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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

53 | March 8, 2021

NEWS FEED

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This month the 53rd issue of the GGN News Feed, the monthly digital information bulletin of the Global Geoparks Network brings you many interesting news.

We announce our participation in the **ITB Berlin 2021**. Despite the restriction of the pandemic, ITB Berlin 2021 will be organised digitally from 9-12 March 2021 in one place: at ITB Berlin NOW. The GGN participates at the biggest tourism event worldwide aiming to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.

On Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th of February 2021 a very fruitful **2nd GGN Digital Forum** took place. With the 1st session on Tuesday 23rd focused on GGN issues and the 2nd session on Wednesday 24th focused on issues related with the vision of the UNESCO Global Geoparks after the global pandemic, in the "World after". UNESCO Global Geoparks had the opportunity to communicate, exchange ideas and networking.

The **WELCOME GUIDE FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS**, is also available through the GGN website,. This is a new publication with useful information aiming to help the new UNESCO Global Geoparks to navigate as institutional member of the Global Geoparks Network. How to start as Institutional member of the Global Geoparks Network and how to continue and stay informed and connected.

The GGN supports the establishment of the **International Geodiversity Day**. This new initiative will be discussed at the next session of the UNESCO Executive Board.

This issue also includes, amongst others, the call for the 1st GGN Film Festival, the 1st Youth Forum, the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and annual reporting.

We would also like to invite all the GGN members and especially your youths to share with all the others GGN members your inspirational dreams for the future in order to provide hope to all our local communities by participating to the GGN initiative.

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

The GGN Executive Board

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

The Global Geoparks Network in ITB Berlin 2021

9-12 March 2021



The GGN Executive Board, decided to participate in ITB Berlin 2021 the at the biggest tourism event worldwide aiming to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.

Main propose for this decision was the need the UNESCO Global Geoparks to stay connected with the tourism markets during the pandemic, to prepare the Network for the day after pandemic.

ITB Berlin 2021 will hold its annual international travel trade show as an entirely virtual event under the name **ITB Berlin NOW**, the Digital Meet-up for the Travel Industry during March 9-12, 2021.

The Global Geoparks Network Working Group on Tourism worked to organize the participation in this big tourism event.

FREE REGISTRATION TO GGN Virtual Space (GGN Brand Card) in ITB 2021

During **ITB Berlin NOW** will have a digital space in which you can access by using your Guest **Ticket voucher: ITBNOW-LZL7YNSGQQ8MK8CS**

With this voucher, which you can use an unlimited number of times, GGN members and aspiring Geoparks as well as Tourism and Travel agencies and look at the **GGN Brand Card**.

If this voucher is redeemed in the [ticket shop](#), the user gets direct access to the GGN Brand Card and your event activities such as an exhibitor presentation or press conference. You can find more information about your Guest Ticket [here](#).

Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction invite all UNESCO Global Geoparks staff, local authorities, tourism market representatives to interact with the GGN Digital Space during the **ITB from 9th to 12th March 2021**.

You can get contact with the GGN at 12.00 GMT every day and you will be invited to participate in live events. **You can find the detailed info on the events at the GGN webpage.**

ITB 2021 will be a unique opportunity for all GGN members around the world to participate in such an event.

2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM

Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th February 2021



The poster features a dark red background with a white horizontal band across the middle. On the left side, there are five circular images of the Earth, each showing a different continent (Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Africa). The text '2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM' is prominently displayed in the center, with '2nd' in blue, 'GGN' in white, and 'DIGITAL FORUM' in white. Below this, the dates '23-24 FEBRUARY 2021' and the time '12:00 - 14:00 GMT' are written in white. In the top right corner, the UNESCO logo and the text 'United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization' are visible, along with the UNESCO Global Geoparks logo. In the bottom right corner, the Global Geoparks Network logo is shown, featuring a stylized globe and the text 'GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK'.

The 2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM, a global initiative with the aim of exchanging of information, ideas and best practices regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks activities and initiatives, was successfully organized on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th February 2021. During the forum was given 37 presentations by GGN members all around the globe.

