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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE - SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

37 February 2020

News Feed

Dear colleagues and friends of the Global Geoparks Network

The **GGN News Feed No 37 - February 2020**, has the latest news for GGN activities.

You receive this News Feed in a very special moment when the Chinese people are making heroic efforts to win the fight against the novel corona virus.

Since the beginning of this year, the novel corona virus has caused great damages to our society. It has also strongly affected the normal operation of Global Geoparks in China.

We are all shocked by the news and the consequences.

We express solidarity to our colleagues in China.

Our thoughts and our hearts are with you!

The GGN Executive Board

FIGHT AGAINST CORONA VIRUS GGN express solidarity to Chinese Geoparks 团结一致,抗击疫情 世界地质公园网络致中国地质公园

Dear colleagues from the Chinese Global Geoparks,

亲爱的中国世界地质公园的同事们

At this special moment, when the Chinese people are making heroic efforts to win the fight against the novel corona virus (2019-nCoV), the GGN Executive Board (ExB), on behalf of all the Global Geopark Network Members, expresses our greatest respect and sympathy to you.

在中国人们英勇抗击新型冠状病毒的特殊时刻,世界地质公园网络执行局代表世界地质公园网络的所有成员,向你们致以崇高的敬意和诚挚的问候。

We would like to express our sympathy and thoughts especially to our colleagues of the Huanggang-Dabieshan UGGp and Shennongjia UGGp in Hubei Province, the area most affected by the novel corona virus (2019-nCoV).

我们向处于疫情最严重的湖北省的黄冈大别山和神农架世界地质公园的同事致以特别的关心和问候。

Since the beginning of this year, the novel corona virus has caused great damages to our society. It has also strongly affected the normal operation of Global Geoparks in China.

今年初,新型冠状病毒极大地扰乱了正常的社会生活和秩序,同时对中国世界地质公园的正常工作造成了极大的影响。

We are all following the immense efforts made by the Chinese Authorities and the Chinese people to win the fight with the novel corona virus.

我们始终关注着疫情进展已经中国政府和中国人民为抗击疫情做出的巨大努力。

We do understand the difficulties you are facing and we will be next to you in the next period, taking initiatives to express our solidarity and support.

我们完全理解你们所面临的困难。在接下来的日子里,世界地质公园网络将会与你们并肩作战,支持和帮助这场战役。

Dear Chinese Geoparks colleagues,

亲爱的中国地质公园的同事们

Your difficulty is our difficulty, the Global Geoparks Network big family is and will always be with you.

你们的困难也是我们困难,世界地质公园网络大家庭将会始终与你们并肩作战。

Our thoughts and our hearts are with you!

我们始终与你们同在!

The Global Geoparks Network will always firmly support the healthy development of every member of our Network.

世界地质公园网络始终致力于每一个网络成员的健康发展。

Wuhan Jiayou! Hubei Jiayou!! China Jiayou!!!

武汉加油!湖北加油!中国加油!

February 10th, 2020

为了世界地质公园网络



Professor Nickolas Zouros 尼古拉斯·邹若思教授

President of the GGN Executive Board 世界地质公园网络执行局主席

GEOPARKS PROMOTION & VISIBILITY

International Tourism Fair Madrid FITUR 2020

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS STAND EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

The Geoparks stand

The Geoparks stand and the Geoparks promotional activities in FITUR 2020, one of the biggest tourism fairs in the world, was very successful also this year!

Geopark's presentation in FITUR contributed significantly to our common efforts to raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as quality brand in tourism and sustainable tourism destinations!

Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark in Portugal and Carlos Neto de Carvalho of the GGN Working Group on Tourism, had the coordination of the Geoparks stand in FITUR with the support of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum and its Coordinator Asier Hilario. 10 UNESCO Geoparks from Portugal, Spain, Mexico and Iran were present this year in Geoparks stand, celebrating Geoparks contribution in sustainable tourism

development as well as the 20th anniversary of the European Geopark Network!

The Geopark Stand was located at the Pavilion 4 – EUROPE, emphasizing the role of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations in 25 European Countries.



The Geopark stand was very busy during all the days of FITUR

It is important to show through our participation with GGN Stand to the international tourism market stakeholders that GGN represents the global network of cooperation of GEOPARKS, the 21st century sustainable tourism destinations!

First of all we would like to congratulate our colleagues from Naturtejo - Portugal, Villuercas Ibores Jara, Basque Coast, Central Catalonia, Las Loras and Curel mountainsUNESCO Global Geoparks – Spain, Mixteca Alta UGGp Mexico and Qeshm UGGp Iran who organized jointly once again the GGN stand in FITUR 2020, contributed to the stand and used the opportunity for their promotion.





At the Geoparks Stand in FITUR - Madrid International Tourism Fair, promoting the enhancement of geodiversity and sustainable tourism in Geoparks, with the participation of the Secretary of State for Tourism of Portugal Mrs. Rita Marques, the President of Tourism of Portugal Mr Luís

Araújo, the President of the Regional Tourism Entity Centro de Portugal, the Presidents of Municipalities of the Naturtejo Geopark and the President of the Global Network of Geoparks Prof. Nickolas Zouros

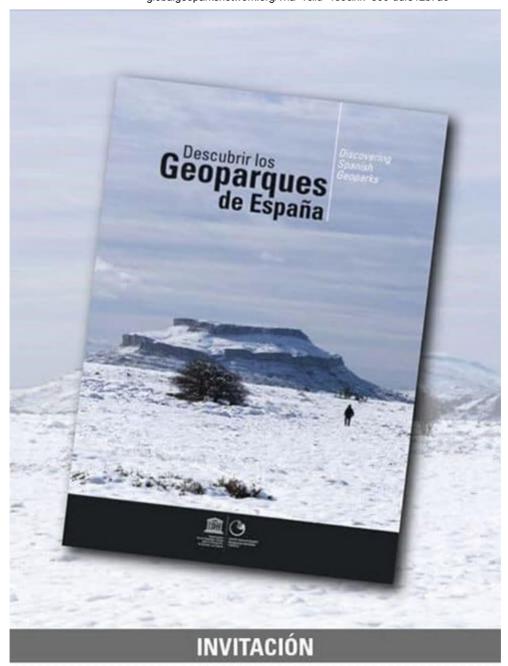
The stand was visited by many professionals during the Fair. Among the high profile visitors was the General Secretary of Tourism of Portugal Mrs. **Rita Marques**, accompanied by Mr **Luís Araújo**, President of Tourism of Portugal, the President of the Regional Tourism Entity Centro de Portugal. They were welcomed by the President of Naturtejo Geopark Armindo Jacinto and the President of GGN Prof. N. Zouros.

The following **common promotional material** were distributed from the GGN stand during FITUR 2020:

- The UGG / GGN map
- The UNESCO Global Geoparks broshure
- The GGN Brochure 36pages magazine
- The EGN Magazine

Spanish Geoparks Promotional Event

The big event of the Spanish Geoparks was hosted this year by the Castilla y Leon Government and the Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark at the pavilion of Castilla y Leon. The event took place on January 23rd and was dedicated to the presentation of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Booklet!



Presentación de la nueva revista para descubrir los Geoparques Mundiales UNESCO en España.

Stand de Castilla y León (Pabellón 7, stand 7B02-7B04) 23 de enero de 2020. 11:00 horas.





This new publication refers to the presentation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Spain and their <u>Geotourism tour packages</u>.



The event was honoured by the presence of the Minister of Tourism and Culture of Castlla y Leon Mr. Javier Ortega Álvarez, Mrs Belén Llera Cermeño General Secretary of the Spanish National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO, delegations from Naturtejo Geopark in Portugal and Mixteca Alta Geopark in Mexico and the representatives of all the Spanish Geoparks (Cabo de Gata - Nijar, Subbeticas, Basque Coast, Central Catalunya, Villuercas - Ibores - Yara, Sierra Norte De Sevilla, Molina Alto Tajo, Lanzarote, El Hierro, Las Loras and Origins).



The main speakers at the presentation event of the Spanish Geoparks.

Javier Ortega Álvarez Minister of Culture & Tourism of Castille Y Leon,

Belén Llera Cermeño General Secretary of the Spanish National

Commission for cooperation with UNESCO, President of GGN Prof. Nickolas

Zouros and José Ángel Sánchez Fabián Las Loras UNESCO Global

Geopark with officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

During the event three presentations were made:

José Ángel Sánchez Fabián Geoscientist of the Las Loras Geopark, who presented the new Booklet of the Spanish Geoparks.

