
Invitation

UNESCO Global Geoparks, within the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), are the mechanism of international cooperation by which areas of geological heritage of international value, through a bottom-up approach to conserving that heritage, support each other to engage with local communities to promote awareness of that heritage and adopt a sustainable approach to the development of the area. Through the IGGP, these areas can apply for a designation as a “UNESCO Global Geopark”, drawing upon the broader mandate of the Organization.

UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) are co-organizing the 12th session of the International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2020 “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability”.

The Course is hosted and delivered by the University of the Aegean (Department of Geography) and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest at Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece), one of the first Global Geoparks in the world. It is financially sponsored by UNESCO, GGN, University of the Aegean and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest as well as local associations and private sector donations.

The Course will take place from 1st to 11th June, 2020.

The Course is recognized as the annual capacity building activity of the UNESCO Global Geoparks by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council. Attendees will have the opportunity to widen their knowledge and expertise on UNESCO Global Geoparks and Earth heritage protection, conservation and management as a tool for sustainable tourism development, and learn how to cooperate with different disciplines and countries. The Course will deliver theoretical background together with extensive fieldwork and will focus on UNESCO Global Geoparks and the delivery and integration of sustainable development to enhance contributions toward meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Pre-lecture activities will take place through e-class and relevant documents regarding Geoparks and Earth heritage management, which will be distributed to the participants. The 10 days – 80 hours ‘hands on programme’ will consist of 40 hours of field training and activities and 40 hours of lectures by top UNESCO and Global Geoparks Network experts, as well as specialists in Earth heritage management in theory and practice.

The Course is open to geopark staff members, geoscientists, local development professionals and students involved in geo-education in relation with geo-conservation, popularization of Earth sciences, geopark management, geotourism and sustainable development of rural areas.

UNESCO’s support to the Course will contribute to:

- Up to 10 grants (comprising registration fee and/or travel accommodation costs, field trip) for candidates from developing countries, aspiring geoparks as well as existing UGGPs needing supports for improvements. Women and early career participants are especially encouraged to apply. Individual requests will be ranked according to the state of their geopark project.

If you are interested in participating in the Course, please submit an application form accompanied by a short CV and an abstract (one page) of your country’s geopark project, which you will present during
the Course. If you would like request UNESCO’s financial support for your participation to this Course please forward your application to the UNESCO Secretariat. Application deadline: April 30, 2020.

**Should you have any further inquiries, please write to:**

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