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# GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

44 | May 15, 2020

## NEWS FEED

Dear members of the Global Geoparks Network,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The GGN Executive Board would like to thank and congratulate all colleagues for who participate in the initiative **"UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience"**, for the variety of activities aiming to support their local communities in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GGN Executive Board would also like to encourage all our colleagues in all UNESCO Global Geoparks to participate in the **International Museum Day 2020** through digital activities of their Geopark Museums.

The GGN Executive Board is strongly encourage all the colleagues to share their experiences and their good practices about what they are doing for the population's resilience and how they are working with the population during the fight against COVID-19, what they are doing and how they support the local communities. All these good practices of the Geoparks to support the local communities will be communicated around the whole Network.

We are waiting your articles, photos and videos of your activities on how you support your local communities and your participation in the initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience".

The GGN Executive Board

## INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2020

**The Global Geoparks Network celebrate the  
International Day of Museums!**



[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE BANNERS](#)



Geopark Museums are the main infrastructure for the enhancement, protection, conservation, exhibition and promotion of Earth heritage elements and the communication of their value and importance.

The theme of the 2020 celebration "Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion" the International Museum Day 2020, aims to celebrate the different perspectives that make up our Planet and our Communities and the diversity of what they display and the stories they tell!

Geoparks and their Museum narrating the story of the Earth!

Following the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdowns, Geoparks and their Museums decided to adapt the format and focus of digital activities, to promote the values of the International Museum Day while ensuring the safety of the public and Geopark staff alike.

How can Geopark Museums ensure diversity and inclusion in their digital activities, exploiting the potential of the web?

Since February the GGN started to support and enquire UNESCO Global Geoparks to explore the possible activities that Geoparks and their Museums can develop to reach their public remotely. At the same time Geoparks and their Museums focus on the "inclusive" part of their long-distance practices.

Geopark Museum ask their audiences to share their own view on their Geoparks and their exhibits through their websites and social media channels!

Geoparks support their communities providing new tools of sharing and communication during the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing for the "Day after...."

## **Fight against CORONA VIRUS COVID-19**

### **"UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS - TERRITORIES OF RESILIENCE" INITIATIVE**

#### **GEOPARKS SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES**



Resilience is fully embedded in the institutional, social, economic and environmental dimensions of any sustainable development.

Resilience is a fundamental concept already enclosed inside the whole Geopark concept and is related to any kind of environmental and humanitarian crisis: Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Floods, Landslides, Volcanic eruptions, Droughts, Economic crisis, Epidemics, Terrorism, War, Refugges and of course the COVID-19 pandemic.

This initiative encourages all our Geopark territories to develop new actions or to highlight actions already realized to support their territory's resilience:

a) the different ways in which UNESCO Global Geoparks keep on engaging with their communities, providing services despite the difficult conditions in COVID 19 times, how they reach out to the young people, offering on line courses, or how they promote local production.

b) examples of any other resilience activities, in which UNESCO Global Geoparks are involved realized during the last four years.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks are warmly encouraged to be more and more involved in activities to support of their communities and their partners.**

**They are also encouraged to share and highlight their actions and experiences through a short article with good quality photos and, if possible, with HQ short video.**

GGN in collaboration with UNESCO's Section on Earth Sciences and Geohazards Risk Reduction, provide the tools for promoting these activities and transmitting the information to the broader audience through all their communication channels.

The RESILIENCE INITIATIVE includes a wealth of examples, full of commitment and creativity, practices that may serve as inspiration for now and later.

The best 5 examples of these activities supporting the concept UNESCO Global Geoparks, territories of resilience will be awarded by the GGN.

5 nominees will be designated and will receive a financial apportionment which will modestly contribute to the effort done by these territories to support local population resilience.

GGN uses DIGITAL tools for the dissemination of the activities (Digital magazine, GGN websites, GGN social media).

All colleagues are warmly encouraged to participate in the initiative providing articles, photos and videos of their activities to support their communities.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

**[The Vietnamese Geopark Network \(VGN\) response to the GGN initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience" \[pdf\]](#)**

**[Shennongjia UGGp Helps Local Communities Fight against Novel Coronavirus \[pdf\]](#)**

**[Actions of Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark to fight Against the Covid-19 \[pdf\]](#)**

**[Best practice examples from the Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark in Austria \[pdf\]](#)**

# UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction

## Web article

### UNESCO Global Geoparks continue supporting communities during COVID-19 pandemic

UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section continues its social media campaign to highlight how UNESCO Global Geoparks remain connected with their communities during COVID-19 pandemic.

