



international association for the  
conservation of geological heritage



articles

2023

Articles of the Association first adopted in Mitwitz 1993 modified in Dublin 2002, Reykjavik 2015, Chęciny 2018, the electronic General Assembly in 2021 and Loughborough 2023.

1. The name of the Association is “International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage”, with its shorthand form “ProGEO”, hereafter referred to as the Association or ProGEO.
2. The Association is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and its working language is English.
3. The objectives of the Association are to improve the status of geological heritage and the protection of sites (geosites) and landscapes of geological interest by:
  - a. The promotion of a coordinated policy for geoconservation.
  - b. The recognition, categorization and documentation of geosites on a unified basis so as to define those sites whose conservation is a matter of national and international concern.
  - c. The provision of information and advice on matters relating to geoconservation.
  - d. The organization, conduct of, or participation in, projects in furtherance of the above.
  - e. The promotion of public awareness of geoconservation and of its applications.
  - f. The encouragement of the exchange of ideas and information on geoconservation through the holding of meetings and conferences, the production of a newsletter and other publications, and by any other means likely to achieve the objects of the Association.

## MEMBERS

4. Membership of ProGEO shall be open to all individuals and organisations interested in promoting the above objectives.
5. Members of ProGEO shall belong to one of the following categories:
  - a. individual members;
  - b. institutional members.
6. On the proposal of the Council or of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly may honour persons or institutions of exceptional merit and achievement (in terms of the objectives of ProGEO) by conferring Honorary Membership on such persons or institutions.
7. All members are subject to the payment of an annual subscription to be fixed by the General Assembly, with the exception of Honorary Members. Reduced fees should be available for students and retired persons and on request for persons in less favourable areas and as agreed by the General Assembly.
8. All active members shall have equal voting rights at General Assembly Meetings of ProGEO and may elect and be elected to any position within ProGEO, considering that they are regarded as active members. Institutional members have the right to cast one vote in the General Assembly.
9. Active members shall not be in default with their subscription, upon the confirmation of the Treasurer of ProGEO.

## STRUCTURE

10. The Association shall carry out its work through the following bodies:
- General Assembly.
  - Council.
  - Executive Committee.

In addition, National Groups and Working Groups may be constituted in accordance with §§ 34–38 and 39–41, respectively.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11. 11. The General Assembly is the policy-making body of the Association and supervises the conduct of the affairs of the Association. The Assembly shall meet at intervals not longer than four years, preferably during international meetings organized by the Association.
12. 12. The General Assembly is composed of all active members of the Association.
13. 13. The meetings of the General Assembly are convened and coordinated by the President of ProGEO. The minutes of the meetings shall be recorded and archived by the Executive Secretary.
14. 14. In the event of more than 25% of the active members notifying the President that in their opinion an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly is required, the President shall convene and conduct such a meeting in due time.
15. 15. The General Assembly is responsible for the election of the President, Executive Secretary and other officers based on the candidates proposed by the Election Committee. The General Assembly is also responsible for ratifying the election of Vice-Presidents and for electing Elected Members of the Council, and a Chair of the Election Committee; as well as for authorizing the creation and dissolution of Working Groups (§19, §31, §41, §43, §44). The vote in the General Assembly can be done online, once the electronic voting system has been tested by the Election Committee.
16. 16. Each ordinary meeting of the General Assembly will receive the reports of the President and Vice-Presidents, of the Executive Secretary and of the Treasurer for the period since the preceding meeting. The period is reported in whole calendar years and will therefore not include the year of the meeting. Such reports, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted and all other necessary documents, will be circulated to all active members at least one month before the General Assembly.
17. 17. All active members have the right to propose topics and motions (including votes of no confidence) for discussion at the General Assembly, subject to three months' notice being given to the President.

