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UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

6th Session (virtual)

Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea, 8th-11th December 2021

REPORT

In accordance with the Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (Article 2, paragraph 2.7 and 2.10), the present document represents the report prepared by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council to the Bureau on its decisions to be circulated to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

- i- The 6th session of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (hereafter referred to as UGGpC) of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) was held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea (virtual session) back-to-back with the 9th International Conference for UNESCO Global Geoparks, from 8th to 11th December 2021.
- ii- 15 council members and between 70 and 156 observers from 43 countries attended this UGGpC session. Council members present (voting): Enas ABD ELHADY AHMED, Asfawossen ASRAT, Helga CHULEPIN, Soo Jae LEE, Guy MARTINI, Martina PASKOVA, Jianping ZHANG, Marie-Luise FREY, Van TRAN TAN, Alexandru ANDRASANU, Gabriela SCHNEIDER.

Other members present (non-voting) were, Kristof VANDENBERGHE (representative of UNESCO), Asier Hilario and Benjamin van Wyk de Vries (representatives of IUGS - International Union of Geological Sciences, both alternating presence in the meeting), Nickolas ZOUROS (representative of GGN - Global Geoparks Network), Tim BADMAN (representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature- IUCN

iii- Apologies for Absence:

- Gabriela Schneider (absent except the afternoon of the 9th and the morning of the 10th of December)
- Ana Ruiz Conde
- Martina Paskova (absent on Friday 10th of December, from 10:00 A.M to 1:30 P.M UTC)

iv- The following observers were present:

UNESCO: Ozlem Adiyaman Lopes (UNESCO HQ), Catalina Gonzalez Tejada (UNESCO HQ), Lesly Barriga (UNESCO HQ).

Argentina: Santiago Saint Pierre (Permanent Delegation of Argentina)

Bashkortostan: Elina Gataullina (Committee of the Republic of Bashkortostan for UNESCO)

Belgium: Sophie Verheyden (Delegation of Belgium), Samy Laarbaui (Délégation générale Wallonie-Bruxelles)

Brazil: Mayra T. Y. Saito (Delegation of Brazil)

Bolivia: Ingvar Ellefsen Dotzauer (Deputy), Roberto Aguilar and Dharma Wara Mier Lizarazu (Delegation of Bolivia)

Canada: Max Deck-Léger (Percé UNESCO Global Geopark)

China: Shen, Xuesong (Delegation of China), ZHANG Zhiguang (Chinese Geoparks Network)

Croatia: Gordana Genc (Delegation of Croatia)

Ecuador: Minister Sandro Celi and Counsellor Ruth Vásconez (National Commission) Carlos Merizalde (National Committee of Geoparks in Ecuador)

Luxembourg: Simone Beck) and Catherine Decke (National Commission of cooperation with UNESCO), Claude Petit and Birgit Kausch (Natur- a Geopark Möllerdall)

Finland: Kati Komulainen (Salpausselkä aUGGp)

France: Julie MATHELIN (National Commission)

Germany: Carolin Butler Manning and Marlen Meissner (German Commission for UNESCO)

Hungary: Danijela Bokarica (Nature Protection Directorate), Dorottya Szendrei (Permanent delegation of Hungary)

Indonesia: Agus Zainudin, Magdalena Ritonga and Amalla Rainita Indra (Merangin Jambi National Geopark)

Iran: Alireza Amrikazemi (Director, Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark)

Italy: Amb. Massimo Riccardo, Marica Cicconi, Tommaso Giordano and Carla Di Paola (Permanent Delegate of Italy to Unesco), Ottavio Di Bell, Mario Colantoni and Stefania Aucell (Ministry of the Ecological Transition), Silvia Mongardo (National Commission)

Ivory Coast TIACOH Hector (Permanent Delegation of Ivory Coast)

Japan: HARA Fumie, OKAMOTO Aya and KAWASAKI Miu (National Commission for UNESCO), Hisanari SUGAWARA, Theodore BROWN and Kana Furusawa (Japan Geopark Committee)

Jordan: Delegation of Jordan

Kenya: George Were Eshiamwata (Kenya National Commission)

Kingdom of Morocco: Soukaina FILALI (Permanent Delegation)

Lao: Vongvilay Sounthavong (National Commission for UNESCO)

Lithuania: Dovilė Lozovska (Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO), Jolanta Čyžienė (Lithuanian Geological Survey)

Malaysia: Idris Ismail (Delegation of Malaysia to UNESCO), Barathi Muniyandi and Amier Mahmud (Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources)

Mexico: Irma B. Suárez Rodríguez, Griselda Meraz Acevedo and Javier Gaitán Morán (Huasteca Potosina aUGGp)

Netherlands: Cathrien Posthumus (Manager of Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark)

New Zealand: Lisa Heinz (Manager of the Waitaki Whitestone aUGGp)

Pologne: Julia Tarkowska and Agata Rudnicka (Land of Extinct Volcanoes aUGGp)

Portugal: Pedro Oliveira, Teresa Alvarenga and Teresa Salado (Permanent Delegations of Portugal), João Carlos Nunes (Azores UGGp)

Republic of Azerbaijan: Rugiyya Malikova (Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to UNESCO)

Republic of Korea: Seunghyun Choi, Seungyeon Lee, Yongho Jung (JWC geopark experts)

Romania: Gabriel Sarafian (Permanent Delegation of Romania)

Russian Federation: Galina Enyaeva (Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation)

Slovenia: Gašper Hrastelj (Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO)

Sweden: Mugdim Islamovic (Chairman Swedish IGGP- committee), Louise Oscarsson (Permanent Delegation of Sweden to UNESCO)

Tanzania: Rama Khatibu, Joshua Mwankunda and Lightness Kyambile (Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark)

Thailand: Pattadon Longpan, Ratchanin Pongudom and Supranee Khamyuang (National Commission), Apsorn Sardud, Metha Yangsanong, Surachai Siripongsatian and Theeraporn Supraditaporn (Geological Division), Pratueng Jintasakul, Nattinee Thongde and Parichat Kruainok (Khorat aUGGp)

Turkey: Nizamettin KAZANCI (Head of the Natural Sciences Committee), Nazire Özgen ERDEM (Head of the Geological Heritage and Geoparks Monitoring Group), Bengisu BİRAY (Sector Expert and Rapporteur of the Monitoring Group), Suleurun (Geoparks Monitoring Group), Tuncer DEMİR (Geological Heritage and Geoparks Monitoring Group), Barcin Yurur (Permanent Delegation of Turkey), Erdal Gumus (Ila Madra aUGGp)

Ukraine: Olga Ganenko (Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to UNESCO)

United Kingdom: Darren Rice and Michelle Boyle (Mourne Gullion Strangford aUGGp) and Kirstin Lemon (Mourne Gullion Strangford aUGGp and Marble Arch UGGp), Martina O'Neill and Grainne O'Connor (Marble Arch UNESCO Global Geopark)

Uruguay: Carolina Villarrubia (Delegation of Uruguay)

Vietnam: Vuong Viet Anh (Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam).

I. Opening by the Chairperson of the UGGpC

1. Guy Martini, Chairperson of the UGGpC officially opened the meeting welcoming the observers from different countries and UNESCO offices all around the world. He also thanked the UNESCO/UGGp Secretariat team and the Council members for their contributions and extensive work over the last year. The Chairperson invited the UGGpC members to introduce themselves and then summarized the work that had been undertaken during the past year, including the preparation of the 6th UGGpC session. It was noted that considerable work had been achieved including the preparation of Evaluation and Revalidation missions during the ongoing COVID19 Pandemic. The Chairperson explained that 47 volunteering experts of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) were mobilized to deliver these missions. The Chairperson explained that most of the experts conducted at least two missions, and some up to 5 missions and thanked them highlighting that a mission is at least 10 days of voluntary work. The Chairperson explained that a total of 46 missions has been completed, 41 in Europe and 5 in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Chairperson mentioned that no major incident happened during these missions, despite travel restrictions and a limited number of available experts. The Chairperson thanked, Ms Ingeborg Klepp for having undertaken the mission against medical advice, a token of her dedication to the Programme and the UGGps.

The Chairperson also referred to the fact that many of the planned missions could not take place yet, but that, in consultation with the Secretariat, the Bureau keeps monitoring the sanitary situation and will conduct missions where and when feasible, in consultation with all involved partners. If this leads to several missions in spring 2022, then an *ad hoc* UGGpC meeting remains an option.

Council members thanked the Jeju Government and Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark for organizing the ninth session of the International Conference for UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Chairperson explained furthermore the household rules and the code of conduct for the Council members and Observers and welcomed the representatives of the UNESCO Member States.

II. Opening remarks from representatives of UNESCO, GGN, IUGS and IUCN were delivered

III. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

The Chairperson asked the UNESCO Secretariat to present the agenda and timetable which were unanimously adopted by the Council.

IV. Discussion on the adaptation of the Programme to the COVID 19 pandemic: postponed evaluation and revalidation missions and rule of ‘two active UGGp applications’

The Chairperson asked UNESCO Secretariat to explain the status.

The UNESCO Secretariat explained that the IGGP Status and Guidelines stipulate that a Member State can only have two active applications at any given time. Some Member States submitted geopark applications in 2019 and 2020 and plan to submit new ones in 2021. Due to the global pandemic, only half of the missions could be conducted in the meanwhile, so some Member States will have more than two active applications if the UNESCO Secretariat would accept their new applications in 2021. Most of the missions were conducted in Europe, and some in Latin America, but none in Asia. If UNESCO would restrict the number of active applications as described in the statutes Member States in Asia will be penalized. As the backlog of active UGGp applications is a result of the global pandemic, the Secretariat sought legal advice. UNESCO Legal Affairs explained that the World Heritage Committee faced similar issues and advised that the UGGp Council analyses the status and adopts a solution for this issue, on a temporary basis.

The Secretariat proposed, for consideration and approval by the UGGp Council, the following decision:

- Having examined the Statutes and Operational Guidelines of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP);
- Recalling the exceptional circumstances that prevailed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide and the decision of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau that, due to the prevailing sanitary situation worldwide, including travel restrictions, the conditions for evaluation and revalidation missions were not met in 2020;
- Recalling that several of the evaluation and revalidation missions could be conducted during the second half of 2021 and anticipating that the rest will be evaluated throughout 2022;
- Recalling that it takes several years to prepare an application file and considering that it would not be fair for new applicants to postpone their applications, in particular for countries where mission travel was not possible;
- Decides exceptionally and only for 2021, to accept up to two new applications per Member State in 2021, regardless of the number of active applications for that Member State, and to reassess the situation in 2022.

The Council member Helga Chulepin took the floor and asked the Council to be resilient and support this request, taking into consideration the impacts of the ongoing pandemic.

The delegate from the Global Geopark Network was grateful for this proposal and explained that the GGN supported this request, taking into account that the evaluation missions for a high number of territories were negatively affected by the COVID19 pandemic.

The decision was adopted unanimously by the Council.

The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for this proposal and the Council for its decision.

V. Discussion of the evaluation of new UNESCO Global Geopark applications from 2019 and 2020

- i- As per Section 5.5 of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Operational Guidelines, the UGGpC will recommend accepting an application, reject an application or defer it for a maximum of two years to allow for improvements to be made to the quality of the application. In the case of deferral, there is no need to repeat the field evaluation mission during this time.

- ii- In accordance with the Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme, Part B article 2.7, all changes of more than 10% of the territory (extension or reduction) will follow the same procedure for endorsement as a new nomination. Such changes are therefore, dealt with under this chapter.

- iii- According to criteria (x) and (xi) of Section 5.6 of the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, should an existing UNESCO Global Geopark wish to change its size, provided that any change amounts to less than 10% of the existing area, then the Council may be informed about the change by a letter through the official channel as defined by the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO to the UNESCO Secretariat involving, if applicable, the National Geoparks Committee outlining the reasons for the change and outlining how the new area still fulfils the criteria for a UNESCO Global Geopark. The UGGpC can approve or reject the change. Should an existing UNESCO Global Geopark wish to change its size, but the proposed change amounts to more than 10% of the existing area, a new application must be made following the procedure described above. The following UNESCO Global Geoparks proposed to extend their existing area with less than 10%: Central Catalonia (Spain), Beaujolais (France), Tuscan Mining (Italy), Huangshan (China) and Non Nuoc Cao Bang (Vietnam). One extension request of > 10% (Yanqing UGGp in China) could not be considered as the mission had to be postponed.

- iv- Two UGGps have requested a name change
 - Naturtejo de Meseta Meridional UGGp (Portugal) to Naturtejo UGGp
 - Marble Arch Caves UGGp (Ireland and UK) to Cuilacagh Lakelands UGGp

- v- The members of the UGGpC examined at its 6th meeting 18 candidatures for new UNESCO Global Geoparks and 5 extensions of existing UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- vi- Considering the priorities and mandate of UNESCO, the members of the UGGpC recommended to all aUGGps and UGGps:
 - To incorporate and strengthen their contributions to the Global Agenda's, like the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, or the Sendai Framework Agreement for Disaster Risk Reduction, throughout all their activities.
 - To improve the accessibility for people with special needs within the Geopark as well as in the partner institutions like museums, interpretation centres, and other facilities, but also during its activities or for communication material and tools.
 - To set up activities and campaigns to jointly celebrate UNESCO and United Nations international days.
 - To collaborate closely with youth, involving them in the management and operations of the Geoparks.

