

Top 16 Focus Areas



Yangling UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Geological Heritage Conservation

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas that use the concept of sustainability, value the heritage of Mother Earth and recognize the need to protect it. The defining geological sites in UNESCO Global Geoparks are protected by indigenous, local, regional and/or national law and management authorities, which allow for the necessary monitoring and maintenance of these sites. A UNESCO Global Geopark develops, experiments and enhances methods for preserving the geological heritage. The Global Geoparks Network is developing partnerships among UNESCO Global Geoparks for sharing best practice and know-how on the protection, conservation and rational management of the geological heritage sites.



Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany & Poland

Education for Sustainability

UNESCO Global Geoparks develop and operate educational activities for all ages to spread awareness of our geological heritage and its links to other aspects of our natural, cultural and intangible heritages. UNESCO Global Geoparks offer educational programmes for schools or offer special activities for children through "Summer camps", "Kids Clubs" or special "Fossil Fun Activities". They also offer education, both formal and informal, for adults and retired people.



Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark Italy

Biodiversity Protection

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas where the analysis of specific interactions between the lithosphere and biosphere provides an integrated concept of the role of the geological environment in the evolution of the biosphere. Geopark activities and projects are important in order to raise awareness on the relationship between the geological environment and modern ecosystems and their rational management under a holistic concept.



Lavos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

Capacity Building Activities

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer training courses and capacity building activities for local stakeholders and young unemployed people who can then, in turn, support Geopark activities and operation. The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO organizes International Training Courses on Geoparks supporting the development of Geoparks in many countries especially in Regions with not many UNESCO Global Geoparks.



KunLun Mountain UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Climate Change Awareness

UNESCO Global Geoparks hold records of past climate change and are educators on current climate change as well as adopting a best practice approach to utilising renewable energy and employing the best standards of "green tourism". UNESCO Global Geoparks serve as outdoor museums on the effects of past and current climate change thus giving the opportunity to show visitors how climate change can affect our environment, and raise awareness on the potential impact of climate change on the region, and provide the local communities with the knowledge to mitigate and adapt to the potential effects of climate change.



Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada

Sustainable Tourism

UNESCO Global Geoparks create infrastructure and activities to support visitor's access and interpretation of the Geological heritage as well as the development of sustainable tourism activities in the Geopark territory. UNESCO Global Geoparks promote themselves as sustainable tourism destinations offering a diversity of guided field walks and nature tourism activities, authentic experience and local gastronomy. The Global Geoparks Network became a gold partner of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2017 to support the celebration of the International Year of sustainable Tourism for development.



Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador

Employment

UNESCO Global Geoparks are a platform for the development, nurturing and promotion of local cottage industry and craft products. UNESCO Global Geoparks are contributing for the sustainable development of areas hosting significant geological heritage sites through the creation of new enterprises and the employment of young people in their territories.



Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea

Women Empower

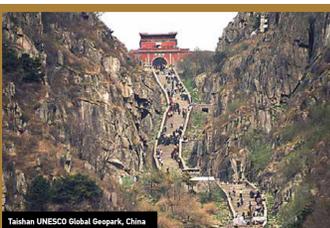
UNESCO Global Geoparks have a strong emphasis on empowering women whether through focused education programmes or through the development of women's cooperatives. In some UNESCO Global Geoparks women's cooperatives also provide an opportunity for women to obtain additional income in their own area and on their own terms.



Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Natural Resources Wise Use

The history of mankind and civilization is based on the resources exploited from Earth's crust. The development of modern societies is limited by the consequences of depleting natural resources. UNESCO Global Geoparks inform people about the sustainable use and need for natural resources, while at the same time promoting respect for the environment and the integrity of the landscape.



Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Cultural Heritage Enhancement

In many countries emblematic geosites are considered as sacred places. Since ancient times, sacred sites have had a mysterious allure for billions of people around the world. Legends and contemporary reports tell of extraordinary experiences people have had while visiting these places. Different sacred sites have the power to heal the body, enlighten the mind and inspire the heart. People built in such places temples and monasteries. UNESCO Global Geoparks host some important sacred places emphasizing the connection between specific landscapes and land-forms with mythology, archaeology and history. UNESCO Global Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are: it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore and folk traditions.



