



# Self-Evaluation Checklist

## Explanatory Notes

### For aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks (aUGGp)

Q3 - Does your aUGGp boundary correspond to pre-existing limits? (i.e., administrative / state boundaries or protected area, etc.)

An aUGGp territory must reflect both its geographical and local cultural identity, providing a clear territorial view of the area. If you are unsure whether your territorial area qualifies, please consult the UGGp Secretariat at UNESCO before preparing your application.

The combination of different kinds of pre-existing limits (i.e., administrative and protected area) is acceptable.

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a) For exclusively terrestrial aUGGps:

An aUGGp boundary cannot be arbitrarily connected with a geological or a geographical context (Fig. 3.1). UGGps are sustainable development areas and must consider their existing local territorial identity (Fig. 3.2). The definition of an aUGGp territory needs to take into account pre-existing boundaries such as:

- Administrative limits (region, province, communes, etc.)
- Existing legal protection area boundaries (National Park, National Reserve, etc.)
- Other official territorial boundaries.
- Some territories have to deal with specific issues like industrial exploitation, or municipalities that explicitly do not want to be part of the aUGGp project; and in these cases, the aUGGp has to provide an explanation and justification.

b) For aUGGps that include maritime areas and Islands:

To be a unified territory (criteria i), an aUGGp must integrate maritime parts where applicable (Fig. 3.3 and 3.4). This integration is an important asset for a terrestrial-maritime aUGGp to consider its marine environment including elements like biodiversity, submarine geology cultural relations to the sea (sailing, sea related mythology, cosmology etc.) and marine protected areas.

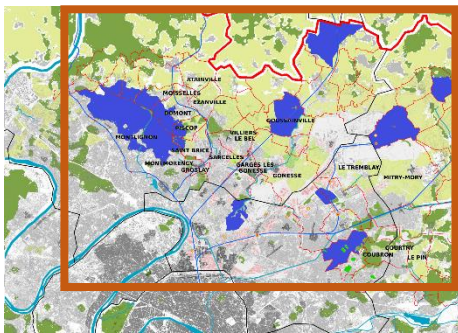


Fig. 3.1. *Wrong* aUGGp boundary not taking into account administrative and cultural limits.

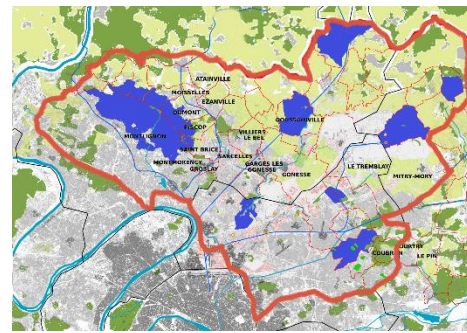


Fig. 3.2. *Correct* aUGGp boundary following pre-existing administrative limits.



Fig.3.3. *Wrong* island aUGGp boundary



Fig. 3.4. *Correct* island aUGGp boundary

Q4 – Do you have a significant population living in your aUGGp territory?

An aUGGp is a sustainable development territory and should exist to support its local population. For this reason, a territory (often a conservation area) without a local population or a significant number of inhabitants cannot become a UGGp.

The definition of a “significant population” should at least present the lower population density for desert areas, equating to around ten inhabitants per kilometre square<sup>1</sup>. In some rare situations, for example, in an island context (or desert area), this population density could be even lower; and in this case, please consult the UGGp Secretariat at UNESCO early in your planning phase, before preparing your application.

Q5 – Does your aUGGp territory size provide the necessary conditions for appropriate sustainable development for the local population?

Currently, the average surface area of a UGGp is between 1 000 and 2 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Decade for deserts and the fights against desertification.

The biggest one is Alxa UGGp (desert area, China) with 68 374 km<sup>2</sup>. Huge areas are difficult to manage and require considerable effort to demonstrate a coherent image to visitors who may just visit a small part of it.

Among the intermediate UGGps are:

Hexigten, China	1 750 km <sup>2</sup>
Toya Usu, Japan	1 180 km <sup>2</sup>
Hateg, Romania	1 023 km <sup>2</sup>
Gea Norvegica, Norway	3 010 km <sup>2</sup>
Rocca di Cerere, Italy	1 279 km <sup>2</sup>
Qinling, China	1 074 km <sup>2</sup>
Shetland, United Kingdom	1 468 km <sup>2</sup>
Kütralkura, Chile	8 053 km <sup>2</sup>

While the smallest one the English Riviera UGGp (UK) with a land area of 62 km<sup>2</sup> and sea area of 41 km<sup>2</sup>, it has significant population contributing to sustainable development.