1) Ries (Germany): The National Geopark Ries is in the middle of southern Germany. Population density is 93 residents per km². The region has one of the lowest unemployment rates (2.2 % annual average) in Germany. The Geopark area has a total of 84 schools, including: 6 secondary, 8 junior-secondary, 2 commercial secondary, 13 middle, 7 vocational, 6 special education and 42 elementary. The 14.6-million-year-old meteorite crater Nördlinger Ries, situated between the Swabian and Franconian Alb in southern Germany, is considered the most intensively studied impact structure among the nearly 200 known impact craters worldwide. Since the 1960s much geo-scientific special impact-indicative features have been unraveled in this site: Typical Suevite as an impact breccia rather than a volcanic rock, containing high-temperature and high-pressure minerals (i.e., coesite, stishovite, lonsdaleite diamond), diaplectic plagioclase glasses, and mechanical planar deformation features. Most were first described from this area. Based on NASA experiments and a synopsis of lithological, petrological, mineralogical and geophysical field and laboratory data, a detailed model of the impact "story" with mainly 3 stages (contact/compression, excavation, crater modification) as the result of a progressive shock metamorphism could be acquired. Complex ejecta placement (roll-and-glide, ballistic) is still a matter of debate. The development of a post-impact soda lake in the crater depression left behind bituminous shales and lacustrine carbonates with unique fossil associations (i.e., the only known green algae reefs). With its still high interdisciplinary scientific potential, the Ries Crater can be rated as an indicative reference and challenge for

further analyses of terrestrial and extraterrestrial impact structures. The Ries remains the focus of high scientific interest.

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Marie-Luise Frey and Martina Paskova who left the room and were not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of geological heritage of international significance were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Following the review of the Ries (Germany) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen the conservation measures for the geological heritage:

- Ensure an adapted/appropriate conservation strategy for the geological heritage sites of International value and explore if the state protection is possible: i.e., the Aumühle geological site which is an active quarry and also one of the “Most beautiful Bavarian geological sites”, and the Kalvarienberg geological site (ductiled fossiles), subject to human activity and erosion. Consider placing the interpretative panels directly on the site
- Strengthen the aUGGp’s involvement in the scientific research study, conservation and the promotion of the geological heritage.

2. Improve Visibility:

- Consider the installation of directional road panels to facilitate site access to the main entrance and for various trails, geological sites, etc.
- Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material.
- Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the aUGGp’s partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark.

3. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the label of Ries Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering/culinary, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility using the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.

4. Strengthen involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through

the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Develop strong collaboration with the neighboring Swabian Albs UGGp, emphasizing their complementarity.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

2) Normandie- Maine (France): The candidate territory covers 2,650 km² and is located in Northwestern France, straddling Normandy and Pays-de-la-Loire. It is sparsely populated with 98,000 inhabitants and a density of 38 inhabitants/km². It is a predominantly rural territory, with more than 60% occupied by farmland, and hence, agriculture is a significant part of the local economy. The more than 46,000 hectares of forest also provides for significant activities. In addition to agriculture and forestry, industry and crafts have a significant presence. The candidate Geopark brings together large forest areas that crown the Armorican sandstone ridgeline, a spine shaping the territory from east to west. It is home to the highest peak in the west of France at 416 metres a.s.l. These ancient hilly areas bear witness to the Hercynian chain; they present shapes known locally as "mountains" and "valleys" but also outcrops such as rocky cliffs and precipices. In terms of tourism and history, the Geopark is a territory of trails, routes and paths, with Grande Randonnée hiking trails (GR) (Le Chemin Montois) and an increased number of cycle routes, now reaching as far as Mont Saint- Michel and the Atlantic Coast. These trails and routes combined with landscapes and historical interests, aim at a green and family-oriented tourism such as at Bagnoles-de-l'OrneNormandie, a spa town since the 19th century. The management of the Geopark is assured by the Normandy-Maine Regional Nature Park, classified for the quality of its landscapes and its heritages since 1975. The candidate Geopark's landscapes are a result of global geodynamics and tell a fascinating story of the formation of two mountain ranges at the heart of the Armorican Massif and the creation of a subsident sedimentary basin, the Paris Basin.

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini and Marie-Luise Frey who left the room and were not present for the discussion and vote. Vice-president of the Council chaired this application.
- ii- Mostly positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council recognised that, while no geological sites really stand out, all taken together the territory has an important geological significance and tells an interesting story of geology. However, council members concurred with the evaluator's concerns regarding

the identity, whereby the distinction between the actual applying Geopark and the overlapping Nature Park is unclear. While there are several other UNESCO Global Geoparks where there is a certain overlap between Nature Park and Geopark, including its staff, it is important that the applying UNESCO Global Geopark develops a separate branding, strategy and programme and keeps a separate budget line to support its activities. In this case it is unclear how the management of the geological heritage aligns with the UGGp concept and visitors could not distinguish the aUGGp and the Natural Park. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' this application.

- iv- Following the review of the **Normandie - Maine (France)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Normandie - Maine** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Consider strengthening the management body for a coherent integration of the aUGGp and the Nature Park. For example, use the decision on the change of the new charter for the Nature Park, to have the full integration of the already existing activities of the Geopark in the Nature Park and viceversa. Approach UGGps who initiated as Nature Park and successfully managed full Geopark/Nature Park integration process in the past (i.e Terra Vita Nature and Geopark in Germany).
2. Improve aUGGp visibility:
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the geology, using a simplified and easily understandable language for non-scientific visitors.
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp territory (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
 - Ensure the integration of the existing museums and tourism centres with the aUGGp identity and brand.
 - Consider developing a coherent tourism plan ensuring its adoption and implementation by the aUGGp management body.
3. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the aUGGp. This is applicable to

accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility using the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application

3) Armorique (France): The candidate territory is located at the western end of France, facing the Atlantic Ocean. Confined within the mainland boundary of the Armorique Regional Nature Park, it is made up of 47 municipalities (1,587 km²). Located in the administrative region of Brittany, the Geopark is in the immediate vicinity of the urban centre of Brest (319,947 inhabitants, 2016). Due to its geographical location, the Armorique Geopark is the 1st Geopark on the French Atlantic shoreline and complements the interpretation of geoheritage in other Geoparks in France. A distillation of Brittany, the region is distinguishable for its Armorican identity and its rural and maritime nature. It supports a rich ecosystem and is culturally diverse, combining contrasting landscapes and *terroirs*. Its landscapes can be distinguished by three major areas: (1) The Crozon Peninsula, with a strong maritime character and high coastal cliffs; (2) The Brest Bay, a real inland sea and the River Aulne estuary, an area of transition between sea and mountain, (3) The Arrée Mountains, evidence of the old Hercynian chain of mountains, whose crests stood along an intercontinental rift between 350 and 300 million years ago. The mountain tops now have an elevation of 385 metres a.s.l. The climate in Brittany is categorized among the temperate oceanic climates of the European Atlantic shoreline, contributing to the creation of the Geopark's varied landscape environments. Lastly, with a total population of 104,298 inhabitants, the density in the region is low but uniform, with 73 inhabitants per km². The quality of the transport infrastructure facilitates mobility in the region, with highly- active and attractive businesses.

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Marie-Luise Frey and Guy Martini who both left the room and were not present for the discussion and vote. Vice-president of the Council chaired this application discussion.
- ii- A positive report of the internationally significant geological heritage was received from the IUGS.
- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council recognised that the territory has an important geological significance. However, just like in the previous case, they expressed concerns about the fact

that the management body of the aUGGp and the overlapping Natural Park management body could not be clearly distinguished and hence, the management of the geological heritage is not clear within the UGGp concept and visitors could not distinguish the aUGGp and the Natural Park. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' this application.

- iv- Following the review of the **Armorique (France)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (i) (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Armorique** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Consider strengthening the management body for a coherent integration of the aUGGp and the Nature Park. For example, use the decision on the change of the new charter for the Nature Park, to have the full integration of the already existing activities of the Geopark in the Nature Park and viceversa.
2. Improve Visibility:
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the geology, simplified and easily understandable.
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
 - Ensure the integration of the existing museums and visitors centres with the aUGGp identity brand.
 - Consider the possibility to develop a coherent tourism plan ensuring its adoption and implementation by the aUGGp management body.
3. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the aUGGp. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility using the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application

4) Platåbergen (Sweden): The candidate territory is located in Western Sweden, the region of Västergötland and is a collaboration between nine municipalities (Trollhättan, Vänersborg, Grästorp, Lidköping, Götene, Mariestad, Skara, Skövde and Falköping). The surface of the Geopark is 3,690 km² and it has 289,198 inhabitants. The population is estimated to increase by an average of 11,200 annually until 2040. Business turnover and new enterprises have continued to increase in 2019. The highest point is Älleberg, 330 metres above sea level. There are three distinct landscape types within the Geopark: plains, table mountains and coastal areas. Platåbergens Geopark is located within a temperate climate zone with four distinct seasons. The county's climate is strongly affected by the Gulf Stream and the moist air currents which produce a maritime climate, i.e., humid and with relatively minor variations in temperature. The area is very rich in precipitation with an annual rainfall of up to 1,000 mm. The average temperature in Jan–Feb is ca –4°C, the average temperature in July is ca 15°C. The highest measured temperature is 36°C and the lowest measured temperature is –37°C. The area is easily accessible, and you can get here by air travel, train, bus, car, boat and bike, or by hiking. A regional airport is in Trollhättan. Three major railroad lines and several highways, such as the E45 and E20, run through the Geopark. The table mountains of Västergötland have provided the conditions for completely unique natural environments. The entire area is characterised by the remains of the last Ice Age.

- i. A conflict of interest was declared by Alexandru ANDRASANU who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii. Summary of discussions: Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage and the overall management of the aUGGp were received from the IUGS; however, concerns were also raised about the protection of geological sites. The Council agreed to request the Geopark to implement the description and promotion of geological sites and clearly describe these in the panels. The Council raised a question regarding the boundaries of the Geopark, in particular in the south, where, in order to reduce the size of the park and in consultation with the respective municipalities, it was decided to have the border follow natural boundaries rather than pre-existing administrative boundaries. The council evaluated and appreciated these special overall boundaries situation, and that the aUGGp also includes a marine part, as well as the largest lake of Sweden, but would like to see more clearly explained the marine surface versus the terrestrial surface on a Geopark's map.

iii. Following the review of the **Platåbergen** (Sweden) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate **does** fulfil the UGGp criteria (i), (iii), (vi) and (vii) (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:

1. Consider the opportunity to re-define the aUGGp boundaries in the southern part to align with the pre-existing administrative boundaries and represent the total surface, making distinction between the surface of the Lacustrine area (Lake Vänern) and the terrestrial part. This potential extension could provide the aUGGp greater visibility across its partners and population, and a full accomplishment of the Geopark's guidelines.
2. Improve visibility:
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
 - Consider the possibility to develop a more coherent tourism plan ensuring its adoption and implementation by the aUGGp management body.
3. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the aUGGp. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility using the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.
4. Consider the recruitment/appointment of an additional staff member or partnership with educational/ pedagogical experience, to disseminate the information about the work regarding topics such as climate change.
5. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
6. Strengthen aUGGp involvement in research related to the conservation and the promotion of the geological sites. Implement the description and promotion of geological sites and clearly describe in the panels.
7. The Geopark and the work undertaken by the Geopark should be officially mentioned and implemented in the regional development strategy in Västra Götaland, since the Geopark is

contributing to the sustainable development of the nine municipalities, an important part of the Västra Götaland region, and is supporting the development of a tourism destination and the related brand.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

5) Land of Extinct Volcanoes (Poland): The candidate territory is located in the South-west of Poland, in Kaczawskie Mountains and foothills region. It covers an area of 1262,75 km² (14 municipalities). The terrain configuration is very diversified. Southern parts represent relief typical for low mountains. The highest peak reaches 723 m a.s.l. The relative heights vary from 200 up to 300m. Kaczawskie Foothills are highlands in general, characterised by presence of isolated small ridges and hills, elevated plateaus and rather short but sometimes relatively deep rivers valleys (gorges). The northernmost region of the proposed geopark are typical lowlands, with the minimal elevation at ca. 115- 120 m a.s.l. The whole region is in the temperate climate zone, with average temperatures of 18°C in July and -4.5°C in January. The total annual precipitation is ca. 600-700 mm for the mountainous part and 500-600 mm for the rest of the terrain. The main river is Kaczawa, which is 98 km long. The flora of Kaczawskie Mountains and Foothills reflects complicated geological structure and related diversity of soils. The region is inhabited by 104, 694 citizens. The average population density equals 248 inhabitants/km²; however, the average density in the rural areas is ca. 56 inhabitants/km². The most represented economic sectors are trade, mechanics, construction, industrial processing and transport; however, the majority of existing enterprises are microenterprises. The unemployment rate is around 12%. The Geopark area is characterised by truly complex geological structure and history. This mosaic type of geological structure creates huge geodiversity. This causes big attractiveness from geotouristic and geological point of view.

