

GEOHERITAGE Newsletter



No. 8, February 2024



The Eastern Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland are protected as an Area of Special Scientific Interest for their geology and mountain habitats. They also form part of the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark listed in 2023. Geologically, the area charts the closure of the Iapetus Ocean 450-400 Ma and the later opening of the Atlantic Ocean ~58 Ma, the latter accompanied by the emplacement of granite intrusions. During the Quaternary, glaciers deepened the valleys and carved cirques, while weathering and slope processes produced many tors in the granite. The geodiversity of the area supports a rich biodiversity and has important links with cultural heritage and archaeology (see <https://mournegullionstrangfordgeopark.com/>) (Photo: © John Gordon).

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Message from the Chair

Dear all,

I hope you had a fruitful year in 2023. Even though we could not meet in person together, we made good progress on several projects, and we held useful discussions during several Steering Committee meetings online.

One of our main achievements was to establish the Geoconservation and Climate Change Working Group in WCPA GSG. I hope that various activities will be carried out in the future not only within WCPA but also with various outside organizations through collaboration. Suzette Kimball and Wesely Hill are leading this working group. I hope that this group will promote monitoring, adaptation and mitigation of impacts on vulnerable sites in protected areas related to climate changes in the future.

The new program, Key Geoheritage Areas, has been one of the main working objectives for us. Thanks to the devoted leader (José Brilha), the project made significant progress last year. We received much support from most of the IUCN members involved as well as other related organizations. Recently we could confirm the strong support from the WCPA Chair. It would be ideal if an IUCN resolution on the new KGA program could be adopted at the next WCC meeting in 2025. I am hoping to get much more support from all the GSG members for this.

The membership system in WCPA has changed drastically over the last few years. It is not possible to become a GSG member without WCPA membership. All the previous GSG members were deleted from the list, and it is urgent for the deleted GSG members to obtain WCPA membership to join us. Please see Wesley's comments on this below (page 14).

The next International Geological Congress will be held in August 2024 in Busan, Korea.



Busan is the 2nd largest city in Korea and is located at the southeastern corner of the Korean Peninsula (see below, page 13). I am hoping to meet many colleagues during the meeting. I plan to organize a non-official fieldtrip to Jeju Island before the meeting. You are welcome to join but you need to pay your own travel expenses. Please let me know if you are interested.

The Year 2023 was one of the most meaningful years in my life. I was really honoured to become a member of the National Academy of Sciences as a Marine Geologist and Paleoclimatologist. This honour reflects my research achievements for the past 45 years.

I am hoping to meet all of you in the future. Hopefully I wish the next international meeting on geoheritage could be organized by us and be held sometime soon again.

Kyung Sik Woo

Geoconservation and Climate Change Working Group

Wesley Hill (Co-Chair) and **Suzette Kimball** (Co-Chair)

The Geoconservation and Climate Change Working Group (GCCWG), a newly organized Working Group set up in 2022, established its Leadership Committee in 2023 and held its first meeting by Zoom. The GCCWG plans to help protected area leaders to respond to climate change impacts by linking Earth science systems to ecological foundations, and to understand management of natural systems as a ‘whole’ for best practices in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. With a focus on ‘nature-based solutions’, the GCCWG can contribute to action plans within IUCN Commissions and Specialist Groups in priority areas such as:

- Geohazards and risks, their assessment, management and resilience;
- Terrestrial desertification;
- Coastal erosion and hazards;
- Surface and underground hydrology related to flooding;
- Long term changes of landforms and landscapes;
- Deglaciation and sea-level rise;
- Landslides and slumps, surface and underground stability;
- Carbon sequestration;
- Short- and long-term intensification trends of catastrophic weather events;
- Marine bleaching.

Key Geoheritage Areas Working Group

José Brilha (Chair)

IUCN Resolution 074 (2020) requested the Director General and WCPA to ‘support the development of a detailed study envisaging the establishment of a future IUCN initiative on Key Geoheritage Areas (KGAs), as a complement to the existing Key Biodiversity Areas programme, in order to protect geoheritage sites of global conservation significance and move towards more integrated nature conservation’. Throughout 2023, the working group dedicated to implementing the Resolution worked to successfully conclude the scoping study and proposed guidelines for the KGA initiative.

The comprehensive scoping document was translated into French and Spanish, in addition to English, the official languages of IUCN. It was then released for public consultation, inviting input from IUCN members, international organizations, and experts. Among the approximately 80 contributions received, the majority expressed positive support for establishing this new international designation. Some comments revealed misunderstandings that needed clarification. In response, a FAQ list was prepared, addressing about 30 of the most common questions.

