

GGN – National Fora/Committees Annual Report 2023

1. IDENTITY

Iceland Geopark Committee, www.geopark.is

Year of inscription: 2014

2. MEMBERS

Chair: Sigurður Sigursveinsson, Katla Geopark, sigurdur@hfsu.is, vonfoss@gmail.com

Members:

Association of Icelandic Geographers
Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland
Environmental Agency of Iceland
Geoscience Society of Iceland
Icelandic Association of Local Authorities
Icelandic Environment Association
Icelandic Institute of National History
Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO
Icelandic Tourist Board
Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources
Network of Public Universities in Iceland
Business Iceland (Visit Iceland)
Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark
Thingvellir National Park
University Centre of South Iceland
Vatnajökull National Park

3. ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Active application in your country: None.

Territories that you are advising: None.

4. ACTIVITIES

The Iceland Geopark Committee held two formal meetings in 2023, in February and December. The February meeting was held via Teams. The main item for discussion was a draft letter to be sent to the Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate with copies to the Minister of Culture and Industry and to the Minister of Infrastructure, and the Chairman of the Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO. The letter included an overview of the three UNESCO designation sites and suggestions for the inclusion of the geoparks in the Icelandic government structure.

At the December meeting, also via Teams, the main topics for discussion was the follow-up to the letters sent to different Ministers in February. This involved two meetings of representatives of Katla Geopark, one with the Minister of Culture and Industry, the other with the Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate. Also, the Regional Development Agency for the Reykjanes peninsula had also held meetings on behalf of Reykjanes Geopark.

Also, it was discussed that letters from several stakeholders of Katla Geopark sent to the three municipal council in Katla Geopark, stressing the importance of the Geopark, had positive impact resulting in the continued operations of Katla Geopark.

The geopark managers of Katla and Reykjanes Geopark gave an overview of the activities of the geoparks in 2023.

Reykjanes Geopark gave information on the preparations for the 17th European Geoparks Network Conference to be held in Reykjanes in October 2024.