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC
- ii- Mostly positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council identified that the identity and visibility of the aUGGp and its connections with the territory is not clear and there are issues with the management body of the aUGGp. Some Council members asked to consider a Geopark name in the local language, which may be easier recognised by the local community – but the Council leaves

it to the aUGGp's consideration. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' the application.

iv- Following the review of the **Land of Extinct Volcanoes** (Poland) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years:

The **Land of Extinct Volcanoes** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Review aUGGp resources and team to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain the management of the territory.
2. Improve visibility:
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
 - Consider the possibility of a Geopark name in the local language.
 - Improve the use of English translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions. Specially, the quality of English translation provided on the website.
 - Ensure the integration of the existing museums and visitors centres with the aUGGp identity brand.
3. Improve Geological heritage promotion and conservation:
 - Strengthen the geological interpretation inside the aUGGp, attractive and easily understandable to all visitors. For example, the use of complex scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained.
 - Strengthen aUGGp involvement in research study, conservation and the promotion of the geological sites.
4. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility using the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.

5. An official collaboration agreement should be signed between the UNESCO World Heritage Site Evangelical Church of Peace in Jawor and the aspiring Geopark expressing the willingness of collaboration between the two parties.
6. Improve availability of data about natural hazards and climate change.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application

6) Mourne Gullion Strangford (UK): The candidate territory is midway between the cities of Belfast (UK) and Dublin (Republic of Ireland) and is located on the main road and rail network that connects the two. Belfast has a population of 340,220 people whilst Dublin has a population of 1,346,359 people. The main city is Newry that is within 1-hour travelling time of two international airports (Dublin and Belfast International), one regional airport (George Best Belfast City), and two international passenger ferry ports (Warrenpoint and Dublin). The aUGGp has an area of 960 km², and a population of 100,322. The mean population density is 106.62 people per km² but this ranges from the sparsely populated upland areas to the urban centres of Newry, Downpatrick, Newcastle and Kilkeel. The region boasts 3 discrete upland regions in the Dromara Hills, Mourne Mountains, and Slieve Gullion. The highest point is within the Mourne Mountains and is Slieve Donard at 850 m. The uplands are surrounded by lowlands covered in glacial sediment, much of which is in the form of drumlins. The mountains are dissected by valleys formed by ice during the last glaciation. Carlingford Lough, a drowned glacial valley, lies on the southern edge of the proposed Geopark, and Strangford Lough, the largest sea inlet in the UK and Ireland, lies at the eastern edge of the proposed Geopark, both of which are important to the early human history of the region and later as major transport routes. The aUGGp is noted for its discrete Palaeogene Complexes, each one has its own character and beauty and therefore importance for tourism but each one is still an area of intense scientific research. There are currently no other UNESCO Global Geoparks with similar characteristics. One of the other geological highlights is the more recent glacial history in the Strangford area of the proposed Geopark. The site is of such importance that this short period has won a place in the scientific literature as the Killard Point Event.

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Tim BADMAN who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council raised questions regarding the coastal and terrestrial boundaries of the geopark; the lack of a permanent geoscientist in the management body of the aUGGp team as well as the absence of a Geopark visitor center, items that were also mentioned as critical issues in the evaluator report. One of the Council members proposed the rejection of this application due to the concerns about the Geopark boundaries and their disconnections with the administrative, archeological and nature protection sites boundaries. Several Council members raised concerns about the feasibility to modify the boundaries. The Chairperson requested that considering the strong points of the application, the Council should provide an opportunity to the aUGGp to respond to the recommendations in two years, and if they cannot fulfil the recommendations, the dossier could be rejected. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' application.
- iv- Following the review of the **Mourne Gullion Strangford (UK)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Mourne Gullion Strangford** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Consider the opportunity to re-define the aUGGp boundaries to align with the pre-existing administrative boundaries and consider including the marine and coastal area. This potential extension could provide the aUGGp greater visibility across its partners and population.
2. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation
 - Consider the opportunity to increase the aUGGp team by including a permanent geologist.
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the geology, simplified and easily understandable.
 - Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and geopark trails. Consider improving natural heritage information, interpretation and narratives.
 - Strengthen the geological in-situ interpretation inside the aUGGp. Pay special attention to the rarity and beauty of Ring of Gullion, use the great potential of hiking the Mournes, and the glacial landscape (the Mournes, erratic boulders, Kyllard point...).

3. Improve visibility:
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
 - Consider improving a tourist map providing information on all aUGGp sites, partners and facilities.
4. Consider the possibility of creating an aUGGp museum, an interpretation, or a visitor centre in a selected touristic area.

The council voted unanimously to defer this application.

7) Mëllerdall (Luxembourg): The candidate territory is situated in Eastern Luxembourg and includes 11 member municipalities. It is a rural area with a population of about 25,500 inhabitants. Its area of 256 km² covers about a tenth of the country's total area. The region has a rich geological, natural, cultural and intangible heritage. The largest town is Echternach, founded in 698 A.D. The region is part of the cuesta landscape at the north-eastern rim of the Paris Basin. Plateaus with elevations of about 400 m, deeply incised by rivers, alternate with gently undulating hillsides. Its lowest point is at an altitude of 140 m m a.s.l.. Annual mean temperatures in the region are between 8-9.5°C, with 17°C in summer and 0°C in the winter. Annual precipitation is about 700-800 mm. The transitional Atlantic-continental climate is convenient for agriculture on the hillsides and deciduous and mixed forests on the steep slopes. The region is highly regarded for its occurrence of a large variety of ferns and mosses in locations with extreme microclimatic conditions along the high rock faces and in narrow gorges. Some of these are extremely rare in Continental Europe but are found here. Natural resources like drinking water and building stones have been used by man since prehistoric times. The Luxembourg Sandstone is the most important aquifer supplying drinking water to the region, with a long-term continuous discharge and excellent filtering capacities. Archaeological findings show the Mëllerdall to be an important archive of the early history of Luxembourg. The touristic tradition of the region dates to the late 19th century and is mainly based on its picturesque sandstone landscapes. The Mëllerdall is situated in the centre of the "Trier-Luxembourg Basin", a syncline structure of Triassic and Lower Jurassic sediments extending from the Paris Basin into the Rhenish Massif.

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Martina Paskova who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.

ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

iii- Following the review of the **Mëllerdall** (Luxembourg) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate **does** fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:

1. Improve visibility:

- Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities, differentiating the Geopark clearly from the existing Nature Park.
- Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the Earth Science and related topics in a simplified and easily understandable language and update the existing interpretative panels by the trails.
- Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the aUGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark and the networks.
- Consider the promotion of the aUGGp through social networks.

2. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility using the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.

3. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Seek cooperation with the neighbouring UGGps.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

8) Biokovo-Imotski Lakes (Croatia): The candidate territory is located between the Mediterranean and continental Europe, in the Republic of Croatia (central Dalmatia, Split-Dalmatia County). Distance to Split (biggest city in Dalmatia, and international airport) is 87 km (connected by highway). It is an area bounded on the north by the border area between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on the south by the coastal area of the Adriatic Sea. Geopark includes the area of three cities: Imotski, Makarska and Vrgorac, and thirteen municipalities: Zagvozd, Brela, Baska Voda, Tucepi, Podgora, Sestanovac, Zadvarje, Proložac, Podbablje, Zmijavci, Lokvici, Lovrec and Runovici. Relief type of the area of the aspiring Geopark can be divided into three natural entities: the karst area of the Imotska Krajina, Imotski polje, and the area of the Biokovo Mountain, with a wide view to the central and southern Adriatic islands. Climate is sub-Mediterranean, excluding the mountain. Geopark is in sub-Mediterranean vegetation belt. The economy relies almost exclusively on the private sector of trade and catering services, and more recently on tourism where offers a home for local wine and food producers, which is reflected in the emerging range of geo-gastronomy offerings available. Number of inhabitants: 25.000. The total area of Geopark: 431 km². Owing to its specific tectonic setting and high-karst position, Red Lake is the deepest karst lake in Europe, and among the deepest in the world, originated from a collapse of the bottom of huge doline (sinkhole). The second pearl of the Geopark, Blue Lake, is one of the most beautiful karst lakes in Croatia. Blue and Red lakes are protected in the category of Monuments of Nature in 1964 and are some of the most amazing world's phenomena.

- i- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- ii- Summary of discussion: The Council raised several issues and had amongst others concerns about the boundaries of the aUGGp and the exclusion of the coastal area, which could be an important factor for the sustainable development and visibility of the aUGGp. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' application.
- iii- Following the review of the **Biokovo-Imotski Lakes (Croatia)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Biokovo-Imotski Lakes** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Consider the opportunity to re-define the aUGGp boundaries to include the full administrative boundaries, as well as the marine and coastal areas. This potential extension could provide the aUGGp greater visibility across its partners and local population.
2. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the Earth Science and related topics simplified and easily understandable. For example, using paleogeographical maps, 3D block diagrams, geological time scale references, and other graphic tools in the geological explanations.
 - Strengthen the geological in-situ interpretation and education activities inside the aUGGp, beyond the carbonates and karstic features and processes. For example, the geodiversity represented in the territory.
 - Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, cultural, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails.
 - Consider the installation of a protective fencing concept for the Red Lake.
 - Consider the possibility of the installation of an environmentally friendly access to the skywalk area.
3. Improve visibility:
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in whole aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
 - Consider a printed version of all visitor tourist maps to include all sites, facilities, partnerships, etc.
 - Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the aUGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark. For example, an attractive info point in the Imotski hinterland should be designed and realised (as mentioned in the master plan).
4. Improve educational activities:
 - Enhance the master plan and add a section dealing with a strategy on educational activities.
 - Consider strengthening the promotion of the aUGGp Education activities offer, by creating package offers using the aUGGp brand combining both aUGGp and partner activities.
 - Improve educational activities and strategies to facilitate the mitigation of natural and geological hazard and climate change in schools and for the local population. For example, block falls, flash floods and bura (the strong and unpredictable local wind) in the coastal sector; and earthquakes, subsidences and its relationship with the history and the effects on the inhabitants for all the territory but especially in the Imotski area.

5. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. In particular, cooperation with the agricultural sector in the hinterland is crucial.
6. Identify fields of mutual interest with other UGGp's on the globe and arrange and establish these on a formal cooperation basis.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application.

9) Buzău Land (Romania): The candidate is a hilly and mountainous territory covering 1036 km², located in the Carpathian Bend Area, in Romania. It is a completely rural and ancient territory, where ~45,000 people live in 18 mayoralties. There are a total of 169 villages and hamlets, most of them grouped in depressions or strung along valleys, while others are scattered along slopes or on high plateaus. Buzău Land spans an altitude difference of over 1200 m, from ~120 m (all a.s.l) at its southern border, to over 1360 m in the northern part of the territory. The southern part is characterised by large depressions surrounded by rolling hills. Northwards, the valleys grow deeper and narrower and the rolling hills are replaced by abrupt cliffs, as the landscape grades from hilly to mountainous. The change in landscape is accompanied by a change in vegetation and habitats, with broad-leaved forests gradually replaced by mixed and coniferous forests. The area is characterized by a continental temperate climate, with warm summers and cold winters. Economically, the area relies on subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry. Pasture lands, and fruit tree and berry plantations are the main type of land-use, followed by scarce arable farming and vineyards. More than 55% of the territory is occupied by forests and wild grasslands, not counting pastures. There are no standard industries or commercial centres in Buzău Land, while tourism is an emerging sustainable industry. The largest mud volcanoes in Europe are found in Buzău Land, alongside eternal flames, petroleum springs, sandstone concretions and other geological features. Salt domes pierce the surface to develop the most complex karst morphology in Romania. Some of the longest and deepest salt caves in the world are found here. All these occur in a tectonically complex setting overprinted by glacial erosion.

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Alexandru Andrasanu who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

iii- Following the review of the **Buzău Land** (Romania) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate **does** fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:

1. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the Earth Science and related topics simplified and easily understandable, not only focus on the mud volcanoes, but also other geomorphological or structural features, considered to be of international importance, expressed as (or controlled by) deformation associated with earthquakes as well as geo-biodiversity connections and geo-culture links.
 - Strengthen inventory activities in the areas of research studies, conservation and promotion of the geological heritage, in partnership with local and regional authorities.
2. Improve facilities and infrastructure:
 - Consider the improvement of the territory infrastructure in partnership with the local and regional authorities to invest in the quality of roads and public transport.
 - Consider the possibility of creating an aUGGp museum, an interpretation or a visitor centre in a selected touristic area.
3. Improve educational activities and strategies to facilitate the mitigation of natural and geological hazard and climate change in schools, for the local population and visitors. For example, about landslides and earthquakes.
4. Ensure that the aUGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced and adequate funding is available to sustain the management of the territory, in collaboration with public and local stakeholders.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

10) Bükk Region (Hungary): The candidate territory is rich in historical and architectural monuments. The Bükk Mountains is the cradle of the Hungarian prehistoric people and much research has been conducted on their relics, amongst others in the cave systems. Several objects of paleolithic or neolithic cultures have been preserved at these sites. In the southern piedmont, there are lots of beehive rocks, whose origins are still not well understood. The main geological features in the Geopark are the fold-and-thrust structures, which were mainly formed during the Cretaceous tectogenesis. The “Bálvány key section” is one of the most

special on international scale: it is an outcrop on the northern side of the Bálvány exposing the Permian – Triassic boundary - significant extinction event. The Bükk Mountains are rich in karst phenomena. Surface karst features are mostly formed on Triassic white and gray limestones. There are 46 caves with archeological value. There is a connected large hydrodynamic karst aquifer within the carbonate rocks of the Bükk region. Travertine often precipitated out of the water of karst springs, forming cones and steps. The Anna Travertine Cave formed in travertine is of international significance.

