



International Commission on Geoheritage

ANUAL REPORT 2023

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Information compiled by:

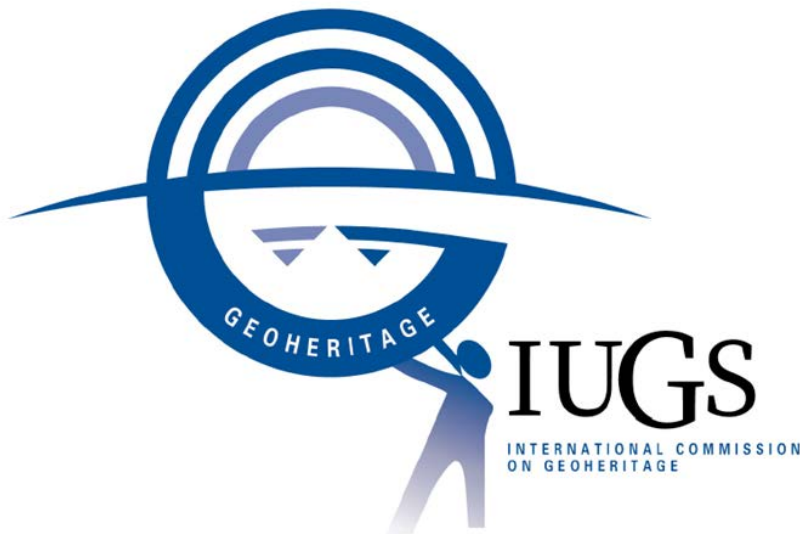
Dr. Asier Hilario. Chair, International Commission on Geoheritage

Dr. Juana Vegas, Secretary General, International Commission on Geoheritage

Prof. Dr. Benjamin Van Vyck de Vries, Chair. Sub-commission on Sites

Prof. Dr. Gurmeet Kaur. Chair, Sub-commission on Heritage Stones

Prof. Dr. Mathias Harzhauser. Chair, Sub-commission on Geo-Collections



OUR BACKGROUND & OUR MANDATE

IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage (IUGS-IGC) was created in 2016 with two sub-commissions: 1) Sub-Commission on Sites and Collections, 2) Sub-Commission on Heritage Stones.

In 2020 the IUGS Executive Committee decided to dissolve and rejuvenate this Commission with the following goals:

- 1) To review the structure, the members and the operational guidelines of the existing commission and sub-commissions.
- 2) To create a unique commission working under unified criteria, a unique budget and common statutes, with its own common webpage.
- 3) To redefine and reactivate the programs of IUGS designation of sites and Global Stone Heritage Resource
- 4) To increase the visibility of the Commission among the Geoheritage community and to strength collaboration with other international organizations, with special emphasis on the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- 5) To search for the possibility creating a new sub-commission on Geo-collections.

OUR MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2023

After three years of strong networking most of our main goals have been achieved:

Internal structure

- The **statutes of the International Commission on Geoheritage** have been approved by the IUGS EC. There is still work to be done to refine it, but the main pillars of the commission and sub-commissions have now been defined.
- The **lists of voting members** and corresponding members of each sub-commission has been notably increased and formally updated.
- The Commission on Geoheritage is now a **unified and strong** working under a common strategy with common logo and looking for synergies among different sub-commissions.
- A new **Sub-commission on Geo-collections** has been defined and approved by the IUGS – EC.

Designation programs

- The **IUGS Geological Heritage Sites** program has been successfully redefined and established with the announcement of “**The First 100**” in 2022. This initiative generated global interest and great engagement between the IUGS and its affiliated organizations. This program has been consolidated during 2023 with the evaluation and selection of **The Second 100**, which will be announced at the IGC 2024 in Busan.
- The existing program of Global Heritage Stone Resources has been reformulated to **IUGS Heritage Stones** with new guidelines and an extended group of voting members. **20 new Heritage Stones have been designated since 2021**, which makes a total amount of 42 designated Stones. The first 50 will be presented at the IGC 2024 in Busan.
- The standards for **the new program of Geo-Collections** have been discussed and approved. The selection of the first Geo-collections to be designated is now in place.

