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# GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

51 | December 9, 2020

## NEWS FEED

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Only a few days have been left before the end of the year 2020, a year with many changes in the operation of our Network due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We concentrate our efforts to keep our Network alive through digital meetings and events!

- On 17th and 18th of November 2020 the 1st GGN Digital Forum was organised, a very successful digital event which gave the opportunity to the UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the world to communicate, to get informed and networking. After the success of the 1st GGN Digital Forum, the GGN ExB decided to organize the 2nd GGN Digital Forum, on February 23rd – 24th, 2021!
- On 8th and 9th December the 5th Session of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council will take place digitally for the first time.
- On 11th of December is celebrated the International Mountain Day and all the UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to participate to this important day, to celebrate their mountain rich geodiversity and biodiversity and address the threats they face.

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 find new creative ways to work, to support local communities and collaborate with all the other UNESCO Global Geoparks around the globe!

**The GGN Executive Board**

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## UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

### 5th UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting

**8-9 December 2020**

The 5th session of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council is held on 8 and 9 December 2020. This session will be organized entirely online.

During the 5th session of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council will be discussed issues connected with the evaluation of the differed Geopark applications but also items related to governance, such as the revised IUGS assessment methodology, the self-evaluation file (form A) and the checklist and explanatory note.

For more information, the **Meeting Agenda** and all the relevant documents please visit the [link](#)

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## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

### International Mountain Day 2020

**“Mountain biodiversity”**

**11 December 2020**

**Time to act**



On December 11, the Global Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrate the International Mountain Day. Mountains are some of the most interesting geological features of UNESCO Global Geoparks which create the conditions for a wide spectrum of life forms.

The 2020 theme for International Mountain Day is protecting mountain biodiversity. Half of the world's biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains and mountains support approximately one-quarter of terrestrial biological diversity. Mountains are also home to 15% of the world's population and they provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. But today, we tend to forget that the mountains are important territories of biodiversity and life. Mountains are today under threat from climate change and overexploitation.

As UN mention to its message “Climate change, unsustainable farming practices, commercial mining, logging, and poaching all exact a heavy toll on mountain biodiversity. In addition, land use and land cover change, and natural disasters, accelerate biodiversity loss and contribute to creating a fragile environment for mountain communities. Ecosystem degradation, loss of livelihoods and migration in mountains can lead to the abandonment of cultural practices and ancient traditions that have sustained biodiversity for generations”.

According to UN reports, 12% of the world's birds and 10% of the Earth's plants and animals are threatened with extinction due to human activities and habitat



degradation. Scientists warn that by 2050, a third of the world's fauna will be extinct due to climate change.

We are already seeing them happening around us... COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, overheating, disasters, species extinction, etc.

Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO Earth Science and Geohazard Risk Reduction Section encourage all Geopark management bodies, partners and stakeholders to join the campaign and celebrate their rich biodiversity but also address the threats the mountains face in UNESCO Global Geoparks.

COVID-19 pandemic reminds us that, now more than ever, we need to work together to address the challenges our mountainous areas and our biodiversity face. Celebrate this International Mountain Day 2020 with your community by preparing an event or a poem or join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #MountainsMatter.

Please send your good practice examples, photos, videos, poems at [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com) and continue to collaborate, to exchange, to inspire colleagues and communities around the globe!



The poster features a central diamond-shaped mosaic of mountain landscapes from various UNESCO Global Geoparks. The mosaic is composed of smaller diamond tiles in shades of green, orange, blue, and black. The mountains shown include:

- Utsunomiya Volcanic Area (Japan)
- Kamashiro / Karawake (Japan)
- Agungoro Lengua (Tanzania)
- Mount Kailash (China)
- Panathos (Greece)
- Volcans de Antioquia (Colombia)

At the top, a green banner reads "UNESCO Global Geoparks" in white, and "MOUNTAIN DAY" is written in large blue letters below it. In the top left corner is the "11 DECEMBER International MOUNTAIN DAY" logo. In the top right are the logos for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UNESCO Global Geoparks. At the bottom left, the date "Friday 11 December 2020" is displayed in white, with the website [globalgeoparksnetwork.org](http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org) below it. In the bottom right corner is the "GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK" logo.

# GEOPARKS CONFERENCES & EVENTS

## 1st GGN DIGITAL FORUM

Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th November 2020



The 1st GGN DIGITAL FORUM, a global initiative with the aim of exchanging of information and ideas regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks activities and initiatives, was successfully organized on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th November 2020. The coronavirus pandemic caused the postponement of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks but the Network managed to found different ways of continuing communication and networking and managed to organise a very large event with participants worldwide.

