



IGU-Commission on Geoheritage

**2023 Annual Work Report of Commission on Geoheritage
(January, 2023--- December,2023)**

Edited by
Dongying Wei, Chair

Content

1 Membership.....	3
2 Meetings.....	5
3 Networking.....	5
4 Publication.....	7
5 Work plan for 2024.....	7

Commission on Geoheritage (COG) of the International Geographical Union (IGU) is to promote the development of Geoparks from the Geographical perspectives. The objectives of the COG include:

- communicating the role of geoheritage as tools of education, recreation and nature conservation;
- further developing the concept of sustainability as applied to geoheritage;
- communicating the importance of understanding a broad range of processes that affect the sustainable development of geoheritage, including the natural environment, political, and socio-economic processes;
- communicating the results of the research by members of the Commission to various academic, industry and policy arenas in order to influence policy in an effective and appropriate manner.

In the last five years, IGU-CoG focused on the development of comparative studies on geoheritage, tourism and corresponding social, economic, environmental and political change and concentrated on the communication and transfer of research results in policy relevant terms to policy makers and industry as well as continuing the scientific publishing programme of the Commission. The Commission seeks to continue its activities as outlined in relation to its existing objectives.

This work report will introduce the COG work in 2023 from the aspects of MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, NETWORK, PUBLICATION, respectively.

1 Membership

The Steering Committee of Commission on Geoheritage (2020-2024) is comprised of 10 executive members from 9 countries, the detailed information about the ten executive members are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 2020-2024 Executive Members of Commission on Geoheritage

CHAIR	
Dr. Wei, Dongying Beijing Normal University China Address: No.19 Xijiekouwai Street, Haidian District, Beijing, China, 100875 Tel: +86 10 58807455-1631 Fax: +86 10 58836093 E-mail: weidy@bnu.edu.cn; donawei@gmail.com	
VICE CHAIR	
Dr. Benjamin van Wyk de Vries Université Clermont Auvergne France Email: ben.vanwyk@uca.fr	

Dr. Subhash Anand University of Delhi India Email: sanandpv@yahoo.co.in	 DR. SUBHASH ANAND
BOARD MEMBERS	
Dr. Károly Nemeth School of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University New Zealand Email: k.nemeth@massey.ac.nz	
Dr. Emmanuel Reynard Université de Lausanne, Lausanne Switzerland Email: emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch	
Dr. Maria Helena Henriques University of Coimbra Portugal Email: hhenriq@dct.uc.pt	
Dr. Lewis T.O. Cheung Education University of Hong Kong China Email: ltocheung@eduhk.hk	
Dr. José Luis Palacio-Prieto National University of Mexico Ciudad Universitaria Mexico E-mail: palacio@servidor.unam.mx	
Lynn Moorman Faculty of Science and Technology, Mount Royal University Calgary Canada Email: lmoorman@mtroyal.ca	
Dr. Thandi Nzama Centre for Recreation and Tourism , University of Zululand South Africa Email: atnzama@pan.uzulu.ac.za	

2 Meetings

On June 30, 2023, "Dialogue on World Heritage and Education for Sustainable Development: Sub-venue Eight of the 4th UNESCO Listing Heritage and Sustainable Development Conference" was successfully held in Huangshan, China. The IJU-COG was invited by the hosting organization, UNESCO International Center on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST), to coordinate the sub-venue session. Seven renowned experts and scholars in the field of heritage participated in lively discussions and shared insightful perspectives on the theme of "World Heritage and Education."

The speakers included Dan Tormey, President of Catalyst Environmental Solutions (USA) and member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas Specialist Group for Geosites; Nemanja Tomic, Associate Professor at the University of Novi Sad (Serbia); Su Dechen, Researcher at the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences; Xu Kejian, Associate Professor at China University of Geosciences (Beijing); Fasil Giorghis, Chairman of the Ethiopian National Committee for the International Council on Monuments and Sites and Researcher at the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences; Zhang Jianwei, Executive Deputy Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Training and Research Center for the Asia-Pacific Region (Beijing), Deputy Dean of the Beijing Archaeology and Cultural Academy, and Researcher; and Xie Qingwei, Director of Guangdong Danxia Mountain National Nature Reserve Administration. These esteemed guests delivered presentations. Representatives from national research institutions, universities, local governments, and heritage sites attended the conference, discussing topics such as heritage interpretation and education, popular science communication, the development of study trips, conservation training and protection of World Heritage sites, and public participation in heritage monitoring.

