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# GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

49 | October 9, 2020

## NEWS FEED

Dear members of the Global Geoparks Network,

The COVID-19 pandemic is still seriously affecting our societies, our economic and social life, and especially our Geopark activities.

In spite of the pandemic UNESCO Global Geoparks continue their operation and efforts to realize educational, touristic and promotional activities in the frame of the Geopark operation and support to local communities!

In this GGN NEWSFEED you will find some very interesting issues :

- UNESCO announcement on the postponement all the evaluation and revalidation mission until January 2021.
- On Tuesday 13th of October the UNESCO Global Geoparks will participate in a very special day, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Many other news regarding Geopark activities and events.

UNESCO Global Geoparks and their local communities despite the difficult period that we all face, continue to work and celebrate Earth by organising various digital events and participating in the celebration of International Days.

The GGN Executive Board in close collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section working systematically in order to find effective ways of keeping alive the Global and Regional Geopark Networks and their activities, encouraging and supporting Aspiring Geoparks around the Globe to continue their activities and engagement with local communities.

Thus we use the common digital platform to organize the following activities in the next period:

- On Tuesday 20th October the APGN Coordination Committee Digital Meeting will take place
- On Monday 2nd November, 2020 the 2nd FOLLOW UP Meeting of the DIGITAL COURSE on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place for discussing on geopark building with the participants from the Aspiring Geoparks.
- On 17th to 18th November, 2020 the 1st GGN Digital Forum will be organised for discussing and exchanging between all the UNESCO Global Geoparks members and the Aspiring Geoparks.

Many other digital events and celebration of International Days will be announced at the next months!

Keep sending information and photos on Geopark activities, News and Good practice examples at [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com) and continue to inspire colleagues and communities around the globe with your activities!

## **The GGN Executive Board**

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# **UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS**

## **POSTPONED OF THE EVALUATION AND REVALIDATION MISSIONS UNTIL JANUARY 2020**

### **UNESCO MESSAGE TO GEOPARKS & EVALUATORS**

The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO Mrs. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle sent a very important message to the UNESCO Global Geoparks that are under evaluation or revalidation during 2020. UNESCO in light of the current evolution of the pandemic decided the postponement of the evaluation and revalidation mission until January 2021.

Between 1 October and 30 November 2019, the Secretariat received your application file to either be inscribed as a new UNESCO Global Geopark or your UNESCO Global Geopark is under revalidation in 2020. As per the Statutes, UNESCO was expected to conduct an evaluation or revalidation mission to your site this year, to assess its compliance with the operational guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks. The current COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the organisation of such missions. Over the last months, we have been closely monitoring, evaluating and anticipating the COVID-19 situation, following specific country instructions. We have taken into account several options and especially ensuring the health and safety of all personnel, evaluators as well as that of the Geoparks staff remains our primary concern.

If circumstances allow for it, all eligible applications for the establishment of UNESCO's Geoparks received in 2020 cycle will be examined in 2021.

In line with our previous messages and considering the development of the pandemic over the past weeks, it seems unlikely that the situation will sufficiently improve in large parts of the planet over the next coming months. We have all understanding for the difficulty to prepare a mission, for both parties, under such circumstances.

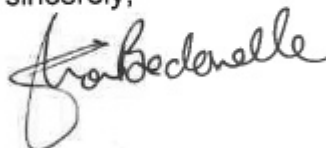
In consultation with the Global Geopark Network, it was decided to postpone all revalidation missions and evaluation missions for eligible applicants until at least January 2021. This decision will have consequences in terms that we will have a large number of missions to be conducted next year and for consideration by the 2021 UNESCO Global Geoparks Council. We will adapt by spreading the missions over the year and prepare ourselves well in advance for the Council session. We will keep on updating you on relevant news in the meanwhile and will revert to you at the latest early 2021.

Kindly note that we intend to hold a UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, in person or virtually, early December 2020, to discuss submitted reports from deferred applications and other items regarding the governance of the IGGP programme. No new applications nor revalidations will be handled in that meeting for the reasons mentioned above. For files that were deferred by the 2018 and 2019 Council sessions, please note that the ultimate date for submission of the

progress reports is 15 October 2020 if you wish the application to be handled by the coming UNESCO Global Geoparks Council.

I thank you once again for your appreciated commitment to the UNESCO Global Geoparks and for your patience and understanding in these challenging times. I wish you all the best and hope you all remain safe and sound.

Yours sincerely,



Shamila Nair-Bedouelle

# GEOPARKS ACTIVITIES

## International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction 13 October 2020

### UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS



13 OCTOBER

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



UNESCO Global Geoparks are celebrating the 13th October, the International Day for the Disaster Risk Reduction.

This year's theme is all about governance and it is based on Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020". This theme reminds us the impact that the disasters have in our lives and is conveying the message that we can avoid or prevent many disasters by implementing systemic disaster risk reduction strategies.

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks work together with the local people and the local authorities in order to promote awareness of geological hazards, like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and to help preparing disaster mitigation strategies. They also emerge as educators on current climate change and works for adaptation of best practise approach to prevent climate-related events like floods, droughts, storms. This day is a good opportunity to start developing risk reduction strategies.

The Global Geoparks Network encourages all UNESCO Global Geoparks to use this day as an opportunity to work in order to prevent hazards to become disasters.

Please share your good practices, photos on you Geopark activities and news at [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

#ItsAllAboutGovernance #DRRday #DRRdayUGGp

**[International Day for Risk Reduction VIDEO](#)**

**[EGN Working Group on Geohazards VIDEO](#)**

**YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

## UNESCO Webinar

# "Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction in rural areas"

**Wednesday, October 14th, 2020**

UNESCO DRR team is organizing a webinar on Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction in rural areas together with our H2020 OPERANDUM project. The event will take place on Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 (13:30 CET) in commemoration of the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day and is open to the public.

Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geohazards Risk Reduction Section Chief, will open the session with an overview of successful DRR projects in UNESCO designated sites, followed by an introduction to OPERANDUM presented by the project coordinator, Silvana Di Sabatino.

Please find further details of the webinar on the [online registration page](#).

## International Geosciences Programme

Better understanding the Earth is essential for the diversity of life and future of human society.

UNESCO is the only United Nations organization with a mandate to support research and capacity in geology and geophysics, and the International Geoscience Programme is our flagship.

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) serves as a knowledge hub of UNESCO to facilitate international scientific cooperation in the geosciences. The IGCP mission includes promoting sustainable use of natural resources, advancing new initiatives related to geo-diversity and geo-heritage and geohazards risk mitigation.

Since 1972, the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) has partnered with the [International Union of Geological Sciences \(IUGS\)](#) to bring together thousands of Earth scientists from around the world and allowed them to benefit from the cooperative spirit generated under the umbrella of UNESCO.

In 2018, IGCP welcomed a new partner, the [Jeju Province Development Corporation \(JPDC\)](#) of the Republic of Korea. Through the new project partnership agreement entitled "**Geoscience for Society: JPDC supporting the International Geoscience and Geoparks programme**" the JPDC supports IGCP projects and UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The IGCP promotes collaborative projects with a special emphasis on the benefit to society, capacity-building, and the advancement and sharing of knowledge between scientists with an emphasis on North-South and South-South cooperation. IGCP operates by providing seed funding grants donated by UNESCO, [IUGS](#), [Jeju Province Development Corporation](#) (JPDC) from the Republic of Korea and the [National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO](#).

IGCP projects primarily deal with geosciences on global issues within its five themes:

- **Earth Resources**
- **Global Change**
- **Geohazards**
- **Hydrogeology**
- **Geodynamic**

Each project has an average lifespan of five years and its progress is assessed annually through a rigorous peer review process conducted by the IGCP Council following the evaluation reports from members of the Scientific Board during the first half of February.

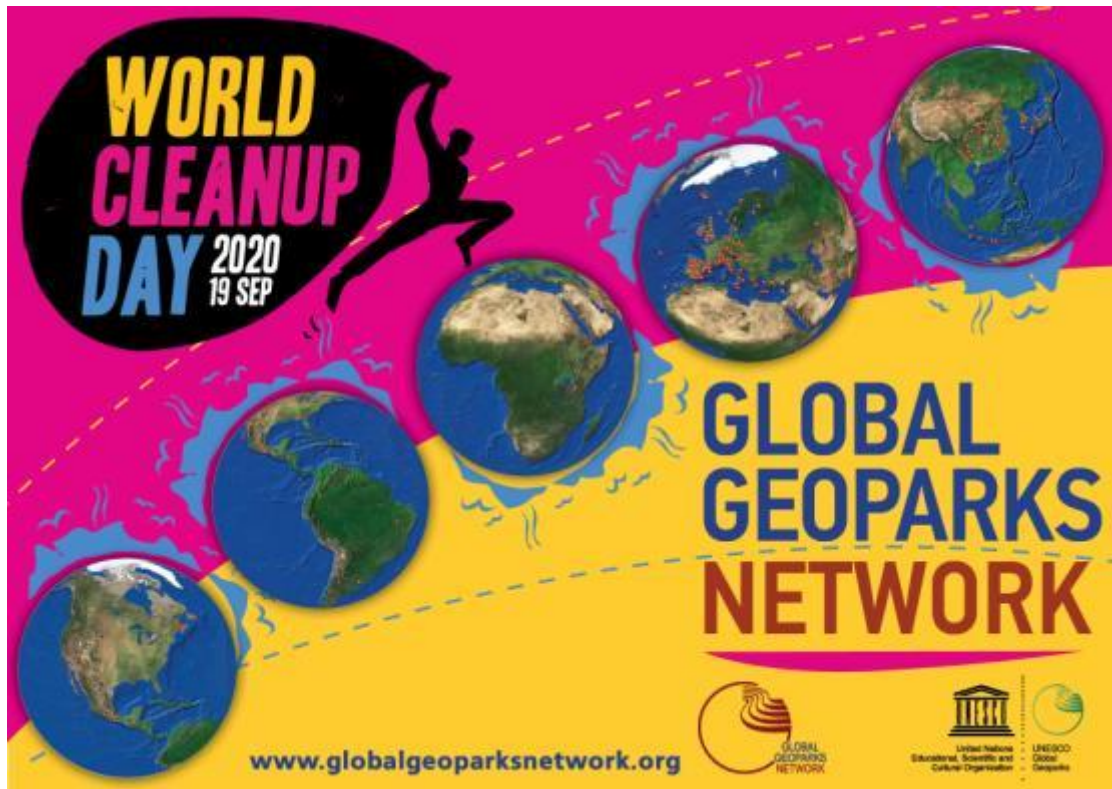
**[IGCP project proposals for 2020 must reach UNESCO by 15 October 2020 in order to be considered for funding by the IGCP Council in 2021](#)**

For further info

**<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/>**

## **Geoparks celebrate the World Cleanup Day**

**19 September 2020**



## EXAMPLES OF GEOPARKS' CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

### Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark (Croatia)

This year was our third time that Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark participated in the World CleanUp Day, trying to clean one of the bays or places near the sea, or especially the beach as they did this year.

World CleanUp Day was organised with Local Action Group Škoji and with a Municipal utility companies from Vis Island, Nautical Center Komiža and Gradina Vis. There were also 20 volunteers. The interest of the volunteers were more but the boat capacity was 20 people in total. There was also one child.

They collected 74 big plastic bags, lots of styrofoam and some other items that they found on the beach. The best thing happened is that 70% registered people in the clean-up operation were from outside of the Island. They were tourist or Vis Island visitors.







