

[View online](#)

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

54 | April 16, 2021

NEWS FEED

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

One year has already passed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the countries all around the world are facing the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. But UNESCO Global Geoparks, under this very difficult period, find ways to be active, to support their local communities, but also to network digitally. This optimism gives all of us in the Geoparks' family the motivation to continue with a positive mood.

In the coming months, the Global Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section are launching diverse online events, capacity building activities and initiatives:

- On Thursday **22nd of April, 2021 at 12:00 – 15:00 GMT the WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks** will be held. The event will be organised on the occasion of the **International Mother Earth Day**, a very important day that reminds us the need to restore our Earth.
- The initiative **“UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT for Geoparks in Africa and Arab States”** has been launched in order to increase the interest, knowledge and capacity on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa. Applications are open until April 30th, 2021.
- The important initiative **“UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM”** will offer young people the opportunity to get more engaged in the activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. All countries hosting at least one UNESCO Global Geopark are invited to nominate their Youth Representative until April 30th, 2021.
- the **Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021** will be organised between June 7th and June 20th, 2021. The course will deal with the topic **“UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability”**.

Various other digital activities will also be organised by the Global Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section but also the GGN Regional Networks, the European Geoparks Network, the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network and the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network giving the opportunity to their members to share good practices and exchange ideas.

Please keep sharing your news, thoughts, activities and good practices with all of us through the GGN Newsfeed!

The GGN Executive Board

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

22 April 2021



Climate change and other environmental degradations have broken our natural systems, leading to new and fatal diseases as well as a breakdown of the global economy.

But just as climate change and coronavirus painfully remind us of the harm we've caused, **UNESCO Global Geoparks** restore the history of our planet and present the record of past climate changes that make us realize the consequences of the current climate crisis, the threats and opportunities that lay ahead.

We must preserve the geological heritage of **our Earth** and preserve its ecological diversity not just because we care about the natural world, but because we live on it. Every one of us needs a healthy Earth to support our jobs, livelihoods, health and survival and happiness. **A healthy planet is not an option – it is a necessity.**

To support our work, we are excited to share with all the members of the Global Geoparks Network a warm welcome to the new **UNESCO Global Geoparks!**

Together we are stronger in promoting Earth heritage to sustain our local communities!

Join us on April 22 at 12 GMT to celebrate **EARTH DAY 2021!**

WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT FOR THE NEW UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

22 April 2021, at 12:00 GMT

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

GLOBAL
GEOPARKS
NETWORK

**WELCOME
Digital Event
For the new UNESCO
Global Geoparks**

Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 12.00 GMT

The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section are organising a live WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT for the 8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks:

- Vestjylland, DENMARK
- Saimaa, FINLAND
- Thuringia Inselberg-Drei Gleichen, GERMANY
- Grevena Kozani, GREECE
- Belitong, INDONESIA
- Aspromonte, ITALY
- Majella, ITALY
- Holy Cross Mountains, POLAND

The WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT will be held on **April 22nd, 2021 at 12:00 GMT.**

The Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section are happy to invite in the WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT:

- The 8 new UNESCO Geoparks
- The Permanent Delegations at UNESCO of the respected Member States
- The 161 UNESCO Global Geoparks Representatives
- The GGN and UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Members

The event will be organised on the occasion of the celebration of the **International Mother Earth Day 2021.**

The International Mother Earth Day provides an opportunity to raise global public awareness on the challenges to the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports.

Please watch the event via YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUghhLY2we8YMUHoa6JGBbQ>

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT for Geoparks in Africa and Arab States

UNESCO - Global Geoparks Network Grant For Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States



UNESCO and its statutory partner the Global Geoparks Network collaborate to promote the concept of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa and the Arab states.

From 161 UNESCO Global Geoparks, spread over 44 countries worldwide, only two are based in Africa (Morocco and Tanzania).

We have worked therefore on a strategic approach to increase the interest, knowledge and capacity on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa.

We have learnt from past events that we have organised and believe it would be important to provide personalised guidance to a number of promising Geoparks initiatives that we see arising. In addition to that, we also wish to target existing structures in Africa, like Nature Parks, Nature Reserves, Intercommunalities and other structures engaged in rural development and environmental protection.

UNESCO in collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network, have developed therefore the **UNESCO - GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK GRANT**.

With this grant, UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network offer consultancy service including a detailed assessment of the potential of the site, a needs assessment, an on-site mission by two GGN experts for 10 days and further on-line assistance with the preparation of the application to become a UNESCO Global Geopark to a number of potential Geopark projects.

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network are calling for applications for this grant. Please feel free to forward this call to National Parks with a possible interest in the Geoparks concept, regional development entities, and any individual or group that has been working on geo-heritage initiatives in the region or could possibly be interested in doing so.

Application deadline: April 30th, 2021.

Further information: <http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?p=5131>

Please find the application [here](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

DIGITAL COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability

7 – 20 June 2021

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Global Geoparks

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF THE LESVOS PETRIFIED FOREST

Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021
UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability

LESVOS ISLAND GREECE
7-20 June 2021

Registration:
<http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2020/>

Information - Secretariat:
ml.faber@unesco.org | lesvospf@otenet.gr

LESVOS GEOPARK

UNESCO
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

uniTwin

UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
 UNESCO Chair on Geoparks and sustainable development of insular and coastal areas, University of the Aegean, Greece

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network are co-organising the second distance learning Course on Geoparks 2021 which will deal with the topic "UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability".

The Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held from 7th to 20th of June, 2021.

In the previous years the Course was hosted by Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece. In the time of the COVID-19 outbreak and as we are unable to travel, the course will be organised digitally for a second year.

The course provides an opportunity to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), how they can make a real impact in local communities and on society as a whole during COVID-19 pandemic but also provides conceptual issues on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Geoparks staff members, PhD candidates, Master students and graduates can gain knowledge and experience on Geoparks.

If you are interested in participating please submit an application form accompanied by a short CV and an abstract (one page) of your country's geoparks project or your research project. During the course you will be invited to present your geopark's project or your research project.

Application deadline: May 15th, 2021

For registration and more information please visit www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2020

GEOPARK REPORTS

Geopark Annual Reports 2020

UNESCO Global Geoparks, GGN Regional Networks and National Fora/Committees all around the world worked very hard during 2020 and implement various activities despite COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. All these activities will be communicated through the Annual Reports 2020.

The Global Geoparks Network invites all UNESCO Global Geoparks, GGN Regional Networks and National Fora/Committees to send their Annual Report 2020 until **April 30th, 2021**.

All Geoparks are invited to use the [Geopark Annual Report 2020 template \[doc\]](#) (right click-->save link as)

Annual Reports 2020 will be communicated through the GGN webpage [here](#).

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

REGIONAL GEOPARKS NETWORKS

ASIA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK (APGN)



22-28 April 2021, Starting with Celebrating the Earth Day

Second APGN Geoparks Week

*Celebrating earth heritage, Demonstrating resilience,
Boosting confidence, Preparing for World After*

APGN encourages all its members to celebrate the 2nd APGN Geoparks Week and celebrate earth heritage, demonstrate UGGp's resilience, boost confidence, and prepare for the World After.

The 1st APGN Geoparks Week launched last year with the participation of many geoparks even the very difficult situation due to Covid-19 pandemic.

For the 2nd APGN Geoparks Week, the APGN invites all Geoparks to organise various activities that suit to the situation of every Geopark. The idea is to:

- let more people to know about the UGGp philosophy
- demonstrate the synergies of geological, cultural, historical and intangible heritage of Geoparks
- make local people more proud of their hometown
- increase the momentum of sustainable development of local communities

European Geoparks Network (EGN)

EGN MAGAZINE 18

European Geoparks: Territories of resilience



The EGN published and is sharing the EGN Magazine 2021 - ISSUE 18 showing the activities of the European Geoparks that are carried out during COVID-19 period of pandemic. This new issue presents a range of articles of networking and collaborating of the European Geoparks that are remaining resilient, resourceful and creative.

Please read the online version of the EGN Magazine 2021 - ISSUE 18 [here](#)

European Geoparks Newsletter- Issue 19

Call for Contributions

The EGN invites all members to contribute to the 19th issue of the EGN newsletter, the common up-to-date EGN communication tool. This issue will be dedicated to the topic "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Together for a sustainable future".