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS. However, IUGS highlighted that the geological difference and complementarity between Novohrad – Nógrád transboundary UGGp and the current application should be explained as the existing UGGp and the aUGGp boundaries seem to overlap.
- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council identified that the geological differences and complementarities between the neighboring transboundary Novohrad – Nógrád UGGp which is directly connected to the Bukk Region aUGGp were not clear and requested a geological comparative study. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to ‘defer’ the application.
- iv- Following the review of the **Bükk Region (Hungary)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Bükk Region** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Provide an independent geological comparative study between Novohrad – Nógrád UGGp and the Bukk Region aUGGp.
2. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation
 - Incorporate simplified and easily understandable geological maps and geological Geopark cross-section in English language in an easy-to-read scale to enhance the visitors’ understanding of the international significance of the geological heritage.
3. Improve visibility:
 - Consider a printed version of all visitor tourist maps to include all sites, facilities, partnerships, etc.

- Improve bi-lingual information provided to visitors within the Geopark.
- 4. Improve educational activities and strategies to facilitate the mitigation of natural and geological hazard and climate change in schools, for the local population and visitors.
- 5. Strengthen official partnerships with other UGGps and actively participate in events of the Global Geoparks Network.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application.

11) Salpausselkä (Finland): The candidate territory is located in southern Finland, in the southernmost part of the Finnish Lakeland. Its surface area is 4506 km², of which 21 % is water and over a half covered in forest. The hundreds of lakes are a central feature of the landscape all over the area, along with the long, distinct sandy ridges. In the hilly eastern and northern parts of the area superficial deposits are often very thin and bedrock exposures are common. The north-western upland has vast forests, while most of the farmland is situated on the plains south of the Salpausselkä ridges. The highest point of the area and of southern Finland is Tiirismaa quartzite residual mountain, 223 m a.s.l.. The climate is boreal with strong seasonal variation: mild summers and relatively cold winters with snow cover. Due to the prominent Salpausselkä ridges and vast lake areas of Päijänne and Vesijärvi, the amount of rainfall varies substantially within the area. The proposed Geopark covers most of the Päijät-Häme region, encompassing six municipalities. The area has 177.000 inhabitants, of which 120.000 live in the main city of Lahti. Lahti can be reached in one hour by train from the capital, Helsinki. The densely populated areas are located close to the lakes and along the ridges. In the three smallest municipalities population doubles or even triples during the summertime because of the high number of holiday homes. Tourism is a growing industry in the area, traditionally strong in manufacturing and woodworking. Agriculture and forestry still play an important role in the rural municipalities. The city of Lahti has become a forerunner in sustainability and circular economy and has been awarded the title of the European Green Capital 2021 by the European Commission. The massive Salpausselkä ice-marginal ridges represent the best-known geological heritage of Finland. They have been studied in the area of the proposed Geopark since the 19th century and are widely referred to in geological literature. The ice sheet and its meltwaters have also shaped the ancient Palaeoproterozoic bedrock into what it is today. The fracture zones of the bedrock were eroded and deepened, and lakes developed into many of them. Lakes were also formed in the kettles of the sandy ridges. The largest lake, Päijänne, is the deepest and second largest lake of Finland. The aspiring Salpausselkä Geopark highlights that this impressive, scenic and easily accessible

'landscape created by water' is also a significant source of water: the glaciofluvial landforms are vitally important for their abundant, renewable reserves of groundwater, providing the region with naturally high-quality drinking water.

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Alexandru Andrasanu who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Following the review of the **Salpausselkä** (Finland) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate **does** fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:

1. Improve Geopark visibility:

- Considering the possibility of installing UNESCO Geopark Road signage, at the boundaries of the Geopark, to welcome visitors and enhance aUGGp prominence, in collaboration with other Finnish UGGps.
- Improve the use of English translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions.

2. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:

- Develop links between the geological and other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails.
- Interpretation panels should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complicated scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English translation.

3. Strengthen educational activities in the school system adapting the lessons learned in the successful educational project of a pilot Geopark kindergarten.

4. Improve visitor access and information to potential risk sites ensuring visitors safety.

5. Continue strengthening the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

12) Lavreotiki (Greece): The candidate territory is located in Lavreotiki, a peninsula in the SE part of the Prefecture of Attica, just 60 km drive-distance from Athens, the capital of Greece. The Geopark's boundaries coincide with the ones of the Municipality of Lavreotiki. Its favourable geographic location, its mild geomorphology and climate, coupled with its rich multi-metallic ore deposits have been decisive factors in attracting settlers throughout the millennia. The region was inhabited since thousands of years ago (at least since 3200 BC), being one of the largest mining centres in the Eastern Mediterranean during ancient times. Nowadays, the economically active inhabitants of the Municipality of Lavreotiki amount to 10.192 (40.6%) of the population and the employed to 7.747 (30.86%). The Municipal Community of Lavreotiki extends about 36 km² with Lavrio being the major city with 7.078 inhabitants. The area's relief is characterized by scattered hills directed from NE to SW with an average altitude of about 250 to 300 m a.s.l., wide valleys, fluvial terraces and alluvial deposits, depicting a landscape at "maturity" stage". As of Mediterranean climate, the area is more or less dry. The main fluvial system is the Potamos stream that drains into the Gulf of Thoriko. Due to its geological conditions, several geomorphological features are found in the area, such as caves (playing an important role from the antiquity), dolines and particular shorelines. The biodiversity in this region is rather rich and is dependent on many factors: climate, topography, geological conditions and human impact.

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Nickolas Zouros who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council identified that the boundaries of the aUGGp and related two islands as well as the demonstration that the area has already been functioning as a *de facto* Global Geopark for at least one year are not clear. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' application.
- iv- Following the review of the **Lavreotiki (Greece)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Lavreotiki** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen management:
 - Develop the management structure and process to include local community representatives and consider enlarging expertise within the staffing structure.
 - Ensure that it has an independent financial budget and management plan for the next four years.
2. Improve visibility:
 - Promote the UGGp as a unified territory by indicating in all maps that the aUGGp has a defined and identifiable boundary (including the two islands).
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
 - Consider installing directional road panels to facilitate site access, on the main entrance, and for the various trails, geological sites, etc.
 - Improve the use of English translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions, and improve the quality of English translation provided on the website.
 - Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the aUGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark.
3. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:
 - Ensure a better geographical distribution of geological sites which are now mostly located in the southern part of the Geopark.
 - Develop links between the geological and other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails.
 - Interpretation panels and other materials should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complicated scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English translation.
4. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.

5. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network, promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application.

13) Kefalonia-Ithaca (Greece): The candidate territory is located in Western Greece (SE Europe). It is an island complex (Kefalonia-Ithaca-Atokos-Arkoudi) belonging to the Heptanese (Ionian Sea). It is located 340,3 km from Athens, the capital of Greece and 165.37 and 258 km from Albania and Italy border, respectively. Its surface area reaches 3.006 km² and includes 913,075 km² of land and 2.092,9 km² of marine area. The Geopark 's area belongs administratively to the Ionian Islands Prefecture. Kefalonia occupies an area of 773 km². Its capital city is Argostoli. According to the last census, 35.801 inhabitants were recorded living mainly in coastal settlements. Ithaca follows in size with 117 km² surface area. Vathi is the capital city. In winter 3.084 residents are living on the island but in the summer the population is more than double. The local residents in the Geopark's area are mostly working in agriculture, fishery and tourism business. Especially tourism plays an important role in the economic development of the area. Atokos (4,4 km²) and Arkoudi (4,275 km²) are small, desolated islands north of Ithaca. Kefalonia includes four main peninsulas (Paliki, Erisos, Livatho and Atrou). The mean altitude of the island is 358,5m. Approximately 37.5% is occupied by mountains, 42,5% is semi-mountainous and 20% is occupied by lowland areas. The highest mountain is Ainos (1.628 m). The whole mountain range is the most imposing feature of the island. The main lowland areas are Livatho and Omaloi. The total coastline length of the island is 270.4 km and forms many gulfs and bays such as Mirtos, Argostoli and Sami. Ithaca is included within Melissa and Agios Andreas peninsulas. It is also a mostly mountainous area. It includes several small mountains such as Anogi (808 m), Niritos (806 m) and Merovigli (669 m). Its total coastline length is 101 km, and several important bays are created (Vathi, Frikes, Pisaetos etc). Moreover, numerous underground and surface karstic geomorphs such as caves and sinkholes form a rich karstic system mainly in the area of Sami. Of particular interest is the fact that part of the karstic network is located below sea level, causing global interest not only due to the rich speleothems such as stalactites and stalagmites, but also for its extent. This peculiarity is caused by submersion due to intense tectonism but also due to the sea level rise caused by the melting of the last glaciers resulting in the flooding of many of Kefalonia caves. The climate of the Geopark's area is mild temperate (8.5-29.4 °C) with mean annual precipitation 820mm. The climatic conditions promote the

occurrence of a rich natural environment which contains several species of plants and animals which together with the geological and cultural elements compose the spectacular character of the area. They are located very close to the Greek arc, which is the most tectonically active region in Europe. Due to their geotectonic position, the islands present rich geology and great seismic activity, on which we find an excellent depiction of the dynamics of terrestrial processes, through the numerous and wide variety of geological features.

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Nickolas Zouros who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Following the review of the **Kefalonia-Ithaca (Greece)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:
 - 1. Integrate the current Geopark management structure to form a unified management body, while clearly distinguishing it from the National Park management structure and ensure that the aUGGp has an independent financial budget and interpretation material.
 - 2. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. For example, the aUGGp should formalise its relations with cultural organisations such as the Lyceum of Greek Women by signing agreements for the enhancement of intangible heritage.
 - 3. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:
 - Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails. For example, the interpretation of the objects in the Archaeological Museum of Sami is a great opportunity for the Geopark to promote its holistic approach.
 - Interpretation panels and other materials should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complicated scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English translation.

4. Improve educational activities and strategies to involve schools, the local population and visitors in the mitigation of natural and geological hazards and climate change activities.
5. Continue strengthening the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

14) Torotoro (Bolivia / 2019): The candidate territory is located in the Province Charcas, North of Potosí Department, Bolivia, and has the same limits as the Municipality of Torotoro. The most used access is through the city of Cochabamba, 134 km away. The area is 118,218 km², and part of the area constitutes the Torotoro National Park, one of the most important in Bolivia, with 16,570 ha. The territory comprises seven districts and 75 communities. The geomorphology comes from the Torotoro-Caine synclorium, demonstrating a significant diversification of geofoms as a result of the dissection of karstic and clastic sequences. Torotoro presents itself as a geological, biological, and anthropological singularity, whose geological evolution shows one of the most integrated and complete records worldwide. The temperature varies with the altitude. Torotoro has 10,870 inhabitants, and the majority is of Charca origin. Circa 90% of the Torotoro population speaks Quechua, and two percent (2%) speak Aymara. However, Spanish is spoken by an increasing number of inhabitants, with approximately 57% of the population speaking Quechua and Spanish. The majority of the population of Torotoro (88.7%) lives in their rural areas in a traditional way. The 2012 Census revealed that 90.5% of homes, in a total of 3,511, are privately owned. There is an essential conservation of traditional architecture. The Autonomous Government of Torotoro (GAMT), National Board of Protected Areas (SERNAP), and the Management Committee of the Torotoro National Park are essential members for management and understand that this protected area is the heart of the Geopark. At the community level, there is a diversity of social organizations composed of unions, associations, community enterprises, committees, and social actors such as non- governmental organizations.

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Helga Chulepin who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council identified that there are a high number of critical and fundamental issues raised in the evaluation mission report related to this aUGGp application. One of the Council members proposed to reject while others proposed to consider the high potential as well as the Covid-19 pandemic situation, and the importance of developing the Geopark concept in the region, suggesting a deferral with an external support to further improve the application. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' the application and offer the proposal of sending a support mission with the help of GGN experts.
- iv- Following the review of the **Torotoro (Bolivia)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Torotoro** aUGGp should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen management:

- Restructure the Management Structure, in order to make it operational and with effective capacity for action in the territory.
- Develop the management structure and process to include local community representatives and consider enlarging expertise within the staffing structure. For example, it is important that the staff includes a person responsible for cultural matters with the capacity to develop activities and materials to protect, promote and disseminate the local cultural heritage.
- Ensure that it has an independent financial budget and a short-medium term management plan (action plan).
- Establish an effective collaboration partnership with the PNT in the short-term

2. Improve visibility:

- Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
- Define a branding strategy, raise more and better visibility for the aUGGp

3. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:

- Strengthen aUGGp inventory activities in the areas of research study, conservation and the promotion of the geological heritage. For example, carry out a systematic work of

recognition of the geology of the territory, especially in the Paleozoic lithostratigraphic units and in the search for the K-Pg limit.

- Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails. For example, celebrating Pachamama, not only as a tourist product, but as identity pillars of the territory.
 - Interpretation panels in the geological sites, and other materials should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complex scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English language translations.
4. Improve educational activities:
 - Involve schools, the local population and visitors into the mitigation of natural and geological hazards and climate change activities.
 - Develop and implement training programmes for guides, tour operators and partners, local authorities, etc. for better interoperability of aUGGp with the entire territory.
 5. Improve facilities and infrastructure by considering the installation of aUGGp headquarters.
 6. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. For example, consider establishing formal partnerships with agricultural producers, artisans and associations, with a view to assisting them in the flow of products and in the certification of their quality and production in accordance with environmentally responsible practices
 7. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the GeoLAC promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application.

