



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

Application dossier for UNESCO Global Geoparks

Format of e-file: Application dossier max. 50 pages (excluding annexes), max. 5MB by email, 50MB by weblink (e.g. Dropbox, WeTransfer etc.). Do not send a paper dossier.

Timescale: Applications are only accepted annually between 1 October and 30 November.

Before any formal application, any aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark must submit an expression of interest, before the 1st of July, via the official channel as defined by your National Commission for UNESCO or government body in charge of relations with UNESCO, involving, if applicable, your National Geoparks Committee.

Once ready, your comprehensive and carefully formatted application dossier must be submitted through the same official channel.

The application dossier must precisely follow the format and topics below, highlighting strong and weak points and will be studied by an independent group of experts verifying the UNESCO Global Geopark project through a desktop study. The topics will demonstrate whether the applying area is already a de facto functioning Geopark fulfilling the criteria to become a UNESCO Global Geopark, and whether or not an examination mission should be carried out. If the application dossier is considered to be complete and ready for assessment, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council will approve an evaluation mission to the applying area. The application dossier must demonstrate that the area has already been functioning as a de facto Global Geopark for at least one year. Do not send entire brochures, publications, leaflets, etc., these should be provided only to field evaluators on site.

A – Identification of the Area

1. Name of the proposed Geopark
2. Location of the proposed Geopark (please make use of the [standard UN geographical maps](#) and the geographic coordinates longitude and latitude)
3. Surface area, physical and human geography characteristics of the proposed Geopark
4. Organization in charge and management structure (description, function and organogram) of the proposed Geopark
5. Application contact person (name, position, tel./fax, e-mail)

B – Geological Heritage

1. General geological description of the proposed Geopark

2. Listing and description of geological sites within the proposed Geopark
3. Details on the interest of these sites in terms of their international, national, regional or local value (for example scientific, educational, aesthetic)
4. Listing and description of other sites of natural, cultural and intangible heritage interest and how they are related to the geological sites and how they are integrated into the proposed Geopark

C – Geoconservation

1. Current or potential pressure on the proposed Geopark
2. Current status in terms of protection of geological sites within the proposed Geopark
3. Data on the management and maintenance of all heritage sites (geological and non-geological).

D – Economic Activity & Business Plan (including detailed financial information)

1. Economic activity in the proposed Geopark
2. Existing and planned facilities for the proposed Geopark (e.g. geo-education, geotourism, tourism infrastructure etc)
3. Analysis of geotourism potential of the proposed Geopark
4. Overview and policies for the sustainable development of:
 - geo-tourism and economy
 - geo-education
 - geo-heritage

Please include examples illustrating activities in these sectors

5. Policies for, and examples of, community empowerment (involvement and consultation) in the proposed Geopark
6. Policies for, and examples of, public and stakeholder awareness in the proposed Geopark.

E – Interest and arguments for becoming a UNESCO Global Geopark

Annex 1: Self-evaluation document (available online [here](#))

Annex 2: An additional and separate copy of section B “Geological Heritage” of the application, prefaced by a geological summary of a maximum of 150 words (this will be used only for the geological desktop evaluators from IUGS – International Union of Geological Sciences).

Annex 3: An explicit endorsement of any relevant local and regional authorities and a letter of support from the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO.

Annex 4: A large scale map of the proposed UNESCO Global Geopark showing the clearly defined boundary of the proposed Geopark and marking all the geosites, museums, towns and villages, other sites of cultural and natural heritage, tourism facilities including visitor and information centres/points, guest accommodation facilities, recreational facilities and public transport facilities. While 1:50,000 is ideal, if your country does not map at that scale then the nearest large scale map will suffice. In case of any overlap with other UNESCO site designations (World Heritage, Biosphere Reserves) the area of these designations should be clearly indicated on this map. Also all protected areas (National or Regional Reserve, parks, etc...) needs to be indicated.

Annex 5: 1-page geological and geographic summary, including a detailed map and a [standard UN geographical maps](#) indicating the location(template is available online [here](#)).

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