If you would like to become part of UNESCO’s Global Geoparks family please contact us:

**UNESCO**  
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UNESCO Global Geoparks

**Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities**

UNESCO is the United Nations' education, science and culture organisation and the only one with a mandate to support research and capacity building in Earth Sciences.

Through our focus on ten major issues, our mission is to contribute to peace and security, eradicate poverty and advance sustainable development by promoting collaboration amongst nations. At UNESCO we:

- **Science & Education**
  - Work with academic institutions to promote research & education activities in the earth sciences;
- **Natural Resources**
  - Promote the sustainable use of natural resources and respect for the environment;
- **Sustainable Development**
  - Explore the links between people, their practices and the planet;
- **Culture**
  - Empower women, through research, education programmes, and women’s cooperatives;
- **Women**
  - Involve local indigenous people, preserving and celebrating their culture;
- **Local & Indigenous Knowledge**
  - Hold records of past climate and educate on current climate change;
- **Geological Hazards**
  - Promote awareness of geological hazards and disaster mitigation strategies;
- **Geohertiage**
  - Recognise and protect the common heritage of the planet.

The two pillars of UNESCO's action in Earth Sciences are the International Geoscience Programme - a knowledge hub to facilitate international scientific cooperation in the Geosciences - and the UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) - a community of internationally relevant geological sites and landscapes - that combine conservation with sustainable development.

**WHAT IS A UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK?**

They are the most recent UNESCO site designations for protecting geological heritage, shown at sites of international significance. Its creation was ratified in 2015 by the 195 Member States.

UGGps' are sites and landscapes of international geological significance as independently verified by IUGS experts.

They have to be single, unified geographical areas with a multitude of geological sites of international value contained within that area.

**UNIFIED TERRITORY**

UGGps enhance the links between an area's geological heritage and its natural, cultural and intangible heritage, promoting the understanding of key issues, such as the use of Earth’s resources, the impact of natural disasters, climate change effects and mitigation and empowering indigenous people.

**EXPERTS NETWORK**

They are managed with a holistic concept of protection, with emphasis on geoscience, geotourism and high quality training.

**GEOEDUCATION**

By raising awareness on the area’s geological heritage, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region strengthening their belonging.

**PRIDE**

**HERITAGE**

They are managed with a holistic concept of protection, with emphasis on geoscience, geotourism and high quality training.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

They are managed with a holistic concept of protection, with emphasis on geoscience, geotourism and high quality training.

**GEOHERITAGE**

They are managed with a holistic concept of protection, with emphasis on geoscience, geotourism and high quality training.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

Hold records of past climate and educate on current climate change.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Promote the sustainable use of natural resources and respect for the environment.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Explore the links between people, their practices and the planet;

**CULTURE**

Empower women, through research, education programmes, and women’s cooperatives;

**WOMEN**

Involve local indigenous people, preserving and celebrating their culture;

**LOCAL & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE**

Hold records of past climate and educate on current climate change;

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

Promote awareness of geological hazards and disaster mitigation strategies;

**GEOHERTAGE**

Recognise and protect the common heritage of the planet.

**WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BECOME A GEOPARK?**

Four pillars underpin the relevant requirements needed to qualify a territory's desire to become a UNESCO Global Geopark:

**4 PILLARS**

- **Geological Heritage**: assessed by scientific professionals of the UNESCO Global Geoparks evaluation team and based on international, peer-reviewed, published research. These experts will study your area and will make a globally-comparative assessment to determine whether the geological sites are of international value.
- **Management**: UGGps should be managed by a body recognised by national legislation and have a management plan providing for the social and economic needs of local populations, protecting the landscape in which they live and conserving their cultural identity. This plan should incorporate the governance, development, communication, protection, infrastructure, finances and partnerships of the UGGp.
- **Unification Territory**: assessed by the Global Geoparks evaluation team and based on a detailed map of the area, an independent verification of the geological sites and consistency with the international value.
- **Visibility**: to stimulate geotourism, visitors, and local people should have all the relevant information about the UGGp. Information via a dedicated website, leaflets and a detailed map of the area, connecting all the territory's heritage should be provided. A UGGp should also have a corporate identity.

**NETWORKING**

Networking: a UGGp is also about cooperating with other UGGps - through the Global Geoparks Network - and with regional networks for UNESCO Global Geoparks, in order to learn mutually.

As of 2021, there are 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries.