



GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

13th GGN Advisory Committee Meeting

Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark, Chile

Tuesday 9 September 2025, at 14:00 (Local Time, Chile)

MINUTES

1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) welcomed the participants.

He informed them about the GGN Elections, the voting procedures and voting times. He informed the members also for the AC Chair Candidature and mentioned that there is no candidature for the AC Vice-Chair and asked the colleagues to think if someone wants to place a candidature at the end of the meeting.

Then, he presented the items of the agenda and asked the members of the Advisory Committee for the adoption of the agenda.

Decision: The agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. GGN Report of Activities 2023-2025

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)

AC Chair asked the GGN President to present the document of the GGN Activities for the period 2023-2025.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) He briefly presented the GGN Report of Activities 2023-2025 document and emphasized that this document presents in detail all the activities of GGN during these 2 years. He explained that the document has been sent to the GGN members in June 2025. All the members has received it through GGN News

Feed and through the GGN Website where is uploaded. There were also many posts in GGN Social Media.

One of the most significant achievements of this cycle, beyond the many activities detailed in the report, has been the strengthening and organization of the Advisory Committee. In the past, the committee met only once every two years, during the General Conference. However, between 2023 and 2025, more than twelve meetings were held—mostly online—reflecting a major step toward greater participation and activation of members representing national networks.

A key organizational improvement has also been the effort to reinforce Geopark National Networks, ensuring that representatives are elected from among GGN members rather than appointed externally. This guarantees that all members have a voice in the Advisory Committee and the broader GGN structure.

The report also highlights the revitalization of the GGN Working Groups, which became much more active over the past two years. For the first time in the network's history, more than 9 workshops were held during the conference, with broad participation from members, setting the foundation for future strategies and specialized activities.

GGN continues to emphasize that its operation should not rely solely on the Executive Board but involve all the GGN bodies and as many members as possible. Collaboration with regional networks—such as the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network, the European Geoparks Network, and the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network—has been strong, with ongoing efforts to develop the African Geoparks Network and to maintain ties with the Canadian Geoparks in North America.

Within the Executive Board, decisions are reached through consensus, ensuring unity around the common goals of promoting UNESCO Global Geoparks and supporting UNESCO's work.

Since 2016, GGN has contributed more than 1.7 million USD—about two-thirds of its income—to UNESCO, underlining its strong financial and institutional commitment to the Global Geoparks Programme.

Equally important has been the voluntary contribution to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme by the geopark colleagues for the realization of the evaluation and revalidation missions, which strengthened the quality and effectiveness of the UGGp Programme as well as the Network worldwide.

In recent years, GGN has carried out major capacity-building activities and supported advisory missions for geoparks in need, particularly in Africa, through the UNESCO-GGN Grand for Geoparks Program. Missions were carried out in Kenya, Tunisia, Cuba, Madagascar, and South Africa, among others. Thanks to these efforts, Tunisia will soon welcome its first UNESCO Global Geopark, following the decision of the UNESCO Council. Other applications from Cuba, Kenya, Madagascar, Egypt, Namibia, South Africa, and Lebanon are also in preparation.

The 20th anniversary of the GGN was another major milestone, celebrated through special events held during the Asia-Pacific, European, and International Conferences. These events highlighted the importance of the network, the dedication of its members, and the shared values of cooperation and respect that underpin the GGN community.

Finally, the report details numerous promotional activities and international initiatives, all available in the booklet and online on the GGN website. Members are encouraged to review the report and share their comments and suggestions as part of the Advisory Committee's ongoing dialogue to strengthen the Global Geoparks Network.

Decision: The document of GGN Activities Report for 2023-2025 was unanimously adopted by the AC Members with no comments or corrections on the document.

3. GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) Presented the GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035 as it was prepared by the Task Force for the GGN Strategy and circulated through News Feed and GGN Website to all the members of the Advisory Committee. It was presented briefly the 4 Pillars, the 12 Key Strategic Priorities and the 52 Strategic Actions and mentioned this was Document A, which is the base for the GGN Strategic Action Plan for the next 2 years.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) It was noted that the GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035 document had not raised any questions so far. However, it represents the result of a unanimously taken decision by the Advisory Committee (AC) in January 2025.

Since the composition of the AC has changed and several members are new, it is important to clarify that this document has been under discussion for a considerable period of time. The document has been prepared by a special GGN AC Task Force and discussed in several meetings of the GGN AC in 2024.

Nevertheless, the document is being presented once again before the General Assembly for formal adoption, as some of the participants were not involved in the earlier stages of the process. It is therefore essential to provide a clear explanation of how this document was developed and how the decision was reached, ensuring that all members fully understand and endorse the outcome.

Martina Paskova (National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic) Expressed sincere appreciation to all those who participated in the process, particularly the Spanish colleagues, whose contribution was especially valuable. It was emphasized that this document is of great long-term importance and that inclusivity across all regions is essential.

It was suggested that in regions such as Latin America, where Spanish and various indigenous languages are spoken, efforts should be made to ensure accessibility and understanding for all. Providing support for local communities in different dialects and languages would greatly facilitate broader participation and deeper engagement in the implementation of this important document.

Decision: The document of GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035 was unanimously adopted by the AC Members with no comments or corrections on the document.

4. GGN Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) Presented the Strategic Action Plan for the biennium 2025-2027 as it was prepared by the Task Force for the GGN Strategy and circulated through News Feed and GGN Website to all the members of the Advisory Committee. He emphasized that for the creation of the document the real bottom-up approach was used. All the working groups, the Regional Networks and the National Global Geoparks Networks sent their proposals and then the task force prepared the final document which was presented and adopted in the previous AC Meeting in July 2025.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) Briefly present the document and asked the participant for any correction or comment before the adaptation of the document from the General Assembly Meeting.

Marie-Pierre Berthier (France) Referred to a proposal discussed in May regarding an initiative on dark skies. The French Geoparks expressed strong interest in leading this action and have since provided detailed information. The French Geoparks Network, composed of six geoparks working on themes related to stars and the night sky, proposed to organize a workshop and coordinate collaborative activities with other geoparks worldwide. The aim is to include this as an additional action in the GGN Action Plan, led by the French Geoparks.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) Explained that in some actions there were too many proposal which were impossible to implement, so the Task Force decided which are the most important. Then asked in which action is this proposal referring.

Marie-Pierre Berthier (France) Explained that was not in proposed through the action plan template and proposed that maybe the French Geopark can work on that informally and in the next action plan it can be formally included.

Everybody agreed on the proposal.

- PILLAR 1, KEY 1, Action 3:**

Karmah Salman (Spain) Proposed to add somehow the balance between energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy and landscape, because this will be our action plan for the next 2 years and maybe some big companies could use that against Geoparks, especially in Spain we have major problems with huge project like that.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) We can put into parenthesis the phrase “landscape and geoheritage protection”.

Decision: PILLAR 1, Key1, Action 3 is formed as follows:

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| 1) | Explore and encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy where possible including, but not limited to, transportation and for heating/cooling (landscape and geoheritage protection) |
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- **PILLAR 1, KEY 1, ACTION 5:**

Kirstin Lemon (United Kingdom) Proposed to change the title of Action 5 according to the text from “ACTION 5. Adoption of a GGN Carbon Offset Policy and Procedure” to “ACTION 5. Adoption of a GGN Carbon Reduction and Offset Policy and Procedure”.

Decision: PILLAR 1, Key 1, Action 5 title formed as follows:

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| Adoption of a GGN Carbon Reduction and Offset Policy and Procedure |
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- **PILLAR 1, KEY 1, ACTION 6:**

Kirstin Lemon (United Kingdom) Proposed to change the title of Action 6 according to the text from “ACTION 6. Collecting and using of Carbon Offsetting” to “ACTION 6. Develop Regional Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plans”.

Decision: PILLAR 1, Key 1, Action 6 title formed as follows:

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| Develop Regional Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plans |
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- **PILLAR 4, KEY 12, Action 1:**

Karmah Salman (Spain) Proposed to add in the initiative 2 more tourism fairs like FITUR etc. and place them into parenthesis.

Decision: PILLAR 4, Key12, Action 1 is formed as follows:

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| 2) | Participation in tourism fairs (like ITB, FITUR etc.) to promote GGN/Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations through direct promotion (distribution of brochures etc...) and indirect valorization enhancing through tourism agencies (inclusion in the offers) |
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Decision: The document of GGN Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 was unanimously adopted by the AC Members.

5. GGN Membership Fees 2026

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) According to the statutes, the General Assembly discussed the Executive Board's proposal regarding the membership fees for the coming years. Since the foundation of the network, the Executive Board has maintained the same annual fee amount and proposed to continue with this policy. Two-thirds of the collected funds are allocated to UNESCO, while the remaining one-third supports GGN's operational and promotional activities.

