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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The GGN Executive Board warmly congratulates the 8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and welcomes them to the UNESCO Global Geoparks family. For welcoming the new UNESCO Global Geoparks a WELCONE DIGITAL EVENT organised by UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network on the occasion of the International Mother Earth Day on April 22nd. The event attended by more than 1.000 participants.

Despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic is still seriously affecting our societies, our economic and social life, the Global Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section are launching a diverse online program with events, capacity building activities and initiatives in the coming months.

On the 18th of May we celebrate the International Museum Day 2021 and the GGN Executive Board encourages our colleagues in all UNESCO Global Geoparks to participate and organise activities in their Geopark's Museums.

In this NEWSFEED you can also find important news and announcements about the digital events and initiatives that will be organised during the next months:

- The important initiative "UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM".
- The second Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- The 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021.

The GGN Executive Board is also strongly encouraging all colleagues to share their activities about the celebration of the International Museum Day 2021. All these good practices of the Geoparks to support the local communities will be communicated around the Network.

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

The GGN Executive Board

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

7TH GGN ANNUAL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ACCOUNTS

15 May 2021, at 12:00 GMT

Dear members of the Global Geoparks Network,

Following the article 10 of the Global Geopark Network Statutes all members of the Association are invited to participate in the 6th GGN Annual General Assembly for Accounts, which will take place digitally, via written statements on May 15th, 2021.

This General Assembly will deal with the 2020 GGN Accounts and the 2021 GGN Annual Budget.

- [GGN 2021 Annual General Assembly for Accounts AGENDA](#) [pdf]
- [GGN 2020 Accounts](#) [pdf]
- [GGN 2021 Budget](#) [pdf]
- [Geoparks Reply Model](#) [doc]
- [Individual Member reply model](#) [doc]

The GGN 2020 Accounts

The income of 2020 was **233.505 €**

the expenditure for 2020 was **198.461 €**

The **Annual GGN General Assembly for Accounts** can be made by written statements sent by the GGN members in good standing by e-mail to the Executive Board within one month after receiving the Report on the accounts.

Written statements should reach the GGN Executive

Board at [ggnassociation\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:ggnassociation@hotmail.com) and [ggnsecretariat\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:ggnsecretariat@hotmail.com) till May 15th, 2021 the latest!

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

The GGN Executive Board

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS
celebrate
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2021
“The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine”
18 May 2021



The year 2020 has been like no other for the world and thus also for Geoparks.

The COVID-19 crisis has swept the whole world abruptly, affecting every aspect of our lives, from the interactions with our loved ones, to the way we perceive our homes and cities, to our work and its organisation.

Museums are no exception to these changes, and the cultural sector is among the most affected. ICOM and other international organisations detect a dire situation for museums and their professionals, with serious economic, social and psychological repercussions in the short and long term alike. But this crisis also served as a catalyst for crucial innovations.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are the main interpretation and exhibition space in UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are using a variety of communication tools to communicate their message to the society at large and especially to youth and students.

Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers are an inherent part of their local communities, their cultural landscape and their natural environment.

Thanks to technology, Geopark Museums and Visitors Centers can now reach way beyond their core audience and find new publics when approaching their collections as well as Geopark's landform and landscape interpretation in a different way: it can be the digitalisation of their collections, adding multimedia elements to the exhibition, using augmented reality or something as simple as a hashtag that allows visitors to share their experience in social media.

This is a pivotal moment for our society, and we call our UNESCO Global Geoparks and their Museums and Visitor Centres to embrace it and lead the change.

The time is now to rethink our relationship with the communities we serve, to experiment with new and hybrid models of cultural fruition and to strongly reaffirm the essential value of our UNESCO Global Geoparks and their Museums and Visitor Centres for the construction of a just and sustainable future. We must advocate for the creative potential of culture as a driver for recovery and innovation in the post-COVID era.

To engage the Geopark communities and Geopark visitors and strengthen their connections with them, UNESCO Global Geopark Museums and Visitor centers must find new ways of interpreting and presenting their collections and their territorial heritage.

The Global Geoparks Network participates and supports the International Museum day and invites all UNESCO Global Geoparks and their Geopark museums around the world to join in this celebration.

With the theme "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine", International Museum Day 2021 invites UNESCO Global Geoparks, through their Geopark Museums and Visitor Centers, to create, imagine and share new practices of (co-)creation of value, new business models for cultural institutions and innovative solutions for the social, economic and environmental challenges of the present.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

WELCOME DIGITAL EVENT FOR THE NEW UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

22 April 2021



UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the globe celebrated the International Mother Earth Day and organised on April 22nd a digital Welcome Event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Mother Earth Day unites millions of people who demand action to protect our home planet. As the climate crisis becomes more and more intense, every year Earth Day becomes even more important. UNESCO Global Geoparks every year celebrate this day and ask their local people and their visitors to join forces for the preservation of our Earth heritage.

