

IUGS International Commission for Geoheritage

Activities and Achievements Report 2018 -2019 (additional material up to mid-2020)

The IUGS has recently dissolved the International Geoheritage Commission, to create a more robust and workable structure. This is in progress, and the present sub-commissions support this rearrangement, and are looking forward to the formation of a more efficient commission structure.

This report supplement reflects this in giving only progress over the last six months on essential Commission activity.

The structure of the Commission has been in discussion over this time. Meanwhile key elements of the IUGS responsibilities to the wider community have been upheld. These are notably the UNESCO Global Geopark Reviews, and providing suggestions of experts to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's UNESCO World Heritage desktop reviews.

The Commission has maintained its presence in UNESCO and Global Geopark virtual meetings over the time of the COVID crisis.

IUGS Activities for UNESCO Global Geoparks

The duties in providing reviews, consultation and discussion with UNESCO and the global geopark movement is time consuming and requires a global team of dedicated and available geoheritage experts.

In 2019 a Global Geopark Review group was set up who can manage the IUGS roll in Geoparks. By the end of 2019, this group had started the huge task of reviewing the 21 proposed Aspiring Global Geoparks.

By May 2020, a full set of evaluations was delivered, on time, to UNESCO, along with an IUGS appraisal, that was first approved by the IUGS EC.

Assessment Guidelines for Geoheritage Significance

This is an ongoing element of discussion with the new IUGS Geoheritage commission structure. To remind the readers: It has been long considered that there is a lack of clarity and rigour in the geological evaluation of Global Geopark applications, due to a lack of clear guidelines.

A working group was set up in 2017 to produce some guidelines, that we delivered to the IUGS by the commission in 2019. These are with UNESCO and the Global Geopark council, but have yet to be ratified. We anticipate that the new Geoheritage Commission will help unlock the impasse with these.

Sustainable Resource use in Geoheritage

Denise Gorfinkiel and Helga Chulepin of the UNESCO Montivideo and Global geopark Council requested IUGS Geoheritage Commission's support for an initiative exploring sustainable resources use in geoheritage areas. With the assistance of Roland Oberhaensli and Benjamin van Wyk de Vries we grouped together with Edward Nickless of Resourcing Future Generations to provide the project with a letter of support from the IUGS commission, for their launch.

The project has started with a survey sent to Latin American geoparks and geoheritage areas. In **June 2020**, a working document was produced of the results in Spanish, and is being translated into English, it should be ready for UNESCO publication shortly.

Geoheritage sub-commission will follow the progress of the project, with the aim eventually to globalise a Resources and Geoheritage project in 2021.