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Global Geoparks

Checklist to define an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (aUGGp)

In line with the Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks and following the decision of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council in its 4th session in Lombok, Indonesia (September 2019) it was decided to draft and finalize a checklist for aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks.

101 questions are a quick self-evaluation checklist based on the quality criteria for UNESCO Global Geopark candidates (aUGGp) set out in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, section 3 (viii).

Please note that the checklist and explanatory notes are intended as a quick and easy dashboard to measure the preparedness of an aspiring site on a regular basis and do not replace the application file and Form A, nor do they need to be submitted with the application file. They are strictly for internal use and do not need to be discussed in the evaluation mission if not wished so.

To complete this checklist you must tick either Yes or No for each question. The predefined traffic-light colour scheme (green/yellow/red) used together with the criteria detailed below will indicate your attainment level to submit/ or not a UGGp application.

- **All ticks in green boxes:** indicates that your aUGGp is in good condition to present a candidate file;
- **Up to 15 ticks in yellow boxes:** indicates that your aUGGp presents clear weaknesses with high probability that your candidature will be deferred or rejected;
- **More than 15 ticks in yellow boxes:** indicates that there is a high probability that your candidature will be rejected;
- **Two or more tick(s) in a red boxes:** indicates a breach of the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks with a certainty of candidature rejection.

An (*) has been added to several questions, indicating that an explanatory note will provide further information, examples and guidance on how the UGGp Council has dealt with these issues in the past.

	Criterion i
	(i) UNESCO Global Geoparks must be single, unified geographical areas (iA) where sites and landscapes of international geological significance (iB) are managed with a holistic concept of protection (iC), education (iD), research (iE) and sustainable development (iF). A UNESCO Global Geopark must have a clearly defined border (iG),

	be of adequate size to fulfil its functions and contain geological heritage of international significance (iH) as independently verified by scientific professionals.	Yes	No
	Unified territory (iA)		
1	Is your aUGGp territory a unified and single area?		
	Boundary (iG)		
2	Has your aUGGp a clearly defined boundary?		
3 (*)	Does your aUGGp boundary correspond to pre-existing limits? (i.e. administrative/state boundaries or protected area, etc.)		
	Adequate size (iH)		
4 (*)	Do you have a significant population living in your aUGGp territory?		
5 (*)	Does your aUGGp territory size provide the necessary conditions for appropriate sustainable development for the local population?		
	International value of the geological heritage (iB)		
6 (*)	Do you have clear evidence that your aUGGp has a geological heritage with an international value?		
7 (*)	Is there comparable geology at another UGGp located within your country? Or those countries you share a border with? If Yes: Please complete question 8. If No: proceed to question 9.		
8	If yes, have you carried out an independent geological study demonstrating the geological difference (and complementarity) between your aUGGp and the(se) other territory(ies)?		
	Conservation (iC)		
9	Do you have a aUGGp geological sites database and inventory?		
10	Do you have a map of the geological sites of your aUGGp?		
11	Do you have a geological map of your aUGGp?		
12	Do your most important aUGGp geological sites benefit from a conservation status?		
13	Do you announce the regulations to prevent misuse and damage?		
14	Do you provide regular maintenance and cleaning of these sites?		
15 (*)	If you have specific protected fragile geological/geomorphological sites, do you develop protective measures against erosion?		
16	Is your aUGGp involved in Cultural and Natural conservation?		
	Education (iD)		
17	Have you developed educational activities connected with your geological heritage (abiotic)?		
18 (*)	Have you developed educational activities connected with your natural heritage (biotic)?		
19	Have you developed educational activities connected with your cultural and intangible heritage?		
20	Do you operate specific educational programme(s) (i.e. for primary, elementary, secondary school and university students)?		
21	Do you have an educational hiking-path within your aUGGp?		
	Educational tools		
22	Have you developed different specific educational tools (publications, videos, slideshows, interactive elements, specific exhibits, puzzle, etc.)?		