Mrs **Belén Llera Cermeño** General Secretary of the Spanish National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO

The President of GGN **Prof. Nickolas Zouros** who presented the contribution in sustainable tourism of the UNESCO Global Geoparks using examples from the Spanish Geoparks

The event closed by the representative of the Regional Government of Castile-León (JCyL), **Javier Ortega Álvarez** Minister of Culture & Tourism (MCT), who underlined the importance of Geoparks in Castile-Leon as sustainable tourism destinations.



The Spanish Geoparks representatives in a group photo at the presentation event

Geoparks Presentation in the Spanish Tourism Pavilion

Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks got and important achievement during the last international tourism fair FITUR. The Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum was invited to present the UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Spanish Geoparks in the Spanish Tourism Organization TURESPAÑA pavilion.

TURESPAÑA is the national agency for the international promotion of Spanish touristic destinations worldwide.

This presentation was hosted by Ignacio Angulo, the formal director of the "Desarrollo y sostenibilidad turistica" department who welcome this "new" initiative.

The coordinator of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum Dr. Asier Hilario and the manager of the Basque Coast UGG Leire Barriuso made the presentation.



Geopark presentation in TourEspana by Asier Hilario

This presentation is a very important milestone as it opens the door to a wider collaboration with Turespaña, in which spanish geoparks can be internationally promoted as innovative destinations of sustainable tourism.

This is specially relevant for the GGN as Spain is one of the most important touristic countries of the world.

Geoparks can be a very interesting destination to promote natural and cultural wonders of any country, but our individual offers have to be packaged in a joint offer that includes the very best of each geopark.

Spanish Geoparks have been promoting themselves as a joint destination since the year 2017 with an annual magazine that is presented in Fitur and includes the most exciting experiences you van have visiting geoparks. Hopefully, this initiative will continue in the frame of an institutional promotion made by the Turespaña worldwide.



Geopark presentation event in TourEspana pavilion at FITUR 2020



Geoparks Participation in ITB Berlin 4-8 March 2020

The GEOPARKS STAND

The GGN stand at ITB (Hall 4.1b Adventure Travel - Responsible Tourism) will present the new UNESCO Global Geoparks label as well as the UNESCO Global Geoparks as innovative sustainable tourism destinations and the activities of the Global Geopark Networks to promote Geoparks - GGN, APGN, EGN and LACGN!

This year many UNESCO Global Geoparks will participate in the common effort to present Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.

So far 17 UNESCO Global Geoparks and Messel Pit WHS registered or at least mailed us showing interest. They are:

- Lesvos
- Muskau Arch
- Terra-Vita
- Geanorvegica
- Arouca
- Langkawi
- Harz.B.O.
- Villuercas
- Sitia
- Bergstrasse-Odenwald
- Chelmos-Vouraikos
- Vulkaneifel
- Hong Kong
- Hondsrug
- Azores
- Naturtejo
- Messel Pit

GEOPARK PRESENTATIONS

During the 15th Pow-Wow for Tourism Professionals, taking place 4-6 March 2020 at the Adventure Stage and Event Area of Hall 4.1b - Adventure \cdot Responsible Tourism several presentations on UNESCO Global Geoparks are taking place.

Theme block: MASTER CLASS / UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

Wednesday, 4 March 2020 16:30 – 17.30 (60 minutes)

MASTER CLASS

16:30 - 17.00 (30 minutes)

UNESCO Global Geoparks Network

- Sustainable destinations and Global Geoparks Network activities from the promotion of Geotourism
- **Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros**, President, UNESCO Global Geoparks Network; Professor, University of Aegean, Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark; Greece

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a not-for-profit organisation and a dynamic network where members are committed to work together, exchange ideas of best-practice, promote conservation, management and communication to society of the Earth heritage. The GGN was founded in 2004 and since 2015 it is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the 3rd site designation of the organization, including today 147 areas hosting geological heritage of international significance in 41 countries.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas of geological significance in Earth history, including landscapes and geological formations, which are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for our future and the promotion of sustainable development, for example, through geo-tourism and education. The GGN coordinates the Geopark participation and promotion in International Tourism Fairs such as ITB Berlin, to promote Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations and build new bonds with the international tourism market.

