

Dear members of the Global Geoparks Network,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The GGN Executive Board warm congratulate the 15 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and 1 extension (>10%) which were endorsed by the UNESCO and welcome them to the UNESCO Global Geoparks family.

UNESCO and GGN are organizing a WELCONE DIGITAL EVENT for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks on Thursday 16th July 2020 at 15:00 GMT!

Even during celebration for all the Geoparks we cannot forget that is also a period for new decisions and actions connected with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Six months have passed from the first reports on COVID-19 and the Humanity has suffered the biggest health crisis in generations.

COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives and our activities. It is obvious that the Geoparks are also affected.

Many countries have already achieved good progress in slowing the spread of virus and save lives. Fighting against COVID-19 seems to be successful.

Some others are experiencing new increase of COVID-19 cases while they are taking measures to restart their economy and reopen their societies.

Unfortunately others are experiencing huge numbers of cases and losses. The virus still has a lot of room to move.

We all want to stop this pandemic.

We all want to get on with our lives.

But the hard reality is that we are not even close to being over.

Although there is some progress in some parts of the Globe, the pandemic is actually speeding up at the global level.

Thus we need to take any possible measure to protect our Geopark community from the virus and slowing down the possible transmission.

Taking into consideration the current situation the GGN Executive Board together with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section and the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Jeju island, on its 78th meeting on 8th of July decided to re-schedule the organisation of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks from **9th to 15th September 2021**.

It was also decided that all the International and Regional Geoparks Conferences and Meetings already scheduled initially for the period 2020-2022, should **be shifted to the period 2021-2023**.

The GGN will organize during 2020 digital events, like the Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks on 16th of July 2020, in order to keep our Network alive and our Geopark colleagues and our local communities safe.

The GGN Executive Board

GEOPARKS CONFERENCES & EVENTS

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

Rescheduled to 9-15 September 2021

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

[Notice of Schedule Delay due to Spread of COVID-19]

As the COVID-19 spread continues around the world, the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is scheduled to open on September

9-15, 2021. The registration and abstract schedule will be announced on the website later.

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.

For more details about the conference, please view the website: https://www.jejuggn2020.org/



WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT

for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks

16 July 2020 at 15:00 GMT

The GGN Executive Board in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section decided the organisation of a live WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT for the 15 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and 1 extension:

- Cliffs of Fundy (Canada)
- Discovery (Canada)
- Xiangxi (China)

- Zhangye (China)
- Lauhanvuori-Haemeenkangas (Finland)
- Toba Caldera (Indonesia)
- Hantangang (Republic of Korea)
- Rio Coco (Nicaragua)
- Djerdap (Serbia)
- Granada (Spain)
- Maestrazgo (Spain)
- Estrela (Portugal)
- Yangan Tau (Russian Federation)
- Kula- Salihli (Turkey) Extension > 10%
- Black Country (UK)
- Dak Nong (Vietnam)

The Event will be organized jointly by UNESCO and the GGN.

The Welcome Digital Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place through the GoToMeeting digital platform: <u>https://www.gotomeet.me/PetrifiedForest/welcome-digital-event</u>

The event will start at 15:00 GMT.

PROGRAMME OF THE EVENT

Technical guidance

1st DIGITAL COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

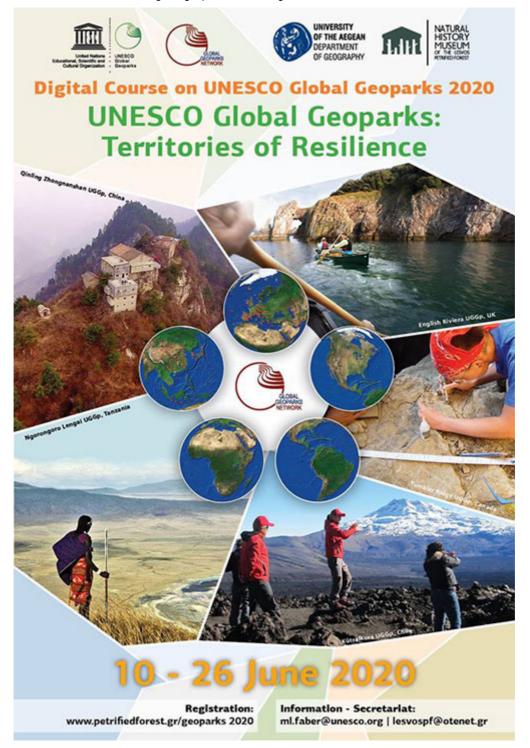
UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS:

Territories of Resilience

June 10th – 26th 2020

COURSE FOLLOW UP Monday 31st August 2020 at 13.00 GMT

The success of the Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 on **"UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience"** led the GGN Executive Board to establish a follow-up event which is scheduled on Monday 31st August 2020 to discuss issues related with the course, to clarify issues and exchange ideas and experiences.



The Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2020 on "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience" was co-organised by UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network and with the collaboration of **28 Geopark** experts all around the world.

The Course was held from 10th to 26th June, 2020 through the digital platform GoToMeeting.

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.