15) Caminhos dos Cânions do Sul aUGGp (Brazil): The candidate territory is located in the Southern Brazilian region, encompassing the extreme south-southeast of the state of Santa Catarina (SC) and the extreme northeast of the state of Rio Grande do Sul (RS), and the total area reaches 2.830,8 km². The population of the territory is 74.120 inhabitants, estimated for 2019. Climate of the region is diversified due to the topographic differences, which varies from sea level height to 1,346 m altitude in less than 40 km, corresponding to the Cfb subtropical climate (cold winter and moderate summer); and the subtropical type Cfa (cold winter and hot

summer). The relief type includes canyons developed in the Serra Geral Formation escarpments, as well as an extensive Coastal Plain as a result from the progressive recoil of the escarpments of the Serra Geral plateau. The nature is characterized by Atlantic Forest Biome, which is considered to be the richest in terms of biodiversity in the whole world. The Human occupation in the territory and the associated economic activities, is historically related to interactions between the native pre-Columbian people and the relief, that used the paleoburrows as a shelter. The geological history dates to Paleozoic and includes Paraná Basin final stages of deposition, followed by Gondwana Supercontinent fragmentation. The complete break-up of Gondwana Supercontinent led to an uplift of east-side of the newly created South America Continent and formed Serra do Mar unit.

- i- No conflict of interest was declared
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Following the review of the **Caminhos dos Cânions do Sul aUGGp (Brazil)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:
 1. Ensure expanding the visibility/branding strategies, beyond the State of Santa Catarina, into the other municipalities of the State of Rio Grande do Sul.
 2. Consider the possibility of an official collaboration or partnership agreement with the other UNESCO designations in the territory.
 3. Improve educational activities and strategies to facilitate the mitigation of natural and geological hazard and climate change in schools, for the local population (primarily policy makers, teachers and elements of civil protection) and visitors.
 4. Develop the management structure and process to include local communities and indigenous communities, such as the Guarani Indians and Quilombolas representatives.
 5. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the GeoLAC promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

16) Sérido aUGGp (Brazil): The candidate territory is located in the semi-arid northeastern region of Brazil, state of Rio Grande do Norte, has an approximately area of 2.800 km² distributed among six municipalities (Cerro Corá, Lagoa Nova, Currais Novos, Acari, Carnaúba dos Dantas and Parelhas) with an estimated population of 112.372 inhabitants. The territory is inserted in the BSw'h climatic context (hot semiarid) according to the Köeppen's classification, having an annual average rainfall of 650 mm, presenting high temperatures, ranging from 15°C to 38°C. These climatic conditions are responsible for shaping the landscape of the Seridó region, making it possible to observe the surface landforms and thus the geological outcrops of the region shaped like inselbergs. The main employment areas are tourism, education and public management, textile industry, agriculture, and animal production. The territory has a good network of tourism, transport, cultural and health facilities. The geological history in the Paleoproterozoic age, the Rhyacian, with orthoderivative rocks of the Caicó Complex (orthogneisses and augen gneisses). In this basis were deposited sediments that today make up Neoproterozoic metasedimentary rocks from the Cryogenian, associated with the Seridó Group, with paragneisses, marbles and calc-silicates from the Jucurutu Formation; quartzites and metaconglomerates of the Equador Formation and micaschist of the Seridó Formation. It is also noteworthy that the occurrence of scheelite ore minerals in the Jucurutu Formation brings to the region national and international prominence, with the Brejuí Mine geological site in Currais Novos the main scheelite mining in South America. The interaction between these often-unique geological features and the presence of different relief forms adds scientific value to the Seridó Aspiring Geopark.

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Helga Chulepin who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Following the review of the **Sérido aUGGp (Brazil)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorses** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years with the following recommendations:

1. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:
 - Strengthen aUGGp inventory activities in the areas of research study, conservation and the promotion of the geological sites and the geological heritage.
 - Improve visibility of protection measures at the geological sites itself, besides in leaflets, mascot magazine, webpage, and social media.
 - Ensure a better geographical distribution of geological sites, trails, and interpretation material throughout the entire territory.
 - Discourage actively, with for example awareness raising campaigns, the commercial use and destruction of geological heritage within the Geopark territory. Discourage strategic partners from participating directly in the sale of geological objects such as fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks (regardless of their origin).
2. Improve visibility by considering the installation of directional road panels, to facilitate site access to the main entrance and for various trails, geological sites, etc., as well as facilitate the comprehension of the aUGGp's boundaries.
3. Improve partnership:
 - Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.
 - Strengthen partnerships and the involvement of the local and indigenous communities engaging them in decision making and using their knowledge in interpretation and other Geoparks activities. For example, promote further research and collaboration activities with the Quilombola "Negros do Riacho" Community.
 - Strengthen the relationship with the RBCA and establish mutual collaborations, in special related to educational programmes related to climate change, and associated risks, such as wildfires.
4. Improve tourism development:
 - Develop and implement training programmes for guides, tour operators and partners, local authorities, etc. for better interoperability of aUGGp with the entire territory, especially to be prepared to receive international visitors and to offer guided visits in English or other foreign languages.
 - Establish a visitor experience monitoring system to ensure customer satisfaction and support continuous improvement (i.e., visitor's surveys and questionnaires).
5. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the GeoLAC promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks

under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. For example, explore activities of networking with other UGGps or Projects with similar communities as the “Negros do Riacho” to keep on promoting local artists related to local intangible heritage.

Acceptance voted unanimously.

17) Napo Sumaco (Ecuador): The candidate territory is located in Ecuador in the upper basin of the Ecuadorian Amazon, in the province of Napo. The distance between the edges of the Geopark and the cities Tena and Archidona is 60 to 50 km to the north and 8 to 18 km to the southern limit of the Geopark. The project is based in the Amazonian mountainous region and consists primarily of irregular slopes; hilly and mountainous systems; mesas; plateaus; valleys and terraces. The altitude ranges from 3,830 m a.s.l., at the top of the Sumaco volcano, and 400 m above sea in Misahuallí Port. The climate is warm and humid with precipitation that ranges between 3,000 to 4,500 mm per year and temperatures that range from 16 to 22 degrees Celsius (GAD Tena, 2014). In the whole province it is estimated that 120.00 inhabitants live, 57% declare themselves indigenous, 65% live in rural areas and work in agriculture, workers or handicrafts. The average schooling reaches 8.5 years, the poverty rate by income is 49.8% and 41.6% (INEC 2017) due to unsatisfied basic needs since Napo is one of the poorest provinces in Ecuador. In Napo, 70% of the Economically Active Population (EAP) of the province is engaged in agricultural activities, specialized jobs (taxi drivers, machine operators, and artisanal fisher), tourist operators, vendors or artisans. Geologically is in the Subandean foothills and is part of a foreland and back-arc basin system. The Geopark tells the story of just over 170 million years of geological activity between the Jurassic, Cretaceous, Paleogene, Neogene and Quaternary periods. The geological sites show a great petrographic and structural variety, each of which hosts and manifests the geological singularity of the territory.

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Martina Paskova who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii- Summary of discussion: The Council identified that there are a high number of critical and fundamental issues, which should be resolved and addressed for this aUGGp to become a UGGp. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to ‘defer’ the application and propose sending a support mission with the help of GGN experts.

iv- Following the review of the **Napo Sumaco (Ecuador)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Napo Sumaco aUGGp** should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:

- Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the Earth Science and related topics, simplified and easily understandable, not only focusing on the volcanoes, but also explaining other geological sites such as glacial/geomorphological sites, to distinguish them and to highlight their unique geodiversity. Where relevant, explain and promote their complementarity with the other UGGp/aUGGps in the region.
- Consider the possibility of establishing a scientific committee with clear designated roles and competences for its members. Ensure regular cooperation between this committee and the Geopark management body.
- Strengthen the aUGGp inventory activities with clear criteria for the geological sites and set up monitoring and conservation plans for the geological sites and the geological heritage. Control the number of visitors to make sure they do not negatively affect the conservation of the geoheritage.
- Interpretation panels in the geological sites, and other materials should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complex scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English translation.
- Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails.

2. Improve visibility:

- Consider creating a tourist map providing information on all aUGGp sites, partners and facilities.
- Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.

- Consider the possibility to develop a marketing plan ensuring its adoption and implementation by the aUGGp management body.
3. Improve management:
 - Review financial and team resources to ensuring that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management. Consider the opportunity to establish a Geopark executive body with determined functions and budget.
 - It is recommended that all relevant local and regional actors and authorities be represented in the management of the aUGGp (i.e., Archidona, Tena and Napo).
 4. Improve partnership:
 - Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.
 - Strengthen the relationship with the Biosphere Reserve and establish mutual collaborations, while ensuring a separate branding.
 5. Improve tourism development:
 - Establish a visitor experience monitoring system to ensure customer satisfaction and support continuous improvement (i.e., visitor's surveys and questionnaires).
 6. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network, the GeoLAC and the other UGGp/aUGGps in Ecuador, promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application.

18)Tungurahua (Ecuador): The candidate territory is located in the center of Ecuador, South America. It covers 2,397 square kilometers, including five cantons: Baños de Agua Santa, Patate and Pelileo belonging to Tungurahua province, Guano and Penipe to Chimborazo province, which are close and around the Tungurahua volcano, at the center of the country. Tungurahua is among the most densely populated in the whole Ecuador (170/km²). Its cantons are: Baños de Agua Santa, Pelileo, Patate (which are part of the project), and Ambato, Quero, Cevallos, Tisaleo, Mocha and Pillaro. Chimborazo province has a lower density of population (97/km²) although it still represents the ninth most densely populated province in Ecuador. Chimborazo cantons are: Guano, Penipe (which belong to the project), Alausí, Chambo, Chunchi, Colta, Cumandá, Guamote, Pallatanga and Riobamba. Inside the area project, there are 37 parishes. Most of them are, therefore, rural ones, with the exception made normally of

the capital city; even so, most of the people used to live in the cities rather than in the rural areas. The area of the Project Geopark Tungurahua Volcano includes parts of the Cordillera Oriental or Real (Mama Tungurahua itself), of the rich Interandean Valley and of the Cordillera Occidental (Taita Chimborazo).

- i. A Conflict of interest was declared by Martina Paskova who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii. Positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.
- iii. Summary of discussion: The Council identified that there are a high number of critical and fundamental issues, which should be resolved and addressed for this aUGGp to become a UGGp. Consequently, the UGGpC voted and agreed to 'defer' the application and organise a support mission with the help of GGN experts.
- iv. Following the review of the **Tungurahua (Ecuador)** application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGp Council decided that the candidate does not fulfil the UGGp criteria (Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 3) to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defers** this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a maximum duration of two years.

The **Tungurahua aUGGp** should provide a progress report to be reconsidered for UGGp status. The report should address the following recommendations:

1. Improve the geological heritage promotion and conservation:
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the Earth Science and related topics simplified and easily understandable. Do not only focus on the volcanoes, but also on the variety of geological sites such as glacial/geomorphological sites to emphasize the geodiversity of the territory. Where relevant, explain and promote the complementarity with the other UGGp/aUGGps in the region.
 - Consider the possibility of establishing a scientific committee with clear designated roles and competences for its members. Ensure regular cooperation between this committee and the Geopark management body.
 - Strengthen the aUGGp inventory activities with clear criteria for the geological sites and set up monitoring and conservation plans for the geological sites and the geological heritage. Control the number of visitors to make sure they do not negatively affect the conservation of the geoheritage.

- Interpretation panels in the geological sites, and other materials should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complicated scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English translation. Separate the indicative panels from the interpretative ones.
- Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails. (UGGpC)
- Discourage actively, with for example awareness raising campaigns, the commercial use and destruction of geological heritage within the Geopark territory. In particular, discourage strategic partners from participating directly in the sale of geological objects such as fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks (regardless of their origin).

2. Improve visibility:

- Consider creating a tourist map providing information on all aUGGp sites, partners and facilities.
- Consider installing aUGGp signage at the boundaries of the Geopark to welcome visitors and enhance aUGGp prominence.
- Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in whole aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities.
- Consider the possibility to develop a marketing plan ensuring its adoption and implementation by the aUGGp management body. Promote and brand the Geopark beyond each individual municipality and carry out actions in favour of the Geopark as a whole, beyond the administrative borders.
- Merge the two existing Geopark websites, to offer one unified and verified source of information about the Geopark and its activities for local inhabitants and visitors and ensure easier access to information on internet.

3. Improve the management by implementing what is signed in the consortium and establish a specific Geopark working team, in addition to the municipal staff dedicated to the Geopark.

4. Improve partnership:

- Strengthen the collaboration with the GeoAmigos.
- Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.