Visibility and networking

- A new website has been established www.iugs-geoheritage.org. Since October 2022 this website received **47.000 visitors** from **204 nations**. (Annex 1).
- The IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage has gained **huge visibility and credibility**. The IUGS 60th anniversary event and the declaration of Zumaia

was a big milestone, but the interest on our commission or it is even higher one year after.

- Collaboration with other international organizations has been strongly consolidated.
 - The selection committee of the IUGS Geological Heritage program is made of 16 international organizations representing the main geological disciplines: **GGN, IGCP, ICS, INHIGEO, TEC-TASK, IAG, IPA, IAVCEI, IMA, SCAR, PROGEO, IAH, INQUA, ICC, IAS, TGIR and MSG** are active partners of this endeavor.
 - Collaboration with **UNESCO and GGN** has been also strengthened and consolidated. New guidelines have been created for the IUGS desktop assessment. The IUGS – ICG provides an average of 80 assessments for around 15 aspiring geoparks every year.
 - The collaboration with **IUCN** in relation to the assessment for criteria viii for **World Heritage Sites** has been consolidated and formalized.
- The IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage is consolidating as a **global reference** in the field of geological heritage with very high visibility for the IUGS.
- **4.100 pdf books** of “The First 100” have been downloaded for free from our website. https://iugs-geoheritage.org/videos-pdfs/iugs_first_100_book_v2.pdf

COMMISSION STRUCTURE IN 2023

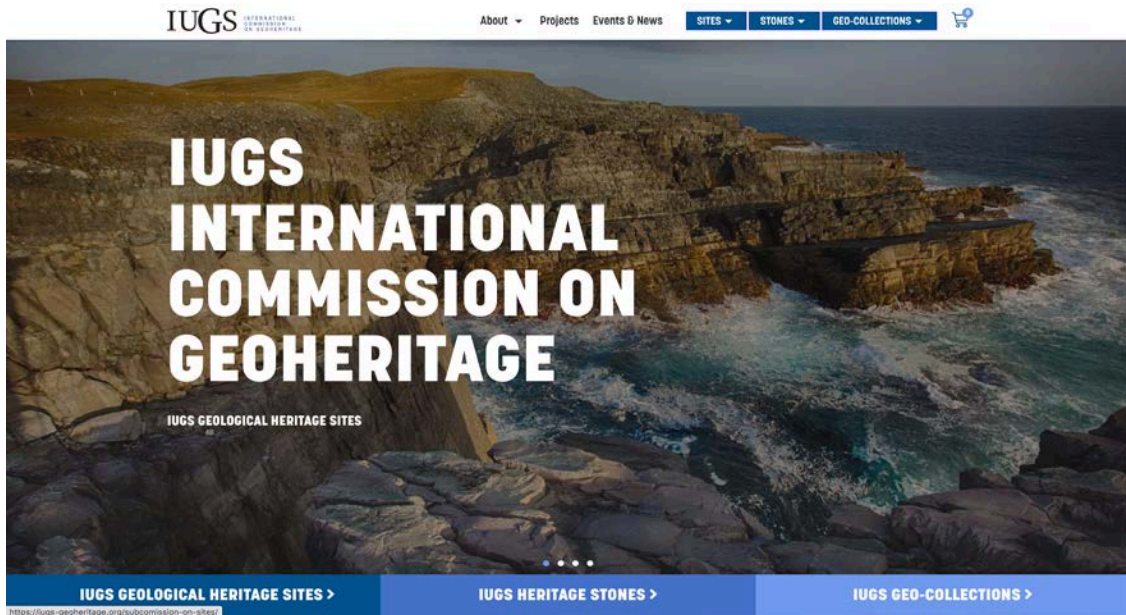
<https://iugs-geoheritage.org/organization-chart/>

IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage	
Chair: Asier Hilario Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain	
Vice Chair: Angela Ehling Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe. Germany	Vice Chair: Zhang Jianping China University of Geosciences, Beijing. China
Secretary General: Juana Vegas Instituto Geológico y Minero de España. Geological Survey of Spain (IGME-CSIC)	

<u>Sub-commission on Geoheritage Sites</u>	
Chair: Benjamin van Wyk de Vries Clermont Auvergne University. France	Secretary General: Gonzalo Lozano Geological Survey of Spain (IGME-CSIC)
<u>Sub-commission on Heritage Stones</u>	
Chair: Gurmeet Kaur Panjab University. India	Secretary General: Victor Cardenes Oviedo University. Spain
<u>Sub-commission on Geo-collections</u>	
Chair: Mathias Harzhauser Natural History Museum of Vienna. Austria	Vice Chair: Marcela Gómez. Colombia
Secretary General: Leslie Hale National Museum of Natural History. Smithsonian Institution. USA	

Voting members: 130 experts from all around the world representing sites, stones and geocollections.

SUMMARY OF OUR MAIN ACTIONS IN 2023



- Our website www.iugs-geoheritage.com has been updated with professional support.
 - An online payment platform has been established for the book sales.
 - All the information related to our structure, standards and activities has been updated in time.
 - The files of the 32 designated IUGS Heritage Stones have been uploaded. <https://iugs-geoheritage.org/designations-stones/>
 - Since October 2022 our website received **47.000 visitors** from **204 nations**.
- The process for **The Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites** has been conducted ([Annex 2](#))
 - **174 candidate sites from 64 countries** (including 23 new nations) were presented (May – July 2023)
 - **91 experts** representing all geological disciplines evaluated all the proposals (Oct – Dec 2023). **714 evaluations** have been completed.
 - The final list of the Second 100 was approved by the selection committee at the end of January 2024. ([Annex 3](#))

THE SECOND
100
IUGS GEOLOGICAL
HERITAGE SITES

LIST OF CANDIDATES



- NOTE: The final list with detailed evaluation documents will be sent to the IUGS EC for a final ratification before the EC meeting in Nairobi. The Second 100 will be announced at the IGC 2024 in Busan. T27 – session 8.
- **Desktop assessment for UNESCO Global Geoparks.**
We believe this is a very important contribution that the IUGS does to the development of the UGGp program. Benjamin van Wyk de Vries together with Asier Hilario coordinate this important task.
 - **15 dossiers** have been evaluated in 2023 (Feb – May). Each dossier has been evaluated by 5-6 evaluators. **80 evaluations** have been completed and a final dossier with a summary and the IUGS final statement was sent to UNESCO secretariat in time. (Annex 4)
 - The IUGS secretary general was represented by Asier Hilario, Jianping Zhang and Benjamin van Wyk de Vries at the **UGGp Council meeting** which was celebrated in Morocco (Sept) and online (Dec).



- The **new guidelines for the IUGS desktop assessment** of geological heritage of international significance in aspiring UGGp have been finally approved unanimously by the UGGp Council in Sept. 2023. This is a major achievement and a major contribution from the IUGS to the Geoparks program. This new document clarifies the concept of geological heritage of international significance for UGGp, helps applicants to make a good dossier and makes the assessment much easier for our evaluators. Two online seminars were organized by UNESCO and IUGS – ICG with the aim of explaining how to use these new guidelines. More than 50 countries participated. (Annex 5).
- **10 new Heritage Stones** have been approved in 2023. All proposals were evaluated by the 28 voting members of the Subcommittee according to the guidelines. All were approved by more than 60% of the votes.
 - All evaluation documents will be sent to the IUGS EC for a final ratification.

- The already existing **32 heritage stones** have been updated and **uploaded in the website** and a special certificate has been created and sent to all the authors. This is an important gesture that unifies the previous designations with the updated program.



- A book with the first **50 heritage stones** will be presented at the IGC 2024 in Busan. The layout of the book has been already done.

- The justifications for the international value has been agreed among voting members and the commission officers.

- **III International Stone Workshop** was organized by the Gurmeet Kaur and her team. **51 colleagues** from **12 countries** attended during 6 days. The meeting was a big success and consolidated the vision and the cohesion of the members of the sub-commission. ([Annex 6](#)).



- The designation scheme and standards for **Geocollection designations** have deeply discussed and approved. The Subcommission worked on a list of 1.273 collections from 129 countries. The first IUGS Geocollections will be selected in 2024 and presented at the IGC 2024 in Busan.