KGAs are proposed to be defined as: ‘areas with well-defined boundaries where exceptional geological active processes and features (rocks, minerals, fossils, sediments, soils, landforms and landscapes) representing past or on-going Earth processes, that contribute significantly to the global understanding of the planet's history and its life-support systems. In addition to their scientific value as geoheritage, KGAs may also have cultural, ecological, aesthetic, and educational values’. The main aim of this initiative is to recognise and maintain geoheritage values of international significance and to communicate and promote this information in order to foster their conservation, and advance geoconservation worldwide.

Looking ahead, the next steps involve incorporating the feedback from the public consultation into the scoping study and guidelines. Additionally, preparations are underway to submit a motion at the upcoming IUCN General Assembly in Abu Dhabi in 2025. This motion will seek approval from the entire IUCN membership to create this new label. The KGA initiative aims to recognize and preserve geoheritage values of international significance, promote information about them, and foster their conservation, thereby advancing geoconservation efforts worldwide.

Caves and Karst Working Group

John Gunn (Chair) and **Baerbel Vogel** (Secretary)

The goal of the Caves and Karst Working Group (CKWG) is to provide support, advice and liaison regarding cave and karst protection and management around the world with particular reference to caves and karst in protected areas, most notably World Heritage Sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks but also in Ramsar Sites and in sites that are part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

During 2023, the CKWG built on the success of the Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection (2nd Edition), jointly published in 2022 by IUCN and the International Union of Speleology. The Guidelines are being widely read by PA Managers (over 1,000 reads on ResearchGate alone) and the 76 recommendations have now been translated into 20 languages (<https://uis-speleo.org/index.php/listing-of-76-recommendations-for-cave-and-karst-protection/>).

Volunteers are working on further translations of the whole document, and translations into Russian and into Visaya (Philippines) have already been published.

The majority of global karst PAs are in carbonate areas, with gypsum karst having been somewhat neglected. Hence during 2023, the CKWG in cooperation with the German Speleological Federation organised an Online Seminar on the Protection of Gypsum Karst. In the first session on Gypsum karst of the world seven speakers, most of whom are members of CKWG, presented papers that covered : Justification for the new IUCN programme (Key Geoheritage Areas) for geoheritage conservation in the world; Evaporite karst in Internationally Designated Areas; and key areas of gypsum karst in Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the United States. A talk was also given honouring the contributions of the recently deceased Dr Alexander Klimchouk, a great global karstologist and speleologist with a particular interest in gypsum karst. The second session had the theme Cave and Gypsum Protection in Europe, with talks by Jean-Claude Thies (Chair, European Cave Protection

Commission), Alexander Just (EU-Commission DG ENV) and Ursula Schäfer (Friends of the Earth BUND Thuringia). The Seminar was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5il3fcBWsvG&t=13s>.

CKWG have maintained and updated databases of Cave and Karst sites in Internationally Designated Areas (World Heritage Properties, UNESCO Global Geoparks, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar Sites).

CKWG members have also been collaborating with members of the International Association of Hydrogeologists Karst Commission in establishing a list of globally important karst springs and have contributed to the Geoheritage Specialist Group discussions on Key Geoheritage Areas.

The CKWG Chair contributed a case study to the online Workshop on Geoheritage management in UNESCO designated sites, October 2023.

UNESCO Global Geoparks Activities in 2023

Marie-Luise Frey

Representative of the Global Geoparks Network Association,
Executive Board & UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Member

In May 2023, the UNESCO Executive Board approved the recommendation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and awarded the proposed label to eighteen new UNESCO Global Geoparks, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of the International Geoscience and Earth Sciences Programme and on the basis of their international geoscientific significance. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council discussed the Geopark Experts' field evaluation reports and Geopark revalidation reports at its 7th session in Satun (Thailand) in September 2022, with a 2nd partial meeting held digitally on 7 and 8 December 2022. The new UNESCO Global Geoparks are listed at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1137012>, with 10 in Asia-Pacific, 2 in South America, 2 in Iran and 4 in Europe. New Zealand and the Philippines are two new nations. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN) now has 195 members in 48 nations with a total area corresponding to 486,709 km².