- Strengthen partnerships and the involvement of the local and indigenous communities, engaging them in decision making and using their knowledge in interpretation and other Geoparks activities. For example, create and consolidate a Geopark platform for the marketing of geoproducts, handicrafts and tourist packages offered by indigenous communities, and improve the aUGGp promotion on the actions aimed at the local population (fairs, festivals, social events, etc.).
 - Increase the usage the Kichwa language in the Geopark interpretative, educative material and signage.
5. Improve tourism development:
 - Establish a visitor experience monitoring system to ensure customer satisfaction and support continual improvement (i.e., visitor's surveys and questionnaires).
 6. Improve facilities and infrastructure by considering the installation of aUGGp headquarters.
 7. Improve education by developing and implement training programmes for guides, tour operators and partners, local authorities, etc. for better interoperability of aUGGp with the entire territory.
 8. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network, the GeoLAC and the other UGGp/aUGGps in Ecuador, promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The council voted unanimously to 'defer' this application.

Summary of Decisions on New Applications:

Eight new Geoparks have been approved with two new countries (Luxembourg and Sweden) being added to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Community.

- [Ries](#) (Germany)
- [Platåbergen](#) (Sweden)
- [Mëllerdall](#) (Luxembourg)
- [Buzău Land](#) (Romania)
- [Salpausselkä](#) (Finland)
- [Kefalonia-Ithaca](#) (Greece)
- [Caminhos dos Cânions do Sul](#) (Brazil)
- [Sérido](#) (Brazil)

VI. Discussion of the revalidation of existing UNESCO Global Geoparks from 2019

- i- Attention should be drawn to Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 5.6 (vi, vii and viii) that clearly outlines the possible outcomes of the revalidation process. These have been provided below.

- ii- Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 5.6 (vi): If, on the basis of the revalidation report, the Council considers that UNESCO Global Geopark continues to fulfil the criteria set-out in Section 3 of the UNESCO Global Geopark guidelines, in particular that the quality and management of the area have improved or at least continues to be satisfactory since designation or last revalidation, it may decide that the area will continue as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a further four-year period (so-called "green card").

- iii- Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 5.6 (vii): If, on the basis of the revalidation report, the Council considers that the UNESCO Global Geopark no longer fulfils the criteria, it may decide to inform the management body of the UNESCO Global Geopark to take appropriate steps within a two-year period to ensure that the criteria will be met and maintained. In such instances, the status of the area as UNESCO Global Geopark will be renewed only for a two-year period after which a new revalidation report and a new field mission will be undertaken with the same conditions referred to in (ii), (iii) and (iv) of Section 5.6 of the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks (so-called "yellow card").

- iv- Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, Section 5.6 (viii): Should the UNESCO Global Geopark not fulfil the criteria within two years after receiving a "yellow card", the Council will decide as appropriate that the area concerned should lose its status and all relevant entitlements (so-called "red card").

1) Swabian Alb (Germany)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Marie Luise Frey who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.

- ii- Following the review of the **Swabian Alb (Germany)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve visibility:
 - Ensure that the new UNESCO logo is used correctly on all signage and in line with the UGGp identity.
 - Improve the promotion of the UGGp through social media networks.
2. Strengthen inventory activities in the areas of research studies, conservation and promotion of local intangible heritage, specifically focusing on the Kneipp tradition, linking geology, culture and human health.
3. Update the visitor experience monitoring system (i.e., visitor's surveys and questionnaires) to ensure customer satisfaction and support continual improvement on the future planning of the UGGp strategies and activities.
4. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.
5. Discourage actively, with for example awareness raising campaigns, the commercial use and destruction of geological heritage within the Geopark territory. Discourage strategic partners from participating directly in the sale of geological objects such as fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks (regardless of their origin).

Green card voted unanimously.

2) Bergstraße-Odenwald (Germany)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Marie Luise Frey who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the Bergstraße-Odenwald (Germany) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve visibility:
 - Ensure that the new UNESCO logo is used correctly on all signage and in line with the UGGp identity.
 - Improve the promotion of the UGGp through social media networks.
 - Improve the use of English translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions. Specially, the quality of English translation provided on the website.

2. An official collaboration agreement should be signed between the UNESCO World Heritage Site Roman Limes and the UGGp expressing the willingness of collaboration between these two UNESCO designations.

Green card voted unanimously.

3) Rocca di Cerere (Italy)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the Rocca di Cerere (Italy) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve visibility:
 - Consider the installation of directional road panels to facilitate site access on the main entrance and for various trails, geological sites, etc. Explore options to install panels along the highway (A19) crossing the territory of the Geopark from East to West.
 - Consider renewing the panels that are damaged.
2. Improve educational activities:
 - Consider the opportunity to develop new UGGp trails including the geological history interpretation through the main geological sites.
 - Improve educational activities and strategies to facilitate the mitigation of natural and geological hazard and climate change in schools and for the local population. Particularly, an awareness campaign about forest fires seems relevant.
3. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider establishing a list of performance indicators and good practices for the partner companies.
4. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network:
 - Help promoting the international project of Green Energy by the University of Catania among the GGN.
 - Consider finding out if Canadian participants (as listed on a commemorative plaque for the remembrance walk in the Trigona museum) in the battle of Piazza Armerina in WWII have a relationship to people in today's Canadian Geoparks to start a possible cooperation, fostering UNESCO peace goals.

- Consider playing an active role in the Clean-up day as recommended and promoted by the GGN. This action would contribute to minimise the visual impact of the several illegal garbage dumps next to some roads.

Green card voted unanimously.

4) **Beigua (Italy)**

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **Beigua (Italy)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Improve the use of English language translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions. Specially, improve the quality of English translation provided on the website. For example, the brochures of the "Centro Ornitologico" and "Centro Visite Palazzo Gervino", or the educational materials such as Il taccuino del Rock Detective or booklet series I Taccuni Naturalistici.
 2. Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails.
 3. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Specially, consider stronger connection and common actions between "Gustosi per Natura" and "Ospitali per Natura" (i.e., a Geopark Tourism Association could be created).
 4. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with other Global Geoparks example or by sharing the interesting/innovative activities and best practices of the UGGp.

Green card voted unanimously.

5) **Bakony-Balaton (Hungary)**

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **Bakony-Balaton (Hungary)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve the management structure and process to involve local community representatives and consider enlarging expertise within the staffing structure of the Geopark. For example, consider an additional staff position, possibly by shifting staff within the national park administration to the Geopark management.
2. Improve visibility:
 - Leaflets and other information materials could also be offered in other languages (i.e., French, Italian or Spanish)
 - The very good cooperation program for the marketing of regional products should be expanded further.
3. Improve visitor access and information about potential risks related to the sites to ensure visitors' safety. For example, in the Urkut Paleokarst, on the basalt columns of St. George Hill and on the Tihany Peninsula safe, durable, and sustainable constructions should be chosen to reduce the danger related to permanent moisture on these sites.

Green card voted unanimously.

6) Lesvos Island (Greece)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Nickolas Zouros who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Lesvos Island (Greece)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Ensure a good visibility throughout the entire territory and consider additional information points in the UGGp's partner facilities and villages to promote the work of the Geopark, including in the capital Mytilene.
 2. Increase where possible the visibility of the Geopark on local products.
 3. Encourage the UGGp's to keep on organising the yearly intensive course and keep up its involvement in networking, training and capacity building activities.

Green card voted unanimously.

7) Chablais (France)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote. Vice-president of the Council chaired this application discussion.
- ii- Following the review of the **Chablais (France)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve management:

- Review financial resources and team to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management. For example, consider a further development at regional level (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), in addition to the support at local and departmental level, to strengthen this UNESCO site designation.
- Improve the management structure and process to include local community representatives and consider enlarging expertise within the staffing structure, in particular to increase the scientific communication capacity.
- Strengthen partnerships and the involvement of the local communities engaging them in decision making and using their knowledge in interpretation and other Geoparks activities. For example, consider working with youth and the elderly to promote volunteer actions.

2. Improve visibility:

- Use the new UNESCO logo on all signage and aligned with the UGGp brand identity. If possible, set up a branding campaign for the Geopark as a tourist destination and consider the creation of a dedicated visitor centre.
- Improve the promotion of the UGGp through social networks.

3. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation

- . The protection of some geological sites could be improved by taking advantage of planned renovation of existing information panels, by adding new texts and/or pictograms about applicable geo-conservation measures.
- Consider extending the scientific committee or Scientific Advisory Board with experts from other disciplines such as sustainable tourism, marketing, or pedagogy.

4. Improve education:

- Consider strengthening the use or creation of digital tools for education/outreach.
- Consider encouraging virtual school exchanges.

Green card voted unanimously.

8) Las Loras (Spain)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **Las Loras (Spain)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Consider the opportunity to re-define the UGGp boundaries to align with the pre-existing administrative boundaries. This potential extension could provide the UGGp greater visibility across its partners and population.

2. Ensure geographical distribution of the UGGp facilities and infrastructures throughout the entire territory. For example, consider developing information pannels, Global Geopark Corners, or information points in the UGGp's partner facilities and most visited towns in the territory to promote the work of the Geopark and the network.
3. Consider implementing a newsfeed on the website for those who don't use social media, and promote the different geotouristic activities, their operators and the Las Loras collaborators.
4. Encourage the Partners of the Geopark to provide information for tourists in another languages – at least in English.

Green card voted unanimously.

9) Bohemian Paradise (Czechia)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC,
- ii- Following the review of the **Bohemian Paradise (Czechia)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. It is beneficiary for a Geopark to place itself in a worldwide context and inspire visitors to explore UNESCO Global Geoparks in other areas.
2. Consider implementing more Geoschools projects in the area following the example of the one with the Turnov School.
3. Consider consulting the UGGpC to properly use the raw garnets for jewelleryes, as part of the intangible heritage in the Geopark
4. Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure sustainable management of the territory. Consider the opportunity to strengthen the UGGp team by including a permanent manager if possible.
5. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Explore the possibility of joining the brand of regional local products.

Green card voted unanimously.

10) Fforest Fawr (UK)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Tim Badman who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Fforest Fawr (UK)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Consider expanding the UGGp territory to include new sites related to the impressive mining heritage.
 2. Improve facilities and infrastructure:
 - Consider renewing the panels that are damaged, especially panels with wooden frames.
 - Improve visitor access and information to potentially dangerous sites ensuring visitor safety, such as the stairs to the attractions – Mouth of the cave geological site – Porth yr Ogof.
 - In light of the increasing numbers of visitors, consider, in collaboration with local authorities and Geopark partners, improving the capacity and facilities in car park areas.
 - Consider the development of a visitor centre and Global Geopark Corners, or information points in the UGGp's partner facilities and touristic towns to promote the work of the Geopark.
 3. Improve involvement in research by strengthening partnership with local and international universities and research institutions, ensuring the implementation of strategies to monitor and report scientific research activity, including the review of research findings and publications. Particularly, improve cooperation with Universities, British Geological Survey and other relevant institutions.
 4. Improve educational strategies and activities to facilitate the mitigation of natural hazard and climate change in schools, for the local population and visitors.
 5. Develop the partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.

Green card voted unanimously.

11) Marble Arch Caves (UK-Ireland)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Tim Badman who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Summary of the discussion: The UGGp Council recognised Marble Arch Caves as the first

transnational UNESCO Global Geopark and as an active and prominent member of the Global Geoparks Network. Marble Arch Caves should have been revalidated in 2019 but the mission was postponed until fall 2021 due to the global pandemic and in the meanwhile, the UGGp went through an important review process, involving local communities and partners, from both countries, leading to a new management, branding, name and possibly a reduced territory of >10% and informed the Secretariat about these plans in summer 2021. This led to confusion as a change in territory of more than 10% is to be submitted to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and to be considered as a new proposal, as per the Statutes and Operational Guidelines of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme. Considering that this transition process is taking place during COVID times, and that from the revalidation mission report it was not clear if this territory change was already de facto implemented or planned, the majority of Council Members eventually concurred that further clarification is needed on the actual territory of the UGGp and the geological sites it includes. The name change was proposed by the new management and scheduled on the agenda and, considering the arguments provided by the new Geopark management, unanimously accepted by the UGGp Council (to become Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark). For the rest the Council agreed that the UGGp is involved in promising transboundary activities, and manages to mobilize substantial resources, despite the complicated circumstances.

iii- Following the review of the **Marble Arch Caves (UK-Ireland)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card with the following recommendations:

1. Provide clarity on the actual boundaries of the former Marble Arch Caves – currently Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark and if there is a planned reduction of >10% of the territory, submit a new application with the new territory, included geological sites and adapted branding as soon as possible, as per the Statutes and Operational Guidelines of the IGGP.
2. While the Geopark team receives a strong geological support from the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, it is strongly recommended to engage a full-time geoscientist as part of the staff.

A 'Yellow' card was voted on with 7 members supporting the 'Yellow' card, one member the 'Red' card and 1 member abstained.

VII. Discussion of the revalidation of existing UNESCO Global Geoparks from 2020

12) Famenne Ardennes (Belgium)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Summary of discussion: The Council identified that most of recommendations from 2016 evaluation mission were only partially addressed and that the Geopark team remains undersourced.
- iii- Following the review of the **Famenne Ardennes (Belgium)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card with the following recommendations:
 - 1. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:
 - Strengthen UGGp inventory activities in the areas of research study, conservation and the promotion of the geological sites and the geological heritage. Particular, consider providing visitors with relevant information related to the protection of the main geological sites.
 - Consider installing interpretation panels in the geological sites, or other materials, that should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complicated scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English translation.
 - Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and geopark trails. Especially, improve the integration of cultural heritage and intangible heritage, in the overall Geopark's interpretation and strengthen the cooperation with cultural attractions.
 - 2. Improve management:
 - The UGGp Management Plan for four years must be formally approved and adopted by the management body. This must include a clear territorial marketing strategy and ideally a formal guarantee of funding from the Walloon Government for the next years.
 - Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management (see above). Consider the opportunity to extend the UGGp team by including a permanent manager, geologist and a responsible for the educational programmes.
 - 3. Consider the possibility of creating a dedicated UGGp museum, an interpretation and/or a visitor centre in a selected touristic area.

4. Improve education:
 - Coordinate educational activities offered by the UGGp and the partners and promote these activities under the Geopark brand offering diversified educational programs for different levels of education.
 - Improve educational strategies and activities to involve schools, local population and visitors in the mitigation of natural hazard and climate change activities. Invite and encourage national and international researchers to use the territory of the Famenne-Ardenne UGGp as a laboratory and testing ground for research projects related to issues associated with climate change and consider *developing training courses related to the impact of extreme weather events (floods, tornadoes...)*.
5. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified
6. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Yellow card voted unanimously

13) De Hondsrug (Netherlands)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **De Hondsrug (Netherlands)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Improve visibility, especially the promotion of the UGGp through social networks.
 2. Improve education:
 - Coordinate educational activities offered by the UGGp and the partners and promote these activities under the Geopark brand offering diversified educational programs for different levels of education.
 - Strengthen the training of teachers on the UGGp and its territorial and heritage framework.
 - Improve UGGp activities for schools (Geopark goes to Schools/Schools come to Geopark) to develop thematic activities of non-formal education.
 - Improve educational strategies and activities to facilitate the mitigation of natural hazard and climate change in schools, for the local population and visitors.

3. Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management. Consider the opportunity to increase the UGGp team by including a permanent geologist and a responsible for the educational programmes.
4. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified
5. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Especially, with the UGGps working on Climate Change, water management, and/or geohazards issues in Europe but also, the 'Chinese garden' in "The Hortus" could lead to possible cooperation with Chinese UGGps, with scientific and/or educational common interests.

Green card voted unanimously.

14) Geo Mon (UK)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Tim Badman who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Summary of the discussion: The Council recognised the special status of this small island Geopark relying on bottom-up support from the local community and authorities and welcomed the Geopark team's efforts to manage it during the pandemic, despite the many challenges it faces.
- iii- Following the review of the **Geo Mon (UK)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve management:

- Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management.
- Consider the possibility of installing a hub for the UNESCO Global Geopark Management at the Geodiscovery Centre in Cemaes.
- Strengthen partnerships and the involvement of the local authorities (i.e., Anglesey County Council), communities and partners engaging them in decision making and using their knowledge in interpretation and other Geoparks activities. This would improve the good

basic work which has been done already to a higher level including Sustainable regional development, Geotourism, education and awareness rising.

2. Improve visibility:
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the Earth Science and related topics simplified and easily understandable and updated on the existing interpretative panels by the trails.
 - Ensure that the new UNESCO logo is used correctly on all signage and in line with the UGGp identity.
 - Improve the promotion of the UGGp through social networks.
3. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.
4. Coordinate educational activities offered by the UGGp and the partners and promote these activities under the Geopark brand offering diversified educational programs for different levels of education. Especially, developing the links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, at the a) Breakwater Countryside Park – New visitor centre b) Newborough Natural protection area – plans for a GeoTrail c) Marquess of Anglesey’s Column – Development plans with visitor area.
5. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Especially, improve cooperation with Fforest Fawr UGGp (second Welsh Geopark) and other UK UNESCO Geoparks through joint projects (INTERREG Atlantic eg).

A ‘Green’ card was voted on with 5 members supporting the ‘Green’ card and 4 members the ‘Yellow’ card, 2 members were absent with apologies.

15) Katla (Iceland)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **Katla (Iceland)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Consider the opportunity to re-define the UGGp boundaries to include the Westman Islands. This potential extension could provide the UGGp greater visibility across its partners and

population, and would bring advantages to the designation, including expanding the geological themes to sub-marine volcanism and increasing the population.

2. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:

- Improve the geological interpretations inside the UGGp making them attractive and easily understandable for all visitors. For example,
 - ensure that the text is prefaced by key-fact bullet points or a summary on the panels required on all sides of the 360° observation platform at Laufskálavarða where the lava fields stretch out in all directions to a spectacular and interesting horizon.
 - Consider producing user-friendly travel guide to the landscapes along highway N1, explaining how each major volcanic eruption has created its own extraordinary, and quite distinctive, landscape, highlighting the location of key geological site stops along the way.

3. Improve research capability by strengthening partnership with local and foreign universities and research institutions, ensuring the implementation of strategies to monitor and report research activity, including the review of research findings and publications. *Build on existing strong collaboration with Icelandic universities and geological institutions (i.e., Geological Surveys) and establish formal agreements with these key partners.*

4. Coordinate educational activities offered by the UGGp and the partners and promote these activities under the Geopark Brand offering diversified educational programs for different levels of education. Especially, developing the links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation:

- The Skógasafn (the folk museum) holds a display of rocks but lacks the story of how geology and geological processes have shaped the lives and culture in the area which would provide an excellent visitor experience and fit well into the remit of the museum.
- The new visitor centre in Kirkjubæjarklaustur, in the Vatnajökull National Park and UNESCO WH will be an excellent opportunity to promote Katla UGGp and both designations could collaborate to agree the scope for how the Katla UNESCO Global Geopark will be presented in the new centre.

5. To improve visibility, consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the UGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark. The Vatnajökull National Park World Heritage Site is constructing a new visitor centre in Kirkjubæjarklaustur, in the Geopark. Take advantage of the excellent relationship you have with the National Park management to engage early with the design team to agree the scope for how the Katla UNESCO Global Geopark will be presented in the centre.

6. Strengthen the partnership strategy by:

- attracting new partners, particularly in the Outdoor Adventure sector. Use existing partners as ambassadors to present how they benefit from their association with the Geopark on the Partner Training Day planned for spring 2022.
- Renewing the terms of the agreement and redrafted to ensure partners conduct their operations in a way that supports the needs of the Katla Geopark and its strategic objectives.

Green card voted unanimously.

16) Vikos – Aaos (Greece)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Nickolas Zouros who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Vikos – Aaos (Greece)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve the use of English language translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions and in particular the quality of English language provided on the website.
2. Strengthen the partnership strategy by:
 - Continuing the development of information centre projects in cooperation with local authorities and partners.
 - Increasing the number of official partners on the basis of well-defined criteria to ensure the quality of the offers.
 - Improving the promotion of the partners' network.
3. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Green card voted unanimously.

17) Central Catalonia (Spain)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Nickolas Zouros who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Central Catalonia (Spain)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve visibility:
 - Develop an overview story of the identity of the region incorporating the Earth Science and related topics simplified and easily understandable and updated on the existing interpretative panels by the trails.
 - Ensure that the new UNESCO UGGp logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity. Use the UNESCO Global Geopark logo in combination with the Central Catalonia logo in all the Geopark information centers, Geopark sites information panels, Geopark sites interpretation panels, Geopark leaflets and other promotional materials
2. Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the UGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark. For example, at the new visitor centre in the Funicular station in Montserrat, the visitor Center in Sallent, the new tourist information center in Manresa and the restored facility in the Sant Vicenç castle. Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails. Especially, in the information panels, which will present the Geopark map with all the Geopark sites of interest and trails.
3. Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management.
4. Promote Central Catalonia Geopark as sustainable tourism destination.
5. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. For example, presenting the Geopark's twinning agreements with other Geopark, the restored facility in the Sant Vicenç castle could be an ideal place for the Global Geoparks Network presentation.

Green card voted unanimously.

18) Causses du Quercy (France)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote. Vice-president of the Council chaired this application discussion.
- ii- Following the review of the **Causses du Quercy (France)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve visibility:
 - Ensure that the new UNESCO logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity. Especially, highlight Causses du Quercy UGGp as a UNESCO designated site in the local tourism promotional policy and its implementation.
 - Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the UGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark and the Networks, in particular in "The House of the Geological Reserve".
 - Improve the use of English language translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions. Specially, the quality of English translation provided on the website.
 - Improve the promotion of the UGGp and the partners and local producers through social networks.
2. Improve visitor access and information to potential risk sites ensuring visitors safety, especially, the infrastructure and the safety of the viewpoints.
3. Improve a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. This could include handicraftsmen/women, agro-alimentary producers, cultural associations, and other stakeholders, whereby the Geopark could promote their products through the Geopark's website and/or infrastructures, develop specific promotional material, using the Geopark logo and brand.
4. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. For example, introducing the EGN and GGN and presenting the Geopark's participation as partner on those networks.

Green card voted unanimously.

19) Gea Norvegica (Norway)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **Gea Norvegica (Norway)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. To improve visibility, consider using more foreign languages on information panels and other media with the application of QR codes.

2. Consider developing a social media campaign to enhance the awareness of the Geopark and its commitment to UN sustainable development goals through the Marine Littering Project (Clean Coasts). Consider sharing the excellent outcomes from this project with other UGGp as best practise, focussing in particular on the youth involvement. This could include initiating exchanges of experiences with other schools beyond the Geopark or by giving presentations at international conferences or in the Youth Forum.
3. Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails. Consider developing a series of self-guided itineraries for the general-public to experience the Geopark. This would help to reach a wider public, visitors and partners alike, to better understand the connection between the geology, the natural and cultural heritage of the territory.
4. Improve tourism development, by a greater use of online visitor recommendation platforms to create public awareness of the Geopark and the geotourism experiences that are offered by the Geopark. This will also give greater visibility to the Geopark's activities, not only to journalists and travel trade influencers but also to individual travellers.

Green card voted unanimously.

20) Sierra Norte de Sevilla (Spain)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Asier Hilario who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Sierra Norte de Sevilla (Spain)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Improve visibility:
 - Ensure that the new UNESCO UGGp logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity. Consider the installation of directional road panels to facilitate site access to the main entrance and for various trails, geological sites, etc. along the 11 municipalities.
 - Improve the use of English language translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions. Improve the quality of English translation provided on the website and consider using other languages, for example with the application of QR codes.
 - Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the UGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark and the Networks.

- Place a panel with information about the UNESCO Global Geopark and the Spanish Geoparks in the Visitor Centers, like the one in the Cerro del Hierro.

2. Improve Management:

- Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management. Consider starting a coordination process between the Geopark administration and all 11 municipalities of the UGGp for the sharing of investment and territorial development projects, in addition to those already provided for by law.

3. Develop the management structure and process to include local community representatives, for example, to enhance the master plan. To improve facilities, consider renewing the panels that are damaged and illegible.

4. Improve partnership:

- Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.
- Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility exploiting the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.

Green card voted unanimously.

21) Origenes (Spain)

- i- A conflict of interest was declared by Asier Hilario who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Origenes (Spain)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

1. Enhance visibility, ensure that the new UNESCO logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity. Consider the installation of directional road panels to facilitate site access to the main entrance in the southern part.

2. Strengthen the partnership strategy:

- Improve the partnership strategy to make sure it includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and

producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. For example, highlight the link between the members of the local association partners (ATG, APAT) and the Geopark, as to increase public understanding and interest. This is particularly true for the visitor centres and museums under the management of Conca Dellà Museum.

- Attract new partners, particularly in the private sector. Use existing partners as ambassadors to present how they benefit from their association with the Geopark.
3. Improve management:
- To avoid confusion, consider changing the name of the legal structure behind the UGGp, the Conca de Tremp-Montsec Geopark Association, to align it with the name of the UGGp.
 - Develop the management structure and process to include new institutions who are currently integrated in the financial aspect of the Geopark but not in the decision-making process (The regional government of Catalunya but above all the Province of Lleida).
4. Improve the tourism strategy, consider collaborating with the stakeholder *Pirineu emoció* to promote geotourism packages.

Green card voted unanimously.

22) Beaujolais (France)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote. Vice-president of the Council chaired this application discussion.
- ii- Following the review of the **Beaujolais (France)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Implement below listed recommendations from the 2nd UNESCO Global Geoparks Council in 2017 but have not yet been fully implemented:
 - Install an explanatory panel on the spectacular panoramic view from Theizé over Mont-Blanc.
 - Finalise the ongoing project for Espace Pièrres Foles geological site.
 2. Improve geological heritage promotion and conservation:
 - Strengthen UGGp involvement in research study, conservation and the promotion of the geological heritage. For example, at the Mont Brouilly geological site, discourage, if possible, the uncontrolled car park and the illegal practice of climbing.
 - Consider reviewing the database of geological sites, namely the ones with international significance for the geological heritage. Confirm the real scale value for the “Pierres Folles” and “Chessy Mines” geological sites.

- Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails. For example, the synergy between Espace des Brouilly and the Jardin de Vignis Clos Vitis provides a wonderful opportunity to complete this space with a new interpretation centre focused on the close relationship between geology and vineyards where the comité de pilotage of Beaujolais UGGp can play a leading role.
3. Ensure that the new UNESCO UGGp logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity. Especially, consider updating all maps, materials and supports including the new 3 municipalities, and the installation of an entrance gateway to the Geopark to facilitate site access to the main entrance in the southern part.
 4. Improve management:
 - Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management. Especially, consider strengthening the relations with and financial support at the Departmental or regional level.
 - Consider the establishment of an additional staff member with educational/pedagogical experience, to further develop the information and education/awareness raising regarding topics such as climate change.
 5. Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider developing a territorial marketing strategy at the level of the UGGp, as a regional destination, instead of relying on 4 different tourism offices for the 4 sub-regions (Beaujolais Vert and Beaujolais Destination, Villefranche Agglo and Beaujolais Pierres Dorés) with each its separate branding and marketing.
 6. Improve partnership:
 - Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified. Consider emphasizing criteria like proximity, carbon footprint, ecology.etc.
 - Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility exploiting the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.
 7. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network, not only in France, promoting the international value of the

territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Green card voted unanimously.

