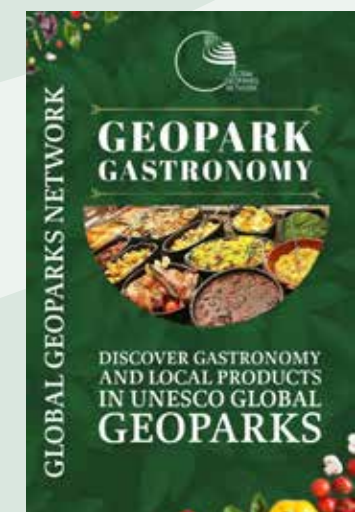
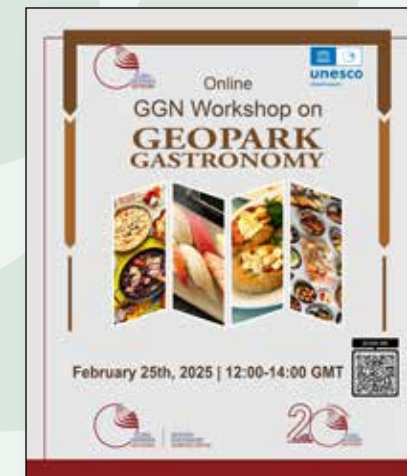
● Communication working group

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



● Gastronomy working group

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



Global Geoparks Network Film Festival

The GGN Executive Board decided the creation of a biannual film festival for UNESCO Global Geoparks. The objective of this festival is to stimulate the creation of video by the UNESCO Global Geoparks and to increase their quality as well as to allow the GGN to develop a video database available for the promotion of the network. Only UNESCO Global Geoparks or official nominations of Aspiring UNESCO Geoparks can participate.

3rd Global Geoparks Network Film Festival 2025

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

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

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

The electronic platform for more information and for uploading the videos for the 3rd Global Geoparks Network Film Festival 2025 is:
<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org>

Awards & Prizes

A trophy and a financial award will be delivered:

2025 winner: Trophy + 3.000€

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

Video thematic

The candidate videos should:

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



GGN Best Practice Awards

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Best Practice Awards aims to promote, enhance and encourage the development of innovative initiatives inside UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The award recognizes pioneering practices and initiatives that contribute to a more effective and dynamic network, set fantastic examples for others to follow and emulate, and create greater public recognition of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The prize honours the management and / or a partner of a UNESCO Global Geopark for the pioneering nature and quality of the initiative, encouraging all the GGN members to work in the same way.

The main selection criteria are based on:

- Suitability and replication capability in other UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- Effective contribution to an increasingly better functioning of UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- The innovative nature of the best practice example (relevant, original, unique approach, etc.)

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Awards are awarded during the International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The prizes awarded consist of a diploma recording the example of good practice and that their assignment has appropriate emphasis in all communication channels of the GGN.

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

GGN Best Practice Awards 2023

The GGN Best Practice Awards were based on proposals submitted by the Geopark Evaluators or Geoparks managers. Submissions for the award were accepted from the evaluators who have observed the example of best practice during the evaluation/revalidation process in person and included details of the practice or project within the evaluation/revalidation reports.

There was a selection between 20 proposals from 13 countries all around the globe submitted either by the Geopark Managers or the Geopark Evaluators.

The GGN Best Practice Awards 2023 include three awards granted by the GGN Association and they were awarded during the closing ceremony of the 10th International Conference in Marrakech, Morocco on the 9th of September 2023.





Opening ceremony of the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, M' Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco, 7 September 2023



1st International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, Beijing, China

International Conferences on UNESCO Global Geoparks

● International Geopark Conference

The GGN holds an International Geoparks Conference every two years.

The International Geoparks Conference may propose resolutions arising from its discussions for consideration by the General Assembly. 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 organization 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 is the responsibility of the host country or countries that:

1. suitable facilities are provided for the meeting of the General Assembly;
2. provision shall be made for the meetings of the GGN Executive Board;
3. detailed 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 satisfies itself that the proposals are compatible with the statutes of the GGN.

A representative of the Organizing Committee of the next conference is normally 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.

1st International Geoparks Conference
Beijing, 2004 (China)

2nd International Geoparks Conference
Belfast, 2006 (Northern Ireland)

3rd International Geoparks Conference
Osnabrück – TerraVita Global Geopark, 2008 (Germany)

4th International Geoparks Conference
Langkawi Global Geopark, 2010 (Malaysia)

5th International Geoparks Conference
Shimabara – Unzen Global Geopark, 2012 (Japan)

6th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks
Saint John – Stonehammer Global Geopark, 2014 (Canada)

7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks
Torquay – English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, 2016 (UK)

8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks
Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, 2018 (Italy)

9th Digital International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks
Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, 2021 (Republic of Korea)

10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks
M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, 2023 (Morocco)



6th International UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks, Canada



8th International conference Adamello Brenta

Regional Geopark Networks

Recognizing the very strong role networking has played in the success of the Global Geoparks movement and recognizing the valuable role it plays in facilitating the sharing of experience, formation of joint initiatives and projects and the highly significant role it plays in capacity-building, the GGN encourages the strengthening of Regional Geoparks Networks.

Regional Geoparks Networks include GGN members at a regional or continental level.

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

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

Each Regional Geoparks Network forms a Coordination Commission which is the governing body of the Regional Geoparks Networks and elects two Coordinators and an Advisory Committee according to the Regional Geoparks Network Rules of Operation. All Regional Geoparks Networks submit an Annual Report of Activities to the GGN Executive Board.

● Regional Geopark Networks

- European Geoparks Network - EGN
www.europeangeoparks.org
- Asia Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN
www.asiapacificgeoparks.org
- Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network – GEOLAC
www.redgeolac.org
- African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN)
www.visitgeoparks.org/african-geopark-network
- North American Geoparks Network

● Regional Geopark Conferences

The Regional Geoparks Networks organize Regional Conferences or Symposia every two years, not in the same year as the International Geoparks Conferences.

- The European Geoparks Network has organized 16 European Geoparks Conferences since 2000.
The 18th European Geoparks Conference will be organized by Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland (September 2026).

- The Asia Pacific Geoparks Network has organized 8 Symposia since 2007.
The 9th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Conference will be organized by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Malaysia September 2026.

- The Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network – GEOLAC has organized 7 GeoLAC Conferences since 2018.
The 8th Conference of the Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network – GEOLAC will be organized in November 2026.

7th Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean Geoparks Network, Southern Canyons Pathways UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil 6-9 November 2025

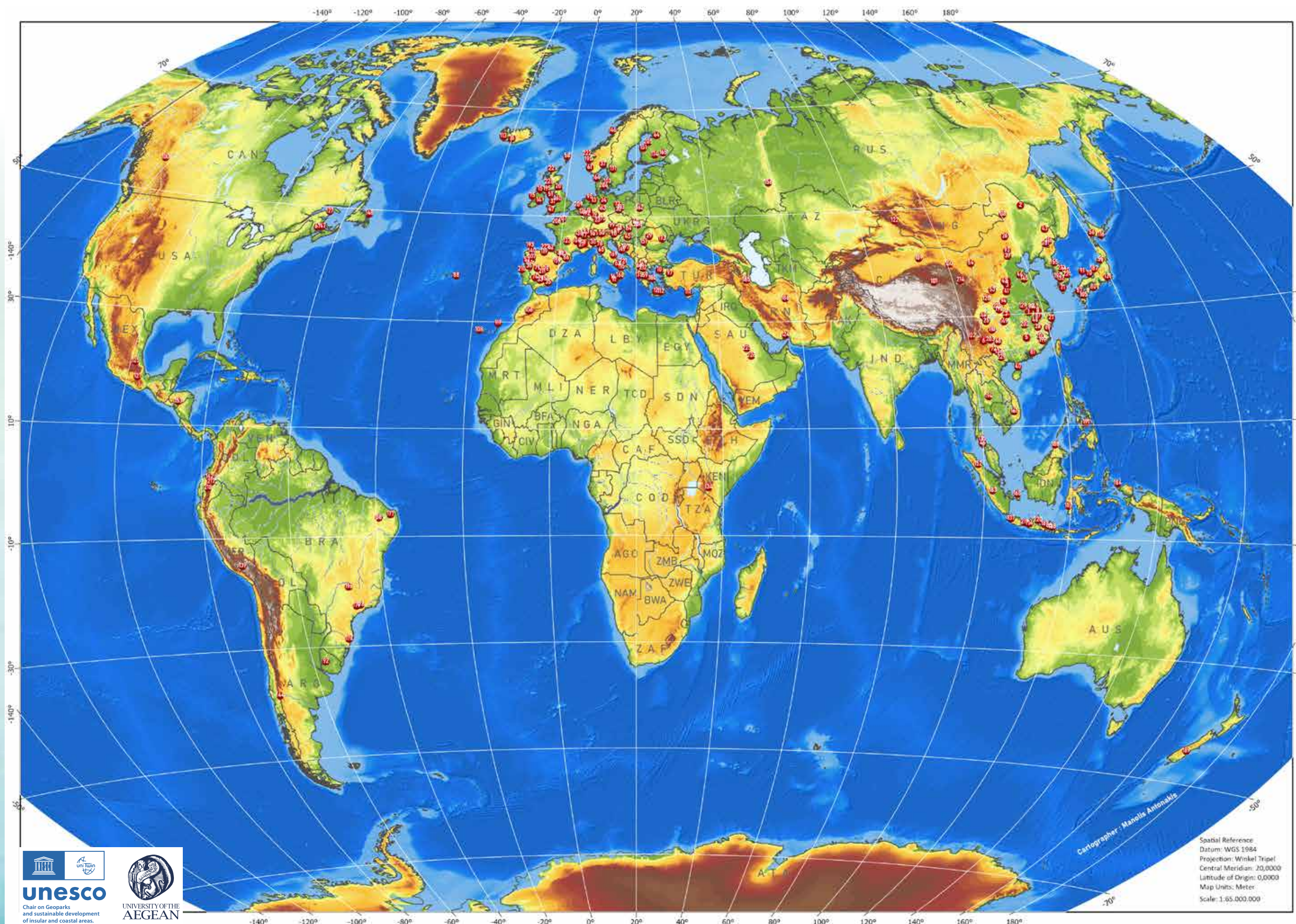


51st European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee Meeting, UNESCO Headquarters, 10th Anniversary of IGPP, Paris, 5-6 March 2025



8th APGN Symposium in Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam, September 2024.

UNESCO Global Geoparks



List of UNESCO Global Geoparks

229 Geoparks in 50 Countries

No.	Geopark name	Country	Year
1	Lushan	China	2004
2	Wudalianchi	China	2004
3	Songshan	China	2004
4	Yuntaishan	China	2004
5	Danxiashan	China	2004
6	Shilin	China	2004
7	Zhangjiajie	China	2004
8	Huangshan	China	2004
9	Haute-Provence	France	2004
10	Lesvos island	Greece	2004
11	Vulkaneifel	Germany	2004
12	Psiloritis	Greece	2004
13	Terra vita	Germany	2004
14	Copper Coast	Republic of Ireland	2004
15	Cuicagh Lakelands	N. Ireland/Republic of Ireland	2004
16	Madonie	Italy	2004
17	Rocca Di Cerere	Italy	2004
18	Styrian Eisenwurzen	Austria	2004
19	Bergstrasse-Odenwald	Germany	2004
20	North Pennines	UK	2004
21	Luberon	France	2005
22	North West Highlands	UK	2005
23	Swabian Albs	Germany	2005
24	Harz Braunschweiger Land	Germany	2005
25	Xingwen	China	2005
26	Hexigten	China	2005
27	Yandangshan	China	2005
28	Taining	China	2005
29	Hateg Country	Romania	2005
30	Beigua	Italy	2005
31	Forest Fawr	UK	2005
32	Bohemian Paradise	Czech Republic	2005
33	Sierras Subeticas	Spain	2006
34	Sobrarbe-Pirineos	Spain	2006
35	Cabo de Gata	Spain	2006
36	Naturtejo	Portugal	2006
37	Gea-Norvegica	Norway	2006
38	Ararape	Brazil	2006
39	Fangshan	China	2006
40	Leiqiong	China	2006
41	Funiushan	China	2006
42	Wangwushan-Daimeishan	China	2006
43	Jingpohu	China	2006
44	Taishan	China	2006
45	Papuk	Croatia	2007
46	Langkawi	Malaysia	2007
47	English Riviera	UK	2007
48	Longhushan	China	2007
49	Zigong	China	2008
50	Adamello Brenta	Italy	2008
51	Geo Mon	UK	2009
52	Arouca	Portugal	2009
53	Qinling Zhongnanshan	China	2009
54	Alxa	China	2009
55	Itoigawa	Japan	2009
56	Toya Usu	Japan	2009
57	Unzen Volcanic Area	Japan	2009
58	Shetland	UK	2009
59	Chelmos-Vouraikos	Greece	2009
60	Novohrad-Nograd	Hungary/Slovakia	2010
61	Magma	Norway	2010
62	Basque Coast	Spain	2010
63	Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni	Italy	2010
64	Rokua	Finland	2010
65	Tuscan Mining Park	Italy	2010
66	Vikos-Aoos	Greece	2010
67	Stonehammer	Canada	2010
68	Leye Fengshan	China	2010
69	Ningde	China	2010
70	San'in Kaigan	Japan	2010
71	Jeju island	Republic of Korea	2010
72	Dong Van Karst Plateau	Viet Nam	2010
73	Muskau Arch	Germany/Poland	2011
74	Sierra Norte de Sevilla	Spain	2011