Through its last article shares many examples of good practice of community support by the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

VISIT: <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-global-geoparks-continue-supporting-communities-during-covid-19-pandemic>

## Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)

### Our Planet Earth Project

#### Video Database of Geological Heritage Japanese Geoparks Network

Geological heritage, such as rocks, strata, and geomorphological structures all give us hints into the formation of Earth. Geoparks across the world, with the aim of creating a sustainable society, wish to spread awareness of the importance of these geological heritages.

The "Our Planet Earth Project" intends to utilize the Network of 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks spread across 41 countries (as of April 2020), and aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks, to provide 10 to 30 minute YouTube videos highlighting the raw and natural beauty of geological heritage sights.

**[Link: Youtube #ourplanetearthproject](#)**

Recently many people are staying home to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. In support, we wish to provide a way to still feel in contact with nature, from the safety of your home. When the situation has settled, you can visit your favourite places.

Furthermore, these videos become records, showing us vital information about the formation of Earth as it is expressed through the landscape, which can be used for future generations to learn about the history of Earth.

VISIT: <https://sites.google.com/view/ourplanetearthproject/home>

# European Geoparks Network (EGN)

## EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION INITIATIVES IN EUROPE

The EGN Working Group on Education is sharing new ideas and information initiatives for continuing engagement from a distance with children and local people. The following activities collected and communicated by Mrs Naomi Foster, North Pennines AONB UGGp in collaboration with the members of the Working Group on Education:

### **Madonie UGGp (Italy)**

Madonie UGGp is holding a drawing contest for children, promoting local businesses by sharing typical recipes from restaurants and highlighting Bed and Breakfast operators ready for reopening, and making videos of sites and traditions.

Access these through Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/enteparcodellemadonie/> and the website <https://www.parcodellemadonie.it/>

### **Magma UGGp (Norway)**

Magma UGGp are promoting the Teach OUT exploration app

<https://magma-geopark.no/en/Projects%20&%20News/treasure-hunt-in-magma-geopark/> and also selecting one locality per week to promote on Facebook.

### **Bergstraße-Odenwald UGGp (Germany)**

Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp have produced lots of creative ideas for families including stories, activities and art (lots of pictures so still good if you can't read German) <http://www.geo-naturpark.net/deutsch/infothek/Steineversteher-und-Kreatives/kreativ-informativ.php>

### **Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UGGp (Portugal)**

Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UGGp have educational resources available on the website <http://www.geonaturescola.com/>, virtual visits <https://www.naturtejo.com/geopark-virtual.php> and [#GeoparkNaturtejoEmCasa](#) campaign sharing suggestions from partners and virtual activities such as books, films or play activities: <https://www.facebook.com/naturtejogeopark/> and also on the website and newsletters.

Please share your activities with the EGN social media channels – Twitter: [@EGNetwork](#), Facebook: [European Geoparks Network](#).

## GEO PARKS CONFERENCES & EVENTS

### CALL FOR HOSTS OF THE 2022 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

**New deadline: 31 July 2020**



**The GGN Executive Board at its extraordinary meeting on 5th May 2020 and in close collaboration with UNESCO Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction discussed the latest news concerning the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the Geoparks and decided to extend the deadline for application submissions till the 31st of July 2020.**

If your organization or country is interested in hosting the 2022 Conference, you are kindly invited to submit a well-developed technical proposal specifying the offer. This bid is addressed to countries and regions which already have UNESCO Global Geoparks, and whose contribution will be essential for the success of the event.

#### **Your bid should contain information on the following components:**

##### **1) Technical**

- The conference has to be hosted and organized by an efficient and experienced team, including UNESCO Global Geopark specialists and geoscientists, communication experts, administration support team and tourism specialists.
- UNESCO Global Geoparks and Global Geopark Network (GGN) members (in the country and within the region) should actively participate and provide their expertise. The conference is the most important event for UNESCO Global Geoparks staff and GGN members to meet and exchange knowledge and experiences on Geopark building and operation
- The venue of the meeting should be big enough to accommodate 800 – 1000 delegates and should provide easy access for international participants.
- Representatives proposed by the GGN Executive Board should be nominated to the Conference Organizing Committee.

## 2) Financial

- The conference and the preparations need to be financed by the organizers who, if necessary, should seek private and public funding. The financial statement should be clear and based on realistic estimates and feasible plans.
- The candidate should present a proposal for the conference budget including data on the financial resources, possible sponsor contribution, participant's fees and grant policy.
- The budget should include the cost of hosting the meeting of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (UGGpC – 16p) and GGN Executive Board (13p), including travel, hotel and subsistence allowance for three days.
- The participant's registration fee should be 'reasonable' taking into account that UNESCO Global Geoparks are present in all regions of the globe, including the developing world, and people sometimes travel long distances.
- The organizers must provide a fee to GGN in accordance to the 2016 GGN General Assembly decision on the GGN budget (September 19th, 2016). This amount will be equivalent to 50 Euro per participant.

## 3) Organization

- The past conferences in Beijing 2004 (China), Belfast 2006 (Northern Ireland), Osnabrück in Tera Vita UGGp 2008 (Germany), Langkawi UGGp 2010 (Malaysia), Shimabara in Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp 2012 (Japan), Saint John, in Stonehammer UGGp 2014 (Canada), Torquay in English Riviera UGGp 2016 (UK), Madona di Campiglio in Adamello Brenta UGGp - 2018 (Italy) had strong local, governmental and ministerial support and extensive media coverage. The organization team is advised to include governmental entities as well as a broad spectrum of other groups like Tourism Boards, Councils of towns, counties, Geological Surveys, Universities etc..
- The bid should foresee logistic arrangements for several other open and closed business meetings, workshops and events will run both in advance and during the conference in addition to the earlier mentioned UGGp Council meeting (16p. + 50-100p. observers) and GGN Executive Board meeting (15p.), these include the GGN General Assembly (220 p.), the GGN Advisory Board Meeting (60p.), GGN Youth Forum Meeting (60p.), the Regional Geopark Networks Advisory Committees (APGN 15p., EGN 15p., GeoLAG 10 p.) and the Coordination Committee Meetings (APGN 70 p., EGN 170 p., GeoLAG 30 p). The bid should duly anticipate and accommodate these meetings.
- The Conference schedule should also include special sessions for GGN Working Group Workshops, Thematic workshops as well as the UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluator's Seminar (120p).
- It is a prerequisite that the country where the conference is proposed already hosts UNESCO Global Geoparks.

## 4) Content

- The Conference theme must be closely related to the core topics of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.



- Each organizer will put the focus on specific themes of their interest, which are not preliminarily fixed, but will be discussed in more detail with UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network during the preparation and planning phase.

## 5) Carbon Footprint Mitigation Initiative

Since UGGps are propagating environmentally friendly tourism, the conference organizer may want to propose ways/projects to reduce the carbon footprint of such big gathering.

## 6) Timing

**Please ensure that your full bid is submitted electronically by July 31, 2020 to: GGN ([ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com)) and UNESCO ([m.patzak@unesco.org](mailto:m.patzak@unesco.org))**

The above list is not exhaustive and aims only to provide some first guidance.

Please note that we strive to rotate the hosting of the International Conference to different regions of the world.

Related websites:

[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org)

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks>

# 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

## Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

## Rescheduled to 21-27 November 2020

### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT Notice in the Wake of COVID-19

1. The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening lives and livelihoods across the globe. With the hope that this crisis will be resolved through our collective efforts as soon as possible, we would like to remind you of the schedule of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in the wake of COVID-19.

2. Currently, the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is keenly observing the situation related to the spread of COVID-19 and has participated in the 71st GGN ExB Meeting to consult with GGN and UNESCO on the schedule of the Conference.

3. As a result of the GGN ExB meeting, the 9th International Conference scheduled for September in Jeju UGGp is under consideration to be held in

**21 to 27, November.** The final announcement will be made in June in the light of COVID-19 outbreak.

4. Registration for the Conference will be suspended for the time being until further notice and will proceed as soon as the dates are confirmed.

5. Also, we would like to politely ask you not to arrange your flights and accommodation until further notice.

6. The health, safety, and security of all our members and the communities they serve is our highest priority. We sincerely hope that everything will get back to normal as early as possible and meet you in good health on Jeju Island.

※ We are continuing to monitor the global trends regarding the spread of COVID-19 and will instantly notify you about major updates related to the conference schedule.

For more details about the conference, please view the website:

<https://www.jejuggn2020.org/>

## **1st Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa**

**Arusha, Tanzania**

**POSTPONED**

For more details about the conference, please view the website:

<http://augg2020.ncaa.go.tz>



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