Q6 - Do you have clear evidence that your aUGGp has a geological heritage with an international value?

We encourage candidates to work closely with their own national scientists (e.g. Universities, Geological Survey, IGCP National Committee, Geological Institute of Academy of Science and other research institutions) during the early stage of their application. This is necessary to assess the probability of recognition of the international importance of their geological heritage, to provide a sound basis for the desktop analysis to be undertaken by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)<sup>2</sup>.

A complete and comprehensive bibliography of a territory's international and national publications and research evidence in Earth sciences is fundamental in helping an aUGGp to establish geological heritage of international value. An aUGGp that is unable to provide a complete and comprehensive bibliography is less likely to demonstrate international value.

To support the IUGS desktop analysis, candidates need to prepare:

- Annex 2: an additional and separate copy of section E 1.1 5 relating to geological heritage and conservation.
- Annex 6: a complete bibliography of the territory's Earth sciences publications divided into two sections:
  - a) International publications and research;
  - b) National publications and research (in the case the publications and research are not in English, please provide an English summary or Abstract if possible).

Q7 - Is there comparable geology at another UGGp located within your country? Or those countries you share a border with?

Aspiring UGGps submitting an application and located close<sup>3</sup> to an UGGp with comparable geological characteristics, must commission a comparative geological study. This study should

<sup>2</sup> <https://geoheritage-iugs.mnhn.fr/>

<sup>3</sup> *this is relative to the country size, population density and geodiversity. If your aUGGp is less than 100 km away from another UGGp, please consult the UGGp Secretariat at UNESCO before preparing your application.*

determine major differences between the Earth heritage of the areas, identify how the aUGGp can position itself with respect to the existing UGGp and identify ways how to best promote and interpret the territory, focusing on its unique assets.

To guarantee objectivity, a comparative geological study cannot be undertaken directly by the aUGGp due to conflict of interest. Instead, an independent study should be commissioned through a local University or relevant research institution, Geological Survey, IGCP National Committee, Geological Institute of Academy of Science or independent qualified (geology-related) company. The study should synthesise and clearly highlight similarities, differences and complementary or even synergic aspects between the two territories, including natural and cultural heritage aspects.

Q15 - If you have specific protected fragile geological/geomorphological sites, do you develop protective measures against erosion?

Aspiring UGGps promote geological heritage but also need to be involved in its preservation, particularly when this heritage is being threatened by natural or anthropogenic damage. Erosion is a common natural process, affecting and changing geological heritage and as such does not need to be controlled everywhere. However, protective measures must be developed for geological sites of recognized value, especially if they are part of the internationally important geological heritage of the territory, or with a particular threat, which can be resolved or slowed down by physical protective measures (Figure 15.1, 2, 3, and 4). For the anthropogenic damage, the effective protective measures (such as protective facilities, monitoring systems, visitor code of conduct, etc.) should also be adopted.

Many technical solutions exist, and aUGGps need to consider when physical conservation measures are necessary and determine the most appropriate action, given the severity of the situation and financial implications. Some of the more common techniques used are on-site museums, protective shelters, using conservation techniques and methodologies, which are following the [Venice Charter](#). Besides physical conservation, another important option to consider would be 3D scanning of the geological site, which is highly recommended for paleontological sites (especially fossil footprints, fossil skeletons, etc.). 3D scanning allows for comprehensive site recording and potential reconstruction by 3D printer.



Fig. 15.1 - On-site museum built around a fossil tree, Lesvos UGGp, Greece



Fig. 15.2 - On-site museum on sirenian fossils, Haute Provence UGGp, France





Fig. 15.3 - Placing a protective coating on dinosaur footprint fossils, Yanqing UGGp, China



Fig. 15.4 - On-site museum on dinosaur footprint Terra.vita UGGp, Germany

**Q18 - Have you developed educational activities connected with your natural heritage (biotic)?**

The educational mandate of an aUGGp is to teach local students, its community and visitors about the intrinsic nature of its territory and all its potentials. Therefore, an aUGGp must develop suitable educational activities to make better understood and explain the aUGGp's natural heritage, climate change, natural hazards, paleo-environments, the evolution of life, and at a large scale our living and moving planet and the necessity for its preservation.