The Course was attended by **133 participants** from **42 different countries**, including Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Zambia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA and Vietnam.

The Intensive Course on Geoparks 2020 focused on UNESCO Global Geoparks as Territories of Resilience.

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, refugees and of course the COVID-19 pandemic. The Global Geopark Network (GGN) launched the new initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of resilience" in 21st April 2020.

The course provided the opportunity to discover how UNESCO Global Geoparks can make a real impact in local communities and on society as a whole during COVID-19 pandemic but also provided conceptual issues on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

During the Course discussed the following main topics:

- UNESCO Global Geoparks
- UNESCO Global Geoparks: Global Network Regional Networks
- Geological heritage
- Cultural heritage management
- Natural heritage management
- UNESCO Global Geoparks Territories of Resilience
- Sustainable Development
- Education
- Geotourism
- Geohazards and Climate change
- Partnership
- Community participation
- Community participation & Indigenous population
- Communication
- How to build a successful geopark (virtual exercise)
- Validation/Revalidation procedures
- UNESCO Global Geoparks and UNESCO Chairs Programme
- VISIONS OF FUTURE

During the Digital Course, the participants attended lectures by internationally renowned scientists and experts from UNESCO and UNESCO Global Geoparks, who presented good practices on UNESCO Global Geoparks as territories of resilience, the procedures of becoming and operating successful Geoparks, the evaluation and revalidation procedure as well as the guide lines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

INVITED LECTURERS

UNESCO

Kristof Vandenberghe

UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geohazards Risk Reduction Section Chief Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)

Dr. Ozlem Adiyaman - Lopes

UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geohazard Risk Reduction Section Programme Specialist on the International Geosciences Programme

Dr. Margarete Patzak

UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geohazard Risk Reduction Section Programme Specialist on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Denise Gorfinkiel

UNESCO Montevideo Office

GEOPARK EXPERTS

Dr. Guy Martini

UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair, GGN General Secretary, EGN Advisory Committee

Prof. Xiaochi Jin

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, China, GGN Vice-President, APGN Coordinator

Prof. Ibrahim Komoo

University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Scientific Advisor, GGN Vice-President, APGN Vice-Coordinator

Dr. Kristin Rangnes

Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark Director, Norway, GGN Treasurer, EGN Coordinator, UGG Council Member

Prof. José Patricio Pereira Melo

University of Cariri, Brazil, Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark Scientific Coordinator, GGN Executive Board member, GEOLAC Coordinator

Prof. Jianping Zhang

China University of Geosciences Beijing, China, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Vice Chair, GGN Executive Board, APGN Advisory Committee

Prof. Setsuya Nakada

University of Tokyo, Japan, GGN Advisory Committee Chair, APGN Vice-Coordinator, Japan Geoparks Committee Chair

Prof. Artur Sá

Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD), Portugal, Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark Scientific Coordinator, UNESCO Chair on Geoparks Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles

Dr. Marie-Luise Frey *Messel Pit WHS, Germany, GGN Executive Board member, EGN Advisory Committee member*

Dr. Maurizio Burlando

Director of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, Italy, GGN Executive Board member

Dr. Chris Woodley Stewart

North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark Director, UK, EGN Advisory Committee member

Ing. Joshua Mwankunda

Ngorongoro-Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark

Dr. Alireza Amrikazemi

Qeshm UNESCO Global Geopark Director, Iran

Dr. Jutta Weber

Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark Director, Germany, GGN WG on Sustainable Development Goals

Oliver Gulas

Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria

Vesa Krokki

Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark Manager, Finland

Dr. Asier Hilario

Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark Scientific Coordinator, Spain, EGN Advisory Committee member, Spanish Geopark Forum Chair

Jose Maria Barrera

Villurcas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, GGN WG on Education

Dr. Charalampos Fassoulas

Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, EGN Vice-Coordinator, Hellenic Geoparks Forum Chair

Martina Paskova

Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark Coordinator, Czechia, National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic Chair, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council member Transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks

Dr. Kirstin Lemon

Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geoparks, Ireland & UK Transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum member UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Raporteur

Melanie Border

English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark Coordinator, UK, GGN Executive Board member, UGG Council member

Prof. Alexandru Andrasanu

University of Bucharest, Romania, Haţeg UNESCO Global Geopark Coordinator

Prof. Manuel Schilling

Kütralkura Geopark Scientific Coordinator , Chile GEOLAC Coordination Committee member

Prof. Jose Luis Palacio

University Autonoma di Mexico – UNAM , Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global

Geopark Scientific Coordinator, Mexico, GEOLAC Coordination Committee member

Sarah Gamble *Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark,Canada, National Committee of Canadian Geoparks*

Kana Furusawa

Vice Secretary General, Japanese Geoparks Network, Japan, GGN Communication Committe, APGN Advisory Committe

Javier Lopez Caballero

Villurcas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain, GGN Communication Committe, EGN Coordiantion Committee

UNIVERSITY of the AEGEAN

Prof. Thanasis Kizos

Department of Geography, University of Aegean, Greece, International Institute on Geoparks Development (IIGEOD)

Dr. Ilias Valiakos

Dep. Director of the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, Greece,

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark

International Institute on Geoparks Development (IIGEOD), University of the Aegean, Greece

Konstantina Bentana

Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest - Education Section Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark,

International Institute on Geoparks Development (IIGEOD), University of the Aegean, Greece

COURSE DIRECTOR:

Prof. Nickolas Zouros

UNESCO Chair on Geoparks and sustainable development of insular and coastal areas

University of the Aegean, Greece, GGN President, UGG Council Member, EGN & APGN Advisory Committee, Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark Coordinator, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest Director

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS INITIATIVES

1st Global Geopark Network Film Festival

NEW Application deadline: 31 May 2021

globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?na=v&nk=806-ddfe12b7a6&id=207



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.