Villaverde Torres Jara UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Sustainable Development

UNESCO Global Geoparks are engaging with local people and respecting their traditional way of life in a way that empowers them and respects their human rights and dignity. A UNESCO Global Geopark should have an active role in the economic development of its territory through enhancement of a general image linked to the geological heritage and the development of sustainable tourism. A Geopark has direct impact on the territory by influencing its inhabitants' living conditions and environment. The objective is to enable the inhabitants to re-appropriate the values of the territory's heritage and actively participate in the territory's cultural revitalization as a whole.



Swabian Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

Networking

Networking is one of the core principles of Geoparks. Networking strongly contributes to the success of the Geoparks movement and plays a valuable role in facilitating the sharing of experience, quality management, formation of joint initiatives and projects and capacity-building. The Global Geopark Network and its Regional Geopark Networks offer a global platform of cooperation and exchange of best practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks.



Palatiros UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

Science & Research

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. These Geoparks are interesting to implement results of scientific research in the field of geo-conservation, tourism and sustainable local development. UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to work with academic and research institutions to engage in active scientific research in the Earth Sciences, and other disciplines as appropriate, to advance our knowledge about the Earth and its processes. A UNESCO Global Geopark is an active laboratory where people can become engaged in science from the highest academic research level to the level of the curious visitor.



Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark Iceland

Geological Hazards Risk Reduction

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Through educational activities for the local people and visitors many UNESCO Global Geoparks give information on the source of geological hazards and ways to reduce their impact including disaster response strategies. These efforts build important capacity and contribute to building more resilient communities that have the knowledge and skills to effectively respond to potential geological hazards. The Global Geoparks Network working group on Geo-hazards coordinates common activities and helps prepare disaster mitigation strategies among Geoparks.



Ngorongoro-Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark, Tanzania

Local and Indigenous Knowledge

UNESCO Global Geoparks actively involve local and indigenous peoples, preserving and celebrating their culture. By involving local and indigenous communities, UNESCO Global Geoparks recognize the importance of these communities, their culture and the link between these communities and their land. It is one of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks that local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems, alongside science, are included in the planning and management of the area.



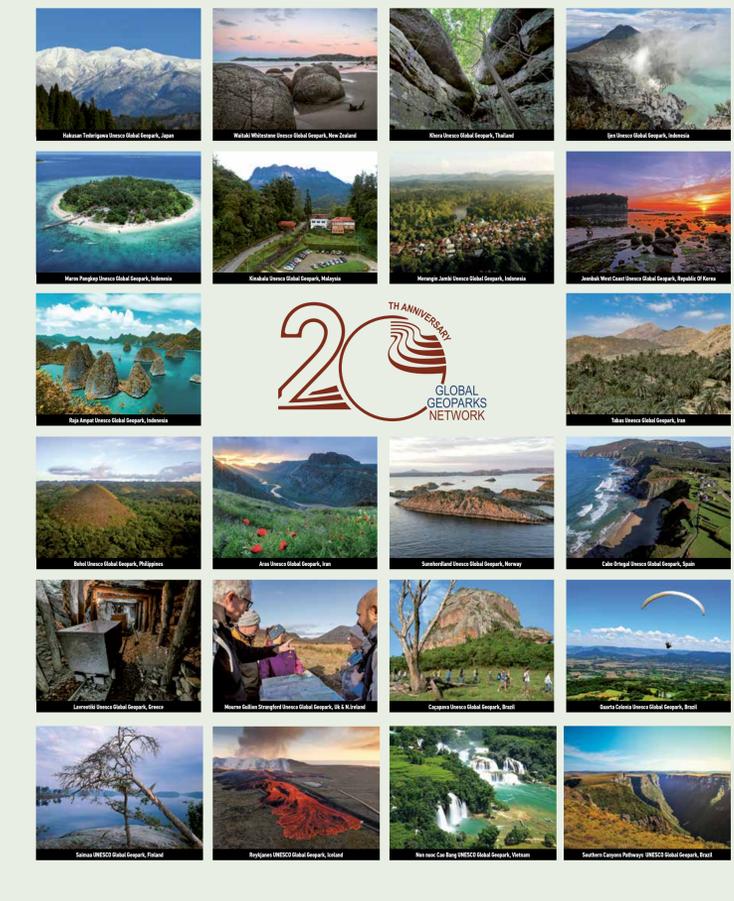
Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark Canada