17.00 - 17.30

(30 minutes)

GEO IN: Insular Geoparks

- Challenges and perspectives on sustainable tourism development
- Dr. Ilias Valiakos, Deputy Director, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark; Greece
- Dimitrios Pattakos
- Dr. Charalambos Fassoulas
- Evaggelos Perakis
- Petros Chatzikostas

Geoparks develop common activities to raise visibility, protect and exploit their unique heritage and use it to build sustainable tourism destinations. Geo-tourism is the new trend in environmental – alternative tourism. It promotes the value and individualities of the geological heritage of the regions, contributes to the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural environment, increases citizens' awareness on climate change and sustainability and mobilizes local population to be part of an integrated socio-economic sustainable development.

GEO-IN is a cooperation project financed by E.U. INTERREG Greece - Cyprus that involves four insular Geoparks: three from Greece, namely Psiloritis and Sitia from Crete isl., and Lesvos Island; and Troodos from Cyprus. Partners are the Development Company of Psiloritis – AKOMM SA, the Municipality of Sitia, the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, the Natural History Museum of Crete, the Development Company of Troodos and the Cyprus Forestry Department.

GEO-IN aims to preserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage, to use it for the development of new geotourist products and destinations and to extend the tourist season, through the implementation of common actions, exchange of know-how, and development of common products and services. GEO-IN is expected to have significant benefits:

- a. For the regions, by the increasing of attractiveness and visibility, development of new destinations as well as the prolongation of tourist season
- b. For residents, through the enhancement of entrepreneurship, employment and diversification of the local economy, and
- c. For visitors, by offering them new qualitative products and services

Theme block: UNESCO Global Geoparks

Friday, 6 March 202010.00 – 11.00 (60 minutes)

This session will take place at the ITB Center Stage, Hall 4.1b

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS		
10.00 - 10.20 (20 minutes)	Planet Earth	

Its past is forming our present and creating our future

 Dr. Kristin Rangnes, Treasurer, Global Geoparks Network; Managing Director, Gea Norvegica Geopark; Norway

Geoparks are communicating the exciting and extremely long history of Mother Earth, celebrating the links between geological and biological heritage and our human culture and history. Main goals are to protect and conserve our heritage through scientific work and enhanced understanding, educate local inhabitants and visitors and open possibilities for a more environmental friendly and knowledge based tourism, especially in rural areas.

In 2000 at ITB Berlin, European Geoparks Network was created by four geoparks, in Greece, Spain, France and Germany. In 2019, 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks from different parts of the world are participating in the strong Global Geoparks Network, forming this third UNESCO Site designation. Compared to the other UNESCO Site designations, Geoparks are not protected areas but about living communities. The defining geological heritage needs to be protected, but the protection can be of different levels. Local development and knowledge dissemination are main activities for geoparks – guided tours where the vivid history of Mother Earth is revealed as a common tourist activity geoparks offer. This presentation will explain 'geoparks" and what we do by showing examples of best practice tourism in geoparks and the different roles geoparks can play in a society.

As part of UNESCO geopark, activities are also strongly linked to the United Nations Sustainable development goals. UN and geoparks: E for the education, lifelong learning, for boys and girls, women and men, young and old, disabled or not + S for the science, not only geoscience, it is about the connections + C for the culture, our need for geological resources, our building materials, in the past, present and future. And O for the organization. UNESCO and Global Geoparks Network!

10.20 - 10.40 (20 minutes)

Sustainable tourism destination – Examples from Asian Pacific Geoparks Network

 Dr. Ka Ming Yeung, Head, Hong Kong Global Geopark; China

UNESCO Global Geopark is a prestigious designation. There are altogether 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world, scattered across different countries

and regions. 57 of them belong to the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN).

The 57 APGN Geoparks contain vastly diverse landscapes, from volcanic islands to tall mountains, from arid desert to exotic beaches, and from tranquil lakes to active volcanos. Tourists visiting these Geoparks are greeted by beautiful outcrops and topographical features, coastal landforms, inlets, waterfalls, gorges, caves, caverns and lava tubes, to name a few. They may also catch glimpses of Earth's history in fossils, dinosaur footprints and trackways as well as a variety of other fascinating earth formation features.