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) It was noted that the goal of the Advisory Committee is to provide consistent advice regarding GGN's activities and financial matters. While some amendments to the statutes are expected, they will not affect financial issues. Therefore, the current financial arrangements will remain unchanged for the following year.

Decision: The AC Members agreed to the proposal of GGN Executive Board for the Membership Fees for 2026 to remain the same amount.

6. GGN Regional Networks (Reports of Activities)

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) Asked the members of the AC if someone has any presentation prepared to present the report of activities from the National level.

Xiaochi Jin (APGN Coordinator/China) Presented very briefly the APGN Activities Report to the audience and explained the reporting system that APGN follows with annual reports of activities, initiatives etc. He highlighted the APGN Symposium which was held in Vietnam, the APGN week, the Training Course in Beijing and the celebration activities of important International Days.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) Explained to the members of AC where they can find the APGN and EGN reports in the GGN Website:

<https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/annual-reports/regional-geoparks-network-annual-reports>

Sophie Justice (EGN Coordinator/France) Presented very briefly the EGN Activities Report to the audience and emphasized the importance of the Regional Network Meetings.

Eugenio Bidondo (Uruguay) Presented briefly some of the activities of GeoLAC and emphasized that the highlight was the 7th Regional Meeting in Brazil.

Manda Maggs (Tumbler Ridge/Canada) Presented briefly some of the activities of Canadian Geoparks Network and emphasized their participation in Regional Conferences and Meeting such as GeoLAC Network.

Driss Achbal (AUGGN Co-Ordinator/Morocco) In Africa, there are currently only two UNESCO Global Geoparks — one in Morocco and one in Tanzania. Both continue to collaborate closely, sharing experiences and supporting aspiring geoparks across the continent. Representatives participated in several UNESCO-organized activities in

Kenya, Namibia, and Morocco, focusing on developing new geoparks in North Africa, particularly in Tunisia and Morocco. Although there was no formal report, the most recent activity took place in Morocco in 2023. The main goal remains to strengthen cooperation with the Global Geoparks Network and further promote and develop the geopark concept throughout Africa.

Decision: The AC Members adopted to the written and verbal Reports of the GGN Regional Networks.

7. GGN National Geopark Networks (Reports of Activities)

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) Asked the members of the GGN AC to present any important activities from their National Networks.

Charalambos Fassoulas (Hellenic Geoparks Forum/Greece) In Greece, the National Geoparks Network has successfully organized two annual meetings — one in Chelmos-Vouraikos in 2023 and another in Lesvos, held alongside the International Congress of the Geological Society of Greece. During this period, the national geoparks network was officially established, following the structure of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). The network coordinates several ongoing activities through three working groups focused on education, geoconservation, and promotion. Each group organizes initiatives during international days and other relevant events. Additionally, members participated in a mentoring meeting for the national geoparks last year to prepare the final report, which was successfully completed and submitted.

Clare Glanville (Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee/Ireland) The Geoparks have been actively working on implementing the recommendations from their revalidations. They organize an annual forum, with the most recent one being open to the public and focused on the theme of intangible heritage — linking language and landscape. The discussions explored how place names reflect geological and landscape features. The network also had a productive meeting with the national delegation in Paris during the 10th anniversary celebration and plans to host the next annual forum in Ireland in November. Additionally, they recently welcomed their fourth UNESCO Global Geopark, coinciding with the fifth anniversary of their neighboring Geopark.

Sigurður Sigurðsveinsson (Icelandic Geoparks Forum/Iceland) In Iceland, a new National Network, subdivision of the GGN has been established, currently represented by two members. They have agreed on their rules of operation and submitted confirmations to the GGN in July. Previously, reports were sent through the national fora involving ministries and various actors. The question now concerns future reporting—whether it should come from this new GGN subdivision with its two representatives or continue through the broader national fora that include other representatives.

Nickolas Zouros (GGN President) Expressed his opinion that the information should come from the GGN National Network. However, if National-level activities are conducted through the fora, those activities should also be reported in the same report.

In the Icelandic network, for example, election procedures and all other activities are managed through the fora. It is acceptable to combine both sets of activities into a single report.

