Dear colleagues and friends,

In this 63rd edition of the Global Geoparks Network Newsfeed you will find important news about our Network:

**9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks**
REGISTRATION DEADLINE - 30 November 2021

**Celebration of the INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2021 - 11 December 2021**

**Establishment of the INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY DAY - 6 October**

**UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum - Welcome Meeting**

The Global Geoparks Network encourages all UNESCO Global Geoparks to participate to our common activities and celebrate our rich earth heritage.

The GGN Executive Board
Digital 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

Jeju island, Republic of Korea

12-16 December 2021

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 30 November 2021
The DIGITAL 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held from 12th to 16th December 2021 and it is organised by Jeju island.
UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea.

The International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is the most important event of our Network.

The GGN Executive Board encourages all colleagues to register to participate in this important International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Conference gives all Geoparks the opportunity to connect, discuss best practices derived from successful projects, be immersed in diverse cultures, network and build stronger and effective partnerships and collaborations.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 30th of November 2021


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**International Mountain Day 2021**

"Sustainable mountain tourism"

11 December 2021
INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2021

On December 11, the Geoparks celebrate the International Mountain Day.

The Global Geoparks Network encourages all UNESCO Global Geoparks to join the celebration and promote their mountains, some of the most interesting geological features of UNESCO Global Geoparks, which create the conditions for a wide spectrum of life forms.
The 2021 theme for International Mountain Day is “Sustainable mountain tourism”. Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations are excellent examples for the development of mountain tourism.

Sustainable tourism in mountains can contribute to creating additional and alternative livelihood options and promoting poverty alleviation, social inclusion, as well as landscape and biodiversity conservation. It is a way to preserve the natural, cultural and spiritual heritage, to promote local crafts and high value products, and celebrate many traditional practices such as local festivals.

Mountains are home to 15% of the world’s population and they provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. About half of the world’s biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains and mountains support approximately one-quarter of terrestrial biological diversity.

Mountains are today under threat from climate change and overexploitation as we tend to forget that the mountains are important territories of biodiversity and life.

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO encourage all Geopark management bodies, partners and stakeholders to join the campaign for “Sustainable mountain tourism in UNESCO Global Geoparks”.

Please send your activities and good practice examples, photos, videos at ggnassociation@hotmail.com and ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com

Join the conversation on social media using the hashtags:

#GlobalGeoparksNetwork #MountainsMatter
#UNESCOGlobalGeoparks #SustainableMountainTourism
Establishment of the
International Geodiversity Day
6 October
The International Geodiversity Day was established during the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference. From now on, the 6th of October will be an annual worldwide celebration, raising awareness across society about the importance of non-living nature for the well-being and prosperity of all living beings on the planet.

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) was among the organizations supporting the proposal submitted to UNESCO.

The International Geodiversity Day provides an opportunity for the society at large to understand the links between geodiversity and life.

Geological heritage represents the foundations of the habitats for all living creatures.

Geodiversity provides us with the evidence to reconstruct the long history of our planet and the evolution of life on it.
Geodiversity is the source of materials that build our landscapes, our cities, our monuments and our civilizations.

Geodiversity is a source of inspiration for our poets, painters and musicians and the driving force for the development of geo-tourism that supports sustainable development of rural communities.

It is also an opportunity for international collaboration and combined outreach activities between UNESCO’s International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), the Global Geoparks Network, the 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries around the Globe and the various organizations and institutions of the global community of geosciences, to underline the essential role geoscientific knowledge plays in the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals - UN Agenda 2030.
On 17th of November UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network organised successfully a welcome digital meeting for the Geoparks’ youth representatives to the 1st Youth Forum.
During the meeting the youth representatives from all around the world had the opportunity to get to know each other and discuss about some key points for the meeting in December.

The 1st Assembly of the YOUTH FORUM will be held in parallel with the DIGITAL 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks on 14th of December 2021.

The UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM is a new ongoing important initiative for the Geoparks.

The main purpose of the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM is to offer to young people an opportunity to get engaged more concretely in the preparation of the philosophy mandate and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks and foster their commitment to the realization of the future they want and being actors of change in their territories. They will also elaborate their
proposal for actions contributing to the UNESCO Global Geoparks strategic framework for action 2021-2025.

The Operational Guidelines of the GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM was agreed at the 64th GGN Executive Board meeting on December 10th, 2019.

YOUTH FORUM OPERATION GUIDELINES

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