At the 8th UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting on 4-5 September 2023 as the 1st partial meeting in M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco) before the 10th Global Geoparks Conference, due to the Sars-CoV-19 pandemic, existing applications including new applications as well as revalidations of UNESCO Global Geoparks were discussed and decided. At the 2nd partial meeting of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council held digitally on 8-9 December 2023, eighteen new territories are recommended to be awarded with the UNESCO Global Geopark designation. These will be discussed and finalised by the UNESCO Executive Board in March 2024.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council awarded continued membership of the network to 33 UNESCO Global Geoparks reviewed in 2023. The Council also approved the expansion of the

area for three geoparks (<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-global-geoparks-council-proposes-16-new-geoparks-endorsement>).

The GGN has organised numerous activities involving its members and numerous campaigns have been carried out to further publicise the network, as outlined below.

The UNESCO Global Geopark members, the GGN, the national Geopark Networks/Fora/Committees and the continental networks in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, in North America as well as in Africa have carried out activities in addition to their everyday tasks, especially on UN days or during action weeks. They have shared their experiences in their continental networks in working groups and at conferences.

The GGN offered and held several training events for its members. The International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management took place from 8-13 October 2023 in Zhangye (PR China). Numerous experts from the GGN, the Asia-Pacific Global Geoparks Network (APGN), the Department of Protected Area Management of National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (PR China) and the University of the Aegean in Lesvos (Greece) supported it.



The joint initiative launched by UNESCO and the GGN in 2022 to promote the geopark concept in Africa and the Arab states was promoted in 2023 with expert support at workshops in, e.g. Iraq, and in projects in Madagascar, Eswatini and Kenya. From 6-9 September 2023, the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and the 4th Ordinary General Assembly of the GGN Society were held in Marrakech by the M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (Morocco).

On the night of 8 September 2023, an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale shook Marrakech and the region 74 km south of Morocco, where the epicentre of the earthquake was located. In order to support crisis management on the ground, the approximately 1,800 conference participants were asked to stay on site as planned and continue their dialogue in face-to-face meetings. Numerous conference participants volunteered to donate blood at a mobile centre that was set up on site. The Moroccan crisis management was very effective, as were the hotel operations. Unfortunately, many people have lost their homes and their livelihoods.

The crisis management also created a trusting environment for the participants. The GGN Executive Board, UNESCO and the organisers concluded the conference on 9 September 2023 with the presentation of UNESCO certificates and the announcement of the results of the



video/film competition.

At the beginning of 2024, the Global Geoparks Network celebrates its 20th anniversary after its foundation in February 2004 at the 1st Global Geoparks Conference in Beijing (PR China), with numerous campaigns and activities planned and involving all members. A regularly updated calendar of events marking this major milestone is available on the GGN website

(https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=8145).

Geoheritage Activities in Brazil

Maria da Glória Garcia

The Center for Research Support in Geological Heritage and Geotourism (GeoHereditas) is a research group based at the Geosciences Institute of the University of São Paulo (IGc/USP). The group's main objectives are to promote Geoconservation practices in different regions of Brazil. For more information, see (<https://geohereditas.igc.usp.br/>).

Communication outreach products were produced that are being used by protected area managers and environmental educators (in Portuguese): (<https://geohereditas.igc.usp.br/home/sobre/noticias/pesm-produtos-educativos-e-de-divulgacao/>).

Geoheritage Activities in the USA

Tom Casadevall

Project efforts. The U.S. Geological Survey has funded a multi-year project to develop a geoheritage geospatial product to accompany the other products of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program's U.S. GeoFramework Initiative, which focuses on geoheritage sites and major geological features of the United States. The project is headed by Christina DeVera (USGS Reston, VA) and includes investigators from the USGS and collaborators from the National Park Service, American Geoscience Institute, and the Association of American State Geologists.

In April 2023, a 4-day workshop and field trip were held in West Virginia to develop protocols for data compilation and standards for site selection. Version 1 of the geoheritage geospatial product will focus on geosites found on lands managed by the Federal government from all 50 States and US territories.



Workshop participants on the field trip at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, April 2023. (Photo © Christina DeVera, USGS).

Examples of the project efforts were presented by Christina DeVera at the Geological Society of America Annual meeting in Pittsburgh in October 2023 (<https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2023AM/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/394206>) and at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco in December 2023 (<https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm23/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/1319510>).

Scholarship. An extended edited volume on National Park Service (NPS) paleontology was published in the winter 2024 issue of *Park Stewardship Forum* (PSF) on January 15, 2024. The volume is edited by Vince Santucci of the National Park Service and features 17 original articles dedicated to NPS paleontology (<https://escholarship.org/uc/psf>). PSF is co-published by the University of California, Berkeley Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity, and the George Wright Society.