## COUNCIL

18. The Council is a policy making body, which acts on behalf of the General Assembly in between the ordinary meetings or when there is no possibility to organize an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly.
19. The Council consists of ProGEO Representatives from countries with a minimum of 5 active members (§38), together with Representatives to be elected by the General Assembly ("Elected Members of the Council", §15). All Council members must be active members of ProGEO.
20. To be automatically represented in the Council, Representatives should be from countries recognized by the UN. 21. The Elected Members of the Council have a mandate for the period between two consecutive ordinary General Assemblies or as long as the General Assembly sees fit.
22. Online Council meetings are acceptable, the quorum being 50%, and the minutes shall be recorded by the Executive Secretary.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

23. The Executive Committee has the responsibility to undertake the day-to-day management of the Association. It consists of the President, Vice-Presidents, Executive Secretary, Second Secretary, Treasurer, four other standing members and three substitute members in case it is necessary to replace a standing member. The Committee shall meet online as required, the quorum being 50%.
24. The Executive Secretary shall not serve more than two consecutive terms, each one no longer than four years. The other officers may be re-elected.
25. The Executive Secretary is responsible for coordinating all functions of the Association and for the recording and dissemination of all information inside and outside the Association relating to these functions and he/she is the official contact point of ProGEO. He/she convenes Executive Committee meetings.
26. The Second Secretary is nominated by the Executive Secretary from among the officers of the Executive Committee; he/she assists the Executive Secretary and minutes Executive Committee meetings.
27. The Treasurer is responsible for the control of the Association's finances, also the keeping of accounts to be audited to the satisfaction of the Association. Auditors may be elected within or outside the Association. If the need arises, auditing will be performed by a professional audit office.

## PRESIDENT

28. The President is a senior representative of the Association in all its official functions but may delegate general or specific responsibilities to the Vice-President(s) and/or to other officers of the Executive Committee as he/she sees fit. The President shall serve a maximum two consecutive terms, each one no longer than four years. In case of impediment, the President should be replaced by the Vice-President with the longest membership of ProGEO, until the next election takes place.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

29. The Association shall have max. 5 Vice-Presidents, one from each geographical region: Africa; Asia and Pacific; Europe; Latin America and Caribbean; and North America, provided that the region has a minimum of 10 active members.
30. The Vice-Presidents should be elected by active members in the region by means which are as democratic as possible. The ProGEO Representatives in the region are responsible for this election. Where a region does not meet the condition of having a minimum of 10 active members, can agree with another region to elect a joint Vice- President. The President should be notified of the election of Vice-Presidents at least two months before the General Assembly.
31. The election of Vice-Presidents is ratified by the General Assembly.
32. Vice-Presidents have the responsibility to act as a link between the Executive Committee and the members in the region/regions that elected them.
33. Vice-Presidents should not serve more than two consecutive terms, each one no longer than four years.

## NATIONAL GROUPS

34. The ProGEO activity in each country may be organized in National Groups.
35. A National Group is constituted of active ProGEO members in each country independently of the number of members. It is coordinated by a ProGEO Representative.
36. ProGEO Representatives shall be elected by active ProGEO members in the country by means which are as democratic as possible and should notify the Executive Secretary of the election.
37. The ProGEO Representative represents the Association in the country.
38. National Groups which meet the condition of a minimum of 5 active members by the end of the year preceding a General Assembly, have a seat for a ProGEO Representative in the Council for the next term.

## WORKING GROUPS

39. ProGEO Working Groups can be arranged according to geographical location, e.g., as a team of National Groups in a region, or independently of geographical location to pursue a common theme. The aim of Working Groups is to coordinate and promote activities and to develop ideas and strategies based on ProGEO aims.
40. Each Working Group should have a leader selected by active members of the Group.
41. The creation and dissolution of the ProGEO Working Groups should be authorized by the General Assembly, or, in between the General Assemblies, by the Council.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE

42. The Election Committee shall recommend candidates for the positions of president, executive secretary and other officers of the Executive Committee, to be elected by the General Assembly (§15).
43. The Election Committee is constituted of Vice-Presidents and past Presidents of the Association.
44. The General Assembly elects a Chair of the Election Committee. All members of the Election Committee are candidates for this position. Members who are not available to take this position should inform the President two months before the General Assembly.
45. The Chair of the Election Committee shall not serve more than two consecutive terms, each one no longer than four years.
46. If a member of the Election Committee is not available to participate in the Committee, or if he/she becomes a candidate, the Election Committee can select a substitute member.

## AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES

47. These Articles may only be modified by the vote of a two-thirds majority of all active members at a General Assembly.