

## FACT SHEET

### QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SECRETARIATS OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

#### 1. Committee/Institute/Convention/Commission/Programme

##### **International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)**

With the adoption of the decision from the Science Commission at the 38th General Conference, the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) was merged with the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

##### a. Mandate and objectives

Under Strategic Objective 5 (Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development) ER7 will enhance UNESCO's participation in global partnerships and support traditional systems of environmental protection and resource management, and will seek to contribute to the conservation of geodiversity, the sound management of mineral resources, stronger disaster management strategies and enhanced climate change research through the International Geoscience Programme, the Earth Science Education Initiative in Africa and the UNESCO Global Geoparks. In the context of the latter especially, emphasis will be placed on investigating innovative bottom-up approaches with the active engagement of the local communities and indigenous peoples. The critical advantage of UNESCO-designated sites, including UNESCO Global Geoparks, as site specific examples of, and learning laboratories for sustainable development and climate change adaptation, along with the associated Global Geoparks Network, will be utilized to build scientific knowledge, dialogue, peace and sustainability. The UNESCO Global Geoparks and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), through the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme, with their national committees and fora will continue to provide the scientific and institutional frameworks to ensure UNESCO's inputs into the post- 2015 development agenda.

##### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) is a joint endeavor of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences), within the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme of UNESCO (IGGP).

The primary aims of IGCP are to facilitate international collaboration amongst scientists from around the world in research on geological problems, particularly between those individuals from more industrialized and those from developing countries. Through long-term joint research efforts, meetings, field trips, and workshops, IGCP aims to promote the use of geosciences in global issues including, but not limited to, sustainable development, the health and safety of humanity and the reduction of the adverse effects of natural disasters and resource extraction.

Currently IGCP has five priority themes of particular interest:

- Geodynamic: Control of our Environment

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- Global Change: Evidence from the geological record
- Geohazards: Mitigating the Risks
- Hydrogeology: Geoscience of the Water Cycle
- Earth Resources: Sustaining our Society

IGCP pursues four broad objectives:

- Improving our understanding of the geoscientific factors affecting the global environment in order to improve human living conditions;
- Developing more effective methods to find and sustainably exploit natural resources of minerals, energy and groundwater;
- Increasing understanding of geological processes and concepts of global importance, including an emphasis on socially relevant issues; and,
- Improving standards, methods and techniques of carrying out geological research, including the transfer of geological and geotechnical knowledge between industrialized and developing countries.

The objectives of IGCP are met through individual projects. The strength of IGCP lies in the grass-roots origins of its projects, in their limited lifespan (five years), in their regular and rigorous peer-review assessment. Projects often build upon existing activities within participating countries, and attract additional funds from governmental and other agencies. Projects are invited to identify the societal relevance of their work, address the challenge of capacity-building in developing countries, emphasize education and training, including a focus on under-represented groups (e.g. youth, women, ethnic minorities, etc.).

IGCP projects must be of high-quality science of international importance and societal relevance; interdisciplinary and international cooperation including scientists from developing countries; long-term and short-term geoscientific and/or societal benefits.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

UNESCO Global Geoparks, within the IGGP, are the mechanism of international cooperation by which areas of geological heritage of international value, through a bottom-up approach to conserving that heritage, support each other to engage with local communities to promote awareness of that heritage and adopt a sustainable approach to the development of the area. Through the IGGP, these areas can apply to UNESCO, for designation as a "UNESCO Global Geopark", drawing upon the broader mandate of the Organization.

A UNESCO Global Geopark must contain geology of international significance. It is independently evaluated by scientific professionals in the relevant discipline of Earth Science. UNESCO Global Geoparks are living, working landscapes where science and local communities engage in a mutually beneficial way.

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Education at all levels is at the core of the UNESCO Global Geopark concept. From university researchers to local community groups, UNESCO Global Geoparks encourage awareness of the story of the planet as read in the rocks, landscape and ongoing geological processes. UNESCO Global Geoparks also promote the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, clearly demonstrating that geodiversity is the foundation of all ecosystems and the basis of human interaction with the landscape.

UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to achieving UNESCO's objectives by promoting geology and science in general through a wider contribution to UNESCO's mandate while cutting across education, culture and communication.

b. Do you have specific goals for the work foreseen in the current biennium?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

- Geoscientists in developing countries enhance their geoscientific capacity and engage in working and cooperating on a N-S and S-S basis through IGCP projects

50% of Member States that have participating scientists in IGCP project in 2017 are developing countries.

A significant increase in the actual number of participating scientists (as opposed to percentage), including those acting as project leaders, from developing countries contributing to larger and more numerous projects

- Raised awareness among UNESCO Member States and the broader international geoscientific community regarding IGCP and of the role the geoscience research fostered by the IGCP plays in enhancing Member State scientific capacity and thereby helping to building sustainable economies.

Successful exhibit of the IGCP at the 35th International Geological Congress, in Cape Town, South Africa in 2016.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

- Member States and local communities have adopted the Global Geoparks concept and have begun to develop Global Geoparks by cooperating with the Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO

At least 20 Member States with new Global UNESCO Geoparks created with targeted development of new UNESCO Global Geoparks in regions of the world currently under-represented.

c. Number of members and length of mandate periods for members

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#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The IGCP Council shall be composed of six ordinary members, with the right to vote. They are appointed for a period of 4 years, renewable once, and the Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of IUGS or their representatives shall be ex officio members of the Council without right to vote.

Scientific Board: the IGCP Council defines the terms of reference of the Scientific Board. On average, the IGCP Board exists of 50-60 members (10-12 members per IGCP theme). They are appointed for a period of 4 years and are eligible for an appointment of a second term.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The UNESCO Global Geopark Council shall be composed of 12 ordinary members, with the right to vote, who shall be individuals appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and of Member States. In addition, the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the GGN, the Secretary-General of the IUGS, the Director-General of the IUCN or their representatives shall be ex officio members of the Council without the right to vote.

The term of office of ordinary members of the UNESCO Global Geopark Council shall be four years, renewable once.

d. Are the members organized by electoral groups?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

All members serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective states or any other affiliated entities. They will be required to ensure that they have no conflict of interest and that they will not seek or accept instructions from governments or authorities.

All members of the IGCP Council and the Scientific Board are selected from the nominations submitted by IGCP National Committees, UNESCO Secretariat, National UNESCO Commissions, active IUGS adhering organizations and/or National Committees, Organizations affiliated to IUGS and from other organizations financially contributing to IGCP.

The six ordinary IGCP Council members are appointed by mutual agreement by the Director-General of UNESCO and the President of the IUGS.

Selection of all Scientific Board members is the responsibility of the IGCP Council.

However, during the selection process of new IGCP Council and Scientific Board members, the programme takes an equitable geographical distribution and gender equality into account.

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#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The 12 ordinary UNESCO Global Geopark Council members shall serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective States or any other affiliated entities. They will be required to ensure that they have no conflict of interest and that they will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities.

The 12 ordinary UNESCO Global Geopark Council members shall be individuals appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and of Member States.

When appointing the members of the UNESCO Global Geopark Council an equitable geographical distribution and gender equality is taken into account.

e. Intergovernmental or personal capacity/expert capacity of members

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The members of both the IGCP Council and the Scientific Board shall be high-level experts actively engaged in scientific research related to the objects of the IGCP.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Ordinary Members appointed to the Council shall be high-profile experts chosen for their proven experience, scientific or professional qualifications in relevant fields.

f. Have chairperson or/and Members States received introduction to the work and working methods?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

When launching an open call for new IGCP Council members, an introduction on the work and working methods is included in the documents sent out, with links to the complete IGCP Statutes and IGCP Operational Guidelines.

As part of the invitation letter to the annual session of the IGCP Council, which is sent to all UNESCO Member States and Associate Member States, a short introduction about the programme is given. At the beginning of the annual open session, a couple of introductory slides are presented by the IGCP Council members.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

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### QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SECRETARIATS OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

When launching an open call for new UNESCO Global Geopark Council members, an introduction on the work and working methods is included in the documents sent out, with links to the complete IGGP Statutes and UNESCO Global Geopark Operational Guidelines. The open call was also issued to Member States.

g. Are Observers authorized to participate and/or take the floor?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

All interested Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO and adhering bodies of the IUGS are invited to send observers. The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may be represented at sessions of the Council. The Director-General of UNESCO may extend invitations to send observers to sessions of the Council to:

- organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements;
- intergovernmental organizations;
- international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations.

Representatives of the Scientific Board may also attend sessions of the Council in accordance with arrangements to be made by UNESCO and the IUGS.

Observers of interested international scientific organizations may be invited to attend sessions of the Council in accordance with the regulations and rules in force in UNESCO and in the IUGS.

Observers are encouraged to take the floor and ask questions or give comments during the annual open session. However, representatives and observers shall not have the right to vote.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO will be able to send observers to sessions of the Council. The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may be represented at sessions of the Council. The Director-General of UNESCO may extend invitations to send observers to sessions of the Council to:

- organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements;
- intergovernmental organizations;

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- international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations.
- Observers have the right to attend and to take the floor and ask questions or give comments during the meetings of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council. However, representatives and observers shall not have the right to vote.

h. Meeting frequency and length

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

At least one meeting per year at the invitation of UNESCO and IUGS.

- on average: two days closed meeting of the IGCP Council and IGCP Bureau

- half a day open meeting with IGCP Council, IGCP Bureau and Observers. All interested Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO and adhering bodies of the IUGS are invited to send observers. Also the UN and other organizations of the UN System with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may be represented at sessions of the Council.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The Council will meet annually in ordinary session, when possible during a regional or international conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. In general, this meeting lasts two days.

i. How many languages are interpreted during the meetings?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The meetings are entirely in English.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The meetings are entirely in English.

j. Where do the meetings take place?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

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At the UNESCO HQ

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The Council meets, when possible during a regional or international conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. In the event of no such conference the session will either be deferred, held remotely or held at UNESCO Headquarters subject to available resources.

k. Overall budget, including corresponding funding sources broken down as follows:

	RP	Other sources
<b>International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)</b>		
Organizing meetings	15,142.00 USD	
Operational activities	75,000 USD	IUGS: 60,000 USD China: 20,000 USD
UNESCO staff (approximate budget in lump sum)	357,175 USD	
<b>International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)</b>		
Organizing meetings	15,142.00 USD	
Operational activities	50,000 USD	IUGS: 60,000 USD China: 20,000 USD
UNESCO staff (approximate budget in lump sum)	185,075 USD	
<b>UNESCO Global Geoparks</b>		
Organizing meetings	0 USD	All costs related to the sessions of the Council will be borne by the inviting UNESCO Global Geopark or any other conference organizers.
Operational activities	25,000 USD	GGN income: 135,000 USD

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		GGN In-kind income: 3,250,000 USD
UNESCO staff (approximate budget in lump sum)	172,100 USD	

2. Bureau (if any)

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

International Geoscience Programme Bureau

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau

- a. Number of members, mandate period, number of times for possible reelection

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

IGCP Bureau: consists of five members: the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the IGCP Council, they shall remain in office for two years. The Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of IUGS or their representatives shall be ex officio members of the Council without right to vote.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The Bureau will consist of five members: the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Council of the UNESCO Global Geoparks they shall remain in office for two years. The Director-General of UNESCO and the President of the GGN or their representatives shall be ex officio members of the Bureau without the right to vote.

- b. Intergovernmental or personal capacity/expert capacity?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the IGCP Bureau shall be high-level experts actively engaged in scientific research related to the objects of the IGCP.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

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### QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SECRETARIATS OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the UNESCO Global Geopark Bureau shall be high-profile experts chosen for their proven experience, scientific or professional qualifications in relevant fields.

c. Meetings frequency and length

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The IGCP Board meets at least once a year after the closed meeting of the IGCP Council. The length of the meeting is maximum 0.5 day.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau meets once per year immediately after the meeting of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council. The length of the meeting is maximum 0.5 day.

d. Are observers allowed to participate and/or speak?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

In general, the IGCP Board holds a closed meeting. The report of the sessions of the Bureau is circulated to the IGCP Council and to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Yes, observers are allowed to attend and speak but have no voting rights.

The report of the sessions of the Bureau will be circulated to the Council and to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

e. Interpretation during the meetings?

#### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The working language is English.

#### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The working language is English.

f. How many languages interpreted during the meetings?

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### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The working language is English.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The working language is English.

g. Where do the meetings take place?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

At UNESCO HQ

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The Bureau meets, when possible during a regional or international conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. In the event of no such conference the session will either be deferred, held remotely or held at UNESCO Headquarters subject to available resources.

h. Are minutes of the meetings of the Bureau prepared? Are the minutes distributed and to whom?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

Minutes of both the IGCP Council and IGCP Bureau meeting are prepared. The minutes of the closed session are distributed to the IGCP Council members and to IUGS.

The minutes, but also the agenda and the presentations of the IGCP Open Session are available for consultation on the EGR website.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/>

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The reports of the Council and Bureau will be compiled by their Rapporteur and will be distributed to Member State and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

## **3. Rules of procedure**

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- a. Who adopts the rules of procedure?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The IGCP Council shall establish its own rules of procedure.

The IGCP Council defines the terms of reference of the Scientific Board.

The IGCP Bureau shall establish its own rules of procedure.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council shall establish its own rules of procedure.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau shall establish its own rules of procedure.

- b. Preparation of meeting

- i. Who decides agenda?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The secretariat for the IGCP, provided by both UNESCO and IUGS, shall draft the agenda. The agenda is sent out to the Council who can make changes.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The secretariat for the UNESCO Global Geoparks, shall draft the agenda. The agenda is sent out to the Council who can make changes.

- ii. When are documents sent out?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The documents are sent out ca. 1 month in advance to the Member States and Associate Member States. A similar timing is used for the IGCP Council members.

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### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The draft agenda is sent out 6 weeks prior to the meeting.

iii. Are they sent out in paper form?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

Everything is sent out electronically.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Everything is sent out electronically.

iv. Can you opt out of receiving printed documents?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

Everything is sent out electronically.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Everything is sent out electronically.

v. Who decides the timetable?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The secretariat for the IGCP, provided by both UNESCO and IUGS, provides the timetable.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The secretariat for the UNESCO Global Geoparks, provides the agenda in collaboration with the conference organizers of the location where the meeting will be held.

vi. Who convenes the meeting?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

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The Director-General shall take the steps required for the convening of the sessions of the Council.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The Director-General shall take the steps required for the convening of the sessions of the Council.

vii. Do you open up for video meetings?

Not yet

viii. Can there be extraordinary sessions?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

Not provided for in the statutes

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The Council may convene extraordinary sessions, the costs of which will be covered by extrabudgetary resources.

i. If yes: how?

By a call from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau

ix. Do you appoint sub groups or sub committees?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

No

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

No

i. If so for what duration and for which tasks?

/

c. Decision-making

i. Who prepare draft decisions?

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### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

After each session, the Council shall present a report on its work and its recommendations to the Bureau. The report will be circulated to IUGS, Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

After each session, the Council shall present a report on its work and its decisions to the Bureau. The report will be circulated to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

ii. Until when can member states suggest new draft decision or amendments?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

Decisions of the Council are not open for appeal.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Decisions of the Council are not open for appeal.

iii. Are observers allowed to participate and/or speak?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

Yes, but they do not have the right to vote.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Yes, but they do not have the right to vote.

iv. How are decisions adopted?

### **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

After each session, the Council shall present a report on its work and its recommendations to the Bureau. The report will be circulated to IUGS, Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

### **UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

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After positive assessment of the applications by the evaluation teams and the decision of the Council, the Bureau will recommend to the Director-General to include an item on the agenda of the Executive Board of UNESCO. This item will propose that the Executive Board endorse the nominations decided upon by the Council. The details of nominations will be contained in an Information Document for the Executive Board.

#### 4. Relation to General Conference and Executive Board and to other intergovernmental organs

- a. Do you formally submit proposals for the program and budget of UNESCO (C/5)?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

No

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

No

- a. If yes, how?

- b. How do you follow-up the General Conference's resolutions?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

If we need to, we liaise with the IGCP Bureau

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

- c. If we need to, we liaise with the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau  
d. Do you give input to the Executive Board in your field of competence?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

Yes

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

Yes

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- e. Do you report on your activities to the General Conference and/or to the Executive Board more than once during each four year programme period?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

The Council shall submit a report, on the progress of the IGCP, for each session of the General Conference of UNESCO, as part of a joint report of the IGGP, and shall report annually to the Executive Committee of IUGS.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

The Council shall submit a report, on the progress of the UNESCO Global Geoparks for each session of the General Conference of UNESCO, as part of a joint report of the IGGP.

- f. How do you follow-up the Executive Board decisions?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

If we need to, we liaise with the IGCP Bureau

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

- g. If we need to, we liaise with the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau

- h. Does a specific framework exist to collaborate with other international and intergovernmental bodies?

**International Geoscience Programme (IGCP):**

There is not specific framework.

Some of the IGCP project are also supported or collaborating with programmes or projects within the International Hydrogeological Programme (IHP).

**UNESCO Global Geoparks:**

There is not specific framework.

Within the programme there is collaboration with MAB and WHC.

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**5. Any others comments regarding the governance of international and intergovernmental bodies**

N/A

**6. Please provide the reference and if possible hyperlink to the relevant statutory documents, including General Conference Resolutions establishing the bodies and relevant Executive Board decisions**

- International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme Statutes (38C/14 Annex I) and Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks (38C/14 Annex II):  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002345/234539e.pdf>
- International Geoscience Programme Operational Guidelines:  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/IGCP\\_Operational\\_Guidelines\\_April\\_2016\\_web.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/IGCP_Operational_Guidelines_April_2016_web.pdf)