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to ensure the continuing high quality of UNESCO Global Geoparks, including the quality of the management of each UNESCO Global Geopark, the status of each UNESCO Global Geopark is subject to a thorough reevaluation every 4 years. The Global Geoparks Network is supporting the Geopark evaluation and reevaluation process by providing the experts for the evaluation missions and maintaining the roster of evaluators.

Global Geoparks Network

2004-2024 20 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development

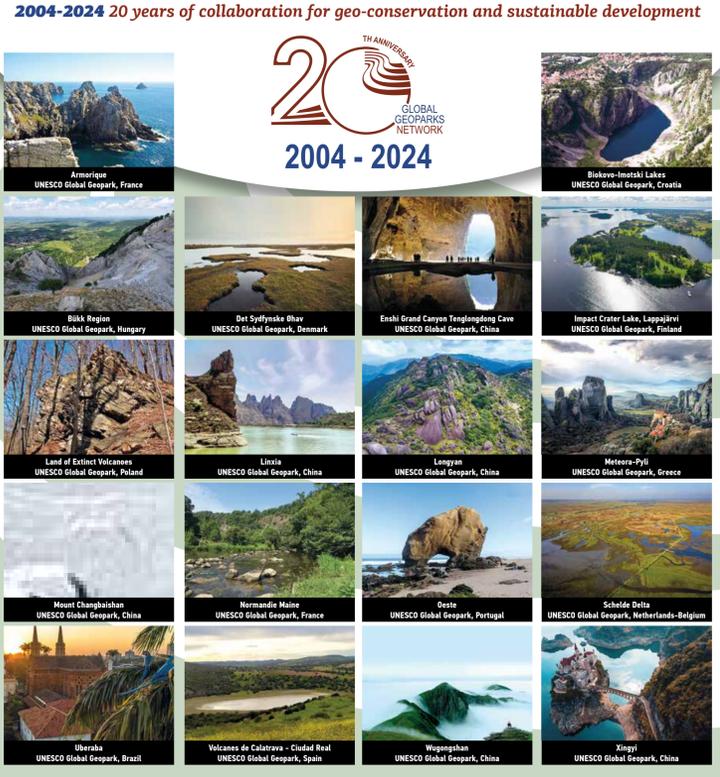


UNESCO Global Geoparks

2024 / 2025

Global Geoparks Network

2004-2024 20 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development



Global Geoparks Network

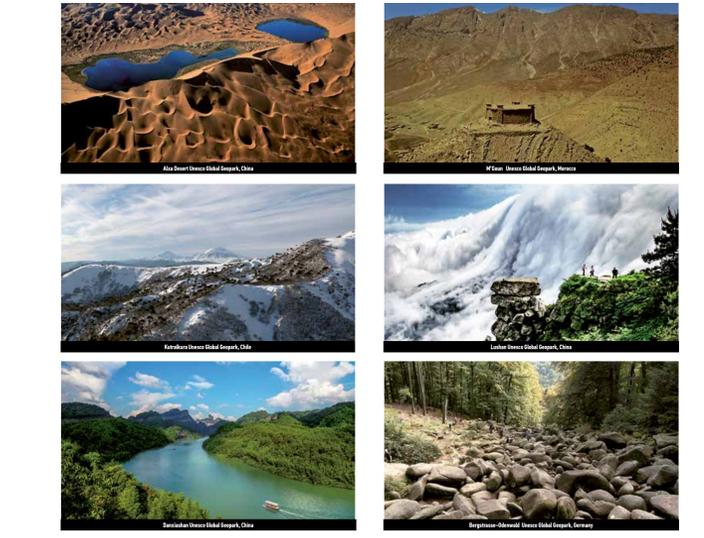
The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a non-profit and a non-governmental organisation. It was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership developed under the umbrella of UNESCO, and was officially registered as an association in 2014 subjecting to French law. The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Networking and collaboration among Global Geoparks is an important component of the Global Geoparks Network. The Global Geoparks Network also promotes networking on a regional basis. The four GGN Regional Geoparks Networks are the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), the European Geoparks Network (EGN), the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeOLAC) and the African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN).