Fig. 18.1 - Establishment of a monkey conservation foundation, Shennongjia UGGp, China



Fig. 18.2 - Imbabura UGGp conservation plan for the Andean Condor (©EFEverde)

**Q23 - Does your aUGGp support and develop research in its territory?**

UGGps are living and active territories, which should support the enhancement of scientific research within their areas (i.e. Master's degree, PhD, Postdocs, research projects, etc.). Aspiring UGGps should define and organise their research strategy and activities with the support of, for example, local Universities, Geological Survey, IGCP National Committee, Geological Institute of Academy of Science and other Academic Institutions, using formal research agreements, research contracts, organised field research camps and logistic support, to form active working partnerships. The scientific research developed in an aUGGp should not exclusively focus on Earth sciences but should look into other territorial specificities including biodiversity, intangible, cultural heritage, natural hazards (landslides, earthquakes, etc.), and climate change. All aUGGps should pay attention to transferring the scientific results into accessible science, which can be understood by the public.

Q25 - Do visitors of your area easily recognize and understand that they are in a Geopark? Is your aUGGp appropriately visible in the area?

An aUGGp must develop its own brand identity connected to a logo and specific branding, which is present on visibility tools. This point must be clear before an aUGGp can design or modify panels. *Please refer to Question 26 for examples of branding and panels.*

To be visible, an aspiring area must have a name. As a general guideline, an aUGGp, during its preparation phase can use “XX Geopark”. In connection with the application, it also could use “XX Aspiring UGGp”. After successful designation by UNESCO the name will be “XX UNESCO Global Geopark”. This must be kept in mind while designing the visibility tools.

Q26 - Do you have information panels at the entrance area(s) or in important sites of your aUGGp?

An aUGGp must have a **brand identity** through which it promotes itself, its heritage and its activities and services in the frame of sustainable development. This includes the provision of easily identifiable signage that informs visitors and the public that they are entering or inside the Geopark territory. (Examples of Geopark logos are given in Figs. 26.1, 2, 3, 4).

The appropriate mechanisms for territorial visibility are not the same everywhere and may depend on local legislation in terms of what kind of display panels and information is allowed and on what places. The conformity to local legislative context must be kept in mind while reading the proposed examples below. To achieve the necessary visibility, each aUGGp needs to combine different communication tools and adapt them to their local context.

Pannels are only one of the many examples of how visibility can be reached. As an interim measure after accreditation, existing panels can be customized by adding the aUGGp logo and information (possibly by using stickers, etc.). This interim measure should be replaced at the earliest opportunity but not at the expense of appropriate sustainability considerations. The main tools used (although not exhaustive) are entrance gates, road signs, parking signs, partnership panels, products, communication tools.

#### **Further clarification on what kind of logo should be used and for what purpose**

During the preparation and application phase (but also later), the Geopark uses its own logo and brand identity, which demonstrates in smart a graphic way the characteristics of the area, as to be seen in the example below.



Fig. 26.1 - Geopark logo, Mexico (showcasing indigenous cultural setting)



Fig. 26.2 - Geopark logo, France (showcasing a wine leaf)



Fig.26.3 - Geopark logo, China (showcasing the important geological structure)



Fig. 26.4 - Geopark logo, Germany (showcasing the important geomorphological structure)

Only after the official designation as UGGp, will the Geopark be allowed to use the UNESCO Global Geoparks “combined logo” (see Fig. 26.5) in their activities in order to promote the visibility and outreach of the UGGp network. The logo is composed of five unchangeable elements: the temple symbol, the full name of UNESCO, a vertical dotted line, the emblem of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme and the name of the individual UNESCO Global Geopark.

The logo will be prepared by the UNESCO Secretariat upon request after the official designation in the 6 official languages of UNESCO (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese), and/or in a national language. It can only be used after the official written authorization from UNESCO. The logo must not be used for commercial purposes. The sale of goods and services for profit is considered as commercial use, in that case, the Geopark can use the own Geopark logo as shown in the example of Geopark products in Figs. 26.1, 2, 3, 4.