The time interval of the newsletter will be February to May 2021.

All European Geoparks are invited to send a short text (up to 100 words) and a photo (landscape format) of their Geopark activity to Antonio Duarte (antonio.duarte@aroucageopark.pt) and Jutta Weber (j.weber@geonaturpark.de) until April 20th, 2021.

Please read the latest version of the EGN Newsletter 2021 - ISSUE 18 [here](#).

Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeoLAC)

Latin America and the Caribbean Geotourism Day

"Geotourism in times of pandemic"

April 3rd, 2021

On Saturday April 3rd, the Latin America and the Caribbean Geotourism Day celebrated, a special date of commitment to highlight the geodiversity of the territories, the living culture and the importance of tourism promotion.

The celebration was coordinated by the Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark (Uruguay) under the auspices of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeoLAC), the UNESCO Office in Montevideo, Regional Office of Sciences for Latin America and the Caribbean.

All UNESCO Global Geoparks and Aspiring Geoparks invited to join the celebrations by organizing geotourism activities in their territories.

[Latin America and the Caribbean Geotourism Day 2021](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

**New deadline for nomination of the Youth Representatives:
31st May 2021**



All 44 countries that are hosting at least one UNESCO Global Geopark are invited to nominate one Youth Representative.

The UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM is a new ongoing important initiative for the Geoparks and it is not only associated with the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global 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.

All youth representatives will be invited to participate in a welcome preparatory digital meeting of the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM, with the participation of UNESCO, the GGN Executive Board members and the president of the GGN Advisory committee.

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network try to find financial support in order to cover travel and accommodation costs for the participation of one Youth Representative of each country in the first official meeting of the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM which will be held in Jeju Island during the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The deadline for the submission of the Youth Representatives of each country in the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM has been extended until May 31st, 2021.

Please select the youth representative of your county, fill in the [application](#) [right click-->save link as] and send it to until May 31st, 2021.

For further information please visit the [link](#).

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](#)

1st Global Geopark Network Film Festival

Application deadline: 31 May 2021



1st Global Geopark Network Film Festival

<https://filmfreeway.com/filmfestivalGGN>

Jeju

FilmFreeway **Jeju island Republic of Korea, September 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.

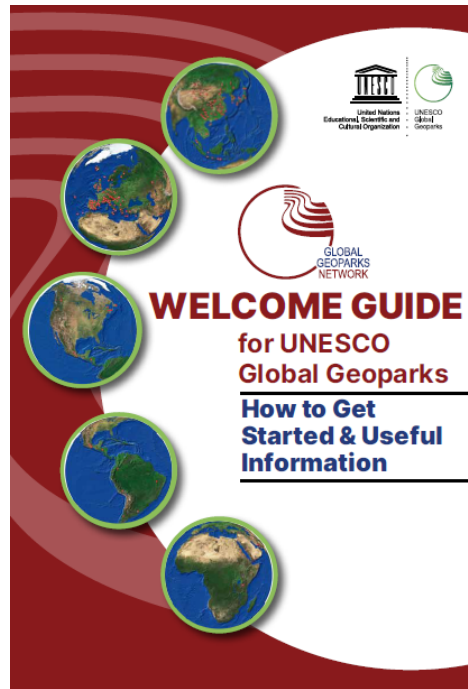
After the postponement of the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark the deadline for new applications is **31st of May 2021**.

For more information please visit the website:

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

WELCOME GUIDE FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

A new GGN publication



The “WELCOME GUIDE for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks” is the new publication of the Global Geoparks Network. This guidebook has been designed to guide the new Geoparks through their initial steps as new Global Geoparks Network Institutional members and to familiarise them with the administrative issues of the GGN.

This guide will be tested during 2021 in order to find out issues that we need to improve or add. Our main target is always to help all UNESCO Global Geoparks to find an easy way to start and continue as Global Geoparks Network Institutional members.

Please read the guide, ask your employees to use it and send us your comments and suggestions on how to improve it.

You can read the WELCOME GUIDE FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS [here](#).



[Facebook](#)

[Manage your subscription](#)