Kirstin Lemon (UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks/United Kingdom) The UK currently has 10 UNESCO Global Geoparks, meeting in person once a year and online annually. Governance and operational structures have been updated, including succession planning for the chairperson, now Presley Lindy Stewart, with the previous chair staying as deputy. Provisions have been made for geoparks outside the UK and its overseas territories. The network also supports six aspiring geoparks through mentoring, advisory visits, and application assistance. Two new geoparks, including the first transnational one between England and France, are expected in November. Collaboration with the UK National Commission has been strong, including projects on UNESCO destinations and Heritage & Climate Change. The UK network also participated in an international UNESCO event focusing on skill development and geoscience.

Daniela Rocha (Portuguese Network of UNESCO Global Geoparks/Portugal) Portugal implements one online meeting of the Network every month and 2 by physical presence in every year in order to discuss the actions and the activities of the Network. Also, Portuguese Geoparks participating in the big tourism fair in Lisbon and promote the Geoparks and the National Network but also the Global Geoparks Network. Moreover, advisory meetings took place with 2 Aspiring Geoparks of Portugal, but also with Brazil colleagues in order to help them to create more Geoparks in Brazil. Finally, the Portuguese Geoparks Network has a strong support from tourism of Portugal and from the Tourism Ministry.

Karmah Salman (Spanish Geoparks Forum/Spain) Spain implements one face to face meeting every year in order to discuss our strategy and our activities as a Network. Also, participated the UNESCO meeting in Paris the previous March. Spanish Geoparks Network is creating 2 new working groups, one of communication and the other one of Tourism which will be in charge for organizing and implement activities. Finally, Spanish geoparks are strongly support the participation in FITUR tourism fair and the promotion of GGN and Spanish Geoparks for a better impact.

Oliver Gulas (Austrian National Fora/Austria) Austria has until now 3 geoparks which are in very good collaboration, implementing common projects and strengthening their cooperation towards tourism ministry and UNESCO commission. Also, cooperating with neighboring countries, especially in Eastern Europe and the next European Geoparks Network meeting will be hosted in Austria.

Terttu Hermansson (Finnish National Geoparks Committee/Finland) Finland has 5 UNESCO Global Geoparks until now and has a very good collaboration between them. One of the Finland Geoparks, Salpausselkä is candidate for hosting the next meeting of Global Geoparks Network in 2 years time, which is aiming to promote our geoparks and our Network around the Globe.

Nancy Sauer (German Geoparks Forum/Germany) Geoparks in Germany has a very close collaboration by implementing common activities and projects but also with the National Committee. Also, they have created several working groups, like mining and

future mining activities. Also, they participating in ITB Tourism Fair and strong support the representation of GGN in the Fair.

Kristin Rangnes (Norwegian National Committee for Geoheritage and Geoparks/Norway) Norwegian Geoparks has a very good collaboration and meets every month in order to discuss the strategy and the initiatives but also to discuss the National fundings issues. Geoparks in Norway are working with UNESCO commission by initiatives of the geoparks and we manage to collect all the UNESCO Designations in Norway and discuss further in the next meeting in Oslo about the local benefits of these designations.

Christian Ciobanou (Romanian National UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum/Romania) Romania has 2 Aspiring geoparks at that time and the National Network has common geopark projects. The National GGN has not formally established, and they are discussing the rules of operation and they already have National projects funding for the network. Also, they were celebrated the 20th anniversary from the first Romanian Geopark by organizing various events.

Joanne Pinat (Bohol UGGp/Philippines) Philippines has only one Geopark in the country but they are working very close with the UNESCO Commission of Philippines to build and inspire others for the creation of new Geoparks. Till now they have 5 Aspiring Geoparks. They are participating in International Tourism Fairs like ITB and also has collaboration agreement with other geoparks.

Decision: The AC Members adopted the verbal Reports of the GGN Regional Networks.

8. Proposal of candidate for GGN AC Vice Chair

Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan) Asked the audience if someone wants to be candidate for the GGN AC Vice-Chair position.

Kirstin Lemon (United Kingdom) Proposed Clare Glanville from Ireland for the position.

Clare Glanville (Ireland) Presented her candidature for the position to the audience.

Alireza Amrikazemi (Iran) Presented his candidature for the position to the audience.

Jose Luis Palacio (Mexico) Presented his candidature for the position of GGN AC Chair to the audience.

Decision: The AC Candidatures for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions are the following:

- AC Chair Position: Jose Luis Palacio (Mexico)
- AC Vice-Chair Position:
 - Clare Glanville (Ireland)
 - Alireza Amrikazemi (Iran)

9. Any Other Business

No other business.