UNESCO membership for the United States. Of significance for international geoheritage efforts is the action by the United States to rejoin UNESCO starting in July 2023. This makes US communities eligible to apply for UNESCO Global Geopark status and will reinvigorate US geoheritage interests and efforts.

International Geodiversity Day, 6 October 2023

Murray Gray

The second **International Geodiversity Day** (IGD) was held on 6 October 2023 and had the theme of 'Geodiversity is for Everyone'. 170 events were registered on the IGD website (<http://www.geodiversityday.org>), down from 249 in 2022, though we know that many events were held but not registered. Most of the decrease was accounted for by significant drops in the number of events registered in India (down from 52 in 2022 (most organised by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) to 5 in 2023) and Romania (down from 21 in 2022 to 1 in 2023). As the table below shows, European nations dominated the list with UK, Portugal, Spain and France taking the first four places in 2023, followed by Brazil. Significant increases in events occurred in France (up from 4 to 14) and Brazil (up from 5 to 11). Other good news is that the number of countries holding events was up from 39 in 2022 to 50 in 2023. New countries registering events (with number of events) included Iraq (6), Slovenia (2), Sri Lanka (2), plus Denmark, Luxembourg, Morocco, S. Africa, Taiwan, Saudi

Arabia, Ghana, and Panama on 1 event each. On the other hand, we lost Costa Rica, Finland, Guatemala, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, N. Macedonia, New Zealand, Sweden, USA and Vietnam from the list in 2023. Countries that have so far registered no events in the first two years include Australia, Germany, Russia and South Korea, and there are few events being registered in Africa and small island states. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of events held in person from 84% in 2022 to 80% in 2023, the remainder being either online or hybrid sessions.

Countries with 3 or more registered events in 2023

Country	2022	2023
UK	29	34
Portugal	30	22
Spain	26	19
France	4	14
Brazil	5	11
Poland	4	8
Canada	6	6
Iraq	0	6
Ireland	1	5
India	52	5
Italy	11	4
Chile	2	3
Indonesia	4	3

Meeting Reports

Workshop on Geoheritage management in UNESCO designated sites

José Brilha

The first UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme workshop dedicated to this topic, held in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, GSG-WCPA, and ProGEO, took place from 3-6 November in the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark in Portugal.

Tailored for staff and managers overseeing World Heritage properties and other designated areas, including biosphere reserves, global geoparks, and national parks, the workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of UNESCO designated site managers in several key areas:

1. **Recent Developments in Geodiversity and Geoconservation:** Participants were brought up-to-date on the latest advances in major concepts related to geodiversity and geoconservation methods and technologies.
2. **Identification and Mitigation of Threats to Geoheritage:** The workshop explored the identification of, and adaptation to, both natural and anthropic threats to geoheritage, and the provision of effective mitigation strategies.

3. **Efficient Geoheritage Interpretation Strategies:** Managers gained insights into developing effective strategies for interpreting and communicating the significance of geoheritage to diverse audiences.
4. **Integration of Management Plans:** Emphasis was placed on integrating geodiversity and geoconservation in management plans across different UNESCO designated sites within the same territories, fostering a holistic approach to conservation.

Beyond these objectives, the workshop aimed to assist natural UNESCO designated site managers in developing new geoconservation strategies, improving existing strategies, and facilitating the nomination of new geological UNESCO designated sites.

Nineteen participants from 13 countries, including Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Iraq, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, and Zambia, actively engaged in both online sessions and in-person training on the Terceira and Graciosa islands. Twelve experts presented keynotes and case studies, enriching the learning experience for all involved.

The success of this inaugural workshop sets the stage for future events, with plans to replicate similar training initiatives across other continents. This expansion aims to provide more UNESCO designated site managers with the opportunity to benefit from this valuable capacity-building experience and to spread the word about GSG and its aims.

The VI Latin American Meeting on Protected Areas and Social Inclusion – ELAPIS

The VI Latin American Meeting on Protected Areas and Social Inclusion - ELAPIS was held In November 2023. As part of the meeting, the South American representative on the GSG Steering Committee, Maria da Glória Garcia (Brazil), had the opportunity to offer a Short Course entitled ‘Geoconservation in Protected Areas’, with participants from Biology, Social Sciences and Geography.