During the first day of the forum which was open only to the members of the Network 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 Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and Guy Martini, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Chair.

Kristof Vandenberghe presented the latest news on the UNESCO Global Geoparks programme.

Nickolas Zouros and Guy Martini presented the report on GGN Activities for the period since the 1st GGN Digital Forum and call all the GGN members to participate in the future common activities of the Network like the initiative "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of Resilience", the 1st Film Festival, the 1st Youth Forum, the celebration of International Days.

Kristin Rangnes, GGN Treasurer reported on the 2020 financial accounts and the 2021 GGN budget but also the situation with the GGN annual Membership Fees.

During the next session presented the activities of the GGN Regional Geoparks Networks by Jin Xiaochi (APGN), Kristin Rangnes (EGN), Patricio Melo (GeoLAC), John Calder (Canada) and Africa by Driss Achbal (M'Goun UGGp) and Rama Khatibu (Ngorongoro UGGp).

Yongmun Jeon, representative of the Organising Committee of the Conference informed the participants about the latest news concerning the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and presented their three plans according to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first day closed with the presentation of latest activities of the seven very active GGN Working Groups. Babbis Fassoulas presented the activities of the GGN Working Group on Geo-Hazards, Setsuya Nakada of the GGN Working Group on Volcanic Areas, Ibrahim Komoo of the Working Group on Geological Heritage Assessment, Marie - Luise Frey of the Working group on Tourism, Jose Maria Barrera of the GGN Working group on Education, Xiaochi Jin of the Working group on Sustainable Development Goals and Kazuhiro Nobe of the GGN Working group on Island Geoparks.

The second day, the Forum was dedicated to the vision and the priorities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks for the future in the "World after" and was open to GGN Members, the aspiring Geoparks and to UNESCO National Commission Representatives.

The forum started with a warm welcome of the participants by Nickolas Zouros.

The next session was dedicated to the new UNESCO and GGN initiative "Geoparks for Africa" and presented by Guy Martini and Kristof Vandenberghe.

The presentation on UNESCO Global Geoparks in "The World After" & the vision for the future was given by Guy Martini and Nickolas Zouros discussed the main component of his proposal on the Climate Change roadmap.

During the next session of the 2nd GGN Digital Forum presented the best practices by 17 UNESCO Global Geoparks on the following specific topics of the "World after":

- Water Resources (Vesa Krökki - Rokua UGGp, Tran Tan Van - Dong Van Karst Plateau UGGp)
- Marine Environment (Rosana Mega Gatimah - Cilethu-Palabuhanratu UGGp, Alireza Almicazem - Qeshm Island UGGp)
- Sustainable Tourism/Sustainable Development (Carlos Merizalde - Imbabura UGGp, Li Yunquian - Yanqing UGGp, Carol Glesson - Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGGp, Narongrit Thongprue & Nattinee Sripeth - Satun UGGp)
- Visibility (Pal Thomae - Magma UGGp, Melanie Border - English Riviera UGGp)
- Indigenous populations (Rama Khatibu - Ngorongoro-Lengai UGGp, Jose Luis Palacio - Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UGGp, Nire Kagaya - Toya-Usu UGGp, John Calder - Cliffs of Fundy UGGp)
- Climate Change (Chris Woodley Stewart - North Pennines UGGp, Candelaria Sánchez - El Hierro UGGp, Driss Achbal - M'Goun UGGp)

Due to the interest of the participants during the 2nd GGN Digital Forum, the Executive Board on its last meeting decided the organisation of the 3rd GGN Digital Forum, a welcome event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks. More information about the event will be announced at the next edition of the Newsfeed.

On the GGN website have been uploaded the presentation of the 2nd GGN Digital Forum that their presenters have agreed to publish them.

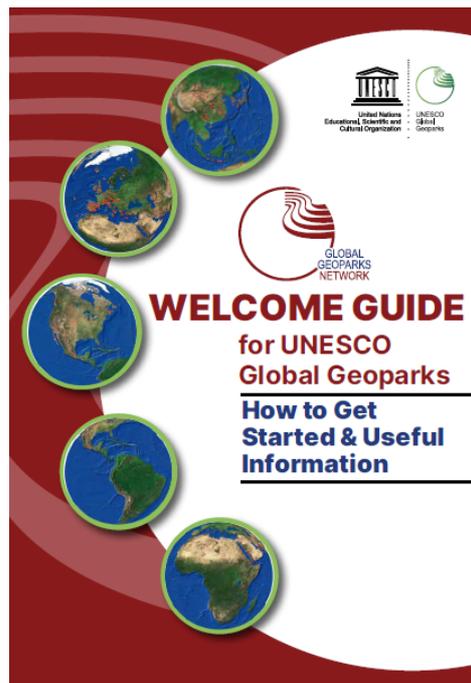
You can watch the video for the UNESCO Geoparks in the "World after" [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8LHeUtsJ1g) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8LHeUtsJ1g>

["UNESCO Global Geoparks in the "World after": a multiple-goals roadmap proposal for future discussion" publication in Episodes \[pdf\]](#)



WELCOME GUIDE FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

A new GGN publication



Starting 2021 with new energy, the Global Geoparks Network presents its new publication a WELCOME GUIDE for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks. The

guidebook is aimed primarily at new UNESCO Global Geoparks, but is being circulated to all GGN Institutional members for information.

This guidebook has been designed to guide the new Geoparks through the initial steps that they will need to make as a new GGN Institutional member and to familiarize themselves with the administrative issues of the GGN.

This guide will be tested during this year in order to find issues that we need to be improved. Our main target is always to help all UNESCO Global Geoparks to find an easy way to start and continue as GGN Institutional members. Please read this guide, ask all your employs to use it and send us all your comments and suggestions on how to improve it.

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

INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY DAY

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board express the support to the proposal for an **International Geodiversity Day** following the support of a variety of institutions and colleagues from around the world.

The proposal for the establishment of an **International Geodiversity Day** is now officially on the agenda for the next UNESCO Executive Board Meeting!

UNESCO Member States supporting the proposal include: Brazil, Colombia, Croatia, Italy, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

You can find the proposal here:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375688>

The proposal will now go forward to a vote at the 211th session of the Executive Board, which will take place between 7-21 April.

All being well, the final decision will then be made at the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2021, with the first International Geodiversity Day being on 6 October 2022.

There is still time for more countries to show their support, so do continue to lobby your country's UNESCO Permanent Delegation.

Member States wishing to add their name to the proposal should contact the Portuguese Delegation.

Thank you once again for all your help and support towards this worthy endeavour.

Over the coming weeks we will be in touch with more news on the upcoming vote on the International Geodiversity Day project.

[**THE GGN Letter of support to the International Geodiversity Day \[pdf\]**](#)

GGN INITIATIVE

Our thoughts and vision for the future



New initiative



UNESCO Global Geoparks:

Our thoughts and vision

for the FUTURE



**Share your positive stories,
your dreams and thoughts
for the future** globalgeoparksnetwork.org

GGN Executive Board in close collaboration with UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat during the first GGN Executive Board meeting for the year 2021 discussed the situation and in relation with the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 pandemic will not be over during the next months as many countries around the world are facing a really difficult period.

This is the time for good news and positive stories.

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks despite the pandemic are continuously working and producing various positive stories. We can promote these Geopark stories and news through our communication platforms and tools, to encourage our colleagues around the Globe and inspire our communities to overpass the crisis!

The GGN Executive Board and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat encourages all UNESCO Global Geoparks to pull together their favorite videos, poems, inspirational quotes with their dreams for the future in order to provide hope to all other UNESCO Global Geoparks members and their local people during this time.

Youths are the future of the Geopark. Contact and communicate with them and ask them to describe their illusion for the future.

We hope while reading these messages of hope, take some time to quietly reflect on these images or words as well as the emotions they bring out in all of us and our local communities.

