

13th (5/2025) GGN Advisory Committee Meeting (Kütralkura UGGp, 9 Sept 2025)

Executive summary

The 13th meeting of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Advisory Committee focused on reviewing recent activities, adopting key strategic documents, evaluating regional and national network progress, and confirming candidates for AC leadership positions.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The meeting opened with procedural updates about GGN elections and committee roles.

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

2. GGN Activities Report 2023 – 2025

The GGN President summarized accomplishments for 2023 – 2025, highlighting:

- Strengthened Advisory Committee operations with over 12 meetings during the cycle.
- Reinforcement of National Geopark Networks with elected representation.
- Revitalized Working Groups, with nine workshops held at the last conference.
- Strong cooperation with regional networks (APGN, EGN, GeoLAC) and support for the developing African Geoparks Network.
- Significant financial and institutional support to UNESCO (USD 1.7 million since 2016).
- Capacity-building and advisory missions, especially in Africa, leading to new geopark applications and Tunisia's upcoming first UNESCO Global Geopark.
- 20th anniversary celebrations of GGN across regional and international events.

The report was adopted unanimously without amendments.

3. GGN Long-Term Strategy 2025 – 2035

The long-term strategy—built around 4 pillars, 12 strategic priorities, and 52 actions—was presented for final adoption.

Members reiterated the document’s inclusive development process and the need to ensure accessibility across languages and regions.

The strategy was adopted unanimously.

4. GGN Strategic Action Plan 2025 – 2027

The biennial action plan, created using a bottom-up approach, incorporated proposals from working groups, regional networks, and national networks. Minor edits were approved:

- **Action 3 (Pillar 1):** Add reference to “landscape and geoheritage protection.”
- **Action 5 (Pillar 1):** Title changed to *Carbon Reduction and Offset Policy and Procedure*.
- **Action 6 (Pillar 1):** Title changed to *Develop Regional Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plans*.
- **Action 1 (Pillar 4, Key 12):** Expanded list of tourism fairs (e.g., ITB, FITUR).

The plan was adopted unanimously.

5. GGN Membership Fees 2026

The AC approved the Executive Board’s proposal to **maintain current membership fee levels for 2026**, consistent with longstanding practice of allocating two-thirds of income to UNESCO.

6. Regional Network Activity Reports

Regional coordinators presented brief updates:

- **APGN:** Symposium in Vietnam, APGN Week, Beijing training course.
- **EGN:** Active regional meetings.
- **GeoLAC:** Successful 7th Regional Meeting in Brazil.
- **Canadian Network:** Active participation in regional events.

- **African Network:** Ongoing support for new geoparks; current UGGps in Morocco and Tanzania.

All reports were adopted.

7. National Geopark Networks – Reports

Representatives shared updates on national activities, including:

- Organization of annual meetings, advisory missions, new working groups, and tourism fair participation.
- Growth of aspiring geoparks in countries such as the UK, Portugal, Spain, Romania, and the Philippines.
- Establishment or strengthening of national networks (e.g., Iceland, Greece).

Reports were adopted.

8. Candidatures for AC Chair and Vice-Chair

Candidates presented themselves for the 2025 elections:

- **Chair:** José Luis Palacio (Mexico)
- **Vice-Chair:** Clare Glanville (Ireland) and Alireza Amrikazemi (Iran)

9. Any Other Business

No additional topics were raised.

The meeting adjourned at 16:20 local time.

The full version of the minutes is available at:

<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/2.%20MINUTES%2013th%20%285th%202025%29%20GGN%20Advisory%20Committee%209%20September%202025%20-%20Kuttralkura.pdf>