## **GEPARKS CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

### **2nd FOLLOW UP COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEPARKS**

### **“UNESCO GLOBAL GEPARKS: Territories of Resilience”**

**2 November, 2020**



# International Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020

# UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience

## FOLLOW UP

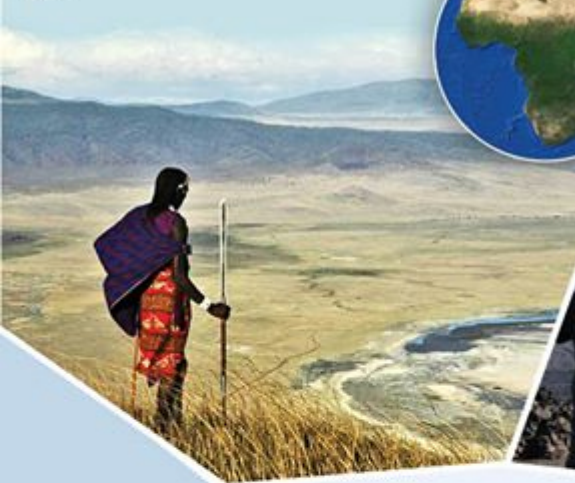
Qinling Zhongnanshan UGGp, China



English Riviera UGGp, UK



Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp, Tanzania



Tumbler Ridge UGGp, Canada



Kútrafukura UGGp, Chile

# August 31st | 13.00–15.00 GMT





A very successful FOLLOW UP COURSE was held on Monday 31st August 2020. The FOLLOW UP COURSE was organised after the success of the 1st Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 on "**UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience**".

The FOLLOW UP COURSE of the Digital Course was co-organised by UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network.

It was hosted and delivered by the University of the Aegean – Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest at Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, North Aegean Region, Greece.

More than 70 participants had the opportunity during the FOLLOW UP COURSE to discuss and clarified issues related with the Geoparks, exchanged ideas and experiences.

The 2nd GGN FOLLOW UP COURSE will be held digitally on November 1st, 2020.

## UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS INITIATIVES

### 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

September 9-15, 2021  
Jeju Island, Republic of Korea



## 1st Global Geopark Network Film Festival

**Application deadline: 31 May 2021**



The first edition of the GGN Film festival will be organized during the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark in from 12 to 14 September 2021 in Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark.

After the postponement of the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark the deadline for new applications is **31st of May 2021**.

For more information please visit the website:

<https://filmfest.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/>

We are looking forward to receive your films.

**YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

## 1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

**Rescheduled to September 2021**

The 1st UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum will be organized during the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark in **September 2021**.

The main purpose of the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM is to offer young people an opportunity to engage more concretely in the preparation of the philosophy mandate and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, elaborate their contribution to the debates of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and foster their commitment to the realization of the future they want, being actors of change in their territories. They will elaborate their proposal for actions contributing to the UNESCO Global Geoparks strategic framework for action 2021-2025, to address heritage protection, natural hazards mitigation, climate change and sustainable development in general.

[For further Info click here.](#)

The Operational Guidelines of the 1st YOUTH FORUM have been agreed at the 64th GGN ExB meeting on December 10th, 2019.

### **YOUTH FORUM OPERATION GUIDELINES**

We are looking forward to receive your youth participations.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

## **NEW CALLS**

# **CALL FOR HOSTS OF THE 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS 2023**

**Deadline for application submission:  
31 December 2020**



**The GGN Executive Board at its 78th meeting on 8th July 2020 and in close collaboration with UNESCO Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction and taking into account the decision for shifting all the physical conferences and events for the period 2020-2022 to the**

**period 2021-2023 decided that the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place in September 2023.**

**It also decided to extend the deadline for application submissions till the 31st of December 2020.**

**[For Further Info click here](#)**

**Please ensure that your full bid is submitted electronically by December 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>

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

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## **UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS: TERITORIES OF RESELIENCE**

**GEOPARKS SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**EXAMPLES OF GEOPARK'S GOOD PRACTICES**

**M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco)**



**REGIONAL GEOPARKS NETWORKS**

**European Geoparks Network (EGN)**

## 2nd EGN Digital Forum



On September 15th, 2020 European Geoparks Network (EGN) organised the 2nd EGN Digital Forum.

