

# **VOLCANIC GEOPARKS WORKING GROUP: A PROPOSAL AT THE AIM OF THE GGN FOR PROMOTION AND NETWORKING AMONG GEOPARKS**

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Worldwide many Global Geoparks are relevant volcanic areas, including those with quaternary and active volcanism, with an impressive footprint on the landscape of volcanic forms and structures such as scoria and tuff cones, maars, composite volcanoes, calderas, dykes, necks, hot springs and lava caves (cf. Wood, 2009).

Spectacular volcanic landscapes in Global Geoparks become dominant figures attracting visitor's interest and basis for geotourism and educational activities as well as promotional tools. In addition, those territories often face similar management challenges, both on social, economical, educational and environmental issues.

In March 2015, among the 111 Global Geoparks (from 32 countries) about 1/3 overall comprise territories with Miocene to Quaternary volcanism. This is a good basis for the establishment of the first inter-regional GGN Working Group including volcanic Global Geoparks from the Asian - Pacific and the European Geopark Networks. Thus, at the aim of the GGN this thematic Working Group will enhance cooperation among the Global Geoparks having such a common characteristic.

The present paper is a first step to achieve such goal, to be followed by a questionnaire to be filled by every Global Geopark.

At the aim of this GGN-WG and through a step-by-step approach it is expected to get reliable data on each territory that allows to build a global database for the "volcanic geoparks", and to achieve a close cooperation among the geoparks staff and communities all over the World, sharing good practices and management policies, namely on social, economical, educational and environmental impact of active volcanism and natural hazards.

Furthermore, it is foreseen the joint promotion of the territories, especially in terms of geotourism and volcano tourism, including the edition of joint leaflets and other adequate communications tools.