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 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 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 cooperation.

On 17 November 2015, the 195 Member States of UNESCO ratified the creation of a new label, 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.

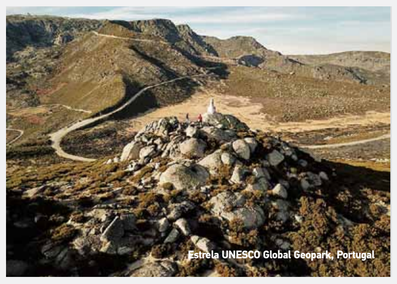
UNESCO supports efforts in all countries to establish UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the world, in close collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network.


Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada


Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark, Viet Nam


Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada


Djerdap UNESCO Global Geopark,Serbia


Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal


Granada UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

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.


Hantangang UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea


Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark, Turkey


Lauhanvuori-Hämeenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland


Maestrazgo UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain


Rio Coco UNESCO Global Geopark, Nicaragua


Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark, UK

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF THE LESVOS PETRIFIED FOREST

Poster produced by the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest / Christos Paraskevaidis based on brochure designed by Geological Survey of Northern Ireland.
Globes by the Applied Geomorphology Laboratory / University of the Aegean, Greece.

Photos: Global Geoparks Network archive unless otherwise indicated

UNESCO Global Geoparks

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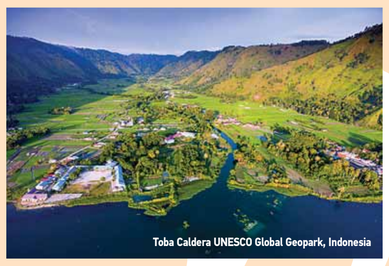
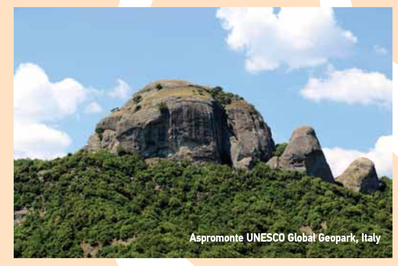

Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia


Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China


Yangan-Tau UNESCO Global Geopark, Russian Federation


Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark, China


Aspromonte UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy


Belitong UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia

Global Geoparks Network

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

***2004-2021** 17 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development*

UNESCO Global Geoparks

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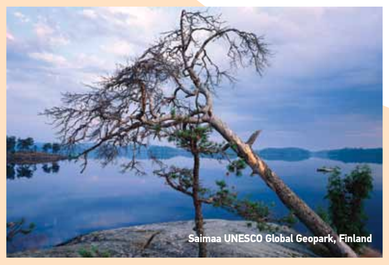
Grevena Kozani UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece


Holy Cross Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark, Poland


Majella UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy


Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland


Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany


Vestjylland UNESCO Global Geopark, Denmark

Global Geoparks Network

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

***2004-2021** 17 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development*

Top 16 Focus Areas


Zigong 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.


Central Catalunya UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

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.


San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

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.


Lesvos 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.


M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco

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.


Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark, Denmark

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 of 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.


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.


Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania


De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands

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.


Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea


Katla Geopark UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

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.

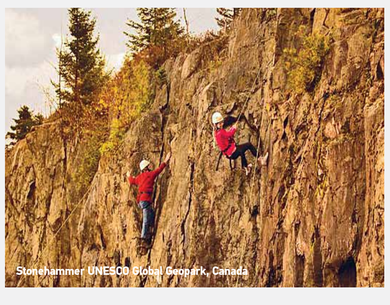

Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

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.


Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada


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.


Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark, Peru

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.


Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

Science & Research

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. Thus 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.

Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia

41st EGN Meeting, Kanavanke-Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria & Slovenia

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.

Adamelo Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy
8th International Conference on UNESCO Global 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.

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran

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 revalidation every 4 years.

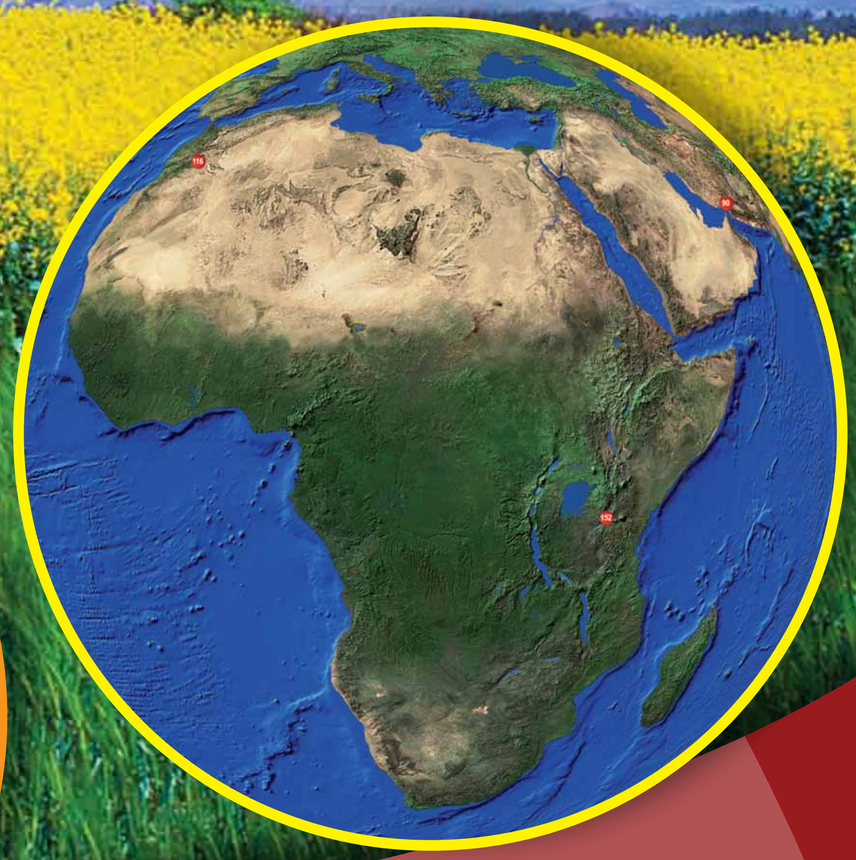
The Global Geoparks Network is supporting the Geopark evaluation and revalidation process by providing the experts for the evaluation missions and maintaing the roster of evaluators.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks

Celebrating Earth Heritage - Sustaining Local Communities



2021/2022

Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark - Republic of Korea

List of UNESCO Global Geoparks

Austria*
1. Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark
2. Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark

Belgium
3. Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark

Brazil
4. Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark

Canada
5. Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
6. Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark
7. Percé UNESCO Global Geopark
8. Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark
9. Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark

Chile
10. Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark

China
11. Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark
12. Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark
13. Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark
14. Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark
15. Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark
16. Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark
17. Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
18. Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark
19. Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark
20. Taining UNESCO Global Geopark
21. Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark
22. Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
23. Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark
24. Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark
25. Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark
26. Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark
27. Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
28. Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark
29. Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark
30. Longhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
31. Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark
32. Qinling Zhongnanshan UNESCO Global Geopark
33. Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark
34. Leye Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark
35. Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
36. Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark
37. Sanqingshan UNESCO Global Geopark
38. Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark
39. Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark
40. Mount Kunlun UNESCO Global Geopark
41. Dali-Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
42. Dunhuang UNESCO Global Geopark
43. Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark
44. Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark
45. Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark
46. Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark
47. Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark
48. Jiuhuashan UNESCO Global Geopark
49. Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark
50. Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark
51. Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark

Croatia
52. Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark
53. Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark

Cyprus
54. Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark

Czechia
55. Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark

Denmark
56. Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark
57. Vestjylland UNESCO Global Geopark

Ecuador
58. Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark

Finland
59. Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark
60. Lauhanvuori-Hämeenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark
61. Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark

France
62. Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark
63. Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark
64. Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark
65. Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark
66. Monts d'Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark
67. Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark
68. Beaujolais UNESCO Global Geopark

Germany*
69. Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark
70. TERRA. vita UNESCO Global Geopark
71. Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark
72. Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark
73. Harz, Braunschweiger Land UNESCO Global Geopark
74. Thuringia Inselsberg-Drei Gleichen UNESCO Global Geopark

Greece
75. Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark
76. Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark
77. Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark
78 Vikos - Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark
79. Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark
80. Grevena Kozani UNESCO Global Geopark

Hungary*
81. Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark

Iceland
82. Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
83. Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark

Indonesia
84. Batur UNESCO Global Geopark
85. Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark
86. Ciletuh - Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark
87. Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark
88. Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark
89. Belitong UNESCO Global Geopark

Iran (Islamic Republic of)
90. Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark

Ireland*
91. Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
92. Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

Italy
93. Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark
94. Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark
95. Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark
96. Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark
97. Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UNESCO Global Geopark
98. Tuscan Mining Park UNESCO Global Geopark
99. Alpi Apuani UNESCO Global Geopark
100. Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark
101. Pollino UNESCO Global Geopark
102. Aspromonte UNESCO Global Geopark
103. Majella UNESCO Global Geopark

Japan
104. Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark
105. Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark
106. Toya - Usu UNESCO Global Geopark
107. San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark
108. Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark
109. Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
110. Aso UNESCO Global Geopark
111. Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark
112. Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark

Malaysia
113. Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

Mexico
114. Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark
115. Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark

Morocco
116. M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark

Netherlands
117. De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark

Nicaragua
118. Rio Coco UNESCO Global Geopark

Norway
119. Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark
120. Magma UNESCO Global Geopark
121. Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark

Peru
122. Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark

Poland*
123. Holy Cross Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark

Portugal
124. Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UNESCO Global Geopark
125. Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark
126. Açores UNESCO Global Geopark
127. Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark
128. Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark

Republic of Korea
129. Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark
130. Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark
131. Mudeungsan Area UNESCO Global Geopark
132. Hantangang UNESCO Global Geopark

Romania
133. Haţeg Country UNESCO Global Geopark

Russian Federation
134. Yangan-Tau UNESCO Global Geopark

Serbia
135. Djerdap UNESCO Global Geopark

Slovakia*

Slovenia*
136. Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark

Spain
137. Cabo de Gata-Níjar UNESCO Global Geopark
138. Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark
139. Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark
140. Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
141. Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark
142. Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark
143. Central Catalonia UNESCO Global Geopark
144. Molina & Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark
145. El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark
146. Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
147. Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark
148. Origens UNESCO Global Geopark
149. Courel Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark
150. Granada UNESCO Global Geopark
151. Maestrazgo UNESCO Global Geopark

Tanzania
152. Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark

Thailand
153. Satun UNESCO Global Geopark

Turkey
154. Kula –Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
155. North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark
156. North-West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark
157. Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark
158. English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark
159. GeoMôn UNESCO Global Geopark
160. Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark
161. Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark

Uruguay
162. Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark

Viet Nam
163. Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark
164. Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark
165. Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark

*** List of transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks.**

Austria & Slovenia
166. Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark

Germany & Poland
167. Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark

Hungary & Slovakia
168. Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark

Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
169. Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark

Global Geoparks Network

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK