

Minutes from the Kick-off meeting 4 GEON

1st September 2022

1) Accommodation

Accommodation in Pension Orlov at the beginning – the outdoor area is used for schools' education natural, building water systems

2) Presentation of the Orlov Ecological Centre (ECO)

a. Activities

- i. Regional Centre for Environmental Education
 - ii. Environmental education and awareness
 - iii. Education of children, adults

b. Museum Sphingidae

- i. Research in India – agreement about cooperation with government of India in 7 Indian states (Nagoya Protocol - DNA determination and collection)
- ii. Projects in Central African Republic, Gabon
- iii. museum described 98 new species throughout the world

c. Barrandian National Geopark (BNG)

- i. Separated divisions of the Orlov Ecological Centre
- ii. Area of 4316 km²
- iii. Seeks to interpret Earth heritage and geoscience education
 - 1. The BNG participates in the 4GEON project to share its experiences and best practices.

d. Destination Agency of Pobrdí region

- i. Destination Management operation

e. The whole ECO and its activities are within the framework of NGO activities (without fixed state subventions)

f. 4GEON project

- i. It is necessary to solve the future fundraising, to find supplementary sources of the project. This kick-off meeting was financed mainly by the BNG, the UNESCO contribution covered just 1/3 of the price of the flight tickets of the project participants.
- ii. 3 persons working on the project within ECO (Luboš Gardoň Jr., Luboš Gardoň Sr., Pavla Staňková)

3) Introduction of project partners:

a. Tanzania

- i. Ngorongoro - UNESCO Global Geopark network - southern Sahara
 1. Not only geopark but wildlife and culture protection included
 2. Area of 13 000 km² 300 000 inhabitants
 4. Support of regional systems by linking with other natural/national parks
 5. All parks are linked to all others
 6. Geopark boundary is only on the Tanzanian side
 7. 700,000 visitors per year before covid
 8. 300 000 persons on studies, research
 9. There is over 30 schools within the geopark
 10. Efforts to improve education within geology, trying to catch up to geotourism and how to link it together
 11. Efforts to show how much humans have changed over millions of years

b. Nicaragua

- i. Rio Coco
 1. 17.7. 2020 designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp)
 2. Activities started in 2015
 3. Area of 650 km²
 4. 680 km long Coco River - geopark named after the river
 5. Taking care of the archaeological and cultural heritage, anthropology - strengthening the indigenous people
 6. Efforts to increase geotourism in collaboration with the services already provided
 7. The organization is supported by 5 regional institutions (organizations focusing on tourism, natural resources)
 8. Geopark operations:
 - a. A general assembly - mayors and indigenous representatives as key actors
 - b. 2 councils - 1 consultative (representatives of ministries - education) and 1 scientific council (professional matters e.g. in publications)
 - c. Executive body in the administrative sense
 - d. A revalidation next year – 4GEON project perceived as a potential empowerment of the geopark and enrichment of its activities

c. Philippines

i. Bohol Island Aspiring geopark

1. Tata and Karl

2. September 5, UNESCO Global Geopark Council decided to designate

Bohol as a new UNESCO Global Geopark

This is a pilot (first) UNESCO global geopark in Philippines

d. Peru

i. Colca y Volcanes Angua

1. In 2019 designated as a UGGp (before covid)
2. The geopark involves two provinces: Calloma and Castilla.
3. An area of 6010 km²
4. Intensive tourism - up to 200,000 tourists per year before covid
5. Imbalanced space distribution of tourism - visitors have always been concentrated in Calloma; Castilla, which is further away from the urban areas (with difficult access) is mainly visited by locals
6. Calloma includes the Colca river valley (one of the deepest in the world), in Castilla 25 dwarf volcanoes
7. The previous posting was about geology, the area is also rich culturally - 2 traditional dances (listed on UNESCO intangible heritage list)
 - a. The *wititi* dance - a wedding dance
 - b. *Llameritos* dance - imitates the former migration of people
8. Due to huge difference in altitude (1200 – 5200m above sea level)- big difference in biodiversity
9. Last 2 years geopark has not generated many activities due to covid
10. The management is composed of representatives from the provinces (Castilla, Calloma, Arequipa), representatives from the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Geological Institute (state)
11. The main focus of the project was how to educate the young - the future segment are the children

4) Project 4GEON

- a) It is necessary to develop some system to cooperate in the future years of the project
- b) It is necessary to find a solution for funding
- c) Project Geoschools (BNG) were demonstrated on 6th September at 11:00 a.m.
 - a. Discussion of whether it is important for geoparks from abroad to see this project
- d) GEOEduGame web portal
 - a. It will be free
 - b. Question of internet connection
 - c. Is it possible to use this portal in schools

4GEON: Four Continents Connected through Playful Geoeducation

- i. It is the right option for all partners involved
 - ii. Possibility of involving at least a few pilot schools to start with
- d. Geobus - bus either with a geologist to schools or from schools to geosites
 - i. Inspiration – “wondering bus” - takes children to gorilla rescue station
 - ii. Possibility - local carrier - arrange with them, get funding - logo for geobus (unifying all geoparks, project visibility),
 - iii. Reach out to adults through children and encourage geo-education - pull in parents
- e) A story should be told that both engages and educates - find a story
- f) Another option - wisdom of elders - transfer information intergenerationally
 - a. Memory of a nation + ethnography + transfer of information – **all agreed**
- g) The idea is to involve other geoparks in the last years of this project
- h) Extension of the project by having other geoparks bring new opportunities
- i) Questions:
 - a. Extension of the project - **all agreed**
 - b. Involvement of other geoparks - **all agreed**
 - c. Next meeting in May 2023 in the Czech Republic, until then online zoom – **all agreed**
 - d. Meetings would be held once in each geopark over five years – **all agreed**
 - e. Ambassadors – e.g. Leonardo DiCaprio
 - f. Travelling to geoparks

2nd September 2022

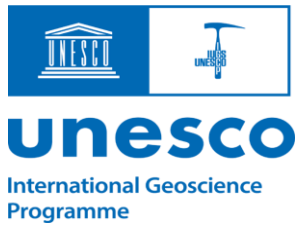
1) *End of May 2023 - next meeting in Příbram*

- a. UNESCO will be able to cover one ticket next year for each geopark in the project
- b. The person for whom the ticket will be purchased needs to be announced no later than February
- c. In case of multiple participants from one geopark want to come, BNG will provide accommodation and meals, but not additional flying tickets
- d. In May, everyone will bring a specific output, a proposal that came out of the project
- e. The UNESCO requirement is to submit reports that are related to the project
- f. Participants of the project will stick to the project activities (geo-schools, geobus, geoportal, geo-tourism, geo-wealth - mineral wealth and folk wisdom), which can be variable in their content

2) *Geoportal (Geo-Edu-Game)*

- a. The BNG will start it and other Geoparks will fill it with their materials (English, Spanish, Czech, Swahili) + translations (paid by the Geoparks themselves)
- b. Everything will have language versions
- c. The geoportal administrator will be BNG, but it will teach everyone else how to use the geoportal

- 3) *Geobus*
 - a. **Everyone will send in suggestions on how they can get involved in the project**
 - b. E.g. Cameroon - gorillas
 - c. This is something will be discussed in May
 - d. Educational trips - not just trips
- 4) *Geoschools*
 - a. Proposals will be presented in May on how to involve schools in the project - **specific suggestions of the individual geoparks**
- 5) *Geo competition*
 - a. It will be at first locally in the individual geoparks - local region and then there will be a joint geo-competition - online (2-3 years) where the prize will be a visit to a geopark
 - b. Internet access is important - not everyone has access, but competition could be spread through schools
 - c. Example: the geo-competition will run for 2 months and they will always have a week to solve a question or problem and have the opportunity to compare their results with the world
- 6) *Marketing*
 - a. The **4GEON logo** has to be used by all the geoparks to promote 4GEON visibility
 - b. Project website: <https://www.4geon.org/>
 - c. Need to start using the 4GEON logo at events of the individual geoparks and then sending photos with description
 - d. **Logos of the individual geoparks need to be sent in print quality**
- 7) *Administration*
 - a. **The sharing environment will be Google drive - to be set up by David**
 - i. Peru, Tanzania, Philippines - yes to Google access
 - ii. Nicaragua - will verify
 - iii. Uploading materials to folders
 - b. Need to create a communication portal for geoparks
 - i. Google Meets - online video conferencing
 - ii. **WhatsApp group** - everyone has this app – so the group will be set up
- 8) *Needed from geoparks*
 - a. Photos with description, information, power-point, video
 - i. Thanks to photos and videos it will be able to get sponsors to contribute to the project
- 9) *Ambassadors* - a list of people who will be or have been approached not only for the individual geopark but also for the 4GEON project



4GEON: Four Continents Connected through Playful Geoeducation

10) Please, try to find out if there is a Czech *trading company* operating in all countries within (or close) to the territory of your geopark! - get them as sponsors

Next online meeting will be in the **end of November / beginning of December**