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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

41 | March 27, 2020

NEWS FEED

Dear colleagues and friends of the Global Geoparks Network,

Dear UNESCO Global Geoparks teams

The GGN Executive Board discussed on Tuesday 24th March at an extraordinary meeting the situation concerning the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic during the last weeks in relation with the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

There is no doubt that humanity is facing the most serious crisis after the 2nd World War.

To slow the spread of COVID-19, many countries have introduced unprecedented measures, at significant social and economic cost – closing schools and businesses, museums and parks cancelling cultural and sporting events and asking people to stay home and stay safe.

The GGN Executive Board would like to express its sympathy and solidarity to all our colleagues in all the UNESCO Global Geoparks and their partners, to their families and their communities.

Especially to our colleagues in Italy and Spain, the countries with the biggest number of Geoparks in Europe facing the most difficult and unprecedented situation.

We know that many of our colleagues have been already affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Many Geoparks stopped their activities and nobody knows when they will be able to restart. Many colleagues are working from home, but there are also Geopark's collaborators and partners who face even greater challenges.

We wish courage, strength and energy to overpass all together this extremely difficult period and to prepare for the re-start!

The GGN in close collaboration with UNESCO Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction monitors closely the situation regarding COVID-19 pandemic in the 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world on a day to day basis and the measures taken in different countries to fight COVID-19.

For as long as the epidemic continues, the GGN Executive Board will be meeting every second week in order to have a close overview of the problems that the Geoparks are facing and to find ways for support.

UNESCO's senior management also called for special measures, in line with the restrictions in France.

The UNESCO Executive Board session and several other planned activities are canceled or postponed. **Thus the endorsement of the proposal of the UGGP Council regarding the new UNESCO Global Geoparks has been also postponed.**

All UNESCO officers based in Paris HQ have to stay home and operate through tele-work arrangements.

UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat extended the deadline till 15th of April 2020 for the active Calls for the **UNESCO Global Geoparks Council** and for the **UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluators**

Should you believe that you meet the requirements, please don't hesitate to apply. <https://en.unesco.org/news/call-candidates-renew-six-members-unesco-global-geoparks-council-2020>

UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat announced that for the time being, they are putting **evaluation- and revalidation missions on hold**, until further notice. They keep on preparing for these missions though and hope that by June, we will have the worst behind us.

In the light of the current situation the GGN Executive Board examines new ways of communication among GGN members as we will have to reconsider our way of working together in the coming weeks.

We do think that keeping in contact and exchanging of information is essential for our network.

The GGN Executive Board notes that

- all Geoparks related meetings, conferences and activities originally planned during April and May should be postponed
- the International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2020 which was expected to take place in June 1-10, should be postponed

In December the GGN Executive Board announced our **1st International Geoparks Film Festival**. An effort to promote Geoparks in a new dynamic way.

All UNESCO Global Geoparks are welcome to participate and we are expecting more than 140 entries! We are going to announce in May a distinguished panel of jurors who will judge the entries, with the winners to be announced in September 2020, at the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Jeju. We will be showing videos in the coming weeks on the 1st Geoparks Film Festival website and GGN social media channels.

In these difficult times, film and other social media are a powerful way not only of communicating our Geoparks, but of administering one of the most powerful medicines – **hope**.

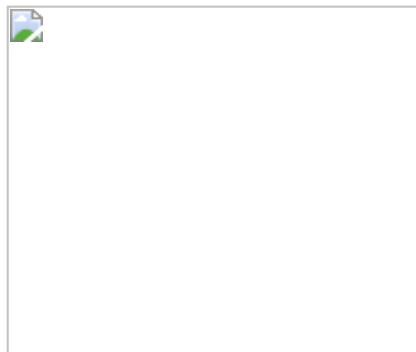
STAY SAFE and Keep in touch!

The GGN Executive Board

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK NEW INITIATIVES

[1st Global Geopark Network Film Festival](https://filmfreeway.com/filmfestivalGGN)

<https://filmfreeway.com/filmfestivalGGN>



[Please click here for more information \[pdf\]](#)

1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

Jeju island UGGp, Rep. Of Korea - 18 September 2020

[Please click here for more information \[pdf\]](#)

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

2020 Call for applications for UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluators

[Please click here for more information \[pdf\]](#)

NEW Application deadline: 15 April 2020

UNESCO Mentorship and Knowledge Exchange Programme

Application deadline: 1 May 2020

CALL FOR MENTORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS [pdf]

2020 Call for applications Councils of the International Geoscience and Geopark Programme

UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

NEW Application deadline: 15 April 2020

UNESCO External Relations Sector has just issued the call for the IGCP and UGGp Councils.

There are 6 places to renew in the UGGp Council and three in the IGCP.

[LINK for the 2020 Call for applications - Councils of the International Geoscience and Geopark Programme \[link\]](#)

[LINK For the UNESCO Geoparks Council \[link\]](#)

GEOPARKS EVENTS

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

Jeju island, Rep of Korea,

17-20 September 2020

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

GGN Executive Board is encouraging all UNESCO Global Geoparks colleagues to register to the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

September 17-20 2020/ Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

JEJU GGN 2020 Program Registration Abstracts Geofair Field Trips Information

Jeju

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

FUN Geopark

September 17-20, 2020/ Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea

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We would like to encourage them also to prepare and submit abstracts on their Geoparks activities for the conference sessions.

Please visit the Conference website <https://www.jejuggn2020.org/> and register NOW with the low registrations fees.

[Promotional Video for the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Jeju](#)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

16/9/2020	08.00-10.00	UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting
16/9/2020	10.00-12.00	APGN – EGN – GEOLAG Regional Meetings AC Meetings North America – African Geopark Meetings
16/9/2020	13.00-16.00	APGN – EGN – GEOLAG CC Meetings CC Meetings
16/9/2020	16.00-18.00	GGN Executive Board Meeting Presentations of 2022 Hosts applications
16/9/2020	18.00-20.00	Conference Ice Break Dinner
17/9/2020	08.00-12.00	Opening of the Conference Key Note Lectures
17/9/2020	13.00-15.00	Conference Sessions
17/9/2020	15.00-18.00	Conference Sessions GGN AC Meeting
17/9/2020	18.00-20.00	Conference Welcome Dinner
18/9/2020	08.00-12.00	Conference Sessions GGN YOUTH FORUM
18/9/2020	13.00-18.00	Geotrail Field Trip (For Participants)
18/9/2020	13.00-18.00	GGN General Assembly
19/9/2020	08.00-18.00	Mid-Conference Field Trip
19/9/2020	18.00-20.00	Gala Dinner – Award & Certificates Ceremony
20/9/2020	08.00-17.00	Sessions Geoparks Evaluator’s Seminar
20/9/2020	17.00-18.30	Closing Ceremony
20/9/2020	18.30-20.00	Work Dinner of the Elected GGN Executive Board
21-22/9/2020		Post Congress Field Trips



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