1. The 2\textsuperscript{nd} session of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (UGGpC) of the International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) was held in Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, Guizhou province, People’s Republic of China from 16 to 17 September 2017.

2. A total of 21 participants including 14 members of the UGGpC and 7 observers attended this UGGpC session. Council members present: Jin Xiaochi (China), Guy Martini (France), Kirstin Lemon (Ireland), Melanie Border (United Kingdom and Northern Ireland), Ibrahim Komoo (Malaysia), Kristin Rangnes (Norway), Helga Chulepin (Uruguay), Patricio Melo (Brazil), Mahito Watanabe (Japan), Alireza Amrikazemi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Maurizio Burlando (Italy). Other members present were Roland Oberhânsli (International Union of Geological Sciences-IUGS), Nickolas Zouros (Global Geoparks Network-GGN President), Patrick McKeever (UNESCO). Apologies were received from Asfawossen Asrat (Ethiopia) and Tim Badman (International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN).

3. The following observers were present:
   a. UNESCO: Ai Sugiura, UNESCO Jakarta
   b. Republic of Korea: Yeon Woo, Chief of Geopark Team
   c. Thailand: Tawsaporn Nucharong, Director-General, Department of Mineral Resources and two other representatives
   d. Spain: Enrique Díaz Martínez, Researcher, Geological and Mining Institute of Spain, Guillem Puras Castells, Project Coordinator, Conca de Tremp-Montsec Geopark

I. Opening by the Chairperson of the UGGpC, the representatives of UNESCO, GGN, and IUGS, and adoption of the agenda

4. Guy Martini, Chairperson of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (UGGpC) officially opened the meeting. The Chairperson expressed thanks to all for attending, and also to the Zhijindong UGGp representatives for hosting the 2nd UGGpC Meeting and for their excellent hospitality. He also expressed special thanks to the UGGpC members for their work throughout the year, after the 1st UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting. He summarized the work of the UGGpC as follows:
a. Preparation of the 1st UGGpC Report  
b. Preparation of the new revalidation and evaluation report templates  
c. Preparation and adoption of the UGGpC rules of procedure  

5. Patrick McKeever, UNESCO, outlined the items on the agenda and expressed the importance of following the rules and guidelines. He also thanked the Zhijindong UGGpC for hosting. He also thanked Guy Martini as UGGpC Chairperson for the amount of work that has been done and he thanked all of UGGpC for attending and to those six that will change as their two years will be up by the next meeting.

6. Nickolas Zouros, GGN Association, welcomed all and stressed the important role of all the UGGpC members. All of the GGN are grateful to the work of the UGGpC during the first year. He thanked UNESCO for the immense amount of work that has been carried out not only for the successful operation of the UGGpC but for capacity-building activities in different parts of the world that supported the development of UGGps.

7. Roland Oberhansli, IUGS, opened by stating how crucial it is for an international programme to have comparable standards. He emphasised that the IUGS has the task to add standards to many geological programmes and wants to help the UGGps to do this also.

8. The UGGpC adopted the agenda and timetable of its first session without modification.

II. Discussion of the evaluation of UNESCO Global Geopark applications

9. As per Section 5.5 of the UNESCO Global Geopark Operational Guidelines, the UGGpC will recommend to accept 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 case of deferral, there is no need to repeat the field evaluation mission during this time.

10. The members of the UGGpC examined at its 2nd meeting 15 candidates for new UNESCO Global Geoparks.

11. Beaujolais (France): The Beaujolais is located in south-eastern France and occupies all the northern part of the Rhône department. Circled by three big towns: Lyon to the south (15km), Mâcon to the north (15km) and Roanne to the west (20km); the territory has an area of 1,530 km², and 225,000 inhabitants within 130 municipalities. There are three different types of relief: the Saône River plain marks the eastern border, the wine growing area is made up of slopes and uplands cut by wooded valleys, and the mountains of the Beaujolais which extend throughout the west and consist of huge forests and cattle breeding fields. The climate is temperate, with high continental trend and Mediterranean influences. The physical geography led to the formation of specific natural environments: moors on acidic soils, bogs of watershed heads, wetlands, and calcareous grasslands. Bordered by the Variscan domain (Massif Central) to the west and in contact with the peripheral zone of the Alps, the Beaujolais has inherited a rich and complex geology. No less than 150 different rocks are listed and all types are represented. The Beaujolais offers a comprehensive history of the initiation and evolution of the Hercynian orogenic cycle (suture of Gondwana and Euramerican, Pangea formation) and holds a remarkable testimony of this mountain chain, whose importance is central to global palaeogeographic history. The sedimentary series of the southeast Beaujolais covers almost 80 million years (Middle Triassic to Upper Jurassic). The great wealth of lithologies and structures that can be observed is linked to the varied marine geological history, marked by a great range of depositional environments. The Palaeogene tectonic movements of the Upper Eocene (Pyrenean
orogeny) and of the Oligocene have created intense fracturing of the basement and sediment cover, and the formation of horsts and grabens, characteristic of the peripheral zones of large mountainous areas. The superficial Quaternary formations have benefitted the large depression that was gouged during the Palaeogene to create the large alluvial and fluvio-glacial domain of the Saône River.

12. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

13. Two positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

14. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: sites from outside of the boundary have been included but were not on the map that is available for the public, visibility has been significantly enhanced, there are partnerships with many academic institutions, and there is significant natural and cultural heritage including the area being a famous wine territory. They are engaged in a LEADER-funded climate change project. Beaujolais is managed by syndicate structure. Its territory corresponds to the Syndicate territory and three other neighbouring municipalities (Saint-Germain-Nuelles, Saint Victor sur Rhins and Romanèche-Thorins) although the integration of municipalities is not complete and two of these municipalities (Saint Victor sur Rhins and Romanèche-Thorins) have not signed any formal agreement with the Syndicate. They have a geologist, four employees, two of which are women.

15. A discussion took place regarding the lack of integration of the two municipalities. These were not legally integrated nor were they included in the published maps. However, as they are included within the activities of the area and in every other aspect they are operating as a de facto UNESCO Global Geopark it was decided to allow Beaujolais the opportunity to resolve this issue.

16. A number of recommendations were provided for Beaujolais:

   a. The applicant UGGp has good interpretation panels but there is a spectacular panoramic view from Thieze, with the Mont Blanc dominating the horizon, from where much of the area’s geological story is visible and needs explaining. An interpretation panel should be installed at this location to address this.

   b. Ensure the conventions are signed between the applicant UGGp and the municipalities of Saint Victor sur Rhins and Romanèche-Thorins.

   c. Amend all future maps to accurately show the boundary of the applicant UGGp including the municipalities of Saint-Germain-Nuelles, Saint Victor sur Rhins and Romanèche-Thorins.

   d. The visibility of the applicant UGGp has been significantly strengthened now that the interpretation boards have been fixed to the totems at four sites. All future editions of the map on the remaining ten panels must show the correct boundary.

   e. The website is excellent but the homepage is predominantly focused on stakeholders rather than providing information on activities and suggested itineraries for the visitor. We recommend that the website makes “Geotourism and activities” a homepage tab and is enhanced to include suggested itineraries on how visitors can discover the territory.

   f. Interpretation along the geotrail at Espace Pierres Folles is tired, and needs updating and must refer to the applicant UGGp.

   g. At the Mont Rigaud site there is no reference to the applicant UGGp. An interpretation panel needs to be installed here.

   h. Partners are promoting the applicant UGGp but more can be done to strengthen this integration at facilities and infrastructure not managed by the applicant.
UGGp. The Vicat gravel pit does this very well, clearly acknowledging its partnership on the entrance sign.

i. Increase the visibility of the applicant UGGp at the Natura 2000 site at Boistray, recognising not only the partnership with the Conservatoire d’Espaces Naturels but the connection to the geology that underpins the marshlands and natural environment here.

j. The new geotrail at Mines de Chessy must offer visitors a good geotourism experience. We have seen the prototypes for the panels but the applicant UGGp should develop and offer quality Geotourism around this important Geosite. For example regular guided walks, activities for children during school holidays and underground tours.

k. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

17. Following the review of the Beaujolais (France) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark** for four years, with the condition that they present before 31st December, a legal agreement to formalise the integration of all municipalities. A letter will be sent from UNESCO immediately and if the necessary documents are not received before the deadline then this application will be deferred.

18. **Cao Bang** (Vietnam): Cao Bang Geopark covers a total area of 3,000 km² in the northern and eastern districts of Cao Bang Province in Northeast Vietnam. Mountainous landforms cover approximately 90% of the land area, with elevations ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 m at the west-northwest to 200 m at the east-southeast with a highland tropical monsoon climate with two clear wet and dry seasons. A complex drainage network includes five major river systems and 47 lakes. A population of approximately 250,000 people of nine ethnic groups live in the area, employed mostly in agro-forestry, trade and services, and small industries. Cao Bang Geopark can be divided into two distinct parts by a so-called Cao Bang-Tien Yen deep-seated active fault. The eastern part of the area is composed of Palaeozoic limestones, which demonstrate a complete tropical karst evolution cycle with various classic landforms e.g. peak-cluster depressions, cones and towers, fossil and active caves with magnificent speleothems, closed and inter-connected valleys, underground and surface rivers including a “turlough” lake system, and the world’s fourth largest waterfall on an international border. The western part features riftogenous sedimentary rocks, pillow basalts, ultra-mafic and granitic intrusions rich in minerals and hydrothermal alterations. The area has also sedimentary rocks dating from 500 Ma, with stratotype cross-sections, and fossils indicating different paleo-environments and some biosphere extinction event.

19. A conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini so he left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote. The UGGp Chair was assumed by Ibrahim Komoo, UGGpC Vice-Chairperson.

20. Two positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

21. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: suitable education programmes are lacking, the cultural heritage is one of the area’s most important assets and the intangible heritage is very good. Even though the applicant UGGp was only founded in 2015 the management structure is appropriate with good financial support. There is good evidence of networking with a presence at many meetings and
conferences. At the time of the report there was selling of geological material, this has now ceased and a letter to confirm this has been sent to UNESCO.

22. A number of recommendations were provided for Cao Bang:

a. A Geopark education programme for all should be developed integrating the UNESCO aspects of Education for Sustainable Development and also addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

b. Evidence confirming the cessation of the selling of geological materials has been presented to UNESCO but this should be continually monitored to ensure that it does not begin again.

c. Some infrastructure needs improvement to make major attractions easier accessible, especially during the rainy season (trail to Angel Eye Mountain, short and steep track to Nguom Cave, road to Le King temple).

d. Installation of an easy to read road signage system along the three main thematic access routes is recommended.

e. Some geosites (for example Lung Luong ammonite geosite) should be cleared of hanging rocks to improve visitor safety.

f. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

23. Following the review of the Cao Bang (Vietnam) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

24. **Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu** (Indonesia): Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu is located in the southwest of Sukabumi Regency, West Java, Indonesia, covering 1,260 km². The area is easily accessible from major cities nearby such as Jakarta, Bandung, Bogor and Sukabumi. The area is located between the borders of tectonically active zones, the subduction zone between the Eurasian plate and the Indo-Australian (Indian Ocean) plate which are continuing to move towards each other at 4 mm/year. The area has a rare geological diversity that can be classified into three themes: The subduction zone uplifted rocks; Jampang plateau landscape; and Ancient magmatic zone shifting and fore arc evolution. The evidence of a similar subduction process that occurred during the Cretaceous age can be seen in Ciletuh area in the form as rock formations that were deposited within the deep trench, created during the subduction process. This formation is composed of an ophiolite; metamorphic and sedimentary rocks that mixed together as melange complexes and known as the oldest rock formations that occur on the surface in West Java.

25. A conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini and Ibrahim Komoo who left the room so they were not present for the discussion and vote. The UGGpC Chair was assumed by Nikolas Zouros.

26. One positive review of the internationally significant geological heritage was received from the IUGS.

27. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: The boundaries are well defined and the location is easy to understand, but there is some concern that the map is divided into three ‘geo-areas’, which is in conflict with a UGGp being a single unified area. The logo and corporate identity have been inspired by local heritage. The infrastructure and facilities are very good and information is moderately provided where appropriate. Tsunami education is delivered in primary schools, and also in villages
near the coast with evacuation panels but this is not done by the applicant UGGp. There is good evidence of natural and cultural heritage but there seems to be little connection to the applicant UGGp. The cooperation between the local communities and indigenous population is good but could be improved. The work with their partner ‘Biopharma’ was highlighted as it is one of the best examples of a commercial company working with a UGGp and this should be rolled out in other parts of the world.