The meeting closed at 16:20 Local Time, Chile.

GGN AC Documents & Useful links

1. [GGN Report of Activities 2023-2025](#)
2. [GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035](#)
3. [GGN Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027](#)

Participants & Observers

| a/a | PARTICIPANTS | Country |
|-----|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | NAKADA Setsuya | GGN Advisory Committee Acting Chair / Japan |
| 2 | GULAS Oliver | Austria |
| 3 | PETIT Alain | Belgium |
| 4 | GUIMARÃES Eduardo | Brazil |
| 5 | MAGGS Manda | Canada |
| 6 | PASKOVA Martina | Czech Republic |
| 7 | HERRERA Patricia | Chile |
| 8 | ZHENG Yuanyuan | China |
| 9 | TSIOLAKIS Eftimios | Cyprus |
| 10 | WALLØE Hansen Jakob | Denmark |
| 11 | PIRAY QUEZADA Myriam | Ecuador |
| 12 | KOMULAINEN Kati | Finland |
| 13 | BERTHIER Marie-Pierre | France |
| 14 | SAUER Nancy | Germany |
| 15 | FASSOULAS Charalambos | Greece |
| 16 | MEGYERI Balázs | Hungary |
| 17 | SIGURSVEINSSON Sigurður | Iceland |
| 18 | FARID Zaini Mohamad | Indonesia |
| 19 | AMRIKAZEMI Alireza | Iran |
| 20 | GLANVILLE Clare | Ireland |
| 21 | GALLINA Marianna | Italy |
| 22 | KAUSCH Birgit | Luxembourg |
| 23 | Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari | Malaysia |
| 24 | PALACIO Jose Luis | Mexico |
| 25 | ACHBAL Driss | Morocco |
| 26 | BROWNE Lynley | New Zealand |

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|----|---------------------|-------------------|
| 27 | RANGNES Kristin | Norway |
| 28 | POSSO James | Peru |
| 29 | PINAT Joanne | Philippines |
| 30 | POROS Michał | Poland |
| 31 | ROCHA Daniela | Portugal |
| 32 | SOO Jae Lee | Republic of Korea |
| 33 | CIOBANU Cristian | Romania |
| 34 | REŽUN Bojan | Slovenia |
| 35 | SALMAN Karmah | Spain |
| 36 | KHATIBU Ramadhani | Tanzania |
| 37 | THUNGPRUE Narongrit | Thailand |
| 38 | LEMON Kirstin | UK |
| 39 | BIDONDO Eugenio | Uruguay |
| 40 | Vi Tran Thuy | Viet Nam |

| a/a | OBSERVERS | |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | ZOUROS Nickolas | GGN Executive Board President / Greece |
| 2 | JIN Xiaochi | GGN Executive Board Vice President / China |
| 3 | KOMOO Ibrahim | GGN Executive Board Vice President / Malaysia |
| 4 | MARTINI Guy | GGN Executive Board General Secretary/France |
| 5 | ACHBAL Driss | GGN Executive Board member / Morocco |
| 6 | CALDER John | GGN Executive Board member / Canada |
| 7 | BORDER Melanie | GGN Executive Board member / UK |
| 8 | FREY Marie-Luise | GGN Executive Board member / Germany |
| 9 | FURUSAWA Kana | GGN Executive Board member / Japan |
| 10 | SÁ Artur | GGN Executive Board member / Portugal |
| 11 | ZHANG Jianping | GGN Executive Board member/China |
| 12 | JUSTICE Sophie | EGN Coordinator / France |
| 13 | ROSADO Emmaline | GeoLAC Coordinator / Mexico |
| 14 | BENTANA Konstantina | Executive Assistant GGN Secretariat / Greece |
| 15 | LAMPRAKOPoulos Aggelos | GGN Secretariat Assistant / Greece |
| 16 | VALIAKOS Ilias | IT Specialist GGN Secretariat / Greece |

ANNEX I

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. GGN Report of Activities 2023-2025**
- 3. GGN Long Term Strategy 2025-2035**
- 4. GGN Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027**
- 5. GGN Membership Fees 2026**
- 6. GGN Regional Networks (Reports of Activities)**
- 7. GGN National Geopark Networks (Reports of activities)**
- 8. Proposal of candidate for GGN AC Vice Chair**
- 9. Any Other Business**

Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS

GGN President

Prof. Setsuya Nakada

GGN Advisory Committee acting Chair