This year all UNESCO Global Geoparks during that day welcomed the new members of the Network and a very big digital Welcome Event with more than 1.000 participants and 7.000 YouTube viewers was organised by the Global Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction Section.

The new Geoparks strengthen the joint effort in the direction of protection and promotion of the geological, natural and cultural heritage. Through their participation in the Global Network, Geoparks have the opportunity to collaborate on projects and programs and adopt best practices in the direction of sustainable development.

The Welcome event was successfully organised on April 22, 2021 with the participation of the representatives of the eight new UNESCO Global Geoparks and their local authorities, stakeholders and local people, the Permanent Delegations at UNESCO of the respective Member States, the National UNESCO Commissions of the respective Member States and the 161 UNESCO Global Geoparks representatives from 44 countries around the globe.

The new UNESCO Global Geoparks that were welcomed during the event are:

- Vestjylland, DENMARK

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

At the beginning of the Welocme event, greetings were addressed by:

Miguel Clüsener-God, Director of Ecology and Geosciences of UNESCO, Dr. **Guy Martini**, President of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and the Greek Ambassador to UNESCO Mrs. **Maria Diamantopoulou**.

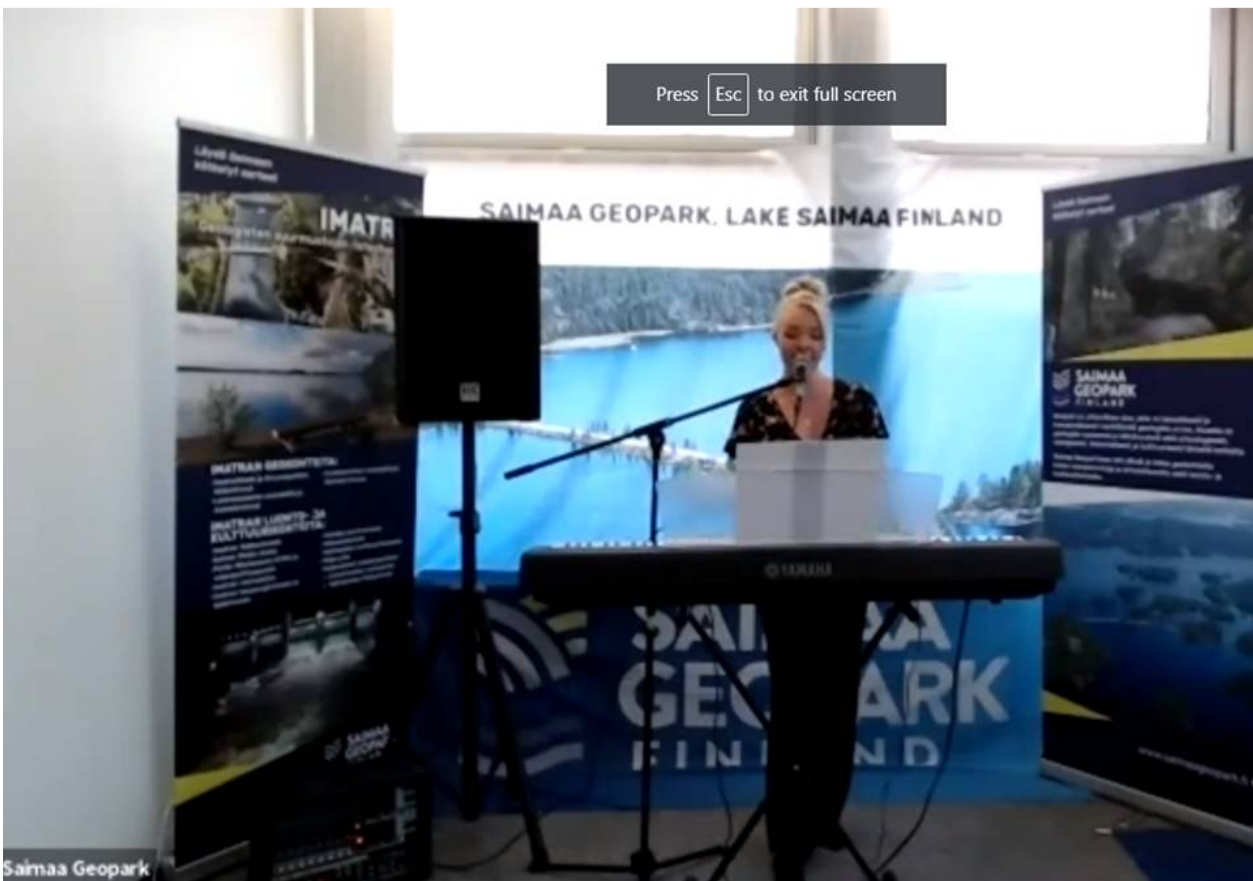
Professor **Nikolaos Zouros**, President of the Global Geoparks Network presented the basic principles served by the Geoparks with the aim of highlighting the natural and cultural heritage of rural areas and their use as sustainable development tools. He also referred to the commitment of the Geoparks and the adoption of actions to address climate change.