NOTE: see [Annex 7](#) for detailed dossiers of each subcommission

IUGS-ICG. 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Income received in 2023

INCOME 2023	Amount
Annual Budget 2023 allocated to the IUGS - ICG	16.711€

2. Expenditures in 2023

Concept	total €
Webpage www.iugs-geoheritage.com . Professional updating and uploading of files, design, general maintenance and domain fee.	2.596 €
Tax management and advice + bank taxes	2.261 €
Participation at the IUGS EC meeting in Belfast	1.058 €
Participation at the IUGS EC meeting in Nairobi	2.500 €
3 Internal meetings in Madrid with Stan and the Sites team	675 €
Participation of Commission officers at the III IUGS Heritage Stone workshop (India)	2.321€
Organization of the III IUGS Heritage Stone Workshop (India)	1.070 €
Participation in the Global Stone Congress 2023 in Portugal. Two delegates from the Heritage Stone SubCommission	2.534 €
Participation at the ProGeo International Conference (UK). Two delegates from Sites and Geocollection sub-commissions	1.530 €
TOTAL	16.545 €

2023 balance: +16.711 € - 16.545 € = + 166 €

2022 surplus (50% annual allocation + 50% book sales)	3.696 €
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“THE FIRST 100” BOOK SALES & ACCOUNTING

Since October 2022 **160 books** have been sold and shipped.

Each book is sold at 70 € + shipping cost

Total invoicing in 2023..... +12.296 €

Expenses related to book sales

Shipping cost..... 2.591 €

Online payment platform (credit card) + website preparation.....2.252 €

Sales management and packaging (20€ each book)..... 2.900 €

Total expenses book sales..... 7.743 €

Total balance book sales: +12.296 – 7.743..... + 4.573 €

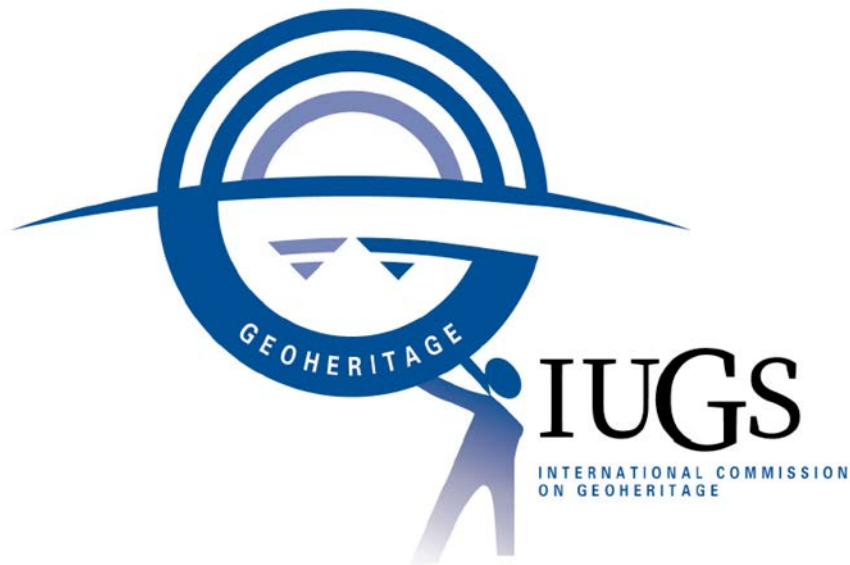
Considerations for the future.

The book sales were much lower than it was expected. Only 145 books have been sold through our online platform since Oct 2022. There are still 100 books left in our office. In contrast 4.100 books have been downloaded for free from our website.

Selling the books may not be as profitable as we thought, but it offers a very good service to those that want to have a hard copy of the book. Also we believe that the promotion of the book may have not been as good as it could be, specially at Museums, universities, geological surveys and the IUGS booth in big events.

It is important to consider that now the system is working properly. A big effort has been done to establish all the logistics and tax / legal requirements. None of these important investments will have to be done in the future if we decide to continue selling books online (The Second, The Third...).

From the financial point of view the goal the sales is to cover the cost of the book (layout + printing) which around 40€ / book.



International Commission on Geoheritage

2024 PROPOSAL

MAIN GOALS FOR 2024

After the intense activity in 2023, the main goals for the IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage in 2023 can be basically summarized in two main pillars:

- 1) **CONSOLIDATION** of the internal structure and operation of the three designation programs, specially considering that there will be elections of all ICG members in 2024.
- 2) **PARTICIPATION AT THE IGC 2024**. An internal meeting of the commission will be organized at the IGC and different sessions have been applied for the announcement of **The Second 100 IUGS Geological heritage Sites** (T27-session 8), the new **IUGS Heritage Stones** (T27-session 1 & session 2) and the first **IUGS Geocollections**.