Fig.26.5 - Example of the combined logo Famenne – Ardenne UGGp (Belgium) in English, French and Dutch

### UGGp Entrance:

The UGGp entrance is usually located along different access roads into the UGGp. It aims to inform travellers that they are entering the UGGp from this point on. These UGGp entrance ways are often identified by the presence of large advertising panels, big rock signage, signposts, etc.





Fig.26.6 - Entrance panel before designation, Rio Coco aUGGp, Nicaragua



Fig. 26.7 - Entrance road panel after designation, Leiqiong UGGp, China



Fig. 26.8 - Entrance panel after designation, Muroto UGGp, Japan



Fig. 26.9 - Entrance panel after designation, Luberon UGGp, France





Fig. 26.10 - Entrance gate after designation, Papuk UGGp, Croatia



Fig. 26.11 - Entrance gate before designation, Rinjani-Lombok UGGp, Indonesia

### Advertising Road Signs:

These signs are generally placed inside the UGGp, along main roads and are often placed on large advertising panels. These signs are also necessary along the main roads (highways) leading to the UGGp.



Fig. 26.12 - Road panel after designation, Araripe UGGp, Brazil



Fig. 26.13 - Road panel during application period, before designation, Estrela UGGp, Portugal



Fig. 26.14 - Geopark land-mark before designation, (World heritage logo + Geopark logo) Ngorongoro-Lengai UGGp, Tanzania



Fig.26.15 - Road panel, Toya Usu UGGp, Japan

### Direction Signs/Orientation signs/Indicators:

On the roads leading from the main access into the UGGp direction, signs should be put up in order to orient visitors and tour operators from the main road to specific sites. All orientation panels need to carry the aUGGp logo/branding. Make sure that they are in a safe place where visitors can stop and not hindering traffic.



Fig. 26.16 - Directional panel, after designation, Dong Van UGGp, Vietnam



Fig. 26.18 - Directional panel, Katla UGGp, Iceland



Fig. 26.17 - Directional panel, English Riviera UGGp, UK



Fig. 26.19 - Directional panel, Sobrarbe UGGp, Spain

### Parking Signs:

For visitor security, safe areas need to be created to be used as parking and/or observation points. Parking signs are therefore required which again need to carry the aUGGp logo/branding.





Fig. 26.20 - Parking area, North West Highlands UGGp, UK



Fig. 26.21 - Advertising and parking panel, Cao Bang UGGp, Vietnam

### Information/Interpretation Panels:

To explain a site of interest, interpretation panels are usually placed in their vicinity. Such panels need to provide easily understandable information and carry the aUGGp logo/branding.



Fig. 26.22 - Information panel, Satun UGGp, Thailand



Fig. 26.23 - Information panel after designation, Terra.vita UGGp, Germany



Fig. 26.24 - Information panel after designation, Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGGp, Ireland



Fig. 26.25 - Information panel after designation, Zhijidong UGGp, China



Fig. 26.26 - Information panel, Cliff of Fundy aUGGp, Canada



Fig. 26.27 - Information panel, Imbabura UGGp, Ecuador

*Aspiring UGGp Products:*

Aspiring aUGGps need to promote local products using clear criteria and formal partnerships. Partner aUGGp products need to be identifiable via its branding and the aUGGp logo. (Sales products can only use the Geoparks logo, not the UGGp combined logo.)



Fig. 26.28 - Sales product: Local rice wine, Izu Peninsula UGGp, Japan (Geopark logo)



Fig. 26.29 - Tea Product from Muroto UGGp, Japan (Geopark logo)



Fig. 26.30 - Sales products from Katla UGGp, Iceland (Geopark logo)





Fig. 26.31 - Ammonite cookie from Swabian Alb UGGp, Germany (Geopark logo)



Fig. 26.32 - Sales product: cookies Langkawi UGGp, Malaysia (Geopark logo)

### Communication Tools:

In addition to the physical tools discussed above, aUGGp visibility needs to include communication tools such as a website, leaflets, site maps and publications, etc.

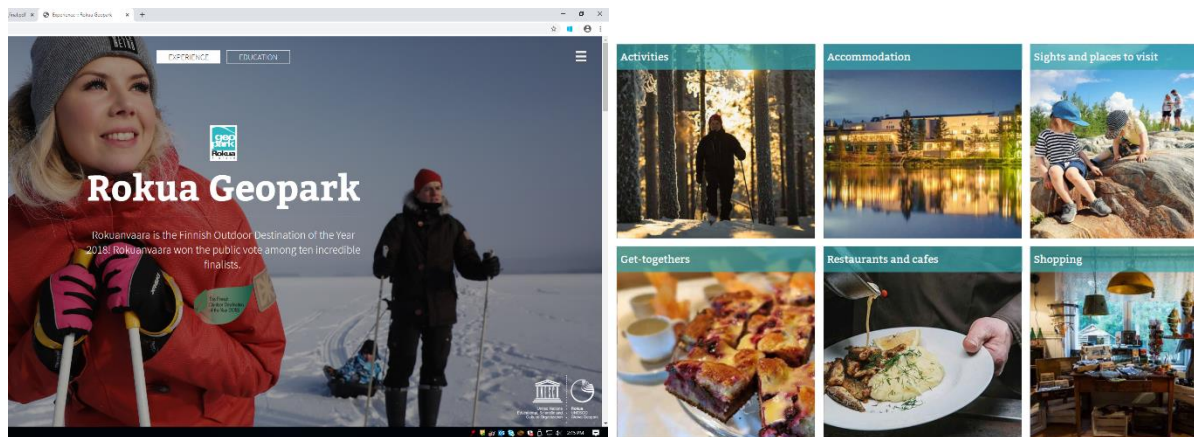


Fig. 26.33 - Website after designation Rokua UGGp, Finland

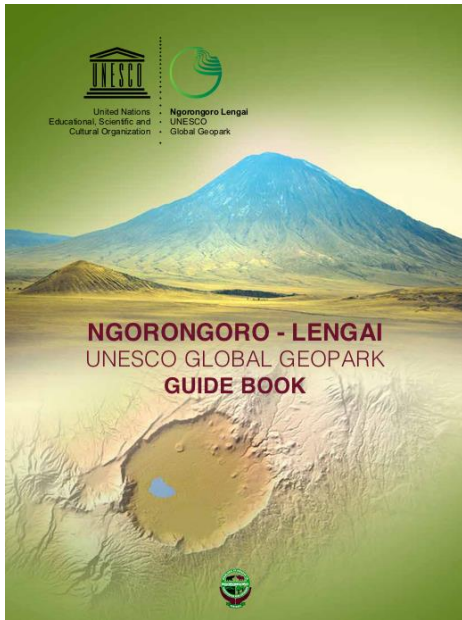


Fig. 26.34 - Ngorongoro – Lengai UGGp guide book, Tanzania, after designation

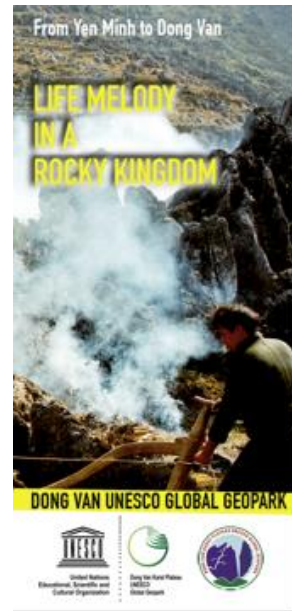


Fig. 26.35 - Route leaflets after designation, Dong Van UGGp, Vietnam



Fig. 26.36 - Promotional leaflet after designation, Itoigawa UGGp, Japan



Fig. 26.37 - Route leaflets after designation, Dong Van UGGp, Vietnam

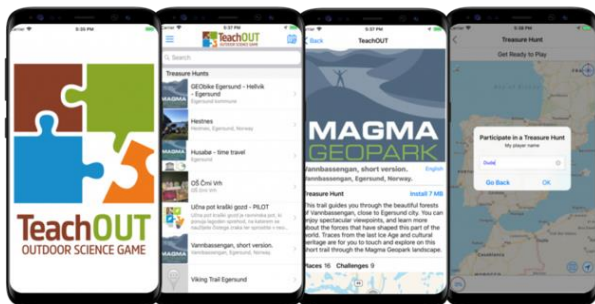


Fig. 26.38 - Geopark app, Magma UGGp, Norway

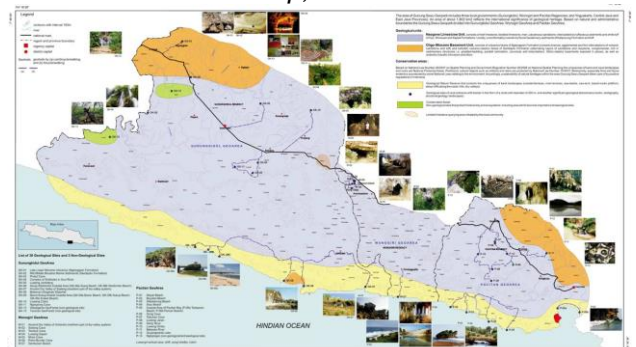


Fig. 26.39 - Geopark map, Gunung Sewu UGGp, Indonesia



Q30 - Do you have an exhibition room or a museum presenting your aUGGp?

Aspiring UGGps should provide visitors and the general public with comprehensive information relating to the aUGGp (e.g., its territory, mission, sites, heritages, products), explaining the variety of potential visits to the points of interest of the area as well as activities, and showing the attractiveness of the area for visit potential. The aUGGp museum (or exhibition room) should be a story-teller for the territory (telling the stories of the past, present and future of the aUGGp and interconnecting its geological, natural and cultural heritage). The examples below demonstrate how established UGGps provide this information while targeting different audience and public.

*UGGp Museum:*

In many cases, this is a specific building, which can be focused on the specificities of the location presenting comprehensive information on the aUGGp.



Fig. 30.1 - Museum, Qeshm UGGp, Iran



Fig. 30.2 - Museum, Leye Fangshan UGGp, China

*Museum Partner:*

This can be either a new or pre-existing partner or a facility within a aUGGp territory focusing on a specific thematic. A formal partnership must be established with such a partner, the aUGGp should set up a permanent exhibit with this partner or facility.



Fig. 30.3 - Gassendi Museum, partner of Haute Provence UGGp, France



Fig. 30.4 - Lamminahon talo Museum, partner of Rokua UGGp, Finland

*Information Centre:*

Frequently, aUGGps establish a designated information centre to provide comprehensive information on the aUGGp to visitors and the general public. The centre and its facilities are generally of limited size and investment and act as an information focal point for visitors allowing them not only to acquire a whole range of information on the UGGp but also to benefit from direct contact with the aUGGp team.



Fig. 30.6 - Info centre Cilethu-Palabuhanratu UGGp, Indonesia



Fig. 30.7 - Info centre, Mount Apei UGGp, Japan

Q31 - Is the presentation text displayed in your information centre or museum, etc. available in English?

Q33 - Is your website available in English?

Q35 - Do you have leaflets, publications, etc. presenting your aUGGp in English?

UGGps are an international designation open to international visitors. As such, aUGGps should provide English translation for visitors and the general public in their Information Centres and Museums. There is also a need to provide translation in other relevant international or local languages, which can be determined by the aUGGp management body. The requirement for English translation also extends to other forms of communication such as the aUGGp website, maps, essential leaflets and key publications.

Q38 - Do you have formal partnerships with local stakeholders (restaurants, hotels, tour operators, etc.)?

To be able to provide sustainable development in a territory an aUGGp needs to establish multiple partnerships with local stakeholders such as hotels, restaurants, guest houses, outdoor activities, tour operators, guides, museums schools and universities, local communities and regions, protected areas authorities, NGOs and other relevant institutions. These partnerships need to be formalised through a standard signed agreement, which clearly defines the partnership criteria and commitments between the partner and the aUGGp. *As indicated in Question 26, all partnerships need to be visible and promoted within the aUGGp.*

#### *Partnership Panels:*

Aspiring UGGps need to develop formal partnerships with their stakeholders, like hotels, restaurants, guest houses, outdoor activities, tour operators, guides, museums, etc., outlining clear partnership criteria and common commitments. If applicable, these partnerships should be promoted on the internet and physically by using "partner plaques" which are often placed in the entrance of a partner's premises (for example A4 or A3 size plaques) and carry the aUGGp logo/branding.