The sub-venue "World Heritage and Education" focused on key issues related to the sustainable development of heritage sites. By gathering experts and sharing management experiences and strategies relevant to the theme, the session contributed to the advancement of China and international heritage conservation efforts.



3 Networking

The chair of the IGU-COG, Dr. Wei, has built a bond cooperating relationship with several international organizations, including the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in IUCN, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), UNESCO Representative Office in China. Experts from these international organizations were invited to participate in the international conferences supported by IGU-CoG. Meanwhile, Dr. Wei, had several online meetings with the experts, and discussed how IGU-COG would cooperate with them to promote the sustainable development of geoheritage.

IGU-COG also built good relationship with some national government, like National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China,

Standardization Administration of China, China Ministry of Environment Protection etc. to promote the education and protection of the geoparks. IGU-COG also cooperated with many local governments to promote the sustainable development of geoparks, like Qinghai Province, Xiuwu County in Henan Province, Shangrao City in Jiangxi Province, Taining County in Fujian Province etc.

IGU-CoG tried to drive change for the co-creation of sustainable solutions through leading international communication, learning and knowledge and promoting cooperation from all aspects related to geoheritage. So as to achieve the goal, IGU-CoG continue to work with IGU Commission on Geography for Future Earth: Coupled Human-Earth Systems for Sustainability, and ProGeo (European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage).. IGU-CoG invited the members to organize quality papers in the field of geoheritage and parks, which are written by authors from, and is concerned with geoheritage sites and parks in various regions and countries, especially the geoheritage sites and parks in developing and under-developed countries and regions, and the ones that are normally ignored but of great value and significance in the field of geoheritage.

4 Publication

International Journal of Geoheritage and Parks (IJGP) is an **OPEN ACCESS** international journal that publishes original geoheritage and parks-oriented papers addressing a broad range of fields including management, planning, policies, education, tourism, interpretation, economics, protection and sustainable development of global geoheritage and parks (including geoparks, national parks, protected areas, World Heritage sites, and other globally significant sites recognized for their geologic and geographical value). All articles published in *IJGP* are subject to rigorous peer view, based on initial editor screening and anonymous refereeing by independent expert referees.

The journal was established in 2003, and it is funded by Beijing Normal University and supported by the Commission on Geoheritage of the International Geographical Union (IGU-CoG). IJGP is indexed in Scopus, GeoBase, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Astrophysics Data System, EBSCO Essentials, EBSCOhost, GeoRef, and a member of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The journal website is

<https://www.keaipublishing.com/cn/journals/international-journal-of-geoheritage-and-parks/>

In 2023, 42 articles were published in 4 issues, with a completion rate of 100%. According to the Scopus Cite Score Tracker, the Cite Score for *IJGP* in 2022 is 5.1.

With the new Journal Rankings (SJR), IJGP is now Q1 in 4 quartiles (Development; Geography, Planning and Development; Social Science [miscellaneous]; Urban Studies), and Q2 in 2 quartiles (Geology; Nature and Landscape Conservation).

IJGP succeeded in applying for Beijing Normal University Journal High Quality Development Excellence Plan and got funding of CNY 200,000/year (3 years in total).

5 Work plan for 2024

Commission (2020–2024) will continue to focus on the development of comparative studies on geoheritage, tourism and corresponding social, economic, environmental and political change

and will concentrate on the communication and transfer of research results in policy relevant terms to policy makers and industry as well as continuing the scientific publishing programme of the Commission. The Commission therefore seeks to continue its activities for 2024 as outlined in relation to its existing objectives. The planned activities are as the following:

- To organize regular commission member meeting;
- To participate IGU conferences;
- To host an international conference related to geoheritage;
- To continue network with national and international organizations and authorities;
- To promote *the International Journal of Geoheritage and Parks* to publish 4 issues, 40 articles.