We are looking forward to your stories and news!

GEPARK 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.

All Geoparks are invited to use the [Geopark Annual Report 2020 template \[doc\]](#).

Annual Reports 2020 will be communicated through the GGN webpage:

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

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

REGIONAL GEOPARKS NETWORKS

European Geoparks Network (EGN)

3rd EGN Digital Forum

Tuesday, 26 January 2021



On January 26th, 2021 the European Geoparks Network (EGN) organised the 3rd EGN Digital Forum. The forum was organised by the European Geoparks Network in collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network and was attended Geoparks all around Europe but also observers from the African Geoparks and the Canadian Geoparks Network.

Purposes of the meeting was networking, sharing good practices and experiences in relation to the EGN ongoing activities but also on climate change.

At the first part of the forum were presented best practices of the European Geoparks and the second half of the forum was dedicated on climate change. European Geoparks but also invited specialists present good examples on this specific theme.

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

[Summary of the 3rd EGN Digital Forum \[pdf\]](#)



EGN Newsletter

Issue 18

EGN published and shared the EGN Newsletter 2021 - ISSUE 18 showing the activities of the European Geoparks are carrying out. The new this issue is dedicated to "UNESCO Global Geoparks for the future: creating awareness and perspectives for sustainability in local communities" and is presenting of many good practices of the European UNESCO Global Geoparks. Editors of the issue were Jutta Weber and Antonio Duarte and the editing was by Tony Ramsay.

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

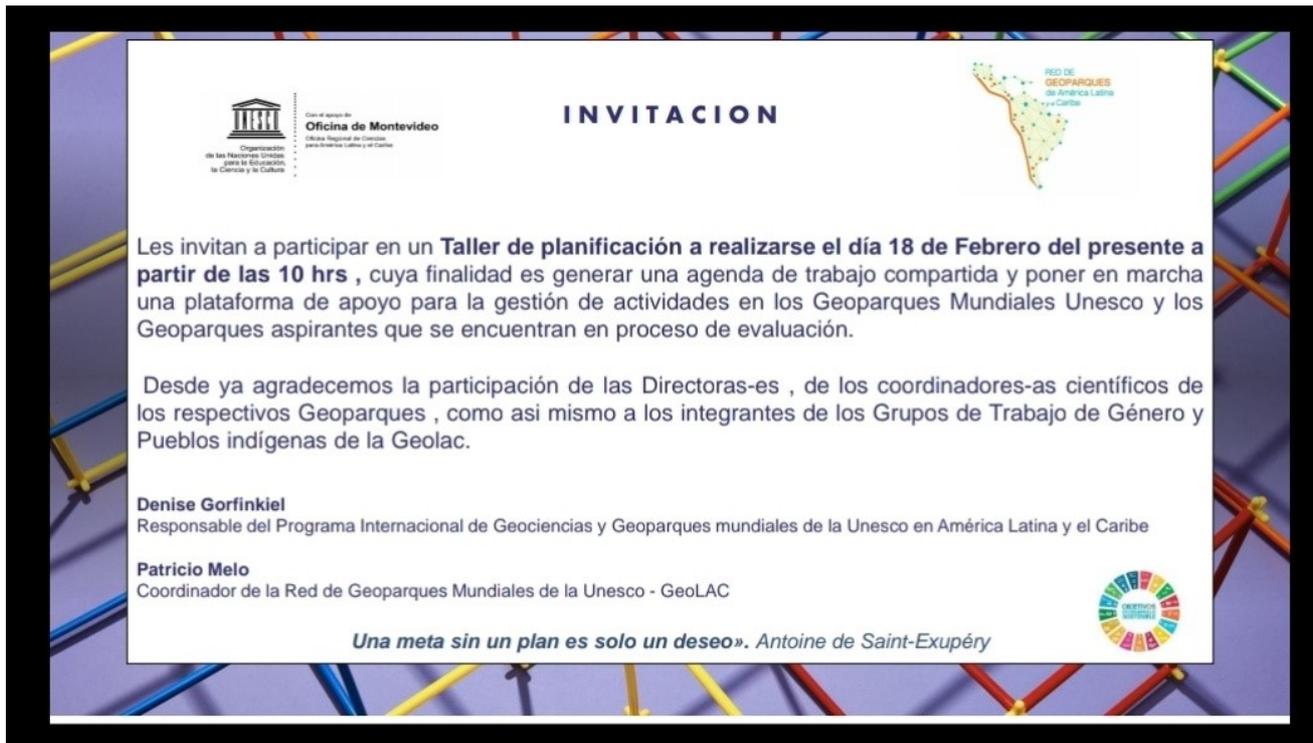
Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeoLAC)