23) Azores (Portugal)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Summary of discussions: The Council recognised that Azores UGGp covers a very large territory, which challenges its management. It also appreciated the importance of the territory for the GGN. The Council expects Azores UGGp to make further improvements in collaboration with other UNESCO site designations existing within the Geopark territory.
- iii- Following the review of the **Azores (Portugal)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve visibility:

- Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity in the entire aUGGp region (Geopark sites, entrance roads, interpretation panels, media) including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material and educational activities. In particular, promote and support the partnership between the nine islands, for example, through the motto: "Nine islands, one Geopark". Make sure that information panels are well-designed to be accessible to a large public.
 - Ensure geographical distribution of the visibility strategies and consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the UGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark. For example, consider creating an info centre/point for the UGGp at Ponta Delgada, and install welcome panels/signs of the UGGp in the main entrance gates or along roads.
2. Strengthen the geological interpretation inside the UGGp, attractive and easily understandable to all visitors. Especially at the world class geological sites where basic geological information on their features, importance and role are missing.
 3. Ensure that the new UNESCO and UGGp logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity. As the UGGp overlaps with other UNESCO site designations, make sure that the different public policies involved are giving a clear and coherent understanding and visibility of the various actions undertaken by the different UNESCO designations on the territory. If possible, engage with other Multi -Internationally Designated Areas (MIDA's) to share good practices.
 4. Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate

funding is available to sustain territory management. Especially, consider continuous staff presence to develop more activities and increase the resilience.

5. Improve educational activities and strategies to involve schools, the local population, and visitors in the mitigation of natural and geological hazards and climate change activities. The UGGp could develop dedicated educational projects, activities and tools for geo-interpretation and raise awareness against climate change and geo-hazards, in addition to those organised by the Nature and the Marine parks under the initiatives “Ecotecas” and “Park schools” with the support of Geopark.

Yellow card voted unanimously.

24) Arouca (Portugal)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **Arouca (Portugal)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Strengthen the geological interpretation inside the UGGp, attractive and easily understandable to all visitors. Especially at the Paiva Walkways, the Arouca 516 bridge, or at small repairing/supporting stations to bikers, basic explanation on geological structures and sites could be provided through panels, as is currently done for biodiversity.
 2. Improve education:
 - Develop more educational projects on local geodiversity (focussing for example on local landscapes, granites, the mining heritage etc.).
 - Improve educational strategies and activities to facilitate the mitigation of natural hazard and climate change in schools and for the local population. Considering that the area of Arouca is prone to wildfires, floods and rock instabilities, as well as extreme weather conditions and the presence of the National Radar station all offer great opportunities to raise awareness on those topics.
 3. Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget remain appropriately resourced to sustain territory management. Consider developing together with local and national authorities a set of procedures and instruments to secure the financial capacity of AGA and staff presence, regardless the political constellation.
 4. Develop and strengthen strategies for sustainable tourism and sustainability:
 - Organise an impact case study about the potential issues that local culture, community, small village architecture and environment might face when all the scheduled projects will be finalised. This will help local authorities and Geopark to develop better

management and contingency plans for the future.

- Consider defining internal procedures of the AGA association, notably through the purchasing policy (for example strict specifications on eco-conditionality in the purchase policy, banning of non-sustainable materials such as plastics for example. This would also contribute to the Geopark's objectives and would serve as an example for all local actors.
5. Improve the use of other languages translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions.

Green card voted unanimously.

25) Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen (Germany)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Marie Luise Frey who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
 - ii- Summary of discussions: The Council recognised that Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen UGGp (GbR) is managed by two associations (Regionalverband Harz e.V and Geopark Trägerverein Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen e.V), with a double management), responsible for different parts of the UGGp but sharing an Executive Board and an Advisory Board. The Council commended the UGGp for this innovative constellation, which works remarkably well, and encouraged it to promote better their experience to other UGGps.
 - iii- Following the review of the **Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen (Germany)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
1. Improve visibility:
 - Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material. Evaluate the use of different designs and possibly even reduce the number of panels to avoid confusion, for instance where information on nature trails, general information, or botany information comes on different panels.
 - Ensure that the new UNESCO logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity.
 2. Continue the development of the system of both Landmarks and Geopark Steles.
 3. Interpretation panels should be easily understandable to all visitors. Geological site information and geological maps should be improved, simplified, and the use of complicated scientific terms should be avoided or clearly explained providing English translation.

Green card voted unanimously.

26) Sesia Val Grande (Italy)

- i- No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
- ii- Following the review of the **Sesia Val Grande (Italy)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card with the following recommendations:

1. Improve Visibility:

- Develop a coherent Geopark brand identity including Geopark logo, designs and layout for all communication material.
- Consider the installation of directional road panels to facilitate site access to the main entrance and for various trails, geological sites, etc.
- Consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the UGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark.
- Ensure that the new UNESCO logo is used correctly on all signage and within the UGGp brand identity. Especially, old panels where the Geopark is presented as "Project" should be replaced with current the UGGp entity.
- Improve the use of English translation in all information and communication materials, guided tours and exhibitions. Specially, the quality of English translation provided on the website.

2. Improve visitor access and information about potential risks on sites ensuring visitors safety.

3. Improve management:

- If possible, integrate the current Geopark management structure to form a unified management body, ensuring that it has an independent financial budget.
- Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management. Consider the opportunity to increase the UGGp team by including a permanent manager, preferably with earth science background, as coordinator among the three managing partners to ensure the day-by-day implementation of the strategy, and to keep in touch with EGN/GGN members.
- Strengthen the Geopark Management plan strategies for geotourism and sustainable development.

4. Develop links between geological and the other territorial heritages (i.e., natural biotic, culture, intangible) through interpretation, education, tours and Geopark trails. Especially, improve primary school educational programmes to include educational activities related to geology, biodiversity and cultural heritage and promote these activities under the Geopark brand.

5. Improve partnership:

- Develop a partnership strategy which includes clear methodology and criteria on becoming a partner, outlining the associated agreements with the Geopark. This is applicable to accommodation, catering, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products, but is not restricted to those identified.
- Consider providing these partners and local producers with greater visibility exploiting the Geopark logo and brand as well as specific promotional material.

Yellow card voted unanimously.

27) Idrija (Slovenia)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Alexandru Andrasanu who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Idrija (Slovenia)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Geopark management body in the implementation of the *Landscape Park* Management Plan and its contribution to and involvement in the Geopark concept. If possible, incorporate *The Landscape Park* project within the Geopark management plan and concept.
 2. Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management.
 3. Consider the possibility of developing a more coherent tourism plan, integrated in a single concept, promoting Idrija for example as the city of UNESCO Designations.

Green card voted unanimously.

28) Karawanken Karavanke (Austria-Slovenia)

- i- A Conflict of interest was declared by Alexandru Andrasanu who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii- Following the review of the **Karawanken Karavanke (Austria-Slovenia)** revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
 1. Ensure that the UGGp Team and budget are appropriately resourced to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain territory management. Consider the addition of at least one core team member.

2. Strengthen the visibility of the UGGp's successful work, for example, consider the development of Global Geopark Corners in the UGGp's partner facilities to promote the work of the Geopark. Communicate and promote Karavanke/Karawanken UGGp's high number of successful projects and its exemplary role in cross border understanding.
3. Further strengthen the interpretation and education activities inside the UGGp and share the good practices.

Green card voted unanimously.

VIII. Discussion of extension requests (<10%)

1) Catalunya Central (Spain)

- i. A conflict of interest was declared by Asier Hilario who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii. Summary and discussion regarding the extension: The extension requested involved an increase in size with 66.7 km² to become 1,250.5 km² and is proposed to include the municipality of Cardona into the Geopark, which includes now new interesting geological sites (salt diapir, mining heritage...) and cultural heritage.
- iii. Following the review of Catalunya Central (Spain), extension request report, the UGGpC decided to **ACCEPT** the request.

2) Beaujolais (France)

- i. A conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote. Vice-president of the Council chaired this application discussion.
- ii. Summary and discussion regarding the extension: The extension requested involved an increase in size with 1,7% or 26 km² to include 3 new municipalities his extension enlarges the UGGp from 1,560 km² to 1,586 km².
- iii. Following the review of Beaujolais (France), extension request report, the UGGpC decided to **ACCEPT** the request.

3) Tuscan Mining (Italy)

- i. Summary and discussion regarding the extension: The extension requested involved an increase in size from 1,087.46 km² to 1,183.66 km² or 8.85% increase and had been implemented to integrate new municipalities with new geological sites, archeological sites, historical mines, Natura 2000 sites.
- ii. Following the review of Tuscan Mining (Italy), extension request report, the UGGpC decided to **ACCEPT** the request.

4) Huangshan (China)

- i. A conflict of interest was declared by Jianping who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote.
- ii. Summary and discussion: The extension requested involved an increase in size from 160.6 km² to 173.43 km² and is requested as a follow up of a previous recommendation, recommending the UGGp to seek better alignment with the overlapping World Heritage site. The application requests an 8% overall extension. The Council could not find sufficient information why this extension is requested and how the new boundaries had been defined and requests further clarifications. about the definition of new boundaries. The Council asks Huangshan UGGp to submit an explanatory note to explain the process, needs, reasons and expected impact and consequences of the new boundaries.
- iii. Following the review of the extension request report, the UGGpC decided to **DEFER** the request. The Huangshan UGGp should provide an updated progress report to be reconsidered for a boundary extension request of <10% UGGp status. The report should include the process, needs, reasons and expected impact and consequences of new boundaries.

5) Non Nuoc Cao Bang (Vietnam)

- i. A conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini and Van Tran Tan who left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote. Vice-president of the Council chaired this application discussion.
- ii. Summary and discussion regarding the extension: The extension requested involved an increase in size from 3,390 km² to 3,683 km² (+ 293.6 km or 9%) and has been proposed to integrate the city of Cao Bang.

- iii. Following the review of Non Nuoc Cao Bang (Vietnam) extension request report, the UGGpC decided to **ACCEPT** the request.

IX. Re-naming of UNESCO Global Geoparks

1) Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UGGp (Portugal) **renaming** to Naturtejo UGGp

- i. Summary and discussion regarding the renaming: The UGGpC recognised that this renaming was an improvement and better aligned with the use of the name by local communities.
- ii. The UGGpC decided to **ACCEPT** the requested rename of the UNESCO Global Geopark to ***Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark***.

2) Marble Arch Caves (UK-Ireland) **renaming** to Cuilcagh Lakelands UGGp

- i. Summary and discussion regarding the renaming: The Council recognised that the renaming of this UGGp was proposed after an extensive public consultation and reflects better the entire territory as it is experienced at both sides of the border.
- ii. The UGGpC decided to **ACCEPT** the requested rename of the UNESCO Global Geopark to **Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark**.

X. Adoption of the pre-final draft of Form A

The Secretariat explained the preparatory and consultatory process leading up to the revised self-evaluation form, better known as form A. It gave a brief overview of the information that can also be found here: <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-global-geoparks-review-process-self-evaluation-form>.

It explained that, in line with the decision of the 5th UGGp Council, the draft version was tested during 2021, and improved as a result of that. The comments and review process were made available through the dedicated website, and led to a pre-final form A. The Council commended the collective work and the open participatory process and recognised the improvements. The Council unanimously adopted this new version and considers 2022 as a transition year, whereby sites

that started preparing their application or revalidation files based on the old version can still submit the latter.

XI. Discussion of IUGS Guidelines – Discussion on progress and next steps

The representative of IUGS explained the assessment process of the geological value of new applications and commended the good coordination with the Secretariat and involved partners, leading to a very complete assessment, with often up to 4-5 experts per dossier, and an overview document recapping all assessments. The Council recognized how this greatly facilitated their assessment and commended IUGS for the timely and thorough process. The new guidelines that are in preparation, under the guidance of IUGS and with involvement of a wide range of partners, will further improve this process and provide more clarity on the different criteria and consistency, for site managers and evaluators alike. The representative of IUGS explained the process, and next steps, and informed the Council members that a first draft of the revised guidelines are foreseen for spring 2022, planning to have a final version ready for the consideration of the next UGGp meeting.

XII. Request for the approval of the Production and Sale of traditional basalt craft items in Jeju Island UGGp

The Secretariat presented the document received from Jeju, followed by a brief discussion amongst the council members. The majority of the Council members expressed understanding for the arguments provided and, as the Jeju Island UGGp would only be using materials from legally operating quarries, the request was AGREED with one abstention.

XIII. Any Other Business

The Secretariat explained that the Secretariat engaged in 2019 to finalise the report in 8 weeks after each council session, but that in light of the organisation of the spring session of the Executive Board (214th session), the document needs to be ready well before that, preferably by the end of January 2022.

The Secretariat further engaged to issue a webnews with the outcome of the 6th session of the UGGp Council meeting.