The objectives of the Global Geoparks Network are:

- to promote the equitable geographical establishment, development and professional management of Global Geoparks,
- to advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, function and role of Global Geoparks,
- to assist local communities to value their natural and cultural heritage,
- to preserve Earth heritage for present and future generations,
- to educate and teach the broad public about issues in geo-sciences and their relation with environmental matters and natural hazards,
- to ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development based on the natural (or earth) system,
- to foster multi-cultural links between heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity, using participatory schemes of partnership and management,
- to stimulate research when appropriate,
- to promote joint initiatives between Global Geoparks (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, twinning).

The Global Geoparks Network establishes ethical standards which must be adopted and respected by Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals. The Global Geoparks Network organises co-operation and mutual assistance between Global Geoparks and between Global Geopark professionals. The Global Geoparks Network initiates and co-ordinates thematic Working Groups which will foster international co-operation in a variety of issues related with Geopark operation and activities. The Global Geoparks Network represents, advances, and disseminates knowledge in Geodiversity management and other disciplines related to studies in Geo-conservation, Geo-tourism, Geo-education and/or the management and activities of Global Geoparks.



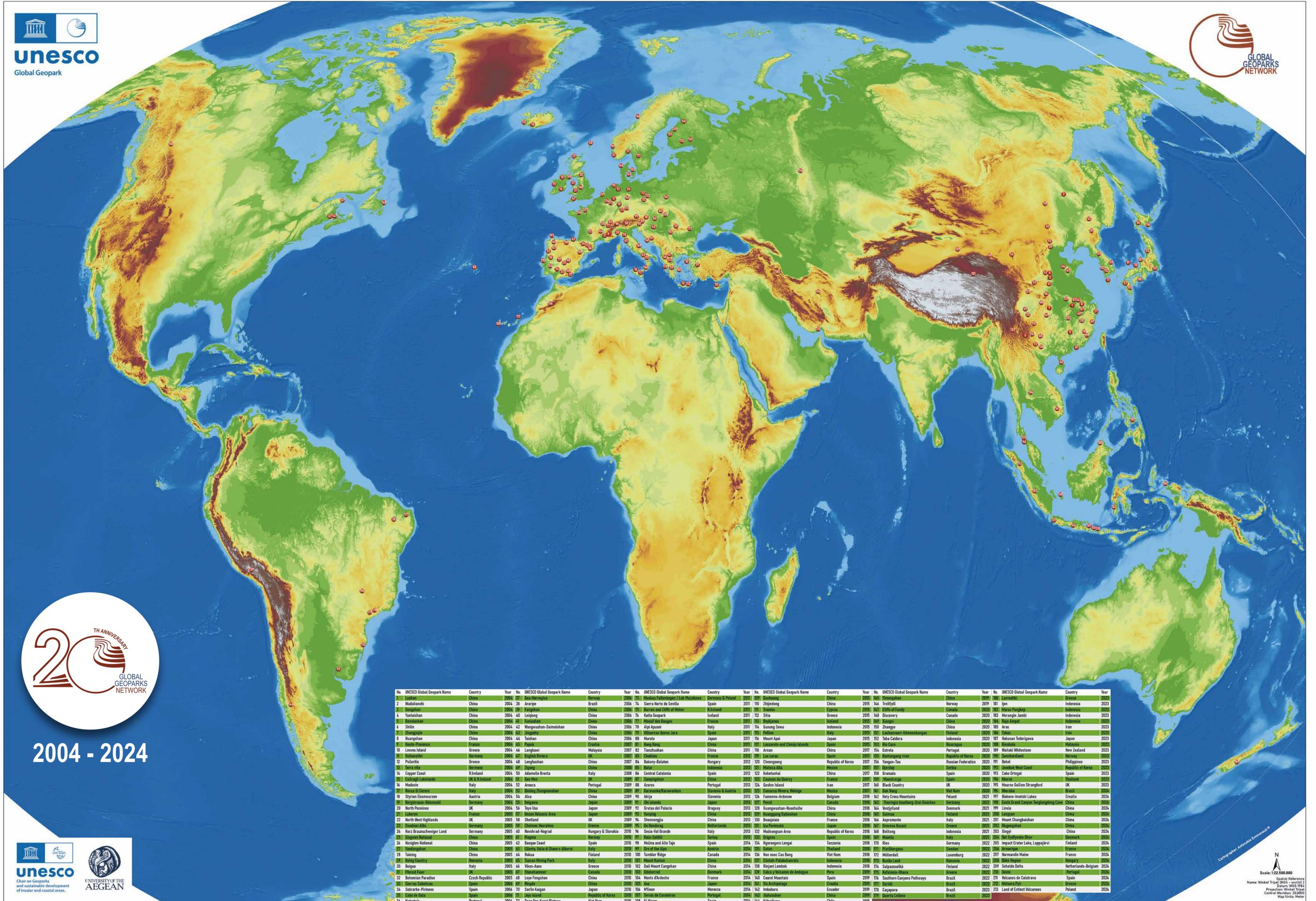
What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disasters-related risks. By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected. At present, there are 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 countries. All the UNESCO Global Geoparks are institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO's work with Geoparks began in 2001, when a collaboration agreement was signed between UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences and the European Geoparks Network. In 2004, 17 European and 8 Chinese geoparks came together at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to form the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) where national geological heritage initiatives contribute to and benefit from their membership of a global network of exchange and co-operation. On 17 November 2015, the 195 Member States of UNESCO ratified the creation of a new law, the UNESCO Global Geoparks, during the 38th General Conference of the Organisation. This expresses governmental recognition of the importance of managing outstanding geological sites and landscapes in a holistic manner. UNESCO supports efforts in all countries to establish UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the world, in close collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network.

UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024 / 2025



2004 - 2024

No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year				
1	Luoban	China	2004	27	Ica-Norwegian	Norway	2004	73	Sierra Norte de Sevilla	Spain	2011	109	Dunhuang	China	2015	145	Yimingshan	China	2019	180	Lavrentis	Greece	2023
2	Wudalianchi	China	2004	38	Araripe	Brazil	2005	74	Sierra Norte de Sevilla	Spain	2011	110	Zhijindong	China	2015	146	Treitfjell	Norway	2019	181	Ijen	Indonesia	2023
3	Sipaholu	China	2004	39	Pinglishan	China	2005	75	Sierra Norte de Sevilla	Spain	2011	111	Siachen	Sweden	2015	147	Cliffs of Moher	Ireland	2019	182	Wajalek-Pangloss	Indonesia	2023
4	Yantashan	China	2004	40	Leiqing	China	2006	76	Katia Geopark	Iceland	2011	112	Sila	Sweden	2015	148	Discovery	Canada	2020	183	Morogoro Jambli	Indonesia	2023
5	Danzhashan	China	2004	41	Funiushan	China	2006	77	Mosul des Berges	France	2011	113	Puyfanes	Sweden	2015	149	Xiangji	China	2020	184	Raja Ampat	Indonesia	2023
6	Shilin	China	2004	42	Wangwushan-Dameishan	China	2006	78	Alpi Apuani	Italy	2011	114	Gunung Sewa	Indonesia	2015	150	Zhangye	China	2020	185	Aras	Iran	2023
7	Zhangjiajie	China	2004	43	Jingyuan	China	2006	79	Williamson Boreas Jara	Spain	2011	115	Pellissier	France	2015	151	Epilavesan-Simeonekangas	France	2020	186	Rabat	Iran	2023
8	Huangshan	China	2004	44	Taishan	China	2006	80	Muroto	Japan	2011	116	Mount Apo	Japan	2015	152	Toba Caldera	Indonesia	2020	187	Nakanai Sedorigawa	Japan	2023
9	Haizi-Puyue	France	2004	45	Puyue	France	2006	81	Hong Kong	China	2011	117	Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands	Spain	2015	153	Rio Coca	Ecuador	2020	188	Kinabalu	Malaysia	2023
10	Levros Island	Greece	2004	46	Langkawi	Malaysia	2007	82	Tianhuashan	China	2011	118	Arxan	China	2017	154	Estrela	Portugal	2020	189	Waikaki Whirestone	New Zealand	2023
11	Vulkanland	Germany	2004	47	English Riviera	UK	2007	83	Chailu	France	2011	119	Las Lajas	Spain	2017	155	Banhang river	Republic of Korea	2020	190	Sinnherland	Norway	2023
12	Pulihits	Greece	2004	48	Longshuan	China	2007	84	Bakury-Balaton	Hungary	2012	120	Cheongang	Republic of Korea	2017	156	Tangun-Isu	Philippines	2020	191	Bihel	Philippines	2023
13	Terroir	Belgium	2004	49	Qipang	China	2008	85	Bakury-Balaton	Hungary	2012	121	Cheongang	Republic of Korea	2017	157	Jeonbuk West Coast	Republic of Korea	2020	192	Jeonbuk West Coast	Republic of Korea	2023
14	Copper Coast	Ireland	2004	50	Adamello Brenta	Italy	2008	86	Central Catalonia	Spain	2012	122	Kakabonai	China	2017	158	Granada	Spain	2020	193	Cabo Ortegal	Spain	2023
15	Coastal Lakelands	UK & Ireland	2004	51	Beaumont	UK	2008	87	Sannio	Italy	2012	123	Caucasus de Guercy	France	2017	159	Maastricht	Spain	2020	194	Khorat	Thailand	2023
16	Madonie	Italy	2004	52	Azores	Portugal	2009	88	Azores	Portugal	2013	124	Geshem Island	Iran	2018	160	Black Country	UK	2020	195	Mourne Gullion Strangford	UK	2023
17	Rocky Mountains	USA	2004	53	Huangling Zhongshuan	China	2009	89	Hirakawa-Kazuravan	Japan	2013	125	Chiriqui-Mirra, Mirraje	Costa Rica	2018	161	Yukon	USA	2020	196	Hirakawa	Japan	2023
18	Styrian Eisenwurzen	Austria	2004	54	Alta	Slovenia	2009	90	Idrija	Slovenia	2013	126	Famenne-Ardenne	Belgium	2018	162	Holy Cross Mountains	Poland	2021	197	Biovoce-Imotski Lakes	Croatia	2024