The 1st Film Festival is a unique opportunity to mobilize both Geopark directors and Documentary Directors - filmmakers to collaborate in order to create new documentary and promotional videos on Geoparks.

Each Geopark can present only one video.

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. Each Country hosting UNESCO Global Geoparks will be represented in the YOUTH FORUM with youth delegates engaged with UNESCO Global Geoparks that believe in their power of making changes and aim to become influential within their communities.

The 1st Assembly of the YOUTH FORUM will take place in parallel with the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will take place in Jeju island, Republic of Korea in September 2021.

Participants need to be aged from 18 to 24 years (according to UN/UNESCO Youth designation), showing their engagement with UNESCO Global Geoparks:

- in their respective living/working contexts territories and communities already included in the UNESCO Global Geoparks
- on issues related to Geological Heritage conservation, climate change adaptation, natural disaster mitigation, geo-tourism and sustainable territorial development.

Participants can be Geopark staff, Geopark partners, University researchers, phd candidates, university students or school students with clear engagement through their research or educational activity. Observers may include Youths from Countries hosting aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks.

GGN - National Geopark Fora or Committees are responsible to nominate the representative of each country in the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM and shall cover the expenses for their participation in the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM meetings.

If a country wishes to nominate more representatives for the UNESCO Global Geopark YOUTH FORUM then the youth representatives of a country consist a country team with one vote at the UNESCO Global Geopark YOUTH FORUM meetings.

In case that a country (especially those with one Geopark) has difficulty to cover the expenses of the youth participation in the GGN YOUTH FORUM, can use the grant policy of the Conference or ask for support from GGN.

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

New deadline for application submission: 31 December 2020



United Nations • Educational, Scientific and • Cultural Organization •





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.

If your organization or country is interested in hosting the 2023 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), Osnabrűck 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 December 31, 2020. to: GGN (<u>ggnassociation@hotmail.com</u>) and UNESCO (<u>m.patzak@unesco.org</u>)

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.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earthsciences/unesco-global-geoparks

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS: TERITORIES OF RESELIENCE

GEOPARKS SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

EXAMPLES OF GEOPARK'S GOOD PRACTICES

M'Goun UGGp (Morocco)

As part of the reinforcement of the health measures taken for facing the pandemic of the new Coronavirus, the Geopark M'Goun Association confirmed its presence in the efforts exerted to face the consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic. By contributing to the overall mobilization process, and harnessing their potential to support efforts to combat the epidemic and to reduce its economic, social, and health consequences, by providing 15000 medical masks to the residents of mountainous areas in the Geopark M'Goun territory.

M'Goun UGGp will also organise the "MOROCCO TRAIL RACE 2020". The race will be held from 6th to 8th November 2020 and will be organised five different activities:

- 110km/4120D+
- 80km/3100D+
- 60km/1620D+
- 46km/1490D+
- 25km/1190D+

For more information please visit the link <u>www.moroccoallraces.com</u>.

English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark prepared the "COVID19 Transformation Plan and Community Case Study" as a contribution towards the UGGp Territories of Resilience initiative.

The Geopark Transformation Plan it will provide local people an opportunity to rediscover and enjoy the heritage and natural environment on our own doorstep, whether the coastline, beaches, the rural and urban areas, the caves and heritage highlights across the Geopark, either by getting out and about or from home.

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

Geopark Annual Reports 2019

UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the world worked very hard during 2019 and implement various activities. All these activities are derived from the Geopark's Annual Report's 2019.

GGN congratulates all colleagues for their 2019 activities and communicates their Annual Report's 2019 through the webpage:

http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=4095

For the Geoparks that have not yet sent their Annual Report 2019, please use the template and send it to the GGN Secretariat (<u>ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com</u>).

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

GEOPARK COMMUNICATION TOOLS

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 <<u>tonhel@btinternet.com</u>>

Nikolas Zouros <<u>nzour@aegean.gr</u>>

ARTICLE ON EGN GEOPARKS WEEK 2020

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Geoparks have either reduced activities or cancelled EGN Week 2020.

EGN would be pleased to receive photos, together with figure captions, of activities delivered by Geoparks during this difficult time for inclusion in an article on Geoparks Week in EGN Magazine 18.

Please e-mail photographs with figure captions by **Midnight 31 October 2020** to the following addresses:

Tony Ramsay <tonhel@btinternet.com>

Barnabas Korbely <korbely@geopark.hu>



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