	Research (iE)		
23 (*)	Does your aUGGp support and develop research in its territory?	Green	Red
23bis	Do you have scientific publications about your aUGGp that are less than 5 years old?	Green	Red
24	Have you had a scientific Institution or University involved in research in your territory?	Green	Red
	Sustainable economic development (iF)		
	Visibility, infrastructure and facilities		
25 (*)	Do visitors to your area easily recognise and understand that they are in a Geopark? Is your aUGGp appropriately visible in the area?	Green	Red
26 (*)	Do you have information panels at the entrance area(s) or in important sites of your aUGGp?	Green	Yellow
27	Do you have panels or other systems providing information at your aUGGp sites?	Green	Red
28	Do you have aUGGp signage along the roads or/and in important sites?	Green	Yellow
29	Do you have public information infrastructure (i.e. an aUGGp information centre)?	Green	Red
30 (*)	Do you have an exhibition room or a museum presenting your aUGGp?	Green	Red
31 (*)	Is the presentation text displayed in your information centre or museum etc. available in English?	Green	Yellow
32	Do you have a website?	Green	Red
33 (*)	Is your website available in English?	Green	Yellow
34	Do you have leaflets, publications, etc. presenting your aUGGp?	Green	Red
35 (*)	Do you have leaflets, publications, etc. presenting your aUGGp in English?	Green	Yellow
36	Do you have a aUGGp map which indicates your sites for visitors?	Green	Red
37	Do you have car park facilities connected with the aUGGp sites?	Green	Yellow
	Partnerships		
38 (*)	Do you have formal partnerships with local stakeholders (restaurants, hotels, etc.)?	Green	Yellow
39	Have you developed a aUGGp branding policy with local products/producers?	Green	Yellow
40	Have you developed a aUGGp partnership visibility with these different partnerships (partner panels, leaflets, etc.)?	Green	Yellow
	Geotourism		
41	Do you have promotional material available for visitors as an incentive to visit your aUGGp?	Green	Yellow
42	Do you have partnerships with Tour Operators?	Green	Yellow
43	Does your aUGGp provide training for guides, or Tour Operators working with you?	Green	Yellow
44	Do you have a monitoring system for your visitors?	Green	Yellow
45	Have you created a general geotourism action plan for the minimum of the next four years?	Green	Yellow
	Criterion ii		
	(ii) UNESCO Global Geoparks should use that heritage, in connection with all other aspects of that area's natural and cultural heritage, to promote awareness of key issues facing society (iiA) in the context of the dynamic planet we all live on, including but not limited to increasing knowledge and understanding of: geoprocesses; geohazards;		

	climate change (iiB); the need for the sustainable use of Earth's natural resources; the evolution of life and the empowerment of indigenous peoples(iiC).		
	Other natural heritage -biotic- (iiA)		
46	Does your aUGGp have natural protected areas? If Yes: Please complete question 47 to 49. If No: proceed to question 50.		
47	Does your aUGGp have a clear partnership with these protected areas?		
48 (*)	Do you promote these relevant sites of natural heritage within your aUGGp?		
49	Do you carry out actions or activities connecting geological heritage with other aspects of the natural heritage within your aUGGp?		
	Cultural heritage (iiA)		
	Tangible cultural heritage		
50	Does your aUGGp have protected cultural/historical monuments? If Yes: Please complete question 51 to 53. If No: proceed to question 54.		
51	Do you have an agreed partnership with these cultural/historical monuments?		
52	Do you promote these relevant sites of cultural heritage within your aUGGp?		
53	Do you carry out actions or activities connecting geological heritage with other aspects of the cultural heritage within your aUGGp?		
	Intangible heritage (iiA)		
54 (*)	Does your aUGGp have intangible heritage? If Yes: Please complete question 55 and 56. If No: proceed to question 57.		
55	Is your aUGGp using and promoting its intangible heritage?		
56	Is your aUGGp linking intangible heritage with its geological heritage in its promotion, discovery, education or other activities?		
	Topics related to geoprocess, climate change and natural hazards (iiB)		
57 (*)	Is your aUGGp involved in climate change and natural hazards adaptation and mitigation related activities?		
58	Is your aUGGp developing education to mitigate climate change and/or natural hazards?		
	Needs for sustainable use (iiC)		
59	If legal mining is carried out inside your aUGGp, have you developed contact/partnerships with the enterprises for better sustainable use of Earth's resources?		
60 (*)	Do you promote awareness/action for the sustainable use of aUGGp natural resources?		
	Criterion iii		
	(iii) UNESCO Global Geoparks should be areas with a management body having legal existence recognized under national legislation (iiiA). The management bodies should be appropriately equipped to adequately address the area of the UNESCO Global Geopark in its entirety (iiiB).		
	Management body (iiiA)		

61	Does your aUGGp have a management body with a legal existence, recognized under national legislation?		
62	Are local decision-makers represented within the decision-making process of your Geopark		
63 (*)	Are the local population and local leaders represented on the management body?		
	Appropriate equipment (iiiB)		
64 (*)	Does your aUGGp have a permanent and professional working team?		
65 (*)	Does your team include a geoscientist working with your aUGGp on a daily base?		
66	Do you have a multi-disciplinary team (with e.g. specialists for education, culture, architecture, anthropology, marketing, tourism, etc.)?		
67	Do you have a clear and independent budget secured for the next four financial years?		
68 (*)	Do you have a aUGGp management plan or a main general concept for it?		
	Criterion iv		
	(iv) In the case where an applying area overlaps with another UNESCO designated site, such as a World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserve, the request must be clearly justified and evidence must be provided for how UNESCO Global Geopark status will add value by being both independently branded and in synergy with the other designations (ivA).		
	Overlapping designations (ivA)		
69	Is your territory overlapping with other UNESCO designated sites (i.e. Biosphere Reserve and/or World Heritage Site)?		
	If Yes: Please complete questions 70-73. If No: proceed to question 74.		
70 (*)	Have other UNESCO designated sites been informed about the aUGGp existence and does it positively support, the development and concept of your aUGGp?		
71 (*)	Have you clearly examined the complementarity of your aUGGp with this other UNESCO designated sites?		
72	Do you have a formal partnership agreement with the other UNESCO designated sites?		
73	Do you have a clear, visible and independent branding of your aUGGp vis a vis these designated sites?		
74	Is your territory overlapping with international/national protected areas (i.e. Ramsar, National Park, Natural Park, National Reserve, Natura 2000)?		
	If Yes: please complete questions 75-77. If No: proceed to question 78.		
75 (*)	Do you have a formal partnership agreement with the other designated site(s)?		
76	Do you organize mutual training between your aUGGp and the other protected areas?		
77	Do you have a clear, visible and independent branding of your aUGGp vis a vis these areas?		
	Criterion v		
	UNESCO Global Geoparks should actively involve local communities and indigenous peoples as key stakeholders in the Geopark (vA). In partnership with local communities, a co-management plan needs to be drafted and implemented (vB) that provides for the social and economic needs of local populations, protects the landscape in which they live and conserves their cultural identity. It is recommended that all relevant local and regional actors and authorities be represented in the		