The representatives of the GGN Regional Geoparks Networks **Xiaochi Jin** (APGN), **Kristin Rangnes** (EGN), **Patricio Melo** (GeoLAC) and **Driss Achbal** (AUGGN) welcomed the new members and the new UNESCO Global Geoparks presented their territories with rich audiovisual material followed by a cultural event with traditional songs, music and dancing:

- **Ledy Fithriana**, M.URP, Official contact person of Belitong Geopark for UNESCO/Infrastructure Development of Belitong Geopark Management Agency presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Belitong (INDONESIA) and then presented a live traditional dancing and music event. Belitong Traditional Welcome Dance is performed as salutation for the guests in a special occasion. The performers showed Pencak Silat, the martial art movements to illustrate guarding for the guests and the guest were presented the Tipak Sirih as a symbol of acceptance and the bond of brotherhood (Dancers: Putri, Rara, Friska, Kayla, Difta, Amel / Music band Gambus: Yery, Accodion: Beben, Dumbuk 1: Jem, Dumbuk 2: Yeyen, Dumbuk 3: Billy, Drum Bass: Oyi)



- **Heli Rautanen**, Executive Director presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Saimaa (FINLAND) and a live music event was presented by Emmi Riikonen who performed a Finnish song about an old man and a Saimaa ringed seal - sharing a common destiny entitled Vanhojapoikia viiksekkäitä (Lyrics and composition by Juha Vainio)



- **Steffen Husted Damsgaard**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Vestjylland (DENMARK)
- **Nancy Schröter**, Geopark Management office of National Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen (GERMANY)
- **George Kasapidis**, Governor of West Macedonia, Greece had a welcome greeting and Anna Rassios, Scientific expert-responsible of the Geopark presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Grevena Kozani (GREECE). Then a live music event was presented from the town of Siatista (Music Band Trombone: Nikos Kardogiannis, Trumpet: Michalis Gatzouras, Clarinet: Haris Salagiotis, Snare Drum: Panagiotis Gagasoulis, Gran Casa: Nikos Katsioulis) and produced by Anna Batsi



- **Sabrina Santagati**, Geopark Manager and Leo Autelitano President presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Aspromonte (ITALY) and a live music event was presented by Giovanni Favasuli, a poet and a singer-songwriter. His performances are inspired by Calabrian traditions and Aspromonte territory, in order to enhance the beauty of nature and culture of this area. Favasuli interprets his own cultural identity through poetry and music, for passing on the value of this identity to the next generations.



ASPROMONTE GEOPARK

• **Lucio Zazzara**, President of the Majella National Park presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Majella (ITALY) and a live music presented by the group "DisCanto" who played ethnic Abruzzese music, between tradition and new resonances. DisCanto is a group of Italian conservatory-trained musicians and Italian folk scene veterans specialized in the music of the Abruzzo Region's farmers and shepherds (Abruzzo is the Italian region where the Majella Geopark is located). The song name is "Erba Odorosa" and it is a song of love and transhumance: on the mountains the shepherd sings to his beloved, while watching the moon rise over Majella.



Parco Maiella

• **Michał Poros**, Chairman of the Board, The Holy Cross Mountains Geopark presented the new UNESCO Global Geopark Holy Cross Mountains (POLAND) and a live music was presented by the group "Siedlecczanie" which is one of the most famous folk bands from the geopark area. For almost 40 years, the group has been trying to extract from the treasury of the Holy Cross Mountains folk culture what was forgotten and transfer it to the stage in a new artistic form. In their work, the group undertakes the ambitious intention of popularizing the value of regional culture, presenting the unique beauty of rituals, costumes, songs and dancing. Original dances and songs, with their content and artistry, introduce the audience to the Polish folklore, bringing many unforgettable impressions. The theme of the song "8th-century history of the Chęciny Royal Castle" is about one of the symbols of the Geopark. Castle dominates the medieval town of Chęciny. From the song found out about Polish kings who have been stayed here and about the mining of mineral ores which has its beginnings here. Musicians invite listeners to visit this marvelous object.