GeoLAC Digital Forum

Friday, 18 February 2021

On 18th of February, 2021 the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeoLAC) organised a digital meeting where was discussed the GeoLAC plan of

actions for the year 2021. During the meeting also participated the UNESCO Office, Montevideo.



INVITACION

Les invitan a participar en un **Taller de planificación a realizarse el día 18 de Febrero del presente a partir de las 10 hrs**, cuya finalidad es generar una agenda de trabajo compartida y poner en marcha una plataforma de apoyo para la gestión de actividades en los Geoparques Mundiales Unesco y los Geoparques aspirantes que se encuentran en proceso de evaluación.

Desde ya agradecemos la participación de las Directoras-es, de los coordinadores-as científicos de los respectivos Geoparques, como así mismo a los integrantes de los Grupos de Trabajo de Género y Pueblos indígenas de la Geolac.

Denise Gorfinkiel
Responsable del Programa Internacional de Geociencias y Geoparques mundiales de la Unesco en América Latina y el Caribe

Patricio Melo
Coordinador de la Red de Geoparques Mundiales de la Unesco - GeoLAC

Una meta sin un plan es solo un deseo». Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



Programa Taller de Planificación 2021

10,00 Saludos de inicio Jornada

10,20 Presentación Programa y participantes

11,00 Lineamientos estratégicos Geolac y grupos de trabajo (Género y Pueblos Indígenas)

11,45 Instrumentos de apoyo para la Planificación de Geoparques y Geolac

12,30 Plenaria: Agenda Compartida 2021

13,00 Año Internacional de la Economía Creativa para el Desarrollo Sostenible

13,30 Cierre, conclusiones, Acuerdos

Geoparques Mundiales Unesco: Territorios de Resiliencia

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

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

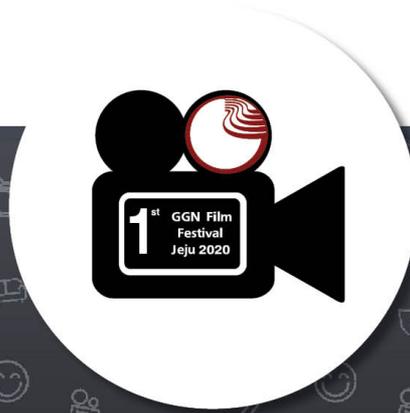


9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks



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.