	management of a UNESCO Global Geopark (vC). Local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems should be included, alongside science, in the planning and management of the area (vD).		
	Local communities (vA) + (vB)		
78	Are your local community and local leaders actively and formally involved in your aUGGp?		
79	Is your local community represented inside the aUGGp management structure and participates in the drafting and implementation of aUGGp actions and projects?		
	Indigenous peoples (vA) + (vB)		
80	Do indigenous peoples live in your aUGGp? If Yes, please complete question 81 and 82. If No: proceed to question 83.		
81	Are your indigenous peoples actively and formally involved in your aUGGp?		
82	Is the indigenous population represented inside the aUGGp management structure and participates in the drafting and implementation of aUGGp actions and projects?		
	Local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems Intangible heritage/cultural identity (vD)		
83	Does your aUGGp have local and indigenous knowledge, practice and/or management systems? If Yes: please complete question 84-85. If No: proceed to question 86.		
84	If yes: Does the aUGGp have an inventory (even incomplete) of its intangible heritage?		
85	Is your aUGGp working to transfer knowledge, practice and management systems to the younger generation?		
86	Does the local population have their own indigenous language and/or a local dialect? If Yes: please complete question 87-88. If No: proceed to question 89.		
87	Is the aUGGp undertaking actions to ensure the appropriate transmission of this language?		
88	If this language is a written language, does the aUGGp systematically use the local/indigenous language on panels, promotional materials, etc?		
89	Is part of the aUGGp's intangible heritage classified at regional/national/UNESCO level? If Yes: please complete question 90. If No: proceed to question 91.		
90	Does the aUGGp integrate this classified intangible heritage in its resources, promotion etc?		
	Criterion vi		
	UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to share their experience and advice and to undertake joint projects within the GGN (ViA). Membership of GGN is obligatory.		
	Networking (ViA)		
91 (*)	Has your aUGGp Team already visited an existing UGGp outside your country?		
92	Has your aUGGp developed contact/partnership with other UGGps on a national or international level?		
93	Did your aUGGp Team participate in national, regional or international GGN meeting(s)?		
94	Has a member of your aUGGp Team undertaken an UGGp intensive course or training supported by UNESCO/GGN?		

Criterion vii			
A UNESCO Global Geopark must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage. The defining geological heritage sites within a UNESCO Global Geopark must be legally protected in advance of any application (ViiA). At the same time, a UNESCO Global Geopark should be used as leverage for promoting the protection of geological heritage locally and nationally. The management body must <u>not</u> participate directly in the sale of geological objects such as fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks of the type normally found in so-called “rock-shops” within the UNESCO Global Geopark (regardless of their origin) and should actively discourage unsustainable trade in geological materials as a whole (ViiB). Where clearly justified as a responsible activity and as part of delivering the most effective and sustainable means of site management, it may permit sustainable collecting of geological materials for scientific and educational purposes from naturally renewable sites within the UNESCO Global Geopark. Trade of geological materials based on such a system may be tolerated in exceptional circumstances, provided it is clearly and publicly explained, justified and monitored as the best option for the Global Geopark in relation to local circumstances. Such circumstances will be subject to approval by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council on a case by case basis.			
Conservation (ViiA)			
95	Do illegal mines or quarries exist within your aUGGp's territory?		
96	Are the most important geological sites of your aUGGp already legally protected?		
Selling of geological material (ViiB)			
97	Are fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks of the type normally found in so-called “rockshops” on sale close by or inside the aUGGp sites?		
98 (*)	Is the selling of geological material occurring inside your aUGGp infrastructure or in an aUGGp partner infrastructure?		
99	Do any stakeholders or partners in your aUGGp sell geological material?		
100	Do any stakeholders or partners of your aUGGp Management Board sell geological material?		
Guidelines 5.2			
101	Is your aUGGp already functioning as a <i>de facto</i> national Geopark for at least one year before you present the actual candidature?		