The 2nd EGN Digital Forum was organised by the European Geoparks Network in collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network.

The meeting brought together representatives from 79 UNESCO Global Geoparks who are members of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network, the European Regional Network of the Global Geoparks Network.

This was the second EGN Forum which was organised digitally due to travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main purpose of the meeting was to share experiences in relation to the EGN ongoing activities, EGN meeting calendar, future meetings during Covid-19, EGN National Fora reports, EGN communication tools (EGN Magazine and EGN Newsletter) and the Harassment Policy document.

## GEOPARK COMMUNICATION TOOLS

### GGN UPDATED CONTACT LIST

In order to improve our communication we prepared the updated UNESCO Global Geoparks contact list.



Please check your Geopark's e-mail address, the name of your Geopark's representative and your colleague's data as well.

These data will be used for our official communication. So it is very important that the list includes the correct e-mail address.

If there is any change, please send an e-mail with your updated data at [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

**[Please click here in order to check your contact information](#)**

Please note that the updated information is indicated in yellow.

### **YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

#### **GGN - Geoparks Annual Reports 2019**

The GGN Institutional Members who have not submitted yet their Annual Report 2019 are kind asked to submit it. Please download the **[GGN - Geopark Annual Report Model\[doc\]](#)** and fill in the form and send it back at [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

### **YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

#### **GGN National Fora / Commissions 2019 Annual Report of Activities**

The Coordinators of the National Fora/Committees who have not submitted yet their Annual Report 2019 are kind asked to submit it. Please send it at [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

### **YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

#### **GGN Working Group 2019 Annual Report of Activities**

The Coordinators of the GGN Working Group who have not submitted yet their Annual Report 2019 are kind asked to submit it. Please send it at [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

### **YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

## **European Geoparks Network (EGN)**

### **EGN MAGAZINE 18**

### **THEME: RESILIENCE IN ADVERSITY**

### **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

The EGN Editorial Board invites you to submit an article for publication in Magazine 18, 2020.

It was agreed at the 35th Coordination Committee Meeting, UNESCO, Paris, 2015 that the EGN Magazine could contain up to 88 pages. Sixty four pages will be assigned to contributions from EGN members. Up to 24 pages will be assigned for advertisements from businesses within geoparks

Please e-mail your article, photographs and figure captions by **Midnight 31 October 2020** to the following addresses:

**Tony Ramsay** <[tonhel@btinternet.com](mailto:tonhel@btinternet.com)>

**Nikolas Zouros** <[nzour@aegean.gr](mailto:nzour@aegean.gr)>

**YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

## **EGN Newsletter**

EGN published and sharing EGN Newsletter 2020 - ISSUE 17 showing the activities of the European Geoparks are carrying out. The new this issue is dedicated to situation-related activities and creative ideas to support resilience in our European Geoparks. Editors of this issue were Jutta Weber and Antonio Duarte.

Please read the online version of the [EGN Newsletter 2020 - ISSUE 17 here](#).

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## GGN Calendar of Meetings and Events

(updated October 2020)

### **2020**

**13 October 2020: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geopark Activities**

**14 October 2020: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNESCO DRR webinar "Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction in rural areas" (11:30 GMT)**

**19 October 2020: APGN AC Meeting (5:00 - 9:00 GMT)**

**20 October 2020: APGN CC Meeting (5:00 - 9:00 GMT)**

**2 November 2020: 2nd FOLLOW UP COURSE on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience" (13:00 – 15:00 GMT)**

**17 – 18 November 2020: 1st GGN Digital Forum**

**11 December 2020: International Mountain Day, Geopark Activities**

**11 December 2020: AUGGN Webinar, Ngorongoro UNESCO Global Geopark**

**14 December 2020: AUGGN Webinar, M'goun UNESCO Global Geopark**



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