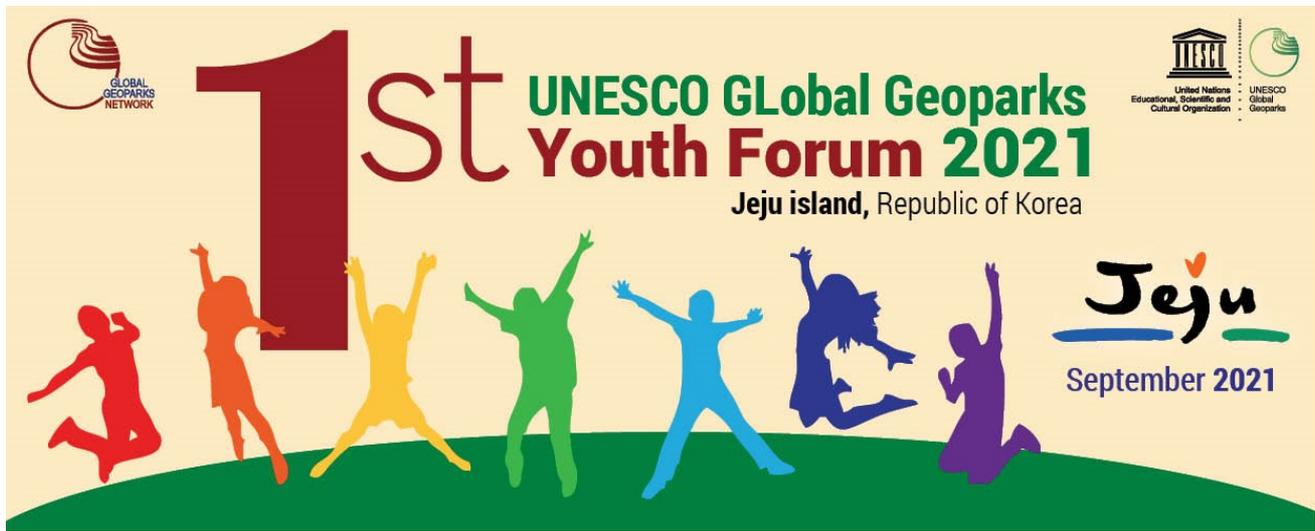
After the postponement of the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark the deadline for new applications is **31st of May 2021**.

For more information please visit the website:

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

1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

**New deadline for nomination of the Youth Representatives:
30 April 2021**



UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum is an initiative with main purpose to offer young people the opportunity to engage more concretely in the preparation of the philosophy mandate and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. All Youths will foster their commitment to the realization of the future they want and will be 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 to address heritage protection, natural hazards mitigation, climate change and sustainable development.

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

For the welcoming of the Youth representatives will be organised a welcome digital event before the organisation of the 1st UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum and all Youths will be invited to start to work together with UNESCO Global Geoparks for preparing our common future.

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

The new deadline for nomination of a Youth Representative is the April 30th, 2021.

EXAMPLES OF GEOPARK'S ACTIVITIES

Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal)

Round Table Webinar

"Citizen Science in Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks"

On the 21st of January of 2021, the Estrela UGGp promoted a Round Table Webinar, in partnership with the Open Science Platform of the Municipality of

Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo and with the participation of the Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks, Aspirant Geoparks and the UNESCO National Commission. The importance of Citizen Science initiatives and the involvement of the public and local communities in scientific research in Geoparks in Portugal were discussed in this webinar. The webinar was also open to the general public (teachers, local communities, and curious citizens), with more than 80 participants present.

[Report of the Round Table Webinar "Citizen Science in Portuguese UNESCO Global Geoparks" \[pdf\]](#)

Ciência Cidadã em Geoparks Mundiais da UNESCO
WEBINÁRIO MESA REDONDA



21_JAN_2021 Plataforma Zoom **17h30**

Moderadora: Maria Vicente (Plataforma de Ciência Aberta - Município de Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo)

Participantes:

- Geoparques Mundiais da UNESCO e Geoparques Aspirantes
- Comissão Nacional da UNESCO





A Ciência Cidadã envolve, de forma ativa, o público em investigação científica, o que gera novo conhecimento e compreensão, tendo por isso o potencial para aproximar a ciência, os decisores políticos e a sociedade como um todo, de forma impactante.

M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco)

Discovering Dinosaurs in the garden and museum of AESVT DEMNATE, in M'Goun Geopark

Arriving in the museum within the environmental education center of Demnate, a geopartner of the Geoparc M'Goun association, the students are greeted by sauropod dinosaur skeletons.

Barely recovered from these emotions, they embarked on a step back in time in the middle of the jungle of the past, to discover the traces and models of theropods and sauropods that lived in the territory of the M'goun geopark, the center Interpretation and Geo-education organizes scientific, cultural and educational activities for the benefit of pupils, students and tourists.



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