No.	Geopark name	Country	Year
75	Burren and Cliffs of Moher	Republic of Ireland	2011
76	Katla	Iceland	2011
77	Massif des Bauges	France	2011
78	Alpi Apuani	Italy	2011
79	Villuercas Ibores Jara	Spain	2011
80	Muroto	Japan	2011
81	Hong Kong	China	2011
82	Tianzhushan	China	2011
83	Chablais	France	2012
84	Bakony-Balaton	Hungary	2012
85	Batur	Indonesia	2012
86	Central Catalonia	Spain	2012
87	Sangingshan	China	2012
88	Azores	Portugal	2013
89	Karavanke/Karawanken	Slovenia/Austria	2013
90	Idrija	Slovenia	2013
91	Oki islands	Japan	2013
92	Grutas del Palacio	Uruguay	2013
93	Yanqing	China	2013
94	Shennongjia	China	2013
95	De Hondsrug	Netherlands	2013
96	Sesia-Val Grande	Italy	2013
97	Kula-Salihli	Turkey	2013
98	Molina and Alto Tajo	Spain	2014
99	Ore of the Alps	Austria	2014
100	Tumbler Ridge	Canada	2014
101	Mount Kunlun	China	2014
102	Dali Mount Cangshan	China	2014
103	Odsherred	Denmark	2014
104	Monts d'Ardeche	France	2014
105	Aso	Japan	2014
106	M'Goun	Morocco	2014
107	Terras de Cavaleiros	Portugal	2014
108	El Hierro Global	Spain	2014
109	Dunhuang	China	2015
110	Zhijindong	China	2015
111	Troodos	Cyprus	2015
112	Sitia	Greece	2015
113	Reykjanes	Iceland	2015
114	Gunung Sewu	Indonesia	2015
115	Pollino	Italy	2015
116	Mount Apoi	Japan	2015
117	Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands	Spain	2015
118	Arxan	China	2017
119	Las Loras	Spain	2017
120	Cheongsong	Republic of Korea	2017
121	Mixteca Alta	Mexico	2017
122	Keketuohai	China	2017
123	Causse du Quercy	France	2017
124	Qeshm Island	Iran	2017
125	Comarca Minera, Hidalgo	Mexico	2017
126	Famenne-Ardenne	Belgium	2018
127	Perce	Canada	2018
128	Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe	China	2018
129	Huanggang Dabieshan	China	2018
130	Beaujolais	France	2018
131	Izu Peninsula	Japan	2018
132	Mudeungsan Area	Republic of Korea	2018
133	Origins	Spain	2018
134	Ngorongoro Lengai	Tanzania	2018
135	Satun	Thailand	2018
136	Non nuoc Cao Bang	Viet Nam	2018
137	Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu	Indonesia	2018
138	Rinjani Lombok	Indonesia	2018
139	Colca y Volcanes de Andagua	Peru	2019
140	Courel Mountain	Spain	2019
141	Vis Archipelago	Croatia	2019
142	Imbabura	Ecuador	2019
143	Jiuhashan	China	2019
144	Kutralkura	Chile	2019
145	Yimengshan	China	2019
146	Trollfjell	Norway	2019
147	Cliffs of Fundy	Canada	2020
148	Discovery	Canada	2020

No.	Geopark name	Country	Year
149	Xiangxi	China	2020
150	Zhangye	China	2020
151	Lauhanvuori-Hameenkangas	Finland	2020
152	Toba Caldera	Indonesia	2020
153	Rio Coco	Nicaragua	2020
154	Estrela	Portugal	2020
155	Hantangang river	Republic of Korea	2020
156	Yangan-Tau	Russian Federation	2020
157	Djerdap	Serbia	2020
158	Granada	Spain	2020
159	Maestrazgo	Spain	2020
160	Black Country	UK	2020
161	Dak Nong	Viet Nam	2020
162	Holy Cross Mountains	Poland	2021
163	Thuringia Inselberg-Drei Gleichen	Germany	2021
164	Vestjylland	Denmark	2021
165	Saimaa	Finland	2021
166	Aspromonte	Italy	2021
167	Grevena-Kozani	Greece	2021
168	Belitong	Indonesia	2021
169	Majella	Italy	2021
170	Ries	Germany	2022
171	Platåbergen	Sweden	2022
172	Möllerall	Luxembourg	2022
173	Buzău Land	Romania	2022
174	Salpausselkä	Finland	2022
175	Kefalonia-Ithaca	Greece	2022
176	Southern Canyons Pathways	Brazil	2022
177	Serido	Brazil	2022
178	Caçapava	Brazil	2023
179	Quarta Colônia	Brazil	2023
180	Lavrentiki	Greece	2023
181	Ijen	Indonesia	2023
182	Maros Pangkep	Indonesia	2023
183	Merangin Jambi	Indonesia	2023
184	Raja Ampat	Indonesia	2023
185	Aras	Iran	2023
186	Tabas	Iran	2023
187	Hakusan Todorigawa	Japan	2023
188	Kinabalu	Malaysia	2023
189	Waitaki Whitestone	New Zealand	2023

No.	Geopark name	Country	Year
190	Sunnhordland	Norway	2023
191	Bohol Island	Philippines	2023
192	Jeonbuk West Coast	Republic of Korea	2023
193	Cabo Ortegal	Spain	2023
194	Khorat	Thailand	2023
195	Mourne Gullion Strangford	UK	2023
196	Uberaba	Brazil	2024
197	Biokovo-Imotski Lakes	Croatia	2024
198	Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave	China	2024
199	Linxia	China	2024
200	Longyan	China	2024
201	Mount Changbaishan	China	2024
202	Wugongshan	China	2024
203	Xingy	China	2024
204	The South Fyn Archipelago	Denmark	2024
205	Impact Crater Lake	Finland	2024
206	Armorique	France	2024
207	Normandie-Maine	France	2024
208	Bükk Region	Hungary	2024
209	Schelde Delta	Belgium/Netherlands	2024
210	Oeste	Portugal	2024
211	Volcanes de Calatrava	Spain	2024
212	Meteora-Pyli	Greece	2024
213	Kanbula	China	2025
214	Land of Extinct Volcanoes	Poland	2024
215	Yunyang	China	2025
216	Napo Sumaco	Ecuador	2025
217	Mt Paektu	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2025
218	Tungurahua Volcano	Ecuador	2025
219	Kebumen	Indonesia	2025
220	Meratus	Indonesia	2025
221	MurGeopark	Italy	2025
222	Fjord Coast Regional and Geopark	Norway	2025
223	Danyang	Republic of Korea	2025
224	Gyeongbuk Donghaean	Republic of Korea	2025
225	North Riyadh	Saudi Arabia	2025
226	Salma	Saudi Arabia	2025
227	Costa Quebrada	Spain	2025
228	Arran	UK	2025
229	Lang Son	Viet nam	2025

GGN Office / Secretariat

The premises of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) are hosted by the Haute Provence UNESCO Global Geopark. The only registered office of GGN is Musée Promenade, Montée Bernard Dellacasagrande, 04000 Digne les Bains, France, **The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) has no other office in any other country**

Operational Secretariat:

The Global Geoparks Network - Operational Secretariat, is hosted by the Lesvos island UNESCO Global Geopark, in Greece.