28. A number of recommendations were provided for Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu:

   a. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of West Java Province and Sukabumi Regency, developed a Master Plan for applicant UGGp Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu, for 2017-2025. This master plan needs to be supported by adequate administrative and budgetary resources and by all partners in order to be implemented.

   b. The applicant UGGp has signed partnership agreements with different local stakeholders and institutions. This practice needs to continue, to be reinforced and specific activities adapted and integrated within the applicant UGGp development plan.

   c. Develop and enhance the visitor infrastructure with new visitor centres and small exhibition rooms inside normal houses in the villages that are managed by the local population.

   d. Extend the applicant UGGp educational programs in schools and adapt the information to the level of understanding of school students and make it less focused on a high level of scientific terminology. This should include specific education on natural hazards with a particular emphasis on tsunamis.

   e. Develop training modules for local geoguides, tourism professionals stay house owners, members of local associations in order to enhance their knowledge of geotourism development and their skills to integrate geological, natural and cultural heritage, including the intangible heritage, in their programs, presentations and activities.

   f. Geodiversity has played an important role in local identity development. Specific research activities have to be carried out to identify more connections between the local geological heritage, natural heritage, and cultural heritage and to integrate the results in education, promotion, interpretation and visiting infrastructure.

   g. A deeper investigation should be opened on the intangible heritage of this area. This inventory should be directed to local tales, legends, myths, local songs, dance, and music.

   h. In approaching the development of panels, visiting trails, leaflets and other educational materials interpretation should be focused on easily understandable interpretation of scientific information for the general public.

   i. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

   j. Develop all areas with the same quality criteria used in order to have a good balance between the coastal areas and the inland areas, and to integrate all communities.

   k. Develop international cooperation and exchanges in order to promote local geological, natural and human values and to enhance the role of the geopark in socioeconomic development of local communities.

   l. Refrain from using the term ‘Geoarea’ as this implied that the applicant UGGp is not a single unified area.
m. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

29. Following the review of the Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu (Indonesia) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

30. **Colca y Volcanes de Andagua** (Peru): The Geopark is located in the western range of the southern Peruvian mountains where a chain of volcanic cones, dissected by valleys, stands out. It is an area with varying climatic levels ranging from 1,000 m a.s.l. (Andamayo, Colca River) to more than 6,200 m a.s.l. (Ampato volcano). It belongs to the provinces of Cailloma and Castile (Castilla Alta), in the department of Arequipa. It covers all or part of 23 districts; Chivay (capital of the province of Cailloma; 15 districts) and Andagua (centre of the valley of the volcanoes; eight districts). It covers an area of 6,010km², which is a vast territory with about 40,000 inhabitants. The inhabitants of Colca and Andagua are mostly high Andean populations, mainly engaged in agriculture, cattle raising, commerce, mining (Orcopampa) and tourism. The territory has Precambrian rocks, the oldest that exist in Peru, further marine and continental strata of the Mesozoic (Jurassic and Cretaceous), volcanic outcrops of the Cenozoic (Paleogene-Neogene) covered by Quaternary sediments. The Jurassic-Cretaceous sequences keep the record of marine, coastal and continental sedimentation, and have a restricted geographic distribution. Volcano-tectonic landscapes are present as well as glacial, periglacial, fluvial, alluvial, gravitational and karst landscapes. The Colca Canyon, one of the deepest on Earth, follows an east-west direction between Pinchollo and Cabanaconde, and then a NE-SW direction descending to Andamayo, crossing Precambrian, Jurassic-Cretaceous rocks and Cenozoic volcanoes. An additional aspect of the area are prominent neotectonic features: active faults, folds and intrusive bodies, controlling the orientations of rivers and mountains.

31. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

32. One positive review and one inconclusive review of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

33. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: The borders of the applicant UGGp are clearly defined and visibility is very good. There are a number of very good education programmes but none of them are delivered by the applicant UGGp. The support from the Government is very good but the initiative is not being run with a bottom-up approach. The area hosted the meeting of the signing of the foundation of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network. There are a number of local guides who know little about geology.

34. The area had a number of shortcomings including a very long list of recommendations. The most concerning of these was that it had not been operating as a *de facto* UGGp so it was felt that it would not be wise to accept it as such and that with further work it could be a much stronger UGGp in the future.

35. A number of recommendations were provided for Colca y Volcanes de Andagua:

a. Although the borders of the applicant UGGp are clearly defined, they are quite complicated, following administrative, geographical, geological or cultural borders. We suggest to consider minor changes (less than 10%) in order to simplify the borders’ definition.
b. The budget for the applicant UGGp activities within the AUTOCOLCA budget should be made more obvious with specific goals for the UGGp identified as part of the action plan.

c. The potential of the applicant UGGp is enormous and it is sure that improving tourism services and a better coordination activity between local authorities and operators will lead to a significant increase in the economic benefits for the territory. This can be done by:
   i. creating a strong identity and putting together and better coordinating all the several promotional activities, tourism services and opportunities already existing
   ii. organizing high quality training courses for local tourism operators and tourism guides to apply international tourism best practices, but also about the great values of the area from a geological, biological, archaeological, historical and cultural point of view
   iii. organizing training activities for tourism operators about foreign languages, especially English.

d. The area receives many international visitors. It needs to have all and not only some available information at least also in English. This refers also to all the information panels, the printed material, the website and the information provided through the social media.

e. The new Juanita’s mummy Museum near Cabanaconde is a very impressive construction which is unfortunately incomplete due to administrative reasons. Work needs to be done to solve all administrative issues and to open the museum for the public. Attention has to be given also to the accessibility for disabled visitors.

f. The signage system with the stone signs is quite original having numbers to each site and indicative letters for showing if it is a geological, historical or other heritage. These signs, although already linked with a map, need also to be linked with a guide book (electronic or in paper) where the interpretation/explanation of these sites will be available.

g. The area organises events and competitions with schools located inside the area and has prepared some material for that. However there are no educational activities on a regular basis. The applicant UGGp should prepare and organise educational programmes in various themes) for schools, students and also for special groups of visitors.

h. The interpretation Centre of Uyo Uyo is a new building which contains some panels and a few exhibits explaining the site. Its interior has to be completed with a more professional exhibition

i. n.

j. The presentation of the exhibits in the Interpretation Centre of Pinchollo needs to be done in a more professional way.

k. In terms of a sustainable development policy it seems to be necessary to prepare a new action plan analysing the progress achieved in the last three years and considering both the increasing numbers of visitors, especially internationally, and the great potential of the area. Special attention should be paid to implementing a comprehensive sustainable strategy about new projects in tourism development and encouraging an effective and collaborative network of entrepreneurs, farmers and tourism operators in the applicant UGGp area.

l. Most of the geosites are big volcanic structures which don’t require conservation. However the fossilized trunks in Tururunca need to be protected and promoted more than they are today.

m. The diatomite deposit in Maca needs to be better highlighted and interpreted.

36. Following the review of the Colca y Volcanes de Andagua (Peru) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that it does not yet fulfil the UGGp criteria
to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board defer this candidature for a maximum of two years to allow the above recommendations to be implemented.

37. **Djerdap** (Serbia): Djerdap is situated in SE Europe, in north-eastern Serbia. About 41,000 residents inhabit this area. In this area the Danube has incised the longest gorge in Europe, which extends over a length of 100 km, and connects the Pannonian Basin in the West and the Dacian Basin in the East. The distance from the Serbian capital Belgrade is 200 km. The applicant UGGp covers an area of 1,330 km². The climate is relatively mild, the annual average air temperatures are between 10 and 11°C, and the annual average precipitation sum is 784 mm. The elevation rises from 40 m (the Danube level) up to 810 m (Šomrda Mt.). This landscape is dominated by mountains with deeply incised valleys. Djerdap features some of the most diverse geology, spanning from the oldest Proterozoic rocks to the youngest Quaternary sediments. The Danube river incised into the mountains, leaving behind fascinating geological profiles, such as those in Pesača (stratotype of Jurassic and Cretaceous in the Southern Carpathians) and in Boljetinsko Brdo (classic Lower Cretaceous facies with cephalopods). At the beginning of the Palaeozoic, peridotite-gabbro-leucogranites intruded a cratonized basement of metamorphics (600–550 Ma). Intensive igneous activity was in contrast with limited sedimentation. I-type granites reflected to the existence of a subduction zone at the end of Carboniferous. The Permian period is represented by thick deposits of red landformed sandstones and conglomerates, which locally disrupt spilite, porphyrite and pyroclastic rocks. Land remained until the Liassic transgression, when noteworthy marine sedimentation of shallow-water clastites and limestone with hard-ground and Ammonitico rosso took part. The end of the Jurassic / beginning of the Cretaceous marked the deposition of deep-water limestones with radiolarian-rich cherts, including ammonite-rich marlstone and marly limestone. The end of the Albian stage is also the end of sedimentation in the Danubicum. Laramian plutons emplaced at the Cretaceous/Paleogene boundary. The epicontinental seas (Western and Eastern Paratethys), which existed in the Neogene, included several basins.

38. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

39. Four positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

40. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: Visibility is very poor with no panels or road signs. The facilities and infrastructure are provided by the tourism office and are of good quality and can be easily understood. Half of the area is within the National Park who also carry out the management of the applicant UGGp which can be confusing, and it was felt that too much emphasis was on the National Park. There is a well-developed education programme but geology is not strongly represented. There are restricted areas that visitors cannot access without guide.

41. A number of recommendations were provided for Djerdap:

   a. It is strongly recommended to create a “Geopark corner” in at least at one of the visitors centres and also to expand the related content in the website. This is an important tool for the dissemination of information about UNESCO Global Geoparks and to show the cooperation projects and initiatives that allow the visibility of this successful networking.

   b. Signage at the main entrance points and gateways should be a main objective in order to let the visitors know when they are entering the applicant UGGp area.
It is also necessary to spread this message across the entire territory, including outside the limits of the National Park.

c. The National Park is in permanent contact with the municipalities that are part of it. However, a formal periodicity for regular meetings of both the Technical and Expert Boards has not yet been established. It is recommended to make an ordinary meeting for each Board at least once per year in order to discuss and approve the annual action plan and budget.

d. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

e. The ecological value of the areas that are outside the National Park should be reviewed as some of them probably deserve a higher state of protection.

f. For future projects the park management should consider giving more options of exploring the cultural sites for individual visitors (without guiding) through the provision of on-site interpretation.

g. Give visibility to the applicant UGGp at all the visitor centres and improve the visibility at the tourism offices of the four municipalities, both on site and online. Where possible, add geological information of the area or basic geological or geomorphological concepts.

h. To a certain degree there is a lack of integration of the existing geotouristic structures into the overall concept of the applicant UGGp. Up to now, the geological information always seems to be “on top” instead of being an integral part or the basis of the touristic offers. This is quite comprehensible for an applicant UGGp that is based on a National Park, but the recommendation for future projects is, to look for ways to link all the single sites (geological and cultural) and in this way to draw interest to the geological heritage.

i. Concerning the Geosites by the roadside, the evaluators recommend leaving these to scientific purposes and to not integrate them in any touristic routes – except if there will be some kind of technical solution including parking lots and outlook-platforms as otherwise they are too dangerous.

j. The panels that have been elaborated and installed in the main outcrops have an attractive design. However, even though the texts are good in length the contents are not always understandable by non-specialists. Although it is already planned, we strongly encourage the creation of interpretative geological material that is more easily understood by the general public. The contents of future information panels and brochures should therefore be tested by non-geologists to make sure that the information given is not just scientifically correct and serious, but also easy to understand by all visitors.

k. The education experts should develop more material and programs with geoscientific content, but search for the links between the issues of culture, environment and geological heritage. Boost the realisation of PhD and Master Thesis in the applicant UGGp.

42. Following the review of the Djerdap (Serbia) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that it does not yet fulfil the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board defer this candidature for a maximum of two years to allow the above recommendations to be implemented.

43. Famenne-Ardennes (Belgium): The area comprises eight municipalities with a population of 67,000. The cultivated land and grassland occupies 52%. Agricultural activities constitute an important part of the regional economy, which is focused on local products. The landscape has contrasting relief with the south of the Ardennes (550 m a.s.l.) and north of the Famenne depression (115 m a.s.l.). The area is crossed
by several main routes converging towards its centre (Marche-en Famenne) and by a major railway (Brussels - Luxembourg). This accessibility has contributed to the economic development of the region. Various quarry sites also benefit from this road and rail network to easily transport their production. The area’s geological formations extend from the Lower Devonian (south) to the Upper Devonian (north). Three lithological units can be identified, in the southern part, the sandstones are responsible for a marked relief defined by the term ‘plateau ardennais’. In the centre, the limestones are affected by many karstic phenomena including numerous caves of international reputation not only in terms of tourism but also on a scientific level thanks to the numerous studies carried out there. To the north, the presence of schists localizes a vast depression (the Famenne depression). This juxtaposition of lithology gives the region a contrasted relief directly related to the nature of the substrate. Belgium was one of the pioneering countries for stratigraphy and reconstruction of the paleoenvironments of the Palaeozoic period.

44. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

45. Three positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

46. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: The boundary fits with eight municipalities. There is good visibility and good education programmes have been developed by Universities. Natural heritage and cultural heritage are all present although intangible heritage is there but needs more work. There is good evidence of climate change project activity. Management is carried out by an appropriate body with relevant members to manage the Geopark. There is an independent budget but no evidence of a budget after next year. There are dedicated staff members (including a geologist) although there is concern that the geologists role is carried out with two part-time positions.

47. A number of recommendations were provided for Famenne-Ardennes:

   a. Ensure that the geological heritage interpretation for the planned trails brings together the applicant UGGp team and University scientists and includes a direct input from tourism bodies.
   b. Extend the development of education projects and training for staff of the tourism offices as well as of other partners.
   c. Develop collaborative projects with partners ensuring that a Geopark contribution is made obvious and is clearly described.
   d. Improve the signage visibility on roads as well as the translation of the web-site in English.
   e. Establish collaboration and exchange with more experienced UGGp partners.
   f. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

48. Following the review of the Famenne-Ardennes (Belgium) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

49. Gangwushan-Nuoshuihe (China): The Geopark is located in Bazhong City, Sichuan Province, has an area of 1,818 km², and is dominated by a subtropical humid monsoon climate, and moderately- to deeply-cut high-middle mountainous terrain, higher in the north and lower in the south. The area is bounded in the north by Hanzhong, Shanxi
Province, and is 390 km from Chengdu, 370 km from Chongqing and 400 km from Xi’an. The area has 17 villages and towns, with about 120,000 residents in total. Located at the junction area of southern Central Orogenic Belt (the Qinling) and Yangtze Block, the area displays such natural landscapes as the sedimentary sequence of the northern Yangtze Block, karst landforms, water heritages with waterfalls and ponds and heritages of tectonic landforms. The area permits the studying of continental dynamics and the structural transformation relationship among the northern Yangtze Block, Central Orogenic Belt, Longmen Mountain Orogenic Belt and Daba Mountains Orogenic Belt. It is an important place for analysing the geological evolution of the peripheral basins of Tethys, Central Orogenic Belt, Daba Mountains Orogenic Belt and Sichuan Basin and the Yangtze Block; it is the transition zone between southern and northern karst landforms.

50. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

51. One positive review of the internationally significant geological heritage was received from the IUGS.

52. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: Visibility of the area is very good with many well developed leaflets and interpretative panels. However, there is confusion over the boundary of the National Geopark and the boundary of the applicant UGGp. There are also a number of areas being promoted as ‘GeoAreas’ something that is not possible within the single, unified boundary of a UGGp. There are many good examples of visitor facilities and infrastructure, and the information for schools and the general public is also good. There have been studies to identify areas of high natural hazard risk. There is a good management structure with many staff. There are issues with the high visitor numbers to some sites which is not conducive for sustainable tourism.

53. A number of recommendations were provided for Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe:
   
a. To ensure that the UGGp is promoted as a single, unified area without the use of individual ‘GeoAreas’, and to make sure that this is represented on all promotional material and signage throughout.
b. To improve interpretative panels by using more illustrations to better explain geological processes and other interesting phenomenon.
c. To use more paleontological sites for public education and tourism (equipped with proper protection facilities).
d. Expositions with local rocks and fossils exhibited in the Museum need more sophisticated interpretation but bearing in mind all interpretation must be understandable to the non-specialist, e.g. background pictures illustrating the paleo-landscape of the interpreted stones and / or their arrangement in the time axis.
e. The archives allocated in the Museum should complete the database of the museum exhibitions and geosites.
f. To implement light pollution mitigation as well as a special care on noise pollution in the caves. Monitoring of animals and plants in the caves should be undertaken the results of which should then be used to limit the number of visitors accordingly.
g. To enhance the bottom-up approach, it is very important to implement sustainable development with the highest possible involvement of the local people into the UGGp decision-making process.
h. To continue to focus on research and risk reduction management, and include this within the education programmes.
i. To actively participate in the networking activities such as training courses and international meetings and exchange experiences and ideas internationally.

j. To produce an independent study that will identify the impact of mass tourism on the UGGp and the carrying capacity of the UGGp as a whole and at individual sites and produce appropriate actions to address this.

k. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

54. Following the review of the Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe (China) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfills the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

55. **Huanggan Dabieshan** (China): Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark is located in Hubei Province, China, and lies along the boundary with Henan and Anhui Provinces, and covers a total area of 2,625.54 km². The terrain is higher in the north and lower in the south. Its unique location belonging to the warm subtropical monsoon zone produces a humid climate, abundant rain and obvious seasons, which have all created a region with dazzling biodiversity. The area demonstrates the geological evolution of eastern China, and the collision between the North China Plate and Yangtze Plate which has laid the foundation for the geotectonic framework of eastern China, leading to the formation of Qinling-Dabie central orogenic belt. The area is located in the eastward extension part of Qinling-Dabie Mountain, in the south of Dabie Mountains and retains the oldest ancient continental nucleus root of the orogenic belt which is a combination of the garnet biotite gneiss and greenstone belt (Muzidian Group), which was exposed more than 2.8 billion years ago. High-pressure and ultrahigh-pressure eclogite is the key evidence of the plate subduction and collision of the North China Block and Yangtze Block. Two largest sets of strike-slip ductile shear zones in the northwest and northeast extension, discovered so far, reflect the tectonic deformation of the orogenic process of Dabie Mountains. It exposed Neo-Archean, Neo-Proterozoic, Palaeozoic or Mesozoic intrusive rocks, among which original epeirogenic rock series (Trondhjemite, Tonalite, Granodiorite, or TTG) of the late Archaean and the Mesozoic intrusive granite are the most widespread rock mass. They form the unique granite landform of the Dabie Mountains.

56. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

57. Four positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

58. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: Visibility is very good with existing interpretation in place. The website is functioning well and is regularly updated. Information boards are in good condition but the technical content makes it difficult for the general public to understand. There is good natural heritage and cultural heritage but there is intensive fishing allowed in one of the Natural Reserves which should be strictly controlled. There is a clear management structure and there are partnerships with several local companies and businesses. Products are sold with the applicant UGGp logo and local communities are actively involved. They have been networking at many GGN and APGN (Asia Pacific Geoparks Network) conferences for several years.

59. A number of recommendations were provided for Huanggang Dabieshan:
a. There is a great deal of technical content on information panels and other materials, much of which could be reduced by using pictures and diagrams. This should be a priority to ensure that the public can easily understand them.
b. Timelines should be added to the information panels, to assist in the understanding of each site and their relationship with others.
c. Good examples for the interaction of wildlife (plants, animals and their habitats) should be spread wider in the whole area.
d. When renewing information panels, signage and reprinting maps and brochures, the relevant logos should be included.
e. The intensive fishing practices that take place at the wetland reserves should be strictly controlled to ensure that this is carried out in a sustainable manner, without a detrimental impact on the natural environment. This should be addressed in the first instance by the commission of an independent study that identifies the impact of these practices and provides solutions to mitigate for these impacts.
f. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

60. Following the review of the Huanggang Dabieshan (China) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

61. **Izu Peninsula** (Japan): Izu Peninsula is located in the southeast of Honshu, Japan about 100 km WSW of Tokyo, and by train is about 40 minutes from Tokyo, and 1 hour from Tokyo International Airport. The area is approximately 2,027 km² (land area: 1,585 km²). It has 15 administrative units: Numazu City, Atami City, Mishima City, Itō City, Shimoda City, Izu City, Izuokuni City, Higashiizu Town, Kawazu Town, Minamiizu Town, Matsuzaki Town, Nishiiizu Town, Kannami Town, Shimizu Town, and Nagaizumi Town. Izu extends about 60 km southward at the eastern edge of Shizuoka Prefecture; it has a maximum east-west width of 40 km, and a total coastal length of 318 km. Most of the area is covered by mountains of low to moderate elevations. The highest point of the peninsula is Mt. Banzaburō (1,405 m). The sudden protrusion of these mountains from the sea causes heavy rain fall, and a diverse coastal topography. The area is the only place in the world where two active volcanic arcs meet, and various collision phenomena that arise from it are currently taking place. The geological history of the past 20 million years can be divided into three periods: Neogene submarine volcanism; Quaternary terrestrial volcanism on a large scale, after the collision with the Honshū about 1 Ma; and the scattered activity of the monogenetic volcanoes, continuing from 150,000 years ago to present. Nowhere else is it possible to trace the multifarious and dramatic changes of volcanism for such a long period. The collision with the Honshū arc has created many active faults and much uplifted topography. Particularly, the activity history of the Tanna Fault has been determined in the early 1980s through trench excavation surveys. This result, along with the discovery of the large-scale (1 km) lateral slip in the 1930s, the research on this fault has led global research on active faults.

62. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

63. Three positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

64. The previous relationship with the applicant UGGp area was outlined including their failure to provide evidence of geological heritage of international value, and the fact
that the area carries out ‘dolphin driving’, a practice that is internationally considered as constituting animal cruelty.

65. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: Concerning the geological value, three IUGS evaluators worked on this and concluded that it has international importance. Concerning the dolphin driving practices, nobody raised the issue or complained about it during the evaluation mission and it has not been practiced since 2004 so the conclusion from the evaluators was positive. The boundary of the applicant UGGp is very clear and coincides with the administrative borders of local community. Visibility is very good and there is also good visitor information and service infrastructure. The disaster mitigation is well-developed. There is a clear management structure with a secure financial situation. Local communities are well integrated within the applicant UGGp and there is a clear bottom-up approach. There is a World Heritage Site within the Geopark boundary and there is good cooperation between the two.

66. A number of recommendations were provided for Izu Peninsula:

a. Considering the internationally important geological heritage of the Izu Peninsula and the role that it has played in local identity development, specific activities need to be developed in order to identify the connections between the local geological heritage, natural heritage, and cultural heritage and to integrate the results in education, promotion, interpretation and visiting infrastructure.

b. Highlight and promote the international value of the geological heritage through effective interpretation for a wide audience at every possible opportunity.

c. Related with its historical and cultural importance of Izu Peninsula, a deeper investigation should be opened on the intangible heritage of this area. This should include an inventory that includes local tales, legends, myths, local songs, dance, and music.

d. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

e. Develop the different landscapes of the area with the same quality criteria used, in order to have a good balance between the coastal areas and the inland areas, in order to integrate all geopark communities. Ensure that formal agreements are in place with all partners.

f. Due to the exceptional historical art and literature found in the Izu Peninsula landscapes, an inventory of these should be created to ensure that they are recorded and put to future use.

g. Develop international cooperation and exchanges in order to promote local geological, natural and human values and to enhance the role of the geopark in socio-economic development of local communities.

h. Adapt the Master Plan and Action Plan in order to better integrate the recommendations.

i. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

67. Following the review of the Izu Peninsula (Japan) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark** for four years.
68. **Ngorongoro-Lengai** (Tanzania): The area is confined to the North and North-West by the Serengeti National Park, Lake Natron to the East, Greater Rift Valley Left arm to the South, and Maswa Game Reserve to the West. Its altitude ranges from the lowest areas, the main Crater (600 m) to the highest altitude, the Oldonyo Lengai (2,962 m) and falls in three districts of Ngorongoro, Karatu, and Monduli in Arusha region of Tanzania with a total number of inhabitants of 230,588. The area can be accessed from different angles using different means, such as air and roads. The Arusha-Serengeti-Mwanza/Mara main roads pass through the territory. The distance from Ngorongoro Lengai aspiring UGGp to Arusha city is 154 km. Apart from the famous Ngorongoro main crater, there are two smaller craters Empakai and Olmoti craters. The Oldoinyo Lengai “Mountain of God” or “Holy Mountain” in Maasai language is the youngest and active stratovolcano (2,962 m), standing in the northern end of the Ngorongoro Volcanic Highland in the Eastern Africa major Rift Valley (EARV), 16 km south of Lake Natron, Arusha region. It is the first of the volcanic systems of the EARV, and uniquely produces natrocarbonatite lava that contains almost no silicon. The Olduvai Gorge is a famous steep sided ravine. The Gorge is a 100 m deep and 46 km long stream-cut valley. It is one of the most famous paleontological sites in the world. The volcanic beds formed in the Pliocene Epoch and have yielded an unsurpassed record of past environments; fossil hominids attributed to *Australopithecus (Paranthropus) boisei, Homo habilis, and Homo erectus*, Early, Middle and Late Stone Age artefacts; and a wide range of fossilized faunal remains. The Laetoli is one of the most important paleontological and paleoanthropological sites in Africa located 36 km south of Olduvai Gorge.

69. A conflict of interest was declared by Guy Martini so he left the room and was not present for the discussion and vote. The UGGp Chair was assumed by Ibrahim Komoo, UGGpC Vice-Chairperson.

70. Two positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

71. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: This is a very important geological area across the African rift. The boundary reflects administrative borders but doesn’t include important lakes. Visibility is reasonable but this is not the case inside the conservation area. Partnerships have been established with various tribes in the area and visitors are able to visit and to understand their traditions and cultures. However, of the three tribes, only one gets the main benefits so this should be addressed to ensure equality. The applicant UGGp is an existing Natural Conservation Area (NCA), Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site with the information to the whole area being good. Natural heritage, cultural and intangible heritage are all exceptional in this area. The management authority is well-established and has a sufficient budget and they have a geoscientist from the Geological Survey that will soon be employed directly. They manage all of the other designated areas and there is a need to ensure differentiation between all of these. There are lots of tourism activities and all are at a well-established level. There are numerous natural hazards in the area not identified in the application. The fact that this area is in Sub-Saharan Africa was raised and it is unusual to have such good management structure.

72. A number of recommendations were provided for Ngorongoro-Lengai:

a. To improve the information provided in promotional items concerning the geological heritage. This can be done with assistance from members of the UGGpC as this component is currently lacking.

b. To refine the Geopark boundary, clearly indicating the boundaries of other UNESCO designations and the NCA.
c. To increase the overall visibility of the Geopark, especially outside the conservation areas.
d. To secure the direct employment of a geoscientist.
e. To ensure that all three local tribes are equally involved in the UGGp to allow for further progress and successful development of this emerging area.
f. To provide all documents in Swahili to ensure accessibility for all.
g. To include education on natural hazards in the area to help raise awareness and understanding of the processes and impacts that such events could have.
h. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

73. Following the review of the Ngorongoro-Lengai (Tanzania) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark** for four years.

74. **Percé** (Canada): The area is situated on the eastern most tip of the Gaspe Peninsula (East of Quebec, Canada). The Gaspe Peninsula’s climate, greatly influenced by its relief, is generally classified as boreal with cold dry winters (-20°C) but mild summers (over 10°C). On the 555 km² territory from sea level to 370 meters high, there are 3,289 inhabitants year round who enjoy two complementary environments. The first one, terrestrial, has various reliefs, the second, marine, offers a large diversity of landscapes like cliffs, islands, beaches and bays. This territory contains a lot of ecosystems which allow the region to have diversity in wildlife and flora. The main economic activities in Percé are tourism, fishing and forestry sectors. When in Percé, visitors can discover a territory particularly rich in rock archives (rocks and fossils) and in various landforms that testify to its ancient and recent past. Rocks demonstrate 170 million years of the regional geological history in a very small area (40 km²) and it is also possible to see some glacial remains from the Quaternary. These rocks, unlike many of their counterparts elsewhere in the Appalachians, are poorly metamorphosed, which makes it possible to recognize the textures and structures formed during their deposition. Rocks allow one to contemplate a collection of geological phenomenon: sedimentation process, faults (metric and kilometric size) and linked deformations (rock beds rotation, unconformities), erosion, sedimentary transport, landslide, fossils, coal deposits (the only known occurrence of coal in the province of Quebec).

75. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

76. Four positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

77. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: There is a degree of visibility including a corporate design but the applicant UGGp needs to extend the visibility around Percé. There is still a big need for educational material. There is a great deal of potential for natural and cultural heritage to be developed but this has not been done as yet. The area is managed by a cooperative non-profit organisation with a legal status, and they have established formal agreements with partners.

78. A number of recommendations were provided for Percé:

a. Compile geoheritage interpretation for the planned trails and bring together the geopark team with geoscientists from the Geological Survey of Canada and integrating these experts into the interpretation project.
b. Develop a new trail along the beach of the cliffs next to the Island Bonaventure.
c. Extend education project development and training for staff of the tourism offices as well as of other partners.
d. Reinforce the common actions in the area of the National Park of the Island of Bonaventure and Rocher-Percé in order to upgrade the educational and touristic tools and create new programmes of geotouristic experiences.
e. Develop collaborative projects with a Geopark contribution to the projects clearly described.
f. Extend the information on the web site on the general formation of the territory and provide a geological map for interested visitors in French and in English.
g. Establish collaboration and exchange with more experienced partners in the GGN.
h. Finish and approve the ongoing new Strategic Development Plan for the period 2017-2021.
i. Integrate the exceptional natural and cultural heritage into the area.
j. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

79. Following the review of the Percé (Canada) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

80. Mudeungsan (Republic of Korea): The Geopark is located in the southern part of the Korean peninsula near the large regional city of Gwangju. Administration is shared between Gwangju City and two counties of Jeollanam Province. The total population of the city and counties is more than 1.6 million. About half of the area is forested. The applicant UGGp gets its name from Mount Mudeung which rises about 1,100 m above the lowlands. The climate is much influenced by the mountains and is warm and temperate with significant rainfall in each month. The core area of 75 km² is within Mudeungsan National Park. In and around the area there are many villages and cultural features closely connected to Mt Mudeung. Twenty geosites have been identified in the 1,051 km² mountainous applicant UGGp area. Seven geological periods are represented. The geological sites range from five large colonnades of polygonally jointed tuff columns recording at least three phases of Cretaceous volcanic activity, extensive periglacially-produced block streams and cryoplanation surfaces, unusual microclimatic environments within talus accumulations, dinosaur footprints and trackways, and a variety of other geological and geomorphological features such as lengthy scenic cliff-lines and waterfalls.

81. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

82. Two positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

83. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: The boundary takes in three administration districts. Visibility is good, there are a number of visitor centres and museums and an established network of partners. All of the information is understandable by the public and appropriate for all ages. There is a huge amount of natural, cultural and intangible heritage and the area contains an excellent Climate Change Centre. There is a well-developed organisational structure and the local communities have good partnerships with them. The area overlaps a WHS site and there is good cooperation between the two.

84. A number of recommendations were provided for Mudeungsan:
a. Strengthen the links between the natural and cultural heritage and the geological heritage and promote them at every opportunity.

b. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the applicant UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

c. Improve the international communication and ensure that all English translations contain the correct spelling and grammar.

d. As the large city of Gwangju is located within the applicant UGGp care should be taken to assess the sustainability of the area and ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to address this.

e. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

85. Following the review of the Mudeungsan (Republic of Korea) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

86. Satun (Thailand): The area is located exclusively in Satun province, southern Thailand. It covers four districts: Thungwa, La-ngu, Manang, and part of Mueang Satun including two national parks and one wildlife sanctuary with a total area of 2,597 km² (1,099 km² of land area and 1,497 km² of sea area); altitude: 0 – 732 m and the temperature ranges from 23.1°C – 34.7°C. The area is about 50 km from the city of Satun, 70 km from Trang Airport and 120 km from Hat Yai Airport. The area is composed of mountains and foothills on the east and north while beaches and coastal islands in the Andaman Sea with a population of about 113,110 people, they are Thai people including Buddhist, Muslim and Christian, and minority groups, i.e. Semung or Maniq and Urak Lawoi (or Chao le in Thai language). Economic activities are mainly based on agriculture, fishery, tourism, and small local business. The area is well known as the land of Palaeozoic fossils in Thailand and Southeast Asia for its abundance, high diversity and the oldest succession of fossil including trilobites, brachiopods, stromatolites, conodonts, graptolites, tentaculites and nautiloids. The Cambrian trilobite fossils at Tarutao Island are the oldest in the Thai-Malay Peninsula and, with volcanic ash, allow absolute dating of the well-established late Cambrian trilobite biostratigraphy. One new genus and five species of Cambrian trilobites are present, as well as the mysterious red stromatolites. Significant evidence supports the evolution of the Old World Realm in which Shan-Thai formed part of peri-Gondwana terranes.

87. A conflict of interest was declared by Ibrahim Komoo so he left the room and he was not present for the discussion and vote.

88. Two reviews were received by IUGS. One report clearly accepted the area as having internationally important geological heritage in terms of understanding global paleogeography whereas the other report was inconclusive.

89. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: There is a well-defined boundary and many of the sites are within a National Park and wildlife area so are legally protected. There is good visibility and there are many visitor centres in existence which are very good and modern in many cases. The information available is of good quality and always links geology with other aspects of heritage. There is a long tradition of promoting the natural heritage as this is a National Park and wildlife area. The area
is particularly vulnerable to sea level change associated with climate change and in this area there is a lack of education. The management body has legal status and there is a permanent staff with 40% women. The area is an example of good practice when it comes to educational activities and in partnerships. The area is very close to Langkawi UGGp in Malaysia and although there are similarities, there are also differences as well as evidence of good collaboration between the two areas.

90. A number of recommendations were provided for Satun:

a. To improve the protection and interpretation of the geosite of Khao Noi Type Section, because of its international relevance.

b. To develop actions to protect infrastructure in coastal areas that are subject to very severe natural deterioration. Special care is required at the impressive and strategic bridge of the Khao To Ngai Geological Time Boundary Geotrail.

c. The relevance and impact of climate change and earthquakes / tsunamis in this region means that the territorial management body should establish collaboration agreements and projects with UGGps from Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia. This could involve the possibility of developing monitoring projects and educational programs to minimize the impact of these natural hazards on these territories.

d. To use the numerous legends and stories related to the natural heritage to enhance the experience of this territory for tourists and to attract their attention for the natural and cultural heritage.

e. The significant budget available until 2019 could be used in a small part to hire more staff members specializing in education, communication, tourism and design in order to respond more specifically to the territorial and networking near future challenges.

f. Use the extraordinary example of the Panya Batik community and Thungwa Homestaygodon resort and promote its replication across the territory in a manner appropriate to the needs of the community, in order to develop a sustainable touristic offer of international relevance. The e-commerce for some local base products could be a good promotional strategy.

g. To develop a strong partnership with Langkawi UGGp and explore the possibility of a transnational UGGp in the future.

h. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

91. Following the review of the Satun (Thailand) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

92. **Thuringia Inselberg – Drei Gleichen** (Germany): The area lies in the heart of Germany, in the federal state of Thuringia. It covers an area of approx. 688 km² with a total population of approximately 72,000. The external boundaries are clearly defined by the boundaries of the 18 member municipalities. The biggest municipalities are Bad Liebenstein, Ruhla, Floh-Seligenthal, Friedrichroda and Tabarz. Five large towns are in the vicinity Gotha (5 km), Arnstadt (2.5 km), Schmalkalden (3 km), Bad Salzungen (4.5 km) and Eisenach (7 km). Two of the natural landscape types found in the Geopark are low-lying mountains (Thuringian Forest) and areas of loess (Thuringian Basin). Typical landscape forms include Wachsenburg trench (an example of topographic inversion), the karst landscapes near Bad Liebenstein and Thal, the hemispherial hills and wide basins that form on the weathering-prone metamorphic slate, the flat upland areas criss-crossed with deep V-shaped valleys in Permian volcanic rock and
conglomerates and the foothills of the Thuringian Forest with their Bunter sandstone outcrops. The geological history of the region starts with the amalgamation of the supercontinent Pangaea during the Variscan Orogeny and has a continuous record until the breakup of Pangaea in the Late Triassic. The Variscan basement is exposed in the Ruha Crystalline Complex (RCC) which is composed of mid to high degree metamorphic rocks. During the Upper Permian the RCC formed a small island in the Zechstein Sea surrounded by reefs. The Thuringian Forest Mountain Basin (TFMB) is an intra-montane extraordinarily fossiliferous basin filled with a 4500 m thick sequence of Late Carboniferous and Early Permian terrestrial sediments and volcanic rocks. The sequence is well exposed in the mountainous region and serves as reference section of the Lower Permian in Europe. The youngest rocks (Triassic to Lower Jurassic) are exposed in the Drei Gleichen area where Cretaceous inversion tectonics has formed a landscape with remarkable morphological features like the colourful badlands. The region has some stratigraphic type localities of European significance and the only outcrop of the Triassic/Jurassic boundary in Central Germany.

93. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

94. Two positive reviews of the internationally significant geological heritage were received from the IUGS.

95. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: The nearest UGGp is Harz - Braunschweigerland - Ostfalen which is 100km away. There is confusion concerning the borders of the applicant UGGp in printed material and several information panels where the border is not shown. There is good visibility as well as good information on geology and other aspects but this is often very technical. There is little evidence of natural, cultural or intangible heritage. The management is through a voluntary association of participating municipalities who have a regular professional dialogue with partners. The selling of geological material (fossils and minerals) is being carried out and is not prohibited.

96. A number of recommendations were provided for Thuringia Inselsberg – Drei Gleichen:

   a. The protection status of the fossils is very satisfactory following the German law. However in some cases like in Finsterbergen the panels are placed in such a way as if they are inviting trekkers to search for fossils and collect them. There is no indication on the panels about the prohibition of collecting or destroying fossils. Visitors should be discouraged to do such activities unless such events are organised by Geopark authorities and respective signage regarding this should be placed.

   b. Due to the inclusion of new municipalities and the merging of existing ones there is a confusion concerning the borders of the applicant UGGp in the printed material as well as in several information panels, where in most of the case, the actual borders are not shown. We strongly recommend to change these panels and the printed material as they create confusion and provide wrong information on one of the key issues of a Geopark which is the obligation to be a contiguous with single boundary territory.

   c. The signage and the website should contain information also in foreign languages, preferably English.

   d. The use of social media should be enhanced to encourage both domestic and international tourism activity.

   e. The information centres visited have many rare exhibits. However the presentation needs to be more professional and the labelling of the exhibits has to be also in foreign languages, preferably English.
f. The information provided in most of the panels, especially the ones referring to geological sites is too technical and not easy to understand by the general public. The panels need to be reconsidered taking into account the needs of the public and not only the needs of geology students.

g. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

h. The applicant UGGp should work to develop relationships and exchange with the existing UGGp’s of Germany and across the wider network to gain from their experience.

i. According to the Operational Guidelines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks the management body must not participate directly in the sale of geological objects such as fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks of the type normally found in so-called “rockshops” within the UNESCO Global Geopark (regardless of their origin) and should actively discourage unsustainable trade in geological materials as a whole. Written agreements should be provided with all partners of the aspiring Geopark ensuring the above.

97. Following the review of the Thuringia Inselsberg – Drei Gleichen (Germany) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate does not yet fulfil the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **defer this candidature for a maximum of** two years to allow the above recommendations to be implemented.

98. **Vestjyland** (Denmark): The Geopark is located in the west of Denmark and includes the three municipalities Lemvig, Struer and Holstebro. It has a total area of 4,759 km², the land area makes up 1,560 km², marine areas in the Limfjord cover 425 km² and marine areas in the North Sea cover 2,775 km². 67% of the land area is used for agriculture and forests cover 13.8% of the area. A section of the river Storå, which is the second longest river in Denmark runs across the area from east to west. To the east the area borders the Karup River. The highest point is Bavnehøj near Lemvig at 89.5 m above sea level and the lowest point is 2 m below sea level at the bottom of the drained lake Vestersø northwest of Lemvig. The population is 99,534 (2015). The biggest cities are Holstebro, Struer and Lemvig. There are 29 other towns in the area which in size vary from 200 to 3,000 inhabitants. Transport and trade together with Industry and raw materials are the dominant business sectors by number of jobs. Noteworthy is that the primary sector is forestry, agriculture and fisheries that employs 7% - 14% of the work force which is much higher than the national average of 4% for this sector. During the Quaternary period, enormous ice sheets sculpted the impressive ice age landscapes that form the core of the area. In addition to the ice age landscapes there is a series of other landforms that developed after the end of the ice age by rivers and coastal processes, as well as by the powerful westerly winds that characterize the west coast of Denmark. There are also remains of older deposits from the Palaeogene and the Quaternary in some of the cliffs. It was however, during the last ice age – the Main Advance that took place 23,000 - 21,000 years ago when the ice reached its maximum extent – that most of the landscape in the Geopark was formed.

99. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

100. One positive review of the internationally significant geological heritage was received from the IUGS.
101. A summary of the report was given outlining a number of points: There is great difficulty in interpreting some of the important geological heritage due to low elevations. There is a clear boundary but visibility is very low and appears to be in the very early stages of development. There is no specific visitor centre now or planned but there are several pre-existing ones that are used. With the exception of a few places, information and interpretation is very difficult to see and understand. There are sites of natural and cultural heritage importance but they do not mention the applicant UGGp or the links with the geological heritage. The applicant UGGp is involved in a very ambitious project starting next year that will specifically address climate change education and adaptation. The area is managed by a steering committee with mayors from several municipalities but at present the manager is the only employee. They currently do not have a geoscientist.

102. A number of recommendations were provided for Vestjylland:

a. To function as a UGGp, at least one full time geoscientist needs to be employed by the Geopark and it is recommended to create a Scientific committee with a number of experts from various disciplines.
b. There is a need to have a dedicated Geopark Information Centre explaining the general picture of the Geopark with special attention to the main geological heritage of international significance with a proper Geopark Corner at several pre-existing museums and community centres.
c. Improve the visibility of the applicant UGGp with new and better information panels and traffic signs at every entrances to the area and at every relevant sites.
d. Promote the link between geology, nature and culture in pre-existing and planned museums and community centres.
e. Enhance the protection and exhibits on the main geological heritage of international significant (i.e. the Bovbjerg Cross-Section and the entire features along the Main Stationary Line MSL), perhaps by redefining and marking the MSL boundary along all roads crossing it. Put more protection measure on the typical Bovbjerg Cross-section.
f. Redefine boundaries of the geosites to provide a more obviously observable area, and perhaps introduce the larger area as wider landscape instead of being a single geosite. Hence, a more practical protection measure can be defined.
g. Establish specific educational programmes for various school levels.
h. Establish specific trails combining the various geological, natural, and cultural sites, complete with specific geopark education package.
i. Promote geotourism as perceived by UNESCO Global Geoparks.
j. Turn weaknesses into strengths and opportunities by highlighting coastal geohazards and climatic change impacts into one of the distinctive geological features of international significance. The subject related to coastal geohazard could strengthen the link between the applicant UGGp and the readily available educational infrastructure in the Coastal Museum, and the planned Climatorium Project will fit very well with the subject on climatic change.
k. Promote the pre-glacial rock sequence, where many geological features, history and stories could be linked together. Although the outcrops of the bedrock are neither abundant nor impressive, they can be relevant at regional level because they are of Danian age (Palaeocene) and this age has been internationally defined in Denmark.
l. Cooperate further with other UGGps to help understand the requirements of being a UGGp, especially Odsherred and De Hondsrug due to similar geological features.
m. Consolidate the management structure to make it much more effective and in line with UGGp statutes and guidelines.

n. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

103. Following the review of the Vestjylland (Denmark) application dossier and evaluation report, the UGGpC decided that the candidate does not yet fulfil the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board defer this candidature for a maximum of two years to allow the above recommendations to be implemented.

III. Discussion of the revalidation of existing UNESCO Global Geoparks

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

a. 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”).

b. 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”).

c. 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”).

105. **Alxa Desert** (China)

106. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

107. The representative of UNESCO outlined the situation: There had been a request for extension for Alxa and Hexigten UGGps. When reviewing the new extension maps against their original application maps it became clear there was no change to the UGGp boundary but that both areas simply wished to extend the boundaries of their internal protected areas. As such both Alxa and Hexigten were considered and proceeded as normal revalidations.

108. Following the review of the Alxa Desert (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:
a. The link between the desert landscape (geology), ecology and local culture should be further enhanced for public education of the local community as well as for tourists. In Alxa UGGp, these links are very clear and should be highlighted to promote the uniqueness of the UGGp and included in education material for geotourism.

b. Alxa UGGp is characterized by more than 600 salt-water and fresh-water lakes. These are the foundation for special ecology and livelihoods of herdsman (local communities). Research or information gathering on groundwater origin (spring water) and geology, water balance, water for life should be promoted and the information on 'the importance of water in desert environment' can be used for public education and geotourism / recreational tourism activities.

c. Alxa UGGp is the region of camels so the story of the camel and its uniqueness as the supreme desert animal should be highlighted to enhance local-based sustainable tourism activities.

d. Capacity building for local administrators on the science of the UGGp and the practice of innovative projects and activities should be further enhanced through training and collaborative engagement.

e. The key to geotourism activities is the development of geotrails and the associated geological story. For such a large area, nine geotrails appears too few and new geotrails should be developed in key areas providing more information on local geology, environment and culture.

f. Local community culture and lifestyle are the strength of the Alxa UGGp. Therefore, these elements should be highlighted and tourism and public education should highlight that this culture and lifestyle are part of the Geopark story and geotourism product.

g. Desert Landscape based recreational tourism is one of the best approaches for local economic development and to increase the number of visitors to enjoy Alxa UGGp. For tourism sustainability, it is important that an independent study on the carrying capacity of some geosites, i.e. Moon Lake and Badain Jaran, and the impact on the desert landscape should be carried out. This will help in making a strategic plan and provide better guidelines for geotourism and recreational activities.

h. No active Geopark website exists so this should be addressed by developing a new one offering all necessary information at least in Chinese, Mongolian and English.

i. An independent study should be commissioned to identify the carrying capacity of visitors for the main sites, and also to assess the impact of jeep safaris on any potential damage to the landscape, especially the desert landscape.

j. An independent study should be carried out to assess the animal welfare of the camels used in the camel ride industry to ensure that animal welfare is at the highest possible priority at all times.

k. Strengthen the active involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the international value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

l. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a coherent methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

109. Arouca (Portugal):

110. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
111. Following the review of the Arouca (Portugal) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. Promote the international value of the Arouca Geological Heritage as the basement of a UGGp through the establishment of a Arouca Geopark Museum - Interpretation Centre. This infrastructure will be complementary to the existing infrastructures and museums providing a holistic view of the geological treasures of Arouca and their significance to the understanding of the evolution of life on Earth.

b. Integrate the impressive Paiva Pathways with the Arouca Geopark tourist offering. The Paiva Pathways has a high tourism profile using their own logos and panels, their own popular website and facebook page, which has no reference to the Arouca Geopark. The Paiva Pathways should be linked to the Arouca Geopark as they are a major feature within the UGGp area.

c. Improve the interpretation of the geological heritage sites along the Paiva Pathways, which give access to exceptional sites for interpretation and understanding of the local geological structure and evolution and fluvial landform.

d. Special emphasis should be given to granite geology and geomorphology as well as to the use of granite stone in architecture and art. The Arouca Monastery is an exceptional monument to develop an exhibition on the subject “Granite landscapes: Geology and Monuments”.

e. Arouca Geopark should explore future expansion in order to include the Magic Mountains area. Both areas already share the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism by the Europarc Federation. This could be a platform of promotion of the Geopark as an ideal destination for sustainable tourism.

f. Continue the professional educational activities using the opportunities provided by the main new infrastructures of the Paiva Pathways and Routes of geosites for better integration within the Arouca UGGp.

g. Stronger efforts should be made by the Geopark team to promote local products using the Geopark logo as a quality brand. The usage of the UGG logo is governed under the 2007 “Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO”, e.g. the use of the logo on the sugar bag need be checked.

h. Continue the active 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.

112. Azores (Portugal)

113. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

114. Following the review of the Azores (Portugal) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. The identity of the UGGp should be strengthened. The Azores UNESCO Global Geopark logo and promotional material is lacking from important geological sites as well as of other Geopark sites of interest including museums, info centres, tourist attractions, collaborating partners and collaborating enterprises. Azores UGGp Earth heritage sites of international importance are located inside the Natural Park borders and this can be confusing at times for the visitors, as the Geopark identity is lacking. The strengthening could be done by further developing the visibility of the for example by:

i. Erecting roadside panels at the entrance points of the UGGp, and
ii. Azores UNESCO Global Geopark Poster presentation at important visitor’s sites.

b. Azores UGGp logo should be visible in all the partners and collaborating enterprises. Azores UNESCO Global Geopark interpretation panels should be placed at all the Earth heritage sites of international importance. Continue to upgrade the important geosites with new and updated panels (for instance like at Cume caldera, Terceira Island).

c. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a coherent methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

d. More effort should be made to integrate all aspects of natural and cultural heritage with the geological heritage.

e. There is a lack of visibility of the UGGp in San Miguel so it is necessary to develop the presence within the city to ensure that the full potential is reached.

f. Management of the UGGp should be more coherent and well structured.

g. Continue the active 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.

115. Gea Norvegica (Norway)

116. A conflict of interest was declared by Kristin Rangnes so she left the room and was not present for the discussion or the vote.

117. Following the review of the Gea Norvegica (Norway) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. Increase the use of the natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark. An inventory could be made, e.g. with regards to old heritage trees, or vegetation types, age, relation with rock/soil types etc. to introduce the public to the stories of their own environment. Additional interpretation (signage and public programming) should be developed to provide more public awareness of the link between the natural and human heritage and culture of the region, and the geology on which it is based.

b. More focus should be put on documenting and sharing intangible heritage, such as local knowledge about the rock/soil, the nature and names of sites, local traditions in using the resources etc.

c. Effort should be made towards using waste rock material such as the larvikite and others, e.g. the gneiss, for making art and souvenir products that more fully reflect the geology and stories of the Geopark.

d. Consider opportunities, like funding permits, to incorporate some IT-based, virtual exhibitions or virtual reality programming that could interpret sites such as the Fen Volcanic Complex, either in-situ or at locations such as the new Horizont Centre.

e. Due to their experience Gea Norvegica should be much more active in networking in Norway including helping aspiring and existing UGGps in their development and improvement.

f. Continue the active 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.
118. **GeoMôn** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

119. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

120. Following the review of the Geo Môn (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. Approve and sign a formal agreement between the various partners that identify GeoMôn as the body for the implementation of the Geopark’s cultural and sustainable development policy that defines activities, financial and human resources.

   b. GeoMôn has done a good job with the communities with which it is in partnership, and should try to find a way to expand relationships with other local communities, whilst also seeking support from well-established partners.

   c. Visibility should be further improved, not necessarily with other physical panels or structures but with careful “link” work in the websites or social media of the partners (economic operators and associations) and more visibility on the “visitAnglesey” and “visitWales” website.

   d. The interpretation of biodiversity and botanical aspects could be improved in many of the geotrails. The design of educational aspects could be implemented with greater use of new technologies.

   e. Signage must be added to the main A55 road. This was given as a recommendation in the previous revalidation but this was not done and so should be made a priority.

   f. 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.

121. **Grutas del Palacio** (Uruguay)

122. A conflict of interest was declared by Helga Chulepin so she left the room and was not present for the discussion or the vote.

123. Following the review of the Grutas del Palacio (Uruguay) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. Promote Marincho hornblendite and gabbro dykes and make them the highlight of the UGGp together with Grutas del Palacio, for locals and visitors.

   b. Establish a more autonomous management structure under the Intendência de Flores that will help prevent the possibility of project collapse as a result of changing local government and explore the possibility of having an independent annual budget that is essential to keep the UGGp operating on a long term according to the Action Plan.

   c. Develop the new visitor centres of Chamangá and Cerro Ojosmín with the interpretation of the different aspects of heritage that can be found in the area, and include interactive interpretation and games, whenever possible and useful; include the origin of the granite and its landforms in Chamangá in the new visitor centre, but also as information for the guided visits.

   d. Improve the Cerro Ojosmín geosite with infrastructure that facilitate and interpret the importance of the site, also improving signage for visitors.

   e. Diversify the educational programmes, including subjects such as climate change, extinction and natural hazards in Uruguay and in the world, developing
new educational tools, and opening the educational programmes to schools from all the country.

f. Develop a guidebook about the UGGp so that visitors and staff can understand the main episodes of the local geological history and can be used as a frame for the projects to be developed.

g. Improve the information to visitors about local flora and fauna, not only on a national level.

h. Continue to play a very active role in the development of the Latin America and Caribbean Geopark Network. Continue the active involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

i. Support Geopark employees to improve their foreign language skills and also ensure that all English translations are correct, i.e. reference to World Geoparks Network should be changed to Global Geoparks Network.

124. Harz - Braunschweiger Land - Ostfalen (Germany)

125. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

126. Following the review of the Harz - Braunschweiger Land - Ostfalen (Germany) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

   a. The ‘Landmark’ network of landmarks and geopoints is superb and fundamental to interpretation in the UGGp. However it is sparse in the northern part of the Geopark. The expansion of the Landmark network is in the Action Plan and should be adhered to.

   b. While 90% of visitors to the region are German, it is a beautiful place and with stories to tell to the wider world. New interpretation panels are including summaries in English and QR codes to English guides, which is helpful and further development in this respect is to be encouraged.

   c. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a coherent methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

   d. 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.

127. Hexigten (China)

128. A conflict of interest was declared by Xiaochi Jin so he left the room and was not present for the discussion or the vote.

129. Following the review of Hexigten (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

   a. Improve the promotion of Geosites G001 to G015 and possibly rename as “Arshihaty-Qingshan Granite geosites”. The significance of the geosite G070 “Ophiolite suite” should also be better promoted to help understand the Xar Moron Suture Zone and the collision process in between the North China and the Siberian platforms.
b. Improve the geological map with a more complete legend. Currently it only has the name of the unit/formation. It should be more functional, with the ages, the different lithologies, and an English version should be available. In each geological site the corresponding part of the geological map should be displayed on a larger scale, with clear references to the age and nature of the lithologies.

c. Develop a monitoring system of the floodplains, where several yurt camps are set up, in order to minimize risks for tourist developments and nomadic families. Use this as new field of research in conjunction with the China University of Geosciences on Climate Change issues.

d. Refrain from using the term ‘GeoArea’ as this implies that the UGGp is not a single unified area.

e. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

f. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

130. **De Hondsrug** (Netherlands)

131. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

132. Following the review of Hondsrug (Netherlands) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. The UGGp is a tourist destination with 300,000 visitors annually. However, visibility is lacking and some visitors are not aware that this is a UGGp, partly because the UGG logo mark is not found at the entrances points to the area and some exhibition facilities. It is recommended that the management should work in collaboration with administrators of individual facilities/infrastructure to display the UGGp logo that shows Geopark de Hondsrug is a UNESCO Global Geopark and strengthen the UGGp visibility in the area.

   b. The UGGp provides an educational programme for primary schools in the province of Drenthe but these need to be developed further. A digital platform for educational materials are under development, and many different experimental tools are available for studying geology. It is recommended that the UGGp should continue to expand its range of educational activities in conjunction with schools and other partners.

   c. The Hondsrug complex of straight parallel ridges is one of the topographical features of Geopark de Hondsrug but it is not easy for most tourists to recognise the topographical value and landscape beauty of the site. An important future challenge will be to stimulate visitors’ interest in recognizing the value of the geographic feature.

   d. To effectively communicate this feature skilled guides play a significant role. The UGGp should improve guide training programmes so that local guides will be able to convey the attractiveness of Geopark de Hondsrug more effectively and to interpret the Geopark based on its storylines.

   e. Geopark De Hondsrung should endeavour to improve regional networking with other UGGps. 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.

133. **Hong Kong** (China)

134. No conflict of interest was declared.

135. Following the review of the Hong Kong (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. Improve the Kat O Geoheritage Centre and the Lai Chi Wo Geoheritage Centre with more professional, innovative and higher quality exhibits.
   b. Improve the promotion and updated information about the UNESCO Global Geoparks from all over the world and the Regional Networks (APGN, LACGN and EGN) in all the Visitor Centres and the Geoheritage Centres.
   c. Improve research activities on the basis of collaboration and partnerships with universities and scientific institutions of regional and international level.
   d. Continue and strengthen collaborations and partnerships with local communities and stakeholders developing new capacity building and partnership projects.
   e. Continue the active involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asian Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

136. **Idrija** (Slovenia)

137. No conflict of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

138. Following the review of the Idrija (Slovenia) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. Develop more Geopark products. Some UGGp products exist including the Gerus miner’s liquor schnapps, the herbal tea, and some cuisine, but more products should be developed with existing partners.
   b. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
   c. Develop a Geopark Visitor Information Centre that has more focused information on Geopark tourism opportunities, educational information and partner promotion. There was not much focus on Geopark information at the Idrija Municipal Visitor Information Centre in the city centre and there is an opportunity to either expand the visibility at the Municipal Information Centre or with proper funding, acquire the space for a dedicated Geopark Information Centre.
   d. Make a strategic plan for sustainable development with all partners and local communities and authorities for at least 2017 - 2020 (to the next revalidation mission).
   e. Strengthen the visibility of the Geopark to ensure that all visitors and residents are aware of its presence.
   f. 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.

139. **Itoigawa** (Japan)

140. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

141. Following the review of Itoigawa (Japan) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

   a. The Fossa Magna Park is one of the most important geosites in the Itoigawa UGGp. That is why it is important to carry out the improvement plan and make the site easier to understand.
   
   b. Safety of the sites for visitors is very important, and the UGGp should ensure that all sites near roads should be safe for visitors e.g. Tsutsuishi Hamatokuai Geosite.
   
   c. Continuing to simplify geological terms, names and processes.
   
   d. Strengthen the role of women within the Geopark staff, including senior management positions, in accordance with UNESCO principles.
   
   e. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
   
   f. One of the points from the last revalidation was not fulfilled, which was to compile an inventory of all art work. It is imperative that this is achieved before the next revalidation.
   
   g. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

142. **Karawanken/Karavanke** (Austria/Slovenia)

143. No conflict of interest was declared.

144. Following the review of Karawanken/Karavanke (Austria/Slovenia) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

   a. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
   
   b. Visibility should be increased by improving signage at all important sites and partner entities incorporating the Geopark logo and branding.
   
   c. The Management structure should register under the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). This would allow the UGGp to have better access to European funds.
   
   d. Clarification should be provided on the working hours of the two geoscientists to ensure that there is a geoscientist working full-time.
   
   e. Strengthen the active 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.
145. **Katla** (Iceland)

146. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

147. Following the review of Katla (Iceland) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

   a. Use the current five year funding and increased resources to consolidate the UGGp and stabilise its future funding and operations.
   
   b. Continue building on the current good relationships with conservation and management agencies to develop and employ visitor management strategies to ensure that the natural and cultural attractions are not damaged beyond repair by the rapidly growing number of visitors.
   
   c. Build on current partnerships to become increasingly engaged in actively developing and promoting high quality and sustainable tourism products and activities. Keep up the good work of encouraging and branding the production of high quality crafts inspired by local heritage.
   
   d. Discuss with the tourism partners the potential of developing a trail or festival around branded local produce.
   
   e. Develop networking between geo-schools and schools in other regions. Utilize the observation systems on site for the education of children and local people.
   
   f. Continue to develop the strong connections between the universities and the UGGp and to create opportunities for the research groups to present their findings to local schools and communities.
   
   g. Continue discussion with the national roads agency to enable the inclusion of the UGGp logos in more road signs.
   
   h. Liaise with the Natural History Museum of Iceland on the conservation of the Drumbabót logs.
   
   i. 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.

148. **Kula** (Turkey)

149. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

150. Following the review of Kula (Turkey) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a YELLOW card for the following reasons:

   a. The recommendations from the initial evaluation have only been partially fulfilled.
   
   b. If this were a new UGGp evaluation it would have been recommended to reject as there were so many shortcomings.

151. The following recommendations were made:

   a. A new UGGp boundary should be defined following pre-existing limits such as administrative or cultural boundaries. Any change should follow the established process for boundary revisions.
   
   b. A management plan must be produced for the UGGp, as a collaborative exercise between all principal stakeholders, and with significant technical and professional staff input.
c. It would be beneficial for UGGp staff to be given a level of delegated financial authority and operational autonomy to deliver the management plan. Funding for the Kula Geopark Management Unit (KGMU) may need to be devolved to that body directly in order to facilitate this greater flexibility for the UGGp.

d. The waste material dumped at Kula Divlit should be removed, including any currently superficially covered by scoria. The process of revegetating the other site should be prioritised.

e. The level of visibility of the UGGp within the territory should be considerably improved. Allied to replacing static interpretation panels and providing new information signage, the displays at the Museum should be updated – the new visitor centres should avoid following the current model. All such material should be readily understandable by a broad audience.

f. Infrastructure improvements at key locations should be completed, ensuring that any structures are built to a high standard of design, safety and durability. Higher standards of regular maintenance, especially litter clearance and basic repairs, should be ensured.

g. Additional geoscience expertise should be sought to input into conservation and interpretation programmes.

h. A destination management (tourism) strategy and action plan should be produced for the UGGp as a collaborative venture between KGMU partners, tourism professionals and industry representatives. It should include, as a minimum, a focus on marketing the UGGp as a destination, providing high quality visitor information and heritage interpretation and, joining up the offer effectively. This could potentially be incorporated into the proposed management plan for the area, or could stand alone with adequate cross-referencing.

i. 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.

152. **Madonie** (Italy)

153. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

154. Following the review of Madonie (Italy) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card for the following reasons:

   a. The UGGp has been in decline since the departure of a key member of staff demonstrating a lack of commitment.

   b. It no longer seems to meet the criteria to be a UGGp.

155. The following recommendations were made:

   a. It is necessary to maintain the tourist infrastructure in a good state of repair.

   b. A new effort is required to increase the UGGp and UNESCO visibility as the information remains insufficient for visitors.

   c. It appears that the current management, although highly motivated lack the knowledge of the spirit and philosophy of UGGps. It is recommended that they attend the Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark Intensive Course.

   d. It would be useful to clearly assign the main functions of the UGGp to the relevant staff and to have regular coordination meetings and provide sufficient training.
e. The creation of a UGGp Working Group with regular meetings that are open to all partners, should be delivered as requested by local communities, associations and partners.

f. It is important that funders commit to implementing a Plan within a period of one to two years, and reinforce the budget for actions that would give greater clarity for the people living within the UGGp, as well as for the stakeholders.

g. Even if some analysis has to be done in the short term and a new impetus has to be found, formal commitments of support must be provided to reach the level of excellence expected of a UGGp. These and other elements could be reaffirmed regularly within the press to help inform local communities.

h. 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. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

156. Cabo de Gata Nijar (Spain)

157. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

158. Following the review of the Cabo de Gata Nijar (Spain) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a YELLOW card for the following reasons:

a. Not all of the recommendations from the last revalidation have been sufficiently addressed.

b. The requested boundary change to ensure a differentiation with the Biosphere Reserve has not been delivered.

c. There is very poor visibility for the UGGp due to the boundary overlap with other areas/site designations.

159. The following recommendations were made:

a. Rename all of the UGGp maps as the map of the Cabo de Gata-Nijar UNESCO Global Geopark (and Biosphere Reserve and Natural Park). Use the international designation first.

b. Clearly differentiate the UGGp from the Natural Park and the Biosphere Reserve.

c. Increasing the visibility of the UGGp in the facilities and publications of its strategic partners as well as on their website and other social media used by the UGGp strategic partners.

d. Promote the outstanding family and community run companies as examples of good practice for the UGGp sustainable companies.

e. Upgrade the Geopark corners in the Amoladeras Visitors Centre as well at the House of the Volcanoes.

f. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

g. 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.
Sierra Norte de Sevilla (Spain)

No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

Following the review of Sierra Norte de Sevilla (Spain) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. A “Welcome to Sierra Norte UGGp” board (or sculpture, monument, land-art object, etc.) is recommended in every municipality, at locations with good visibility with the involvement of mayors/local communities.

b. Special care should be given on the proper use of the Sierra Norte UGGp logo as well as the Sierra Norte logo. Guidance should be sought from UNESCO if this is unclear.

c. When installing new interpretive panels and updating existing ones and in future editions of the printed materials they should use the UGGp logo in a much more prominent way.

d. Strong visibility of the UGGp is needed in tourist offices, visitor centres run by municipalities and other partner organisations. Geopark certificates/copies of the UGGp certificate should be placed in these sites.

e. Special emphasis should be given to the International collaboration with other UGGps with similar characteristics, especially for the management, conservation and promotion of the uniqueness of the Cerro del Hierro Karst / Andalusian Stone Forest. It would be useful to develop a twinning agreement with another UGGp with similar characteristics such as the Shilin Stone Forest UGGp in China.

f. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

g. 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.

Sobrarbe (Spain)

No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

Following the review of Sobrarbe (Spain) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a YELLOW card for the following reasons.

a. There is little or no visibility within the National Park, an issue that has been ongoing since 2006 and has still not been addressed.

The following recommendations were made:

a. Introduce the Geopark in the Monte Perdido National Park’ geological panels as well as in the Visitor Centre of Torla and the visitor centres belonging to the National Park. The UGGp should take part in the decisions regarding the development of new interpretative/visitor centres in the area of the National Park.

b. The UGGp should work towards a more active role close to the Comarca government which the Geopark is part of, and to the Aragon Regional...
Government, in the effective application of the geohazard mitigation measures
in the territory.

c. The georoute network is very impressive and a good tool, especially for visitors
already interested in and familiar with geology. To reach new audiences a more
simplified tour guide, less comprehensive geological information and more
focus upon other aspects like cultural heritage and flora/fauna should be tried out.

d. Improve the visibility of the UGGp in the Cave Bear Museum of Tella and the
private Palaeontological Museum of La Mata.

e. Keep working to simplify the scientific information in interpretative panels,
brochures and at the Geopark hall.

f. Develop a more visible relationship between the UGGp and local traditions,
memories and legends that goes beyond tourism promotion.

g. Better maintenance of the gateway of the UGGp coming from Huesca should
improve the important first impression upon the territory.

h. 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.

167. Oki (Japan)

168. A conflict of interest was declared by Mahito Watanabe so he left the room and was not
present for the discussion or the vote.

169. Following the review of Oki (Japan) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award
a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. The UGGp has a museum (Oki Nature Museum) which at the present is just
about the geology, geological heritage, nature and biodiversity, without the part
of local culture, as well as the links with geological heritage. A new UGGp facility
will be completed in next two years and it is recommended that the local cultural
aspects should be integrated into the new Geopark museum.

b. The Geopark is overlapped by the National Park areas and it is recommended
that the UGGp formulates the related regulations and codes for visiting the
geological sites and other sites in the Geopark, and set up warning signs in the
main entrance of each area and by important geosites.

c. Visibility is generally good in the UGGp but there is no directional road signage
leading the visitors without guides to the different geosites. This is very
important for the individual visitors to know they are in a UGGp and provides an
easy way to find different sites.

d. Most of geosites are interpreted in different ways but they are just explaining
the phenomena, and commonly lack explanations on the origin and geological
background. There are still many geosites that are not interpreted, especially
the sites for educational purposes. The existing panels need to be improved
and updated, and add new panels to other geosites.

e. The educational programmes in the Geopark are mainly delivered by the
National Park staff. These focus very much on natural heritage with little or no
inclusion of geological heritage. It is recommended that more effort is taken to
provide geological heritage education for all ages, both within the formal school
environment and amongst local communities and the general public.

f. The UGGp encourages promoting the links among different aspects of heritage,
especially in the main motto of the Oki Islands. This is rarely conveyed on
interpretative panels so better linkages should be developed and communicated on site for all visitors.
g. The UGGp currently does not have a formal agreement with the Ministry of the Environment despite the fact that many of the most important geosites are within the National Park area. In order to ensure the long-term future and security of the Geopark, it is recommended that some form of formal agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding is pursued.

h. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

170. **Papuk** (Croatia)

171. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

172. Following the review of Papuk (Croatia) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card for the following reasons:

   a. Not all of the recommendations from the last revalidation were fulfilled.
   b. Papuk has been a UGGp for 10 years and should have much better progress in developing a strong and successful UGGp.