The gorgeous, enticing landscape and scenery is not the only thing Geoparks offer, as UNESCO Global Geoparks are not only about geology and landscape, but also about connecting the geological heritage with the area's natural and cultural heritages. No matter how big or small a Geopark is, each one is a one-of-a-kind fusion of its environment and culture, which brings about their own traditional art, music and festivities. And together with exclusive local food and products, there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy.

APGN Geoparks are a healthy mixture of Earth history, nature and landscape combined with cultural and regional traditions. With sustainability being a main management goal, APGN Geoparks are excellent green tourism destinations not only for tourists interested in geoheritage of international significance, but also for all others who can appreciate the related cultural heritage and natural beauty.

10.40 - 11.00 (20 minutes)

United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development of UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald

Dr. Weber, Jutta, Manging Director, UNESCO
 Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald e. V.(Germany)

Agenda 2030 has defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which the UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald has picked up for the regional development of its territory. Some examples given in the presentation raise their importance for a Global Geopark of UNESCO and for the people living inside the territory.

Please send the <u>registration form & information doc</u> circulated few months ago with your data so we can prepare the GGN presence in ITB.

Geopark tour packages

In order to get better visibility of the Geoparks tourist offer we propose to create for ITB 2020 an electronic and paper catalogue of some of the most attractive activities/experiences in UNESCO Global Geoparks. Please help us providing the best example from your Geopark by filling the template below until 15th February!

Please find attached the template for the GGN tour packages 2020.

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

Jeju island, Rep of Korea, 17-20 September 2020 REGISTATION IS OPEN

The first official meeting of the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks took place on February 7th in Jeju island UNESCO Global Geoparks to review the progress and decide on the nest steps for the Organization of the Conference which has the potential to become the best ever.



The Organizing Committee Officials visited the impressive venue which will host the Conference and ists parallel events, the International Conference Center Jeju and discuss with the ICC officials the details regarding the successful and smooth organization of the event which will host 1500 participants.







CALL FOR HOSTS OF THE

10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS – 2022

Download the call

GGN Calendar of Meetings and Events

(updated February 2020)

2020

2-8 March 2020: International Geological Congress - IGC

4-8 March 2020: ITB Berlin - Participation with GGN stand in ITB

Berlin

19 March 2020: IGGP Open Session - Paris

24-30 March 2020: 45th European Geoparks Network Meeting -

Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark, Croatia

22 April 2019: International Earth Day, Geopark Activities

22-28 April 2019: 1st APGN Geoparks Week 2020

26-29 April 2020: Geoparks Conference – Viet Nam

18-20 May 2020: 1st Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in

Africa - Tanzania

24 May - 7 June 2020: European Geoparks Week

1-11 June 2020: International Intensive Course on Geoparks
"UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability" - Lesvos Island UNESCO
Global Geopark, Greece

June 2020: 3rd Geoparks Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus "Geoparks-Protected areas Biodiversity and Geodiversity Conservation and Management" – Vikos Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

14-22 September 2020: 9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOPARKS

14-16/9/2020	UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting
I D / G / / I / I	APGN – EGN – GEOLAG Regional Meetings GGN Executive Board Meeting
17/9/2020	Opening of the Conference – Conference Sessions GGN AC Meeting
18/9/2020	Conference Sessions GGN General Assembly

II I	Field Trip and Gala Dinner – Award & Certificates Ceremony
11/11/9//11/11	Sessions – Evaluator's Seminar Closing Ceremony
21-22/9/2020	Post Congress Field Trips

5-10 October 2020: Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2020 - Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia

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

25-30 October 1020: 6th International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks - China University of Geosciences Beijing, China

11 December 2020: International Mountain Day, Geopark Activities

2021

March 2021: 47th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

September 2021: Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Coordination Committee Meeting - Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand

September 2021: 7th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium - Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand

September 2021: 48th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Sesia - Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

September 2021: 16th European Geoparks Conference - Sesia - Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

2022

March 2022: 49th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands in collaboration with TerraVita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

September 2022: 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOPARKS

2023

March 2023: 51st European Geoparks Network Meeting, Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania

September 2023: 8th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium

September 2023: 17th European Geoparks Conference



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