Geopark Information Center, 8th November Str. 17, Mytilene, P.C. 81100, Lesvos Island, Greece.

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

info@globalgeoparksnetwork.org

secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org



Regional Workshop of Geoparks and Geoheritage; fostering geoheritage in Latin America. UNAM Mexico City 2015



International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2024 Lesvos Island Greece

Capacity building activities

The Global Geoparks Network supports a variety of capacity building activities aiming to distribute information and share best practice on creating and operating Geoparks, especially in underrepresented regions. The Global Geopark Network plays an active role in nurturing partnerships and the sharing of best practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks.

The main GGN capacity building activities include:

● The International Intensive Course on Geoparks - Lesvos

It takes place every June since 2007 on Lesvos island UNESCO Global Geopark. The Intensive Course on Geoparks is organized by the University of the Aegean with the contribution of top Geopark experts coming from all over the globe. It comprises creation and operation of a theoretical background together with extensive fieldwork. The Intensive Course on Geoparks aims to focus on the UNESCO Global Geoparks building and operation, on Geopark's contribution to shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism and environmental education – combining sustainability with community pride and benefit, economic development and new employment as well as geological, natural and cultural heritage conservation and management.

● The International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks – Beijing

It takes place every year in Beijing, organized by the China University of Geosciences Beijing. The speakers are the top international geopark experts from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, Global Geopark Executive Board and other institutions. The Intensive Course on Geoparks Management aims to focus on the UNESCO Global Geoparks management and operation, geo-heritage protection and conservation, geo-tourism, geo-education and sustainable local development.

● Workshops and Meetings

The Global Geoparks Network supports the organization of special training courses and workshops on Geoparks in countries with few Geoparks to support the development and expansion of Geoparks in all continents.



8th International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024, Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Top 16 Focus Areas

● Geological Heritage Conservation



UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas that use the concept of sustainability, value the heritage of Mother Earth and recognize the need to protect it.

The defining geological sites in UNESCO Global Geoparks are protected by indigenous, local, regional and/or national law and management authorities, which allow for the necessary monitoring and maintenance of these sites.

A UNESCO Global Geopark develops, experiments and enhances methods for preserving the geological heritage.

The Global Geoparks Network is developing partnerships among UNESCO Global Geoparks for sharing best practice and know-how on the protection, conservation and rational management of the geological heritage sites.

Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark, China

● Geological Hazard Risk Reduction

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Through educational activities for the local people and visitors many UNESCO Global Geoparks give information on the source of geological hazards and ways to reduce their impact including disaster response strategies. These efforts build important capacity and contribute to building more resilient communities that have the knowledge and skills to effectively respond to potential geological hazards.

The Global Geoparks Network working group on Geo-hazards coordinates common activities and helps prepare disaster mitigation strategies among Geoparks.



Reykianess UNESCO Global Geopark Iceland

● Climate Change Awareness

UNESCO Global Geoparks hold records of past climate change and are educators on current climate change as well as adopting a best practice approach to utilising renewable energy and employing the best standards of "green tourism."

UNESCO Global Geoparks serve as outdoor museums on the effects of past and current climate change thus giving the opportunity to show visitors how climate change can affect our environment, and raise awareness on the potential impact of climate change on the region, and provide the local communities with the knowledge to mitigate and adapt to the potential effects of climate change.



KunLun Mountain UNESCO Global Geopark, China

● Natural Resources Wise Use



The history of mankind and civilization is based on the resources exploited from Earth's crust. The development of modern societies is limited by the consequences of depleting of natural resources

UNESCO Global Geoparks inform people about the sustainable use and need for natural resources, while at the same time promoting respect for the environment and the integrity of the landscape.

Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Biodiversity Protection



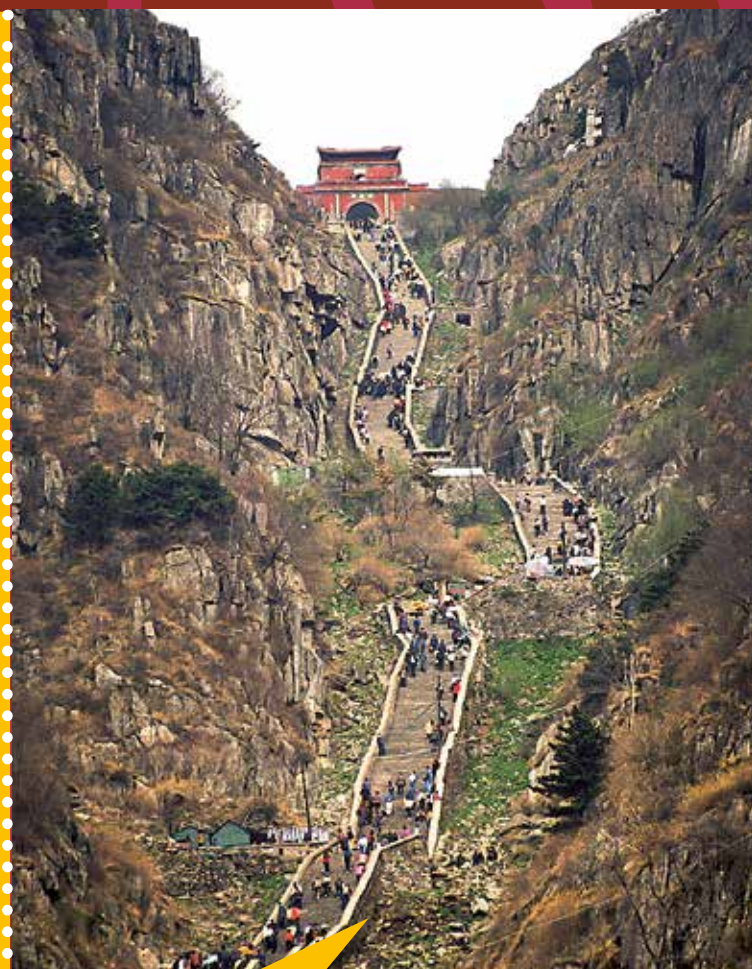
UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas where the analysis of specific interactions between the lithosphere and biosphere provides an integrated concept of the role of the geological environment in the evolution of the biosphere. Geopark activities and projects are important in order to raise awareness on the relationship between the geological environment and modern ecosystems and their rational management under a holistic concept.

Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark Italy

Culture Heritage Enhancement

In many countries emblematic geosites are considered as sacred places. Since ancient times, sacred sites have had a mysterious allure for billions of people around the world. Legends and contemporary reports tell of extraordinary experiences people have had while visiting these places. Different sacred sites have the power to heal the body, enlighten the mind and inspire the heart. People built in such places temples and monasteries. UNESCO Global Geoparks host some important sacred places emphasizing the connection between specific landscapes and land-forms with mythology, archaeology and history.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are: it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore and folk traditions.



Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Education for Sustainable Development

UNESCO Global Geoparks develop and operate educational activities for all ages to spread awareness of our geological heritage and its links to other aspects of our natural, cultural and intangible heritages.

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer educational programmes for schools or offer special activities for children through "Summer camps", "Kids Clubs" or special "Fossil Fun Activities".

They also offer education, both formal and informal, for adults and retired people.



Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany @ Poland

Science & Research



Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. Thus Geoparks are interesting to implement results of scientific research in the field of geo-conservation, tourism and sustainable local development.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to work with academic and research institutions to engage in active scientific research in the Earth Sciences, and other disciplines as appropriate, to advance our knowledge about the Earth and its processes.

A UNESCO Global Geopark is an active laboratory where people can become engaged in science from the highest academic research level to the level of the curious visitor.

Sustainable Tourism



Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada

UNESCO Global Geoparks create infrastructure and activities to support visitor's access and interpretation of the Geological heritage as well as the development of sustainable tourism activities in the Geopark territory.

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote themselves as sustainable tourism destinations offering a diversity of guided field walks and nature tourism activities, authentic experience and local gastronomy.

The Global Geoparks Network became a gold partner of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2017 to support the celebration of the International Year of sustainable Tourism for development.

Capacity Building Activities

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer training courses and capacity building activities for local stakeholders and young unemployed people who can then, in turn, support Geopark activities and operation.

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO organizes International Training Courses on Geoparks supporting the development of Geoparks in many countries especially in Regions with not many UNESCO Global Geoparks.



Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

Employment



Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador

UNESCO Global Geoparks are a platform for the development, nurturing and promotion of local cottage industry and craft products.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are contributing for the sustainable development of areas hosting significant geological heritage sites through the creation of new enterprises and the employment of young people in their territories.

Sustainable Development



Villuerkas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

UNESCO Global Geoparks are engaging with local people and respecting their traditional way of life in a way that empowers them and respects their human rights and dignity.

A UNESCO Global Geopark should have an active role in the economic development of its territory through enhancement of a general image linked to the geological heritage and the development of sustainable tourism. A Geopark 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.

● Empower Women



Jeju island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea

UNESCO Global Geoparks have a strong emphasis on empowering women whether through focused education programmes or through the development of women's cooperatives. In some UNESCO Global Geoparks women's cooperatives also provide an opportunity for women to obtain additional income in their own area and on their own terms.

● Networking



Swabian Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

Networking is one of the core principles of Geoparks. Networking strongly contributes to the success of the Geoparks movement and plays a valuable role in facilitating the sharing of experience, quality management, formation of joint initiatives and projects and capacity-building.

The Global Geopark Network and its Regional Geopark Networks offer a global platform of cooperation and exchange of best practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks.

● Local and Indigenous Knowledge

UNESCO Global Geoparks actively involve local and indigenous peoples, preserving and celebrating their culture. By involving local and indigenous communities, UNESCO Global Geoparks recognize the importance of these communities, their culture and the link between these communities and their land. It is one of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks that local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems, alongside science, are included in the planning and management of the area.



Ngorongoro-Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark, Tanzania

● Monitoring and Evaluation



Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark Canada

In order to ensure the continuing high quality of UNESCO Global Geoparks, including the quality of the management of each UNESCO Global Geopark, the status of each UNESCO Global Geopark is subject to a thorough revalidation every 4 years.

The Global Geoparks Network is supporting the Geopark evaluation and revalidation process by providing the experts for the evaluation missions and maintaining the roster of evaluators.

Celebrating United Nations International Days in UNESCO Global Geoparks



On December 11, UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated the International Mountain Day by a campaign through social media to promote their role in raising social interest on mountains and in revitalizing mountainous communities through geotourism activities. The majority of the 229 UNESCO Global Geoparks are in mountainous territories. Yet mountains are under threat from climate change, land degradation, over-exploitation and natural disasters, with potentially far-reaching and devastating consequences, both for mountain communities and the rest of the world.

The Global Geoparks Network encourages UNESCO Global Geoparks to celebrate by way of common campaigns the UN International Days aiming to gain further support for their activities and to promote the values of Earth heritage protection and sustainable local development. The GGN will organize the common campaign for the promotion of the activities using the GGN promotional tools through the internet.

The International Days in which UNESCO Global Geoparks organize events coordinated by the Global Geoparks Network are as follows:

- ✓ **International Day of Education - 24 January**
- ✓ **World Water Day - 22 March**
- ✓ **International Mother Earth Day - 22 April**
- ✓ **International Museum Day - 18 May**
- ✓ **World Environment Day - 5 June**
- ✓ **World Oceans Day - 8 June**
- ✓ **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - 9 August**
- ✓ **World CleanUp Day - 20 September**
- ✓ **International Tourism Day - 27 September**
- ✓ **International Geodiversity Day - 6 October**
- ✓ **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - 13 October**
- ✓ **International Soil Day - 5 December**
- ✓ **International Mountain Day - 11 December**

UNESCO Global Geoparks, the youngest site designation of UNESCO, need visibility through communication activities to raise their profile as territories of excellence hosting geological heritage sites of international importance, as sustainable tourism destinations, as learning territories promoting sustainability in social and economic development, as hidden treasures to visit, explore, discover and live! At present, there are 229 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 50 countries. They are all institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

The Global Geoparks Network celebrates the UN International Days to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks and to underline their contribution in raising awareness for the environmental protection and care of our planet. More specifically of some critical issues of global importance such as geo-hazard risk reduction and climate change awareness.

Every year several UNESCO Global Geoparks organized events within the framework of a common campaign for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The variety of events coordinated by the GGN Geo-hazard Working Group included public talks, activities with schools or other groups, implementation of educational programmes, small exhibitions and other activities

Geoparks and International Tourism Fairs

The Global Geoparks Network is developing a marketing and communication strategy for UNESCO Global Geoparks to promote Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and the Global Geoparks Network as the Network of the UNESCO Global Geoparks promoting high quality standards for visitor's services in nature tourism.

The Global Geoparks Network became a gold partner of the World Tourism Organization for the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (IY2017). The main goal of their partnership was to build new links with the tourism market, raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks among the main players in the tourism industry and to promote Geoparks collectively through this United Nation's initiative operated by the World Tourism Organization.

The Global Geoparks Network supports the participation in international tourism fairs, promoting Geoparks in the global tourism market.