173. The following recommendations were made:

   a. Although the visibility inside the UGGp is reasonable, it needs improvement. For example, it should be clearly marked on the main road leading to the UGGp.
   b. Training courses should be enhanced for stakeholders/communities and the various partners.
   c. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the park. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
   d. More print-material (free brochures and leaflets) on the UGGp, hiking and biking and tourist information is recommended.
   e. It is necessary to involve local communities with activities of the UGGp and their active participation should be actively encouraged.
   f. 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.

174. **Psiloritis** (Greece)

175. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

176. Following the review of Psiloritis (Greece) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card for the following reasons:

   a. Psiloritis has been a UGGp since 2001 and should be a leading example for UGGp development.
   b. None of the recommendations from the last revalidation have been fulfilled and although some effort has been made it is not enough.
   c. There are currently no guidelines for tourism or partnerships.
   d. There has been limited participation in EGN meetings.
e. There is poor visibility of the UGGp throughout, which is not acceptable.

177. The following recommendations were made:

a. Complete the gateways signage for entering the UGGp by road, especially from Heraklion.
b. Expand the supporters program.
c. Increase the visibility through the use of the UGGp logo in different local products.
d. The production of a geological map of the UGGp, suitable for tourists, would be a good tool to expand the geological knowledge.
e. Offer more UGGp training courses for local tour guides in order to promote the area through tourism.
f. A UGGp shop or exhibition centre that sells or displays products or souvenirs of the UGGp, partners and supporters should be established to promote tourism.
g. Promote and link the UGGps substantial intangible heritage with all other aspects of heritage.
h. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
i. Ensure that any application for extension follows the correct procedure as outlined by UNESCO.

178. Parc Naturel Régional du Luberon (France)

179. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

180. Following the review of Parc Naturel Régional du Luberon (France) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a YELLOW card for the following reasons:

a. Luberon has been a UGGp for 13 years and should be well-established but it has many shortcomings.
b. The area is not being promoted as a UGGp but as a Parc Naturel Regional. There does not even appear to be a UGGp logo.
c. There is no dedicated team working on the UGGp.

181. The following recommendations were made:

a. The UGGp is going to install new information in several key geological sites during the next few years. It is advisable to include key information on the preservation of geological sites such as prohibition of collection on these new panels.
b. The UGGp should improve its visibility. A list of recommendations to achieve this has been provided but it is not exhaustive.
   i. Improve the information available in different tourism offices of the Luberon area.
   ii. Improve the visibility of the Geopark information centre and Museum at Apt.
   iii. Create links and publicise the UGGp through those events and actions developed in the framework of the tourist sector, related to nature,
heritage and culture, carried out by itself or through its partnership with key local stakeholders.

iv. Create links and undertake activities with different partners under the UGGp label.

v. Analyse the legal possibility to have a UGGp logo, different from the one of the Natural Park.

c. It is advisable for the Luberon UGGp to increase the information provided to the public (leaflets, panels) in other languages, and the visibility of the UGGp in these information tools.

d. Concerning the management of the UGGp, it is recommended to include the economical and human resources of the Natural Regional Park devoted to the UGGp in its annual budget and in its staff structure, in order to have a clear picture of these management aspects of the UGGp.

e. 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.

182. Qinling (China)

183. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

184. Following the review of Qinling (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. Add information about the whole network of UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Geoparks’ philosophy on the videos at the entrance of the main Scenic Areas and in the touch screens available at the Geological Museum and at tourist information points.

b. Complete the set-up of the information boards along the few trails not completely equipped, using the correct logos and QR code.

c. Produce a field trip guide illustrating itineraries with detailed maps, photos and sketches, using language easily understood by as many visitors as possible. Due to the long stretched area of the UGGp, it would be useful to divide the guide in different sections (for example according the different scenic areas).

d. Strengthen the role of women in senior management positions, in accordance with UNESCO principles.

e. Establish appropriate forms of formal collaboration between the Geopark and Niubeiliang Nature Reserve (Biosphere Reserve) and between the Geopark and Zhouzhi, Old County City and Taibai Mountain Nature Reserves (national designations).

f. Update the touch screens at the Geological Museum using also English language and adding detailed geological maps (for example 3D geological maps).

g. Create a new geological field trip in the Huaqinggong Scenic Area from the hot springs to the top of the hill, highlighting geological features with information panels including sketches and pictures for a wide audience, also using QR code.

h. As part of the aim of ensuring tourism is really sustainable, carry out an independent study researching the sustainability of Geopark sites and their carrying capacity for visitors.

i. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
185. **Swabian Alb** (Germany)

186. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

187. Following the review of **Swabian Alb** (Germany) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card for the following reasons:

   a. The recommendations from the last revalidation have only been partially fulfilled.
   b. Swabian Alb has been a UGGp for 12 years and they only have two part-time staff, which is insufficient.

188. The following recommendations were made:

   a. Increase the number of staff working for the UNESCO Global Geopark including a full-time geologist.
   b. Build on the successful effort in raising the UGGp visibility and include the presence of signage also at significant gateways and within municipalities.
   c. Efforts should be made to implement the marketing strategy outlined in the Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark’s Masterplan 2015-2020.
   d. Improve the level of promotion of the European Geoparks Network and Global Geoparks Network in Geopark Corners within Infocentres and Museums.
   e. The practice of using waste material derived from quarries in Hammer Sites at Ausemländle Infocentre and during Geoparks Week events for recreational purposes should be developed to include an educational component and also provide information about the necessity of protecting the geological heritage.
   f. The production of a geological map of the Geopark showing the positions of the major geosites and landslides is recommended.
   g. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
   h. Improve the linkage and promotion between the different aspects of geological, natural, cultural and intangible heritage of the Geopark.
   i. 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.

189. **Parco Geominerario della Sardegna** (Italy)

190. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

191. Following the review of Sardinia (Italy) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card for the following reasons:

   a. There is still confusion between the eight ‘core areas’ despite undergoing a significant extension four years ago to include the entire island. Insufficient progress has been made to include the entire area as the UGGp with the updated boundary not even visible on maps and publications.

192. The following recommendations were made:
a. Ensure all publications, maps, panels and website are updated to reflect the boundary of the Geopark (the full island) and ensure all staff and partners are fully informed of the boundary so they can be ambassadors and assist in the messaging accurately.

b. Continue to work with communities to improve visibility through waymarking signage and interpretation (through various forms, not always panels).

c. Extend facilities and infrastructure from the core areas across the entire island.

d. Geotourism activities beyond the core areas need to continue to be developed.

e. Continue with the implementation and adoption of community participation aspects and mechanisms also in the extension area. It is noted it will take a significant amount of time to incorporate the entire island.

f. The UGGp has to be much more active in networking on the international level. Improved participation in common communications is recommended. Active participation in Conferences (oral presentations), international fairs and international Geopark partnerships are also obligatory as members of the EGN, the GGN and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). The UGGp is strongly encouraged to be an active member and contribute to international networks.

g. 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.

193. Shennongia (China)

194. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

195. Following the review of Shennongia (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. Ensure that the synergy between the international and national designations of the territory is properly developed.

b. Take the quality of the geological interpretation regarding the geology one step further, especially at the Geology Hall (Guanmenshan Area). The UGGp has a great opportunity to present different themes and topics in a more appealing way. For example in the cases of one of the most complete sections of the geological record of Earth History that can be found here, or the different glacial periods recorded in the Geopark (the Snow ball earth and quaternary glaciations), the stromatolite formations and the implications in the origin of life on Earth.

c. It is recommended to review the locations of interpretative and information panels to ensure that they are as visible as possible without being obtrusive on the surrounding landscape.

d. It is recommended to research the ecological impact on the Yanzi cave by the commissioning of an independent environmental impact study.

e. The official tourist map should show the Biosphere Reserve and World heritage site boundaries as well as the UGGp.

f. It is strongly recommended to develop a proper protocol at the Pangzi Pass in case of such high volume of visitors trying to avoid dangerous traffic situations.

g. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

196. Shetland (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
197. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

198. Following the review of Shetland (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **YELLOW** card for the following reasons:

   a. The recommendations from the previous revalidation were not adequately fulfilled.
   b. The financial and management structure of the UGGp are currently unstable so the future development of the Shetland UGGp is uncertain.

199. The following recommendations were made:

   a. Upgrade all panels, info points, museums, leaflets, web page and road signs with the UGGp logo. Increase the visibility of the UGGp in all communication methods.
   b. Clarify the management structure between Shetland Amenity Trust and Geopark Shetland and provide a strategy plan and economy plan for 2017 until 2021.
   c. Strengthen the cooperation between Geopark Shetland and private companies as food providers, craft producers, accommodations, tourist providers through common projects and branding.
   d. Put new focus on local crafts and products and their branding as coming from the Global Geopark Partners.
   e. 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.

200. **Sesia Val Grande** (Italy)

201. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

202. Following the review of **Sesia Val Grande** (Italy) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. The UGGp should work on translating more of the material and also the website into foreign languages, at least in English. There are many good panels and information in all the beautiful museums that deserve to be reached out to more people. It is extremely important that the website can be read by non-Italian speakers.
   b. In general, it seems that the scientific content is well interpreted to a wider audience, but in some museums and on some panels in the field, there are too many detailed geological maps and detailed information with geological terms and names. Therefore a more basic and understandable geological approach is required.
   c. The management structure, staff and financial situation is solid which indicates good managements and plans. The UGGp should keep working on getting the three collaborating partners more aligned towards Geopark issues through common meetings and/or workshops that would strengthen the management structure further.
d. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a coherent methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the UGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

e. 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.

203. Taining (China)

204. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

205. Following the review of Taining (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a YELLOW card for the following reasons:

a. Taining UGGp is using the new combined UNESCO logo on products that are for sale, as are some of the partners of the Geopark in the form of the logo alongside the Geoparks own logo printed on a sticker and then added to product packaging. The use of the UNESCO Global Geopark logo on products that are being used for commercial purposes is a clear breach of the guidelines for the use of the logo.

206. The following recommendations were made:

a. The Geopark needs to clarify the use of the UNESCO logo on different UGGp products, and the UGGp and its partners should stop using it on products that are for sale.

b. The UGGp is very advanced in using digital media. Some of these products have explanations in foreign languages, but generally the amount of non-Chinese text is so small that it is impossible to use or understand. The UGGp should introduce more languages to their digital media products so that people outside China would also be able to understand and become interested in the area.

c. The UGGp should form a sistership(s) or some other kind of relationship with a non-Chinese or Asian UGGp to learn and exchange ideas. Working together with international partners is among the main characteristics of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

d. The UGGp should start an information and education campaign for the public about climate change and possible consequences for the Geopark area.

f. The UGGp information panels are good and there are enough of them, but the panels usually lack an explanation on the interaction between geology and biology. More information should be introduced on the functioning of the ecosystem of the UGGp and the relationship between the bedrock, soil, water systems, plants and different species of animals.

207. Toya - Usu (Japan)
208. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

209. Following the review of Toya - Usu (Japan) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a YELLOW card for the following reasons:

a. Many of the recommendations from the previous revalidation were not fulfilled.

b. There is no full-time geologists employed directly or indirectly by the UGGp.

c. There was no evidence of a management plan and therefore no strategic direction for the UGGp for the forthcoming period.

210. The following recommendations were made:

a. Proper consideration should be given to conservation of key geosites and the impact that excessive vegetation growth will have in the future.

b. Include the municipality currently excluded in the north of the area within Toya-Usu UGGp management.

c. Increase visibility on main entrance roads to the UGGp.

d. Improve visibility within the UGGp through better signage in between geosites and the provision of visible traffic signs.

e. Increase visibility at visitor centres and museums and include obvious information on the UGGp and make it clear that the centre or museum is part of the UGGp.

f. Ensure consistency with the use of the UGGp name. Use either Toya-Usu UGGp or Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano UGGp but not both.

g. Ensure that all visitor centres, museums and other facilities contain information on the UGGp.

h. Include information on plate tectonics and specifically how they are responsible for the volcanic activity in the region.

i. There is little information about the link between geology and natural, cultural or intangible heritage. This needs to be improved so that visitors can understand their relationship.

j. The new management plan should be completed as soon as possible as the current one is nearly out of date. It is not possible for a UGGp to function without clear direction so this should be a top priority.

k. There is currently no geoscientist employed directly by the UGGp. This should be addressed as soon as possible by either employing a geologist or by producing partnership agreements that specifically cover the delivery of geological services for the Geopark.

l. In order to ensure the future cooperation of both the proposed World Heritage site and the National Park it is recommended that formal partnership agreements are drawn up with the relevant authorities.

m. Given the strong links between the Ainu culture and the landscape, especially through the indigenous language it is recommended that the UGGp works very closely with the Ainu people to maintain and nurture the traditions.

n. Much stronger efforts should be made to communicate and work together with UGGps from outside of Japan.

o. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

211. Unzen Volcanic Area (Japan)

212. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.
213. Following the review of Unzen Volcanic Area (Japan) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. The official Geopark Guides are acting more like “Geopark Ambassadors” than as tourism professionals. The Geopark should review the strategy for the current Geo-guides with the aim to create a new project more focused on creating real jobs, aimed also at young people that can make a living in the territory. Strong support for the Geoparks Guide organization should be obtained at a national level to establish a legal entity thus enabling them to obtain grants and help from the government.

b. Key elements included in the Geopark Master Plan have not been fulfilled, with special attention to develop a Geopark branding to promote iconic and quality products of the Geopark (traditional candles, potato farming, marine products, etc.).

c. Improve visibility within the UGGp by delivering the following:
   i. The official website of the UGGp should be fully translated to at least one other language. Some of the information for planning a visit to the area is only in Japanese.
   ii. Improve the visibility with road signs and information outside of the UGGp territory, as for example airports, train stations and cities near Shimabara.
   iii. The most prominent tourism sites would benefit from small facilities or structures, for the Geopark Guides and group of visitors to refuge in case of bad weather conditions.

d. There was little information to advise against collection of geological specimens or prohibition to destroy, dig or remove geological specimens and the information available is in Japanese. It is recommended to add pictograms at the most important geosites informing about these regulations.

e. The UGGp has to increase its national profile in order to attract domestic visitors, as well as it keep working on attracting international ones.

f. The administration structure needs to be strengthened. It is recommended to find additional sources of income and try not rely on a budget given only by the local government of the three cities.

g. Extend the successful educational project presented at Koka High School to other school centres in the UGGp and encourage the UGGp to explore a more intense collaboration with universities in order to attract more final studies and research to the territory.

h. Improve the promotion and linkages between the geological heritage, natural, cultural and intangible heritage in the relationship between the communities and the geological hazards and the geological history of the Peninsula.

i. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

214. Xingwen (China)

215. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

216. Following the review of Xingwen (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a GREEN card with the following recommendations:

a. To be environmentally friendly, recycling facilities should be provided in some UGGp areas encourage recycling.
b. Some of the sign boards have only text. More pictures or illustrations should be used to help visitors understand the geological value of the site and enjoy geological wonders.

c. Improve the English information
   i. A noticeboard of the geoconservation and regulations outside the Geopark museum in Xiaoyanwan is provided only in Chinese and on non-durable paper. A new notice board must be set up using at least English in addition to Chinese.
   ii. Ticket office and vending machine at the entrance of the Xiayanwan Scenic area must be updated using also English.
   iii. At the Bo and Cultural Museum, English information must be provided by leaflets or other means of communication considered appropriate.

d. Produce leaflets or information panels which include a detailed map and more information on geo/ cultural/ natural points along the route for karst landform of Xiaoyanwan Scenic area, in both Chinese and English.

e. Be sure to provide safety measures for visitors
   i. Install a gate at the entrance of fossil maze or take other measures to prevent visitors go into the trail under bad weather conditions.
   ii. Make sure to complete the CCTV monitoring system installation along the trails.

f. Improve close cooperation and expand the number of companies according to “The Usage and Management Rules of the Tourist Souvenir Logo of Xingwen Global Geopark” in order to identify traditional food or products that are native to the Geopark territory, and to improve their promotion in connection with Geopark.

g. Find different audio system for guides along the trails (e.g headset, wireless communication system with aim of reducing the noise pollution that interfere with activities of humans and wild life.

h. Further improvement on science popularization is needed especially for the staff of all the partners or cooperative companies, hotels and restaurants to spread the UGGp philosophy.

i. Strengthen the involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with Global Geoparks under the umbrella of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

217. **Yandangshan (China)**

218. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

219. Following the review of Yandangshan (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. UGGp should provide Geopark map in all important documents including future Progress Report and clarify how the geopark boundary is drawn.
   b. UGGp should provide more safety railing whenever trails pass through narrow elevated vertical cliffs and remove large loose block obstacles or reroute the trail to bypass the obstacle.
   c. UGGp should publish the latest version of a Geopark book by including the latest developments in the Geopark. This book can be used as a complete reference to the Geopark and will be useful for the coming evaluation and visiting Geopark planners and managers.
   d. UGGp should extend Yandangshan volcanic evolution research beyond petrologic studies, and beyond the UGGp boundary in terms of regional and
global stratigraphic correlation in order to find plausible impacts of this huge volcanic eruption on any particular extinction of life.

e. UGGp should extend Yandang geomorphic research beyond mere landform studies to reveal any plausible relationship between palaeoclimatic changes and the various landform development stages as well as the various forms of ancient and potential natural geohazards.

f. UGGp should develop a more formal education (panels, booklets, guide) on biodiversity and integrate it with geological diversity and cultural diversity.

g. UGGp should develop a more formal partnership with talented people and provide protection strategies that involve the transmission of knowledge, practices and techniques for new generations to protect ancient patrimony such as leaf painting (Zhou Baoguang), bamboo carving (Jin Kui), Ou clay art (Chen Mao), Guzheng music performance (Li Hong), pipe music performance (Zhou Mi), flute performance (Tang Jianguo), etc.

h. UGGp should develop more scientific popularization on subjects related to geohazards (particularly where evidence of former geohazards such as landslides and rock falls have taken place) and impact from severe climatic change.

i. The UGGp should work to develop and improve relationships and exchange with existing UGGp’s to create better planned and active collaborative programmes. It would be particularly relevant to join and become an active partner in the GGN Volcanic Working Group.

j. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

220. **Yanqing** (China)

A conflict of interest was declared by Jin Xiaochi so he left the room and was not present for the discussion or the vote.

222. Following the review of Yanqing (China) revalidation report, the UGGpC decided to award a **GREEN** card with the following recommendations:

   a. Continue the work on the enlargement of the Geopark area and implement activities in the new area. Consider the possibility to include also Yanqing city in the new proposed area of the Geopark, in order to have the important museum inside the borders.

   b. Continue the work to simplify the geological communication towards the general public, as demonstrated in the new visitor centre.

   c. Use stories which connect geological sites and other kinds of sites of interest to give a more holistic view upon nature to visitors. Offer more explanation in the visitor centres on the Yanshanian orogeny which played an important role on the development of geology and geomorphology of the area.

   d. Connection between geology and plants should be stronger emphasized in the interpretation panels and exhibition of visitor centres.

   e. Try to include issues on climate change and desertification in the educational programs.

   f. Work with partners from the agricultural sector in order to promote more agricultural Geopark products.

   g. At the Yanshan Reservoir: Better information about the reservoir and the importance of clean drinking water and prohibit possible littering at the site.

**IV. Discussion of deferred UNESCO Global Geopark applications from the UGGpC 2016**
223. **Conca de Tremp-Montsec** (Spain)

224. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

225. This was a deferred application after being discussed at the 1st UGGpC meeting in September 2016. The main requirement was the production of a comparative study between Conca de Tremp-Montsec and Sobrarbe. This was received and makes it clear that these two areas are complementary and are sufficiently different.

226. UNESCO received a letter from the Spanish National Commission to UNESCO seeking guidance for future Geopark applications regarding geographic proximity. The UGGpC already takes these issues into consideration so UNESCO will send a letter of reply to this effect.

227. A number of recommendations were provided for Conca de Tremp-Montsec:

   a. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
   
   b. Visibility should be increased by improved signage at all important sites and partner entities incorporating the UGGp logo and branding.
   
   c. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.
   
   d. Improve the linkage and promotion between the different aspects of geological, natural, cultural and intangible heritage of the UGGp.

228. The UGGpC decided that Conca de Tremp Montsec (Spain) fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board **endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark** for four years.

229. **Rinjani Lombok** (Indonesia)

230. No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the UGGpC.

231. This was a deferred application after being discussed at the 1st UGGpC meeting in September 2016. It was deferred due to ten recommendations to be addressed including the compilation of a comparative report between Lombok and Batur. This aspiring Geopark has done a very thorough job of preparing documents for this and makes it clear that these two areas are complementary and are sufficiently different.

232. A number of recommendations were provided for Rinjani Lombok:

   a. A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.
   
   b. Visibility should be increased by improved signage at all important sites and partner entities incorporating the UGGp logo and branding.
c. Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.
d. Improve the linkage and promotion between the different aspects of geological, natural, cultural and intangible heritage of the UGGp.

233. The UGGpC decided that Rinjani Lombok (Indonesia) fulfils the UGGp criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and proposes that the Executive Board endorse this candidate as a UNESCO Global Geopark for four years.

V. Intervention of National Delegation, observers of the UGGpC meeting

234. The representative of the Spanish National Delegation (Enrique Martinez), invited to speak by the UGGpC Chair, thanked the UGGpC Chair and UGGpC members for the UGGpC meeting which was extremely intensive and highly professional. The delegate commented on the diligence of the UGGpC as well as the ongoing UGGpC attitude to analyse and assess all the dossiers with the utmost of objectivity. It was a great experience for the Delegation to get the opportunity to participate in this UGGpC meeting and to learn the complexity of its work. In conclusion, the Delegation declared its satisfaction for the work carried out by the UGGpC.

VI. Discussion of UNESCO Global Geopark extension requests

235. Following the review of Sesia Val Grande (Italy) extension request report, the UGGpC decided to ACCEPT the request.

236. A summary of the results of the UGGp evaluations and revalidations was provided:
   a. Evaluations: 11 accepted, 4 deferred and 0 rejected
   b. Revalidations: 23 green cards, 12 yellow cards, 0 red cards
   c. Deferred from previous meeting: 2 accepted, 0 deferred, 0 rejected
   d. Extensions: 1 accepted, 0 rejected

237. The next steps of the UGGp evaluation and revalidation process were discussed with the results of the 2nd UGGpC meeting to remain confidential until the Member States of UNESCO been informed by distribution of the UGGpC report from the UGGp Bureau as detailed in the Operational Guidelines.

238. Once the UGGp Bureau has compiled the report it will then be circulated to all UGGpC members for comment. Once this has been agreed it will be translated by UNESCO into French. Then it will be distributed to the External Relations and Public Information Sector in UNESCO for distribution to Member States. This may not happen until end of November. Once the Member States have received the report then all UGGpC members will be informed and all relevant UGGps will be informed that the results are with the permanent delegations. When this is done then letters will go out for revalidated UGGps. Letters for new UGGps will not go out until after the 2018 spring session of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

VII. Update of UGGp evaluation and revalidation forms (feedback from the missions)

239. Feedback was received from many evaluators that the forms needed to be simplified. It was also suggested that the Annual Progress reports should be amended to align with the revalidation reports.
240. The UGGpC Bureau will work on the updated forms and circulate to all UGGpC members, with the final deadline for all changes being 31st December.

VIII. IUGS Geological Evaluation Process

241. There were a number of issues with the compilation of IUGS assessments of the geological heritage of international significance. These included:

a. Delay in IUGS receiving the geological heritage information meaning that the deadlines were very short.

b. Difficulties in getting relevant assessors in some Member States.

c. Reviewers having difficulty understanding what the standards required are.

d. Currently there is no homogenous response so it is difficult to compare reviews.

242. A number of solutions were provided to the issues discussed:

a. The UGGp applications will be received by 1st December so those that don’t have any revisions can be sent on to IUGS immediately.

b. It should be essential that reviewers have visited the area and focus only on the scientific importance of the geological heritage.

c. A full Earth sciences bibliography will be requested in the future for all aspiring UGGps. This should be part of Annex 2 of the application dossier from 2018 onwards. The existence of sufficient international publications related to the geological heritage of an aspiring UGGp will be sufficient support to demonstrate its international value.

243. The review forms will be revised to include a request for a comprehensive bibliography for next year, but cannot be implemented in time for this year’s applications. This is currently already included in Document B so an Annex will be acceptable at present.

244. The UGGpC Bureau will work on a new template for the IUGS assessment and will circulate to all UGGpC members. The deadline for the new template will be 31st December. This will then be sent to IUGS with all feedback to be received by 31st March.

IX. Capacity building activities: workshops, advisory missions

245. There were many requests for UGGpC members presence at meetings / conferences, many of which were received at short notice. A calendar of supported events is needed with official requests to be accepted through Regional Networks only.

246. The Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark Intensive Course deals specifically with new and aspiring UGGps. Obligatory attendance would require a change in the Operational Guidelines so it was decided to add attendance on this course as a recommendation to all new UGGps in their Letter of Acceptance.

X. Fundraising and Future Activities

247. The GGN has provided UNESCO with the total amount of UGGp financial contributions for 2016. Only 40% of all UGGps have contributed to UNESCO via the GGN Association for 2017. This is a requirement for all UGGps and will be discussed at the forthcoming GGN Executive Board meeting.

248. Qeshm UNESCO Global Geopark is planning a workshop in the 2018. Dates will be announced very shortly.
249. There will be a discussion of the three UNESCO designations: UNESCO Global Geoparks, World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.

250. The New Director-General of UNESCO will be announced soon.

XI. Any other business

251. The UNESCO General Conference will take place in November. Attendance from national delegations was discussed although no issues are expected.

252. The provision of a glossary of ‘Geopark’ terms for all evaluators was agreed. This will be worked on by the UGGpC Chairperson.

253. The UGGpC acknowledged the hosting of the 2nd UGGpC meeting by Zhijindong Cave UGGp who looked after all logistics, administration and costs associated with the invitation of UGGpC members.