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 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 40 countries.

All the UNESCO Global Geoparks are institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

UNESCO Global Geoparks

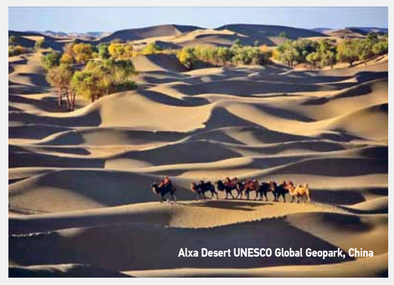
UNESCO's work with Geoparks began in 2001, when collaboration agreement signed between UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences and the European Geoparks Network.

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.


Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark, UK


Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, China


Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria & Slovenia


Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany & Poland,


Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark, Mexico


Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

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 three regional Geoparks networks are in Asia - Pacific, Europe and Latin America and Caribbean.

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 is 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.


Massif du Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark, France


Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia


Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea


Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece


Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam

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

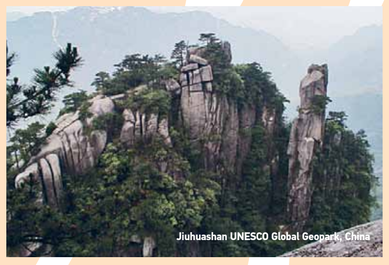
2019/2020

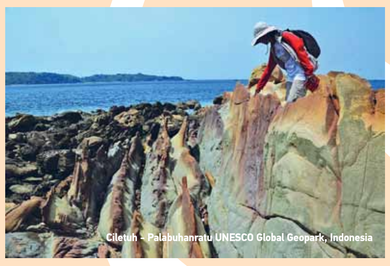
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · UNESCO Global Geoparks


Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark, Chile


Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark,Croatia


Trollfjell-UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway


Jiuhuashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China


Ciletuh - Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia


Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark, Peru

Global Geoparks Network

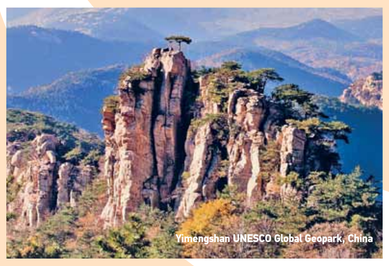
GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

***2004-2019** 15 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development*

UNESCO Global Geoparks

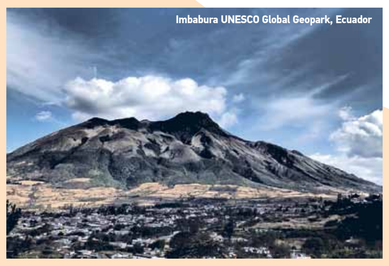
2019/2020

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · UNESCO Global Geoparks


Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China


Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada


M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark, Morocco


Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador


Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand

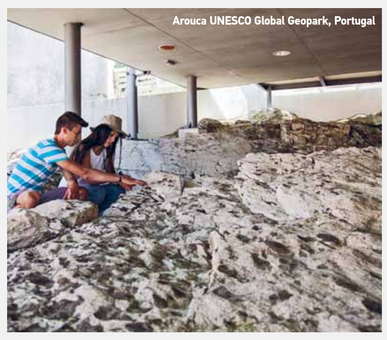

Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Global Geoparks Network

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

***2004-2019** 15 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development*

Top 16 Focus Areas


Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

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.


Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Culture 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.


Beigua 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.


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 less UNESCO Global Geoparks.


Conca de Tremp-Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

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 Reducion

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.


Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea


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.


Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania


Katla Geopark UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

Climate Change Understanding

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


Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

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.


Keketohai UNESCO Global Geopark, China

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, Kanyanke-Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark

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.

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.

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

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks

Celebrating Earth Heritage - Sustaining Local Communities

2019/2020

Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark - Indonesia

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

Chile
8. Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark

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

Croatia
48. Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark
49. Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark

Cyprus
50. Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark

Czechia
51. Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark

Denmark
52. Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark

Ecuador
53. Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark

Finland
54. Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark

France
55. Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark
56. Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark
57. Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark
58. Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark
59. Monts d'Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark
60. Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark
61. Beaujolais UNESCO Global Geopark

Germany*
62. Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark
63. TERRA. vita UNESCO Global Geopark
64. Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark
65. Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark
66. Harz, Braunschweiger Land UNESCO Global Geopark

Greece
67. Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark
68. Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark
69. Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark
70. Vikos - Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark
71. Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark

Hungary*
72. Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark

Iceland
73. Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
74. Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark

Indonesia
75. Batur UNESCO Global Geopark
76. Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark
77. Ciletuh - Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark
78. Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark

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

Ireland*
80. Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
81. Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

Italy
82. Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark
83. Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark
84. Parco Geominerario della Sardegna UNESCO Global Geopark
85. Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark
86. Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark
87. Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UNESCO Global Geopark
88. Tuscan Mining Park UNESCO Global Geopark
89. Alpi Apuani UNESCO Global Geopark
90. Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark
91. Pollino UNESCO Global Geopark

Japan
92. Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark
93. Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark
94. Toya - Usu UNESCO Global Geopark
95. San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark
96. Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark
97. Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
98. Aso UNESCO Global Geopark
99. Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark
100. Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark

Malaysia
101. Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

Mexico
102. Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark
103. Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark

Morocco
104. M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark

Netherlands
105. De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark

Norway
106. Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark
107. Magma UNESCO Global Geopark
108. Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark

Peru
109. Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark
110. Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UNESCO Global Geopark
111. Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark
112. Açores UNESCO Global Geopark
113. Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark

Republic of Korea
114. Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark
115. Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark
116. Mudeungsan Area UNESCO Global Geopark

Romania
117. Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark

Slovakia*

Slovenia*
118. Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark

Spain
119. Cabo de Gata-Níjar UNESCO Global Geopark
120. Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark
121. Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark
122. Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
123. Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark
124. Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark
125. Central Catalonia UNESCO Global Geopark
126. Molina & Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark
127. El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark
128. Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
129. Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark
130. Conca de Tremp-Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark
131. Courel Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark

Tanzania
132. Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark

Thailand
133. Satun UNESCO Global Geopark

Turkey
134. Kula Volcanic UNESCO Global Geopark

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
135. North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark
136. North-West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark
137. Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark
138. English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark
139. GeoMôn UNESCO Global Geopark
140. Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark

Uruguay
141. Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark

Viet Nam
142. Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark
143. Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark

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

Austria & Slovenia
144. Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark

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

Hungary & Slovakia
146. Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark

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

Global Geoparks Network

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org