



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International  
Geoscience  
Programme



UNESCO  
Global  
Geoparks



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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



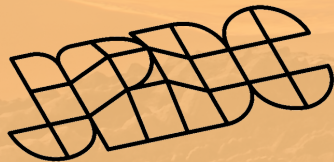
UNESCO  
Global  
Geoparks

# UNESCO Global Geoparks

Celebrating Earth Heritage,  
Sustaining Local Communities



IUGS  
International Union of Geological Sciences



제주특별자치도개발공사  
JEJU PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL  
GEO PARKS  
NETWORK

Illustrations by Carey Marks  
Scarlet Design

If you would like to become part of UNESCO's  
Global Geoparks family please contact us:

## UNESCO

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Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction  
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[www.unesco.org/earth-science](http://www.unesco.org/earth-science)

# UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

Celebrating Earth Heritage,  
Sustaining Local Communities



UNESCO is the United Nations's education science and culture organisation and the only with a mandate to support research and capacity building in Earth Sciences.

Through our focus on ten major issues, our mission is to contribute to peace and security, eradicate poverty and advance sustainable development by promoting collaboration amongst nations. At UNESCO we:



## SCIENCE & EDUCATION

Promote the sustainable use of natural resources and respect for the environment;



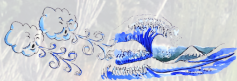
## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Explore the links between people, their practices and the planet;



## WOMEN

Involve local indigenous people; preserving and celebrating their culture;



## CLIMATE CHANGE

Promote awareness of geological hazards and disaster-mitigation strategies;



## GEOHERITAGE

Work with academic institutions to promote research & education activities in the earth sciences;

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Plan for the sustainable development of our common home;



## CULTURE

Empower women, through research, education programmes, and women's cooperatives;

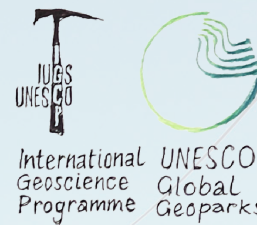
## LOCAL & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

## GEOLICAL HAZARDS

Recognise and protect the common heritage of the planet.



The two pillars of UNESCO's action in Earth Sciences are the International Geoscience Programme – a knowledge hub to facilitate international scientific cooperation in the Geosciences – and the **UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp)** – a community of internationally relevant geological sites and landscapes – that combine conservation with sustainable development.



## WHAT IS A UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK?

They are the most recent UNESCO site designations for protecting geological heritage, shown at sites of international significance. Its creation was ratified in 2015 by the 195 Member States.



UGGp's are sites and landscapes of international geological significance as independently verified by IUGS experts.

## EXPERTS NETWORK



They have to be single, unified geographical areas with a multitude of geological sites of international value contained within that area.

## UNIFIED TERRITORY

UGGp's enhance the links between an area's geological heritage and its natural, cultural and intangible heritage, promoting the understanding of key issues, such as the use of Earth's resources, the impact of natural disasters, climate change effects and mitigation and empowering indigenous people.



## HERITAGE



## SUSTAINABILITY

They are managed with a holistic concept of protection, with emphasis on geoeducation, geotourism and high quality training,



## GEOEDUCATION

By raising awareness on the area's geological heritage, **UNESCO Global Geoparks** give local people a sense of pride in their region strengthening their belonging.



## PRIDE

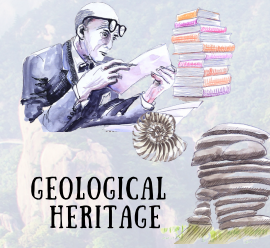
## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BECOME A GEOPARK?



UNESCO Global Geoparks are laboratories for sustainable development, which promote the recognition and management of Earth's heritage, the sustainability of local communities, nurturing global processes to build peace in the hearts of men and women.

Four pillars underpin the relevant requirements needed to qualify a territory's desire to become a UNESCO Global Geopark:

## 4 PILLARS



## GEOLICAL HERITAGE

**Geological heritage:** assessed by scientific professionals of the UNESCO Global Geoparks evaluation team and based on international, peer-reviewed, published research. These experts will study your area and will make a globally-comparative assessment to determine whether the geological sites are of international value.

**Management:** UGGp's should be managed by a body recognised by national legislation and have a management plan providing for the social and economic needs of local populations, protecting the landscape in which they live and conserving their cultural identity. This plan should incorporate the governance, development, communication, protection, infrastructure, finances and partnerships of the UGGp.



## MANAGEMENT



## VISIBILITY

**Visibility:** to stimulate geotourism, visitors, and local people should have all the relevant information about the UGGp. Information via a dedicated website, leaflets and a detailed map of the area, connecting all the territory's heritage should be provided. A UGGp should also have a corporate identity.

**Networking:** a UGGp is also about cooperating with other UGGps – through the Global Geoparks Network – and with regional networks for UNESCO Global Geoparks, in order to learn mutually.

As of 2021, there are 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries.



## NETWORKING