The GGN with the support of the Regional and National Geopark Networks is organizing Geopark Stands and Geopark Events in FITUR – Madrid, in ITB – Berlin and in ITB Hong Kong n ITB – Berlin (March 2019).

The aim of the GGN's participation in international tourism fairs is to promote the UNESCO Global Geoparks as NEW quality sustainable destinations in nature tourism. Destinations that offer a variety of breathtaking landscapes and outstanding geological heritage monuments, high quality visitor's services, stakeholder engagement on shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism, linking sustainability together with community pride and benefit, economic development and new employment as well as geological, natural and cultural heritage conservation.

Through the participation in the tourism fairs, the Global Geoparks Network comes in contact with thousands of businessmen working in the travel industry, tour operators, visitors, journalists and official missions from all over the world.

The Geoparks stand in International Tourism Fairs includes the presentation of new tourism packages in Geoparks, individual exhibits, new brochures and local products. The Geoparks inform tourism professionals, tourists and visitors to the fair about the opportunities for visiting and the geotourism activities organized by the Geoparks.

At the same time, the Global Geoparks Network organizes and participates in press conferences as well as in special events organized and displaying Geoparks as unique tourist quality destinations.



**Geoparks
International
Press
Conference
Berlin
6th March
2018**

The 2nd International GGN Press Conference in the International Tourism Bourse in Berlin on March 6th, stimulated the interest of the tourism journalists.

The event was very successful and the more than 80 participating journalists showed great interest which we believe will bring publicity in many media, in Germany and also in internationally.

**FITUR
Madrid,
24 - 28
January
2024**



The presence of Geoparks in FITUR 2024 was very successful. The Geoparks stand gave the opportunity to present the activities of the Geoparks in Spain and Latin America and various events and meetings took place including the event for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network. Geoparks presented as sustainable tourism destinations with representatives of Geoparks from Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

The President of the Spanish Geopark Forum Jose Maria Barrera, the Coordination of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network Eugenio Bidondo, the President of the Global Geoparks Network Nickolas Zouros and the Secretary of the Spanish National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO Santiago Sierra greeted the event.

The Geopark presentation events and gastronomy events of the Geoparks El Hierro, Lanzarote, Maestrazgo, Origenes, Basque Coast, Vilueras Ibores Jara, Granada, Imbabura had also great success.

The GGN printed and distributed the GGN cards and GGN map especially for the occasion of the presence in FITUR.

The presence of the Geoparks in FITUR was organized by the Spanish Geoparks Forum.

**FITUR
Madrid,
25 - 28
January
2025**

The presence of Geoparks with the Geoparks Stand in FITUR 2025 was very successful with the presence of many Geopark delegations.

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

Representatives from the UNESCO Global Geoparks from Spain and Portugal supported the event!

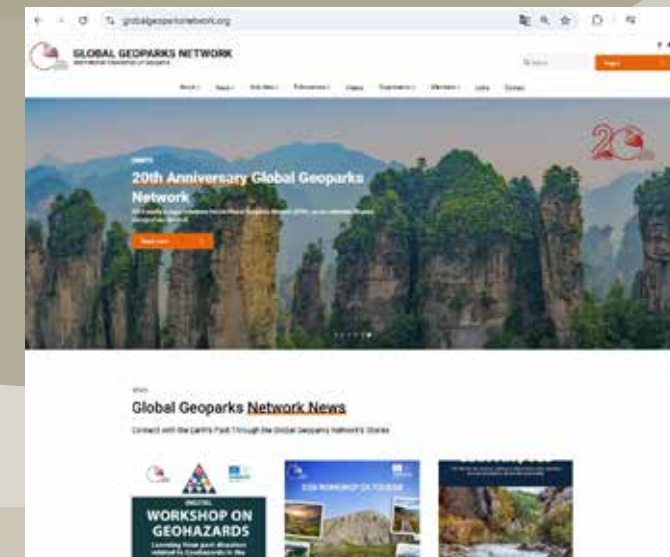
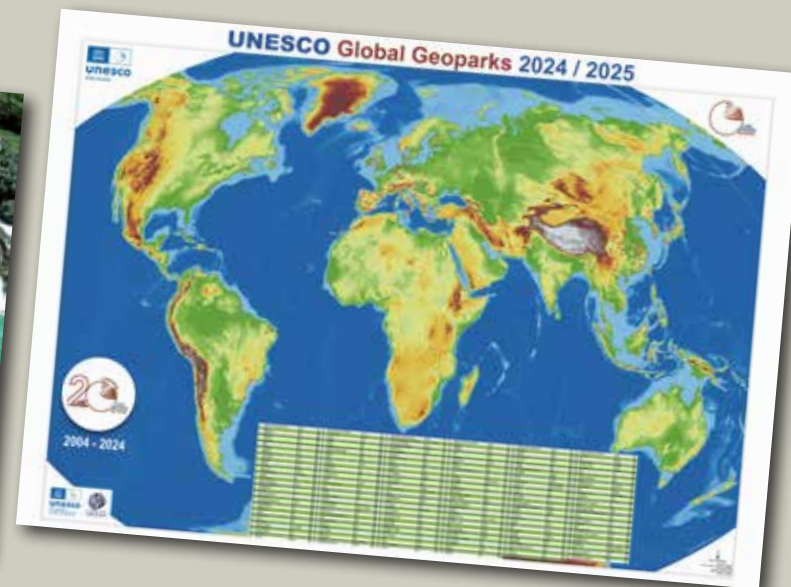
Geoparks stand was inaugurated with the interventions of Santiago Sierra, president of the Spanish National Geoparks Committee; Artur SA GGN Executive Board representative, Emmaline Rosado, coordinator of the Geoparks Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GeolAC), and Karmah Salman, coordinator of the Spanish Network of Global Geoparks (SGGN)

The opening was marked by presence of the representatives of the 17 Spanish Geoparks and 1 aspiring Geopark!



Communication Tools

GGN Websites



Official operational website of the GGN • www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org



GGN Promotional • www.visitgeoparks.org



Geoparks Film Festival • <https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/>



GGN 20th Anniversary • www.ggn20anniversary.com



Intensive Course On Geoparks • <https://course.ggn20anniversary.com/>

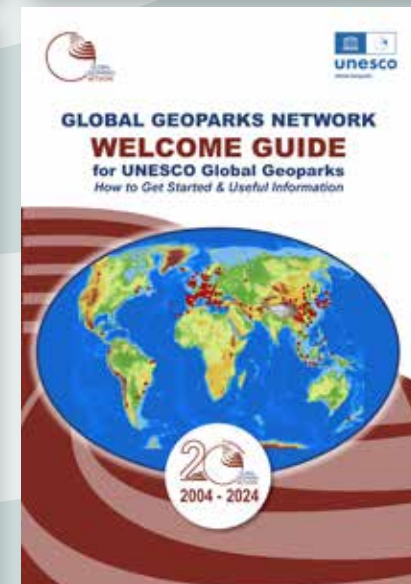
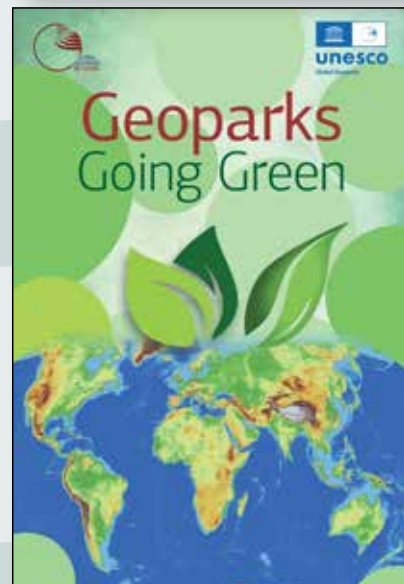
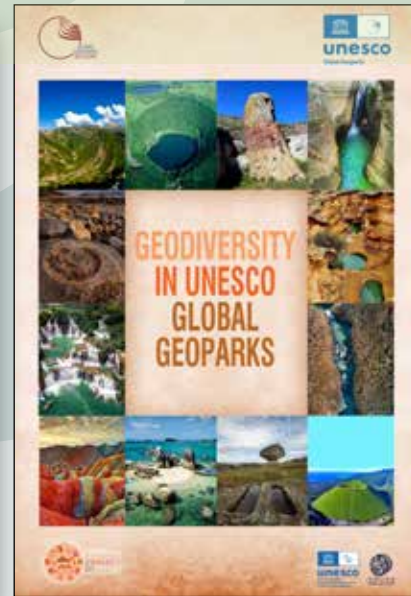
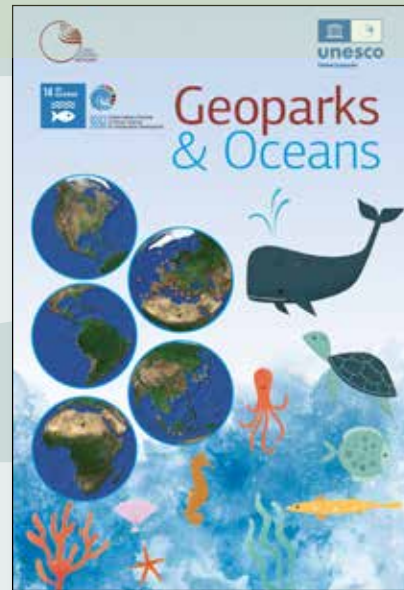
Various tools are currently being used to make sure the GGN gets the publicity it needs. These tools involve the following:
The **GGN Newsletter**, which is published three times a year by the GGN Office in Beijing, provides information on GGN activities as well as the activities of the individual UNESCO Global Geoparks. It provides another mode of publicity through its distribution in GGN Conferences, GGN Training Courses, International Tourism Fairs, Geopark partner organizations as well as schools and universities.

GGN Website:
www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org
www.visitgeoparks.org
<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org>
www.globalgeopark.org

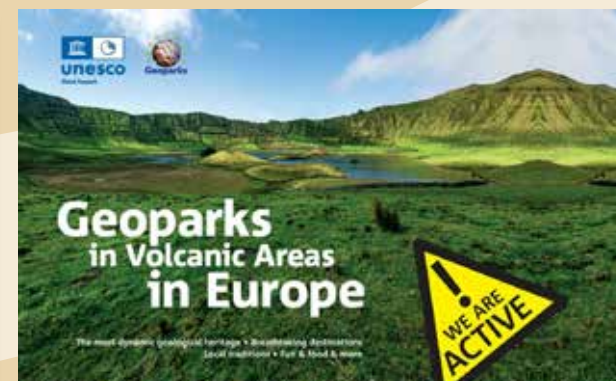
For communication with its members and the public at large, the GGN now offers attractive and up-to-date **websites** which showcase the GGN's philosophy, structures, activities and promotional tools as well as all the UNESCO Global Geoparks, their activities and facilities.

GGN Brochure
The brochure provides the GGN map and list of members and is distributed in GGN and UNESCO events and Tourism Fairs.

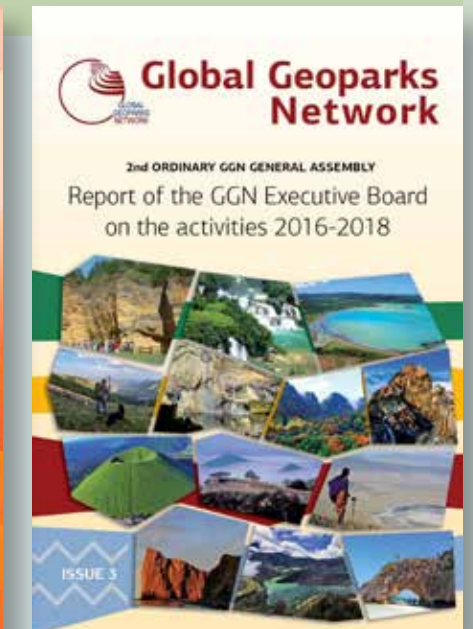
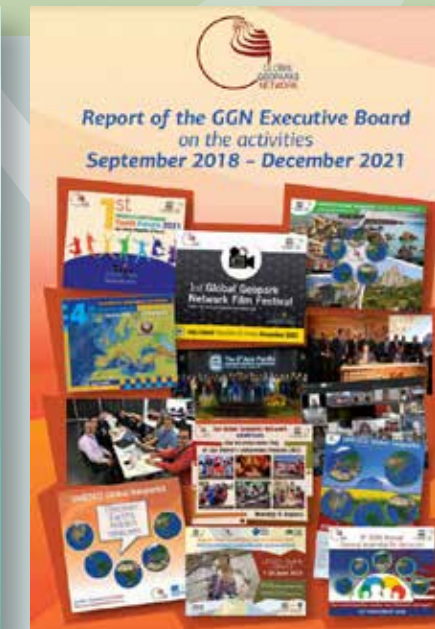
GGN Thematic Publications