More specifically in the State of São Paulo, the most important and biggest (315,391 ha) PA (Serra do Mar State Park) held courses for environmental monitors and tourist guides. The topic of geoconservation has been a frequent demand, and GeoHereditas have participated in classes on geodiversity, geological heritage and geotourism in these areas.

The First International Hybrid Congress on Geodiversity, Geoheritage, Geotourism, Geoeducation, Geoparks & Sustainable Development Goals (5G & SDGs)

The Arabic Countries & Africa representative on the GSG Steering Committee, Ezzoura Errami (Morocco), chaired and sponsored The First International Hybrid Congress on Geodiversity, Geoheritage, Geotourism, Geoeducation, Geoparks & Sustainable Development Goals (5G & SDGs) under the conference title: ‘Geoheritage: A new geotouristic niche to explore for an inclusive sustainable development’, held in Safi, Morocco, 24-28 October 2023.

World Geomorphological Landscapes

Piotr Migoń

In 2023 two new books appeared in the “World Geomorphological Landscapes” series published by Springer since 2013. Presenting geomorphological diversity of different countries and regions, volumes in the series inevitably address geodiversity and geoheritage issues, even if only implicitly. In individual chapters various authors focus on distinctive landforms, often of considerable scenic beauty and scientific significance, some being subject to conservation measures. Both volumes produced in 2023 present parts of Africa.

The first volume, “Landscapes and Landforms of Nigeria”, was edited by Adetoye Faniran, Lawrence K. Jeje, Olutoyin A. Fashae and Adeyemi O. Olusola, and consists of 19 chapters. They show both regional landscapes, from the Niger Delta in the south to the margins of the Sahara in the north, as well as a range of specific landforms of fluvial, denudational, erosional, littoral and aeolian origin. Of particular significance are impressive granite domes, some many hundreds of metres high, which are not only distinctive landmarks seen from afar, but also sites of considerable cultural and spiritual significance. Among them, the case study of the granite inselberg of Olumo Rock in Abeokuta City explores local geoheritage and linkages with cultural background in a most evident way.

The second volume, “Landscapes and Landforms of Central Sahara”, edited by Jasper Knight, Stefania Merlo and Andrea Zerboni, differs from others in the series, covering a vast transnational region rather than a specific country and presenting broader issues rather than particular localities. But by doing so, it provides a most useful overview of Saharan environments, which helps to put different geoheritage sites, such as the iconic sandstone landscape of Ennedi in northern Chad, into a wider context. The book concludes with a chapter entitled “Geoheritage and Cultural Heritage of the Central Sahara: Conservation Threats and Opportunities”.

Several further volumes are forthcoming and should appear in 2024, providing further resources for the geoheritage community.

The Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites

Following publication of the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites, the process for the selection of the Second 100 Sites is underway as part of a strategy to announce 100 sites every two years.

‘An IUGS Geological Heritage Site is a key place with extraordinary geological elements or processes of the highest scientific international relevance, used as a global reference, and/or with a substantial contribution to the development of geological sciences through history’.

For the Second 100 Sites, 174 candidates from 65 nations have been proposed. All will be evaluated by a group of 85 experts from around the world and covering all geological

disciplines. The final list of the Second 100 Sites will be ratified by the IUGS Executive Committee in February 2024 and will be announced in special event during the 37th International Geological Congress in Busan, Republic of Korea, in August. For further information, see

<https://iugs-geoheritage.org/the-second-100-iugs-geological-heritage-sites/>

European Federation of Geologists: Strategic Position Statement on Geodiversity, Geoheritage and Geotourism

The European Federation of Geologists (EFG) Panel of Experts on Geological Heritage has published a [strategic position paper](#) on 'Geodiversity, Geoheritage & Geotourism: Advancing the Future Sustainability of Europe and Preserving the Memory of The Earth'. The document underscores the significance of geodiversity as a cornerstone of biodiversity and essential for human prosperity and well-being, the importance of geoheritage in preserving Earth's memory and the role of geotourism in providing unique experiences, raising public awareness, stimulating local sustainable development, and advocating for the conservation of geoheritage. Recognising the undervaluation of geodiversity and geoheritage in public policies and strategies in Europe, the document represents an initial step towards formulating an Action Plan for an EU Geodiversity, Geoheritage and Geotourism Strategy.

Publications of Geoheritage Interest

Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection, Second Edition.

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49955>.

Best Practice Guideline on Geoheritage Conservation and Management in Protected Areas.

This publication, initially launched in English in November 2020, is now available in French, Portuguese, German and Arabic versions, and a Spanish version is also in preparation. It is free to access and available from: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49132>

World Heritage Volcanoes: classification, gap analysis, and recommendations for future listings. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48448>

Thematic Study on Revision of Criterion (viii) for World Heritage.

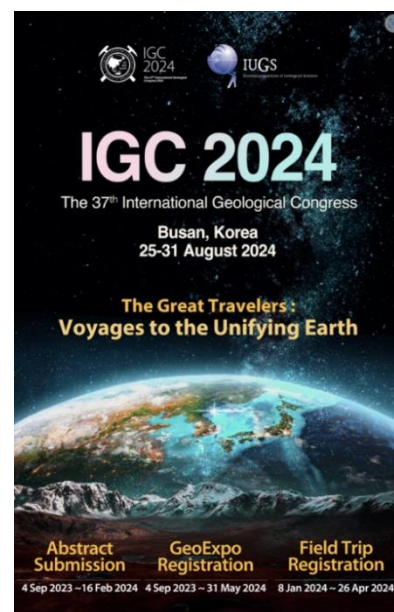
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49575>

Earth Heritage Magazine

Issues 58 and 59 of Earth Heritage Magazine were published during 2023. The magazine includes news and popular articles on geoconservation and is available free at: <https://www.earthheritage.org.uk/>

Forthcoming Meetings

- **European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly, Vienna, April 14–19, 2024**
This meeting includes Session: GM5.5 Geodiversity and geoheritage – toolsets for a more sustainable world. Further information is available at:
<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU24/sessionprogramme>
- **The 37th International Geological Congress 2024, August 25–31, Busan, Republic of Korea.** Theme T27 on Geoheritage, Geopark, and Geotourism comprises 9 sessions on geoconservation-related topics, including Session 4 on 'Geoconservation and geoheritage: geodiversity underpinning natural systems' convened by ProGEO. Further information is available at: <https://www.igc2024korea.org/>
- **European Geoparks Network Conference, Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland, October 2-5, 2024.**
<https://reykjanesgeopark.is/2024-egn-conference-hosted-by-reykjanes-geopark/>
- **8th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium, September 10-15, 2024, Non Nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam.** <http://caobanggeopark.com/>
- **VII Conference of Geoparks Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, 6-8 November 2024, Southern Canyons Pathways, Brazil.**
https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/?page_id=8145



About the IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group

Established in 2013, the Geoheritage Specialist Group (GSG) provides specialist advice and guidance on all aspects of geodiversity and geoheritage in relation to the establishment and effective management of protected areas, and to support the integration of geodiversity into all relevant IUCN programmes.

Further information about the GSG is available at:

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/geoheritage>

GSG Chair: Professor Kyung Sik Woo (happyman369@naver.com)

Secretary General: Wesley Hill (wesleymhill@gmail.com)

To become a member of GSG, geoheritage experts must be members of the WCPA.

GSG also maintains a list of 'advisors' in the wider geoheritage community, who are not

WCPA/GSG members. If you would like to be included on this list and to receive details of announcements and copies of the Newsletter, please send an email to Wesley Hill, including your full contact details (address, email, country and your geoheritage interests).

WCPA and GSG Membership Update

Wesley Hill

If you know a Geoheritage or Geoconservation expert who works with protected areas and would like to invite them to be a member of our network, please email Wesley Hill (wesleymhill@gmail.com) and she can provide you with an official Letter of Invitation for them to join. You can then invite them directly by forwarding the Invitation Letter.

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/get-involved>

To join the Geoheritage Specialist Group Member Network, click on the **WCPA Geoheritage, Geoconservation, Caves and Karst Network 2021-2025**. The first step is to become a member of IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), then the next step is to join our network of experts.

Useful Links

IUCN-WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/geoheritage>

The European Geoparks Network: <http://www.europeangeoparks.org/>

Asia Pacific Geoparks Network: <http://asiapacificgeoparks.org/>

Global Geoparks Network: <http://www.globalgeopark.org/>

UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/igpp/igcp>

ProGEO (The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage):

<http://www.progeo.ngo/>

International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS): <https://www.iugs.org/commissions>

The GSG Newsletter is compiled by John Gordon. Contributions to future Newsletters are welcome from the wider GSG membership and others on IUCN-related geoconservation activities and issues in protected and conserved areas. Please send contributions to: jgordon0914@gmail.com.