19	Bergstrasse-Elmwald	Germany	2004	55	Hogawa	Japan	2009	91	Oki Islands	Japan	2013	127	Perce	Canada	2018	163	Thuringia Inselberg-Drei Seichen	Germany	2021	198	Enshi Grand Canyon Jinglinggong Cave	China	2024
20	North Pennines	UK	2004	56	Toya Uzu	Japan	2009	92	Grutas del Palacio	Uruguay	2013	128	Guangshun-Huashu	China	2018	164	Vestjylland	Denmark	2021	199	Linxia	China	2024
21	Lupatón	France	2005	57	Wuyang Dabashan	China	2009	93	Wuyang Dabashan	China	2013	129	Wuyang Dabashan	China	2018	165	Silkeborg	Denmark	2021	200	Lupatón	France	2024
22	North West Highlands	UK	2005	58	Shennongjia	China	2009	94	Shennongjia	China	2013	130	Beaujolais	France	2018	166	Apranotone	Italy	2021	201	Mount Changshaihan	China	2024
23	Swabian Alb	Germany	2005	59	Dienheim-Wurmland	Germany	2009	95	De Koning	Netherlands	2013	131	Ica Peninsula	Peru	2018	167	Orvosi Kőzet	Hungary	2021	202	Huangshan	China	2024
24	Harz Braunschweiger Land	Germany	2005	60	Nevohrad-Hogard	Hungary & Slovakia	2010	96	Sesia-Val Grande	Italy	2013	132	Mudangan Area	Republic of Korea	2018	168	Belling	Indonesia	2021	203	Xingyi	China	2024
25	Argentan National	France	2005	61	Majama	Norway	2010	97	Alta-Svalbard	Norway	2013	133	Orignis	Spain	2018	169	Maslia	Italy	2021	204	Die Spessartische Oberrhein	Germany	2024
26	Hevelin National	China	2005	62	Baoguo Coast	China	2010	98	Molde and Alta Tjø	Tanzania	2013	134	Nigerogoro Lengai	Tanzania	2019	170	Ries	Germany	2022	205	Impact Crater Lake, Lappajärvi	Finland	2024
27	Yandangshan	China	2005	63	Claudio, Valle di Diano e Albano	Italy	2010	99	Diré of the Alps	Austria	2013	135	Satun	Thailand	2018	171	Pfaffenberg	Sweden	2022	206	Acronope	France	2024
28	Taining	China	2005	64	Rokua	Finland	2010	100	Non noco Cao Bang	Canada	2014	136	Non noco Cao Bang	Viet Nam	2018	172	Mittelrdal	Luxembourg	2022	207	Normandie Maine	France	2024
29	Halong Country	Viet Nam	2005	65	Tosca Mining Park	Italy	2010	101	Mount Karan	China	2014	137	Chiluk-Palabuhanatu	Indonesia	2018	173	Bunzu Land	Russia	2022	208	Bika Region	Hungary	2024
30	Begaa	Italy	2005	66	Wiss-Aass	Greece	2010	102	Dali Mount Cangshan	China	2014	138	Bijuel Limbuk	Indonesia	2018	174	Salgassou-Ra	France	2022	209	Schelde Delta	Netherlands-Belgium	2024
31	Himalayas	UK	2005	67	Sicilian	France	2010	103	Udine	France	2014	139	Edoia & Vicentini de Andoga	Peru	2018	175	Kilimanjaro	Tanzania	2022	210	Chiluk	Peru	2024
32	Behemans Paradise	Czech Republic	2005	68	Ley Fengshan	China	2010	104	Monts d'Ardeche	France	2014	140	Couert Mountain	Spain	2019	176	Southern Canyons Pathways	Brazil	2022	211	Volcanes de Calatrava	Spain	2024
33	Sierres Subietas	Spain	2005	69	Ningde	China	2010	105	Aoi	Japan	2014	141	Vis Archipelago	Croatia	2019	177	Seritah	Brazil	2022	212	Misera Pyti	Greece	2024
34	Sobrarbe-Pirinees	Spain	2006	70	Santín Kagan	Japan	2010	106	Mison	Mexico	2014	142	Imbabura	Ecuador	2019	178	Cagapara	Brazil	2022	213	Land of Extinct Volcanoes	Poland	2024
35	Caldeira de Fátima	Portugal	2006	71	Jeju Island	Republic of Korea	2010	107	Terres de Lavaux	Switzerland	2014	143	Jeju Island	South Korea	2019	179	Quinta Colônia	Brazil	2022	214			
36	Naturtejo	Portugal	2006	72	Dong Van Karst Plateau	Viet Nam	2010	108	El Hierro	Spain	2014	144	Kitakuira	Chile	2019								



Scale: 1:22,500,000
 Spatial Reference: WGS 1984
 Name: Winkler Triplet (NCS - world) 2
 Projection: Winkler Triplet
 Central Meridian: 20,000
 Map Units: Meter