Sub-Commission on Sites main goals

- Announcement of The Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites at the IGC.
 - Final selection of the Second 100 together with the selection committee.
 - Publication for Episodes
 - Editing of the book of The Second 100 to be presented at the IGC.
 - Uploading the Second 100 GHS files in the website
 - Promoting and spreading this initiative in countries with less representation.
- Desktop assessment for 17 aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks according to the new guidelines approved in 2023.
- To formalize an IUGS –IUCN collaboration for UNESCO WH reviews.

Sub-commission on Heritage Stone main goals

- To consolidate the program of Heritage Stones with around 20 new stones
- To edit the book of the First 50 heritage Stones to be presented at the IGC.
- To make a publication in Episodes.
- To look for new stones from underrepresented nations.
- To upload the 50 heritage stones presented in the book.

Sub-commission on Geo-collections main goals

- To approve the first IUGS Geo-collections in 2024 to be announced at the IGC
- To consolidate the sub-commission voting members.
- To promote the designation of IUGS Geo-Collections among the geological collection community.
- To broaden the diversity of Geocollection representatives on the Voting Member committee.
- To add information to the IUGS Geo-collections Website – in particular the Directory of Global Geo-collections.

BUDGET PROPOSAL 2024

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON GEOHERITAGE General operational expenses.	Budget requested
www.iugs-geoheritage.org Maintenance (hosting, google map, news and events, general updating) and uploading of the new designated sites, stones and Geocollections.	3.000 USD
Professional Tax management and advice office + bank taxes.	2.300 USD
Representation of the Commission on Geoheritage in the IUGS EC meeting 2025	1.500 USD
IUGS representation in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council meeting . Support to the official IUGS representative.	500 USD
Internal meetings and representation of the IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage (IGCP Paris...)	1.000 USD
Participation of the Commission officers in the IGC 2024. Registration fee + travel cost + accommodation for 4 officers Internal meeting and coordination of the announcement of the Second 100 Sires, the First 50 Stones and the First 10 Geocollections.	11.000 USD
Total	18.800 USD

Subcommission on Geological Heritage Sites	Budget requested
Layout and editing of the digital book of The Second 100	10.000 USD
Printing 100 copies in Busan to be distributed during the event	2.000 USD
Participation at the IGC 2024 for the announcement of The Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites. One representative from Europe.	3.000 USD
Total	15.000 USD

Subcommission on Heritage Stones	Budget requested
Printing 100 copies in Busan to be distributed during the event	2.000 USD
Participation at the IGC 2024 for the internal meeting and the announcement of new designated IUGS Heritage Stones. Presentation of the book with the First 50 heritage stones. Two representatives	5.000 USD
Participation at EGU with an special session on Heritage Stones	1.000 USD
Total	8.000 USD

Subcommission on Geocollections	Budget requested
Participation at the IGC 2024 for the internal meeting and the announcement of the First IUGS Geo-collections. One representative.	3.000 USD
Total	3.000 USD

Total expenses expected for 2024..... 44.800 USD

Note that 22.000 USD are requested only to cover our participation at the IGC2024.

Surplus of 4.543 € from books sales in 2023 can be used to cover partially printing 2 x 100 books for the IGC in Busan or part of teh second edition of the First 100.

Surplus of 3.606 from 2022 can be use to cover partially 2024 necessities or unexpected actions.

TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED FOR 2024.....42.000 USD

BOOK SALES of THE SECOND 100 + THE FIRST 100

The online payment platform, the logistic for sales and shipping and the parallel accounting is now ready to operate smoothly, but the sales of the book may not be as good as we thought. The financial goal is to cover the cost of editing and printing.

The IUGS EC should decide whether we want to continue offering this service or we abandon the commercial activity and we only offer the free pdf version to be download from the website.

Printing 500 copies of the Second 100 in Spain.....	10.000 USD
Second edition of The First 100.....	10.000 USD

In 2023 the IUGS EC allocated **extra 20.000 USD** to print the second edition of “The First 100”. This amount was not needed in 2023.

We proposed to **postpone this special allocation of 20.000 USD to 2024** to cover cost related to the printing the Second 100. A second edition of the First 100 could be covered with the profits of the sales.