At the next session of the event **Yongmun Jeon**, representative of the Organising Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks informed the participants about the latest news concerning the postponement of the 9th Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will be held in Jeju Island, for 11 – 17 December 2021.

Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Chief, Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and **Setsuya Nakada**, GGN Advisory Committee Chair welcomed the new UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The event closed with a speech given by the Global Geoparks Network President **Nickolas Zouros** and a digital gift with important documents for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks was presented.

The event was also broadcasted live on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com). The participants had the opportunity to watch the special identity - physiognomy of each territory and to travel mentally through images and live music.

The Network now consists of 169 Geoparks in 44 countries distributed as follows: 88 in Europe, 66 in Asia and the Pacific, 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 5 in North America (Canada) and 2 in Africa.

YouTube link of the Welcome Event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ak16oG7YzU>

The link with the important documents for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks in pdf format that was sent to you during the event as a gift:

http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GGN_WELCOMEdocuments.pdf

GGN Map 2021-2022

New GGN publication



The “GGN Map 2021/2022” is the new publication of the Global Geoparks Network. The GGN publishes the annual GGN Map on the occasion of the UNESCO General Assembly and distributes it to all members, tourism fairs, GGN Meetings and Conferences etc. Main target of the GGN map is the common presentation of all UNESCO Global Geoparks. This new GGN Map for the years 2021/2022 has included the new UNESCO Global Geoparks and now presents all 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 44 countries.

You can find the new GGN Map 2021/2022 [here](#).

**UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards
Risk Reduction Section**

Media campaign for the nomination of the 8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks and the celebration of International Earth Day

UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section prepared a media campaign built on the 8 new Geoparks and the celebration of International Earth Day. Please find below the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction Section's message:

Dear colleagues,

As you may know, 8 new geoparks have joined today ! Here is a little recap of the action.

Last year Antonio Banderas retweeted the new geoparks... this year, United Nations spanish Agencies we're heavily invested and we got retweets from Naciones Unidas and UN Mujeres official accounts !

Of course in order to get maximum traction it is great to get support from partners and it would be ideal to share ASAP these posts to geoparks / GGN / senior management / natcoms / mailing lists etc !!!

Here is a recap of web and social media posts in 6 different languages.

PRESS RELEASE: <https://en.unesco.org/geoparks2021>

We are also front page of UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org>

UNESCO EN

- Facebook: <https://fb.watch/50bKlb1F0t/>
- Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/unesco_unesco-global-geoparks-activity-6790582957988958208-3n0X
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNESCO/status/1384816049640640516?s=20>

UNESCO FR

- Fb <https://fb.watch/50bNmAoQJz/>
- twitter: https://twitter.com/UNESCO_fr/status/1384818573315563521
- instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CN7tyo1IjUw/>

UNESCO ES

- fb: <https://fb.watch/50c8IhfaDc/>
- twitter: https://twitter.com/UNESCO_es/status/1384815261342212097?s=20
- insta: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CN7i5yXI62u/>

UNESCO AR:

fb: <https://fb.watch/50do52Ymut/>

UNESCO RU:

twitter: https://twitter.com/UNESCO_russian/status/1384819727151796227?s=20

fb: <https://fb.watch/50dubZmY3a/>

VK: <https://vk.com/unesco>

UNESCO ZH

weibo: https://weibo.com/unesco?is_all=1

UNESCO EarthScience

- Fb: <https://fb.watch/50bvrhQ4rf/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/unescoEARTH/status/1384821341497536514?s=20s>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CN8H9kIIEK8/>

UNESCO YOUTUBE

- en: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCdb8dGIMes>
- es: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZuQPmcr9G0>
- fr: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2JSXqj8swQ>

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

DIGITAL COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability

7 – 20 June 2021

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

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

The Digital Course is also up and running on UNESCO's CRM system. English and French available here:

<https://en.unesco.org/events/digital-course-unesco-global-geoparks-unesco-global-geoparks-and-sustainability>

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

Deadline for nomination of the Youth Representatives:

31 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](#)

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

Rescheduled to 11-17 December 2021



9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks



As the COVID-19 spread continues around the world, the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks is rescheduled for 11-17 December, 2021. The registration and abstract schedule are announced on the website of the conference.

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/>

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/>



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