

GGN – National Network / National Fora Committees Annual Report 2025

1. IDENTITY / GGN NATIONAL NETWORK

National Network / Fora/Committee:

Name: Netherlands Forum for UNESCO Global Geoparks,

Country: the Netherlands,

Website: <https://www.unesco.nl/nl/nederlands-forum-unesco-global-geoparks>

Email: GGN-institutional member g.roelfs@dehondsrug.nl (first half of the year),
w.jonkers@zeeland.nl (second half of the year)

Year of inscription: 2014

2. MEMBERS

Chair: Sebastiaan Ruddijs, s.ruddijs@noordenveld.nl, independent chair

Members: name, Geopark or organisation, e-mail

De Hondsrug UGGp	Gretha Roelfs; Forum-representative in EGN/GGN first half of the year g.roelfs@drenthe.nl Jasper Tomesen j.tomesen@dehondsrug.nl
Schelde Delta UGGp	Walter Jonkers; Forum-representative in EGN/GGN second half of the year w.jonkers@zeeland.nl
Netherlands National UNESCO Committee	Jon Verriet, secretary jverriet@unesco.nl
TNO/Geological Survey Netherlands	Michiel van der Meulen michiel.vandermeulen@tno.nl
NBTC Holland Marketing	Thijs de Groot tdegroot@holland.com
Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency	Harm Jan Pierik hj.pierik@cultureelerfgoed.nl
Royal Netherlands Geological Mining Association	Jan Stafleu jan.stafleu@tno.nl
Independent expert	Hugo Bouter (expertise: physical geography) hebouter@kpnmail.nl

Independent expert

Chair Sebastiaan Ruddijs, (expertise: public administration and geography)

Observers

Flemish UNESCO Committee

Robert Missotten r.missotten@hotmail.com

IHP-HWRP committee

Martijn van Staveren m.vanstaveren@un-ihe.org

3. ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Active application in your country: The Peelhorst and Maasvallei geopark initiative is working hard to submit its application in the fall of 2026, Paul Sanders, paul.sanders@peelenmaas.nl

Territories that you are advising: name, representative, e-mail, website, how many years are being advised

- Gooi en Vecht – Heuvelrug (before 2 separate initiatives)
 - Representative: Marc Hofstra, geoparkhgv@gmail.com
 - Website: <https://www.geopark-heuvelrug.nl/>
 - Being advised since 2016
- Peelhorst-Maasvallei
 - Representative: Paul Sanders, paul.sanders@peelenmaas.nl
 - <https://peelhorstenmaasvallei.nl/>
 - Being advised since 2017
- Krijtland
 - Representatives: Jos Broers, JosBroers@eijsden-margraten.nl
Julie Starren-Stevens, JulieStarren@eijsden-margraten.nl
 - Website: not yet
 - Being advised since 2019

4. ACTIVITIES

- 08-05-2025: Consultation between Dutch UGGp's on Dutch priorities based on the GGN's Strategic Plan 2025-2035
- 13-06-2025: NFUGG meeting at TNO-Utrecht. Led by the new chair, a discussion about the new NFUGG policy line, more attention to geodiversity, opportunities in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, knowledge exchange with MAB areas

- 03-07-2025: Consultation on the Peelhorst and Maas Valley Geopark initiative
- 09-07-2025: Presence of NFUGG representative as observer during revaluation mission of UGGp De Hondsrug
- 18-09-2025: Farewell to Gretha Roelfs, who is retiring
- 21-11-2025: Celebration of the 10th anniversary of UGGp De Hondsrug in Zeegse
- 05-12-2025: NFUGG meeting at TNO-Utrecht. Concluding discussion on the policy line, discussion of the progress of the Peelhorst and Maasvallei initiative on their way to application. NFUGG wants more expertise in the field of education and teaching in the area of earth sciences in a social context. A vacancy will be opened.