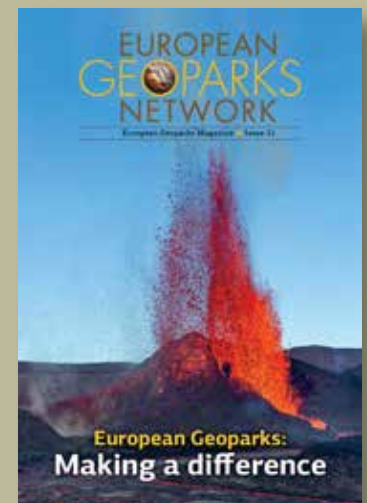
Regional Networks Publications



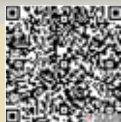
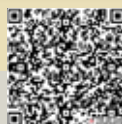
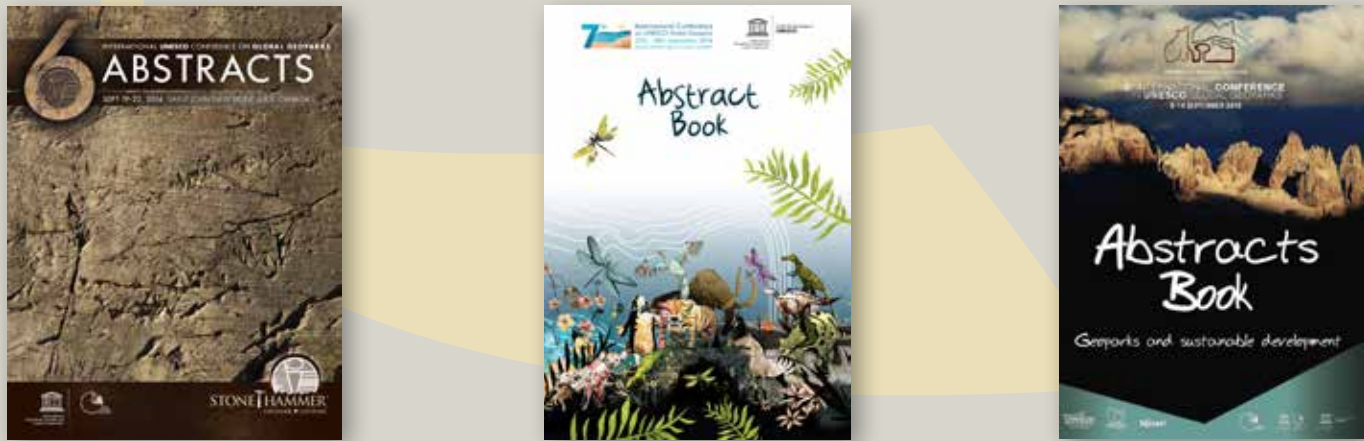
GGN Report of Activities



Regional Networks Publications



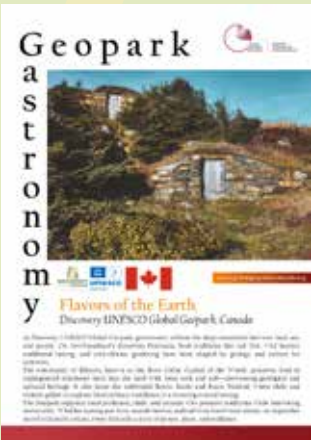
Regional Conferences Proceedings



Geoparks Gastronomy

GEOPARK GASTRONOMY is an international brand of the GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK, to promote sustainability, local identity and the connection between rocks, soils, biodiversity and quality food. GEOPARK GASTRONOMY brand encourages all Geopark partners to act locally but think globally as dedicated stakeholders of the Global Network of the UNESCO designated territories. The Geopark Gastronomy Working Group is proposing the following definition for this Initiative:

“Geoparks Gastronomy” is defined as the collection of activities within a UNESCO Global Geopark that offer visitors a gastronomic experience centered on food and its related products and activities while they explore the fascinating landscapes, and sites of geological, ecological and cultural heritage.



Global Geoparks Network

20th Anniversary

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

In any thriving organization, it's members are the cornerstone of success.

But especially for the Global Geoparks Network - GGN, which was founded in 2004, as a voluntary network including 25 territories hosting geological heritage sites of international significance.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Asia and Pacific

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

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

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

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

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

Zhang Jianping , China	Amrikazemi Alireza ,Iran	Soo Jae Lee , Korea, Republic of
Jin Xiaochi , China	Nakada Setsuya , Japan	Komoo Ibrahim , Malaysia
Zheng Yuanyuan , China	Watanabe Mahito , Japan	Narongrit Thungprue ,Thailand
Long Changxing , China	Furusawa Kana , Japan	Van Tran Tan , Vietnam
Hanang Samondra , Indonesia	Min Huh , Korea, Republic of	Vinh Truong The , Vietnam
	Jeon Yongmun , Korea, Republic of	

Europe

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

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

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

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

Oliver Gulas , Austria	Imre Szarvas , Hungary	Alexandru Andrasanu , Romania
Heinz Kollmann , Austria	Sigurður Sigursveinsson , Iceland	Bojian Rezun , Slovenia
Gerald Hartmann , Austria	Burður Aradóttir Braun , Iceland	Suzana Fajmut Šrtučl , Slovenia
Alain Petit , Belgium	Dániel Einarsson , Iceland	Asier Hilario , Spain
Goran Pavic , Croatia	Patrick Mc Keever , Ireland	Jose Maria Barrera , Spain
Goran Radonić , Croatia	Clare Glanville , Ireland	Luis Alcalá , Spain
Efthimios Tsiolakis , Cyprus	Maurizio Burlando , Italy	Anna Bergengren , Sweden
Martina Paskova , Czech Republic	Aniello Aloia , Italy	Tuncer Demir , Turkey
Walløe Hansen Jakob , Denmark	Alessia Amorfini , Italy	Melanie Border , UK
Vesa Krökki , Finland	Rosaria Modica , Italy	Kirstin Lemon , UK
Juri Nenonen , Finland	Pasquale Li Puma , Italy	Tony Ramsey , UK
Mikko Kiuttu , Finland	Violette Masè , Italy	Chris Woodley-Stewart , UK
Jean-Luc Desbois , France	Kausch Birgit , Luxembourg	Richard Watson , UK
André Guerraz , France	Gretha Roelfs , Netherlands	
Jean-Simon Pagè , France	Kristin Rangnes , Norway	UNESCO
Sophie Justice , France	Michał Poros , Poland	Wolfgang Eder , UNESCO
Marie-Luise Frey , Germany	Jacek Koźma , Poland	Robert Missotten , UNESCO
Hartmut Escher , Germany	Armindo Jacinto , Portugal	Margaret Patzak , UNESCO
Andreas Schüller , Germany	Carlos Neto de Carvalho , Portugal	Kristof Vandenbergh , UNESCO
Jutta Weber , Germany	Artur Sá , Portugal	
Henning Zellmer , Germany	Margarida Belém , Portugal	IUGS
Kupetz Manfred , Germany	Antonio Duarte , Portugal	Marko Komac , IUGS
Charalampos Fassoulas , Greece	Daniela Rocha , Portugal	Roland Oberhänsli , IUGS
Ilias Valiakos , Greece	Elisabeth Silva , Portugal	Stan Finney , IUGS
Konstantina Bentana , Greece	Carlos Nunes , Portugal	
Korbély Barnabás , Hungary	Dan Grigorescu , Romania	

Latin America and Caribbean

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

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

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

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

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

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



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