The large number of speakers and participants, as well as the great number of UNESCO Global Geoparks that attended the Forum, show that the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network is one of the most active Networks throughout the pandemic, which managed with great success to implement and support a variety of actions and events for the benefit of the local community but also managed successfully to communicate and exchange knowledge and good practices.

The first day of the Forum was open only by the members of the Network and was attended by 242 participants and 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 41 countries all around the world. During the first day was discussed all the internal issues related with the GGN. The event opened with the welcome speeches and greetings by Nickolas Zouros, Global Geoparks Network President, Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Science and Geohazard Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and Guy Martini, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair.

Nickolas Zouros and Guy Martini presented the report on GGN Activities for the period September 2018 – November 2020 with emphasis on the activities

during the period of COVID-19 pandemic and the Geopark's initiatives as 'Territories of Resilience'

During the third session connected with the GGN Operation discussed the results of the 6th Annual General Assembly for Accounts and presented the activities of the GGN Regional Geopark Networks by Jin Xiaochi (APGN), Kristin Rangnes (EGN), Patricio Melo (GEOLAC), John Calder (Canada) and Africa by Driss Achbal (M'Goun UGGp) and Joshua Mwankunda (Ngorongoro UGGp).

The first day closed with the presentation of all the latest information concerning the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held in September 2021 in Jeju island which was given by Yongmun Jeon, representative of the Organising Committee of the Conference.

On the second day of the Forum, the requests for participation in the event exceeded the ability of the digital platform to host such a large number of participants. The session was open to GGN Members and also to UNESCO National Commission Representatives. The second session was attended by the 279 participants and 120 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 50 countries all around the world.

During the 2nd session of the GGN Digital Forum on 18th November discussed issues related to UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme. The event started with greetings by the UNESCO and the introductory presentation "UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme - Activity report and Geopark Field Missions 2020-21" given by Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Science and Geohazard Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme.

Guy Martini, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair presented the new Check List Document and Explanatory Note and Nickolas Zouros, GGN President presented the new Evaluation Document A – Geopark Quality Assessment. Ozlem Adiyaman, UNESCO, IGCP Secretariat presented the IGCP Programme and Geoheritage related activities at UNESCO.

Both of the two sessions closed with very interesting questions by the participants and discussion.

Due to the interest of the participants, during the 84th GGN Executive Board meeting was decided the organisation of the 2nd GGN Digital Forum which will be held on 23rd and 24th February 2021 at 12:00 – 14:00.

## **Webinar for Africa and the Arab States**

### **The UNESCO Global Geopark concept**

Friday 11th & Monday 14th December 2020

Two webinars focusing on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States will be organised on Friday 11th and Monday 14th December 2020. The webinar on Friday 11th will be hosted by Tanzania and the Ngorongoro-Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark and will focus on Eastern and Southern Africa and Arab countries. The second session will be hosted by Morocco and the M'Goun



UNESCO Global Geopark and will focus on Eastern and Southern Africa and Arab countries.

The objective of the webinars is to show the importance of geoheritage for sustainable development and to enable governments to support emerging geoheritage initiatives.

For more information and registration please visit the following links:

- [Webinar hosted by Tanzania. Friday the 11th of December 2020.](#) English
- [Webinar hosted by Morocco. Monday the 14th of December 2020.](#) French and Arabic Interpretation

For more information please contact:

[Margarete Patzak](#) / [Charlotte Besombes](#)

## 6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development

7-12 December 2020

Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, Shandong Province, China



### 第六届联合国教科文组织世界地质公园管理和发 展国际培训班 The 6<sup>th</sup> International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development

支 持 者: 联合国教科文组织世界地质公园秘书处  
世界地质公园网络  
亚太地质公园网络  
国家林业和草原局自然保护地管理司  
中国联合国教科文组织全国委员会秘书处  
主 办 方: 中国地质大学 (北京)  
沂蒙山联合国教科文组织世界地质公园  
中国地质科学院国家地质公园网络中心办公室  
技术支持: 希腊爱琴大学

Supporters:  
UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat  
Global Geoparks Network (GGN)  
Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)  
Department of Protected Area Management, National Forestry and Grassland Administration  
Secretariat of Chinese Commission for UNESCO  
Organizers:  
China University of Geosciences, Beijing  
Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark  
Office of Chinese Geoparks Network, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences  
with the contribution of University of the Aegean, Greece

2020年12月7-12日  
07-12 December 2020

The 6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development is held from **7 to 12 December 2020**. The Course is organised by the China University of Geosciences, the Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, the Office of Chinese Geoparks Network, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences with the contribution of the Aegean University, Greece with the support of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), the Department of Protected Area Management, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China and the Secretariat of Chinese Commission for UNESCO.

Prof. ZHANG Jianping, China University of Geosciences, Beijing and Prof. JIN Xiaochi, Institute of Geology, CAGS are the Coordinators of the 6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development.

Please find the programme of the 6th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development [here](#).

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## REGIONAL GEOPARKS NETWORKS

### Spanish Geoparks Fora

#### New coordination board

The Global Geoparks Network congratulates all the members of the new coordination board of the Spanish Geoparks Fora which elected during its last meeting.

The following members have been unanimously elected for a period of 2 years.

Coordinator: José María Barrera (Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UGGp)

Vice-coordinator: Karmah Salman (Las Loras UGGp)

Secretary: Antonio García (Sierras Subbéticas UGGp)

### National Fora/Committee Annual Reports 2019

[Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee](#) [pdf]

[UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks](#) [pdf]

The GGN Executive Board congratulates the **Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee, UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks** for their activities and strongly encourages all the colleagues from the National Fora/Committee to share their experiences and their good practices during 2019 by sending their Annual Reports 2019.

Please send your National Fora/Committee Annual Reports 2019 to the [ggnassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com).

**YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED**

## GEOPARKS ACTIVITIES

### EXAMPLES OF GEOPARK'S GOOD PRACTICES



## English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark (UK)

### Video series to unravel the facts behind its UNESCO designation

The English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark has launched a series of video-interviews with world leading scientists and experts to unravel the facts behind Torbay's UNESCO designation.

Over seven episodes Professor Iain Stewart MBE engages in relaxed discussions with fascinating people, each with a different insight into why this coastal area of England is so unique.

Throughout the series viewers will find out what the local rocks reveal about Earth's history and climate change, evidence of early human cultures, and how the landscape and communities of Torbay have influenced writers and artists.

One new episode will be released each week, starting with 'Fossils and Deep Time', followed by Caves, Early Humans, Today's Inspiration, Sea Level and Climate Change, Writers of the English Riviera and Marine Life of the Bay. Each episode will give people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to experience Devon's only UNESCO Global Geopark.

For more information, head to <http://www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk> or follow @RivieraGeopark on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The series will be available to view via the [English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark YouTube channel](#).

[Geopark In Focus Case Study](#) [pdf]

[Geopark In Focus Briefing](#) [pdf]

## Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal)

### 1st Meeting of the Science and Education Network for Sustainability of the Estrela Geopark: "Estrela UGGp, a territory of Science for All"

**2 November 2020**

The webinar "1st Meeting of the Science and Education Network for Sustainability of the Estrela UGGp: Estrela Geopark, a territory of Science for All", was held on November 2nd 2020, where the scope, projects and initiatives that are being developed for the sustainable development of the territory of Estrela, in Portugal, were presented.

In order to demonstrate the importance of science for the communities of the Estrela UGGp, Kristof Vandenberghe (UNESCO International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme Secretary) was invited as a guest speaker, holding a lecture on "The Importance of Science in UNESCO Global Geoparks"

Please read the report of Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark [here](#).

**encontros da**

**RCES**

REDE DE CIÊNCIA E EDUCAÇÃO  
PARA A SUSTENTABILIDADE DO  
GEOPARK ESTRELA

**2 de novembro 2020**  
**15h às 17h**  
Plataforma Zoom

*Estrela Geopark Mundial da UNESCO,  
um território de Ciência para Todos*

**Abertura do Webinar - Boas-Vindas** | Gonçalves Vieira e Emanuel de Castro, Coordenadores Científico e Executivo do Estrela UGGp

**The Importance of Science in UNESCO Global Geoparks** | Kristof Vandenberghe, Secretário do Programa Internacional de Geociências e Geoparks da UNESCO

**Mesa Redonda - A rede de Ciência e Educação para a Sustentabilidade do Estrela Geopark, um Ano de Trabalho** | Moderador - Gonçalves Vieira, Coordenador Científico do Estrela UGGp, IGOT - Universidade de Lisboa

- **Núcleo de Ciência e Educação em Território, Clima e Alterações Climáticas.**  
Carla Mora, IGOT - Universidade de Lisboa.
- **Núcleo de Ciência e Educação em Território, Recursos Hídricos.**  
Luís Ferreira Gomes, UBI - Universidade da Beira Interior.
- **Núcleo de Ciência e Educação em Território, Biodiversidade e Ecologia de Montanha.**  
Susana Rodríguez-Echeverría, UC - Universidade de Coimbra.
- **Núcleo de Ciência e Educação em Território, Turismo e Sustentabilidade.**  
Gonçalo Poeta Fernandes, IPG - Instituto Politécnico da Guarda.
- **Núcleo de Ciência e Educação em Território, Geodiversidade e Geoconservação.**  
Artur Sá, UTAD - Universidade de Trás-os-Montes  
Elizabeth Silva, UNL - Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

**International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme – IGPP**  
**Secretariat**

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**NATURAL SCIENCES**



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