Fig. 38.1: Partner plaque, before or after designation, Famenne Ardenne UGGp, Belgium (Geopark logo)

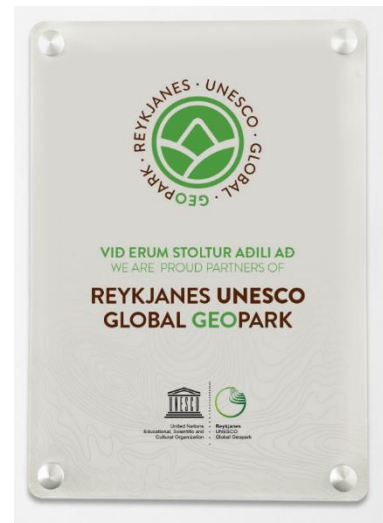


Fig. 38.2 - Partner plaque, after designation, Reykjanes UGGp, Iceland (UGGp combined logo)



Fig. 38.3 - Partner plaque, Hondsrug UGGp before and after designation, Netherlands

Q48 - Do you promote these relevant sites of natural heritage within your aUGGp

Aspiring UGGps must promote their natural heritage sites connecting them to the biotic natural heritage, by, for example, organizing joint events, and information, communication, and education activities.

Q54 - Does your aUGGp have intangible heritage?

**Intangible heritage definition** (Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003): Practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

It is manifested inter alia in the following domains:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Performing arts;
- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe including stories on natural hazards;
- Traditional craftsmanship;
- Local architectural techniques.

Q57 - Is your aUGGp involved in climate change and natural hazards adaptation and mitigation-related activities?

Climate change and questions around natural hazards should be a high priority for all aUGGps. The geological record shows the consequences of the past climate change on the development of our environment and biodiversity, as well as evidence for natural hazards. An aUGGp, therefore, can undertake educational activities related to both thematics, organize exhibitions, seminars, as well as work jointly with schools and educators.

*Climate Change:*

Aspiring UGGps have to play a vital role in promoting sites, which have been affected historically by climate changes and in explaining them to their visitors and the broad public. In areas where the local geology does not allow for this kind of geological interpretation, an aUGGp can still assume an active role by developing more general awareness and educational programmes related to climate change and environmental best practice. Like all areas of the world, aUGGps have to deal with environmental issues whilst also looking for green energy solutions, waste reduction schemes and carbon-neutral activities. They could, for example, organise awareness days, collect and recycle plastic waste, etc..



Fig. 57.1 - Picking up trash day in Hong Kong UGGp, China



Fig. 57.2 - Beach cleaning, Katla UGGp, Iceland



Fig. 57.3 a) - Exhibition and activities using geological record to understand the consequences of climate change, Lesvos UGGp, Greece



*Natural Hazards :*

The aUGGp should take on the responsibility to initiate the development of research, surveys, monitoring and mitigation of natural hazards (landslides, earthquake, floods, volcanic risk, tsunamis, etc.) within its territory. Where relevant, this should be done in partnership with national or regional specialised agencies and be used in the aUGGp's visitor experience activities, educational programs, through specific publications and other media.



Fig. 57.4 - On-site museum protecting houses damaged by last volcanic eruption- Unzen UGGp, Japan



Fig. 57.5 - Volcanic risk education, Toya Uzu UGGp, Japan



Fig. 57.6 - Earthquake educative table, Lesvos UGGp, Greece



Fig. 57.7 - UGGp activity connected with natural hazards, Azores UGGp, Portugal



Q60 - Do you promote awareness/action for the sustainable use of aUGGp natural resources?

Sustainable development of a territory must include the sustainable use of natural resources. Aspiring UGGps need to promote awareness, action and/or educational programmes. For example, special attention should be given to the use of territorial water resources by establishing action and educational programmes to provide adapted initiatives on water management and use in each territory. Aspiring UGGps can also be innovative models for sustainable use of other natural resources.

Q63 - Are the local population and local leaders represented on the management body?

Aspiring UGGps should be established using a bottom-up approach, closely involving the local and indigenous population and their leaders. Policies concerning the future development of a territory, as well as territorial facilities, cannot be achieved and will not be sustainable without the participation and agreement of local authorities and key stakeholders.

It is essential that within the aUGGp decision-making processes of the management body, local leaders are represented (mayors, chiefs of the tribe or community, or elders, etc.) to participate in decision making regarding the development strategies of the aUGGp. The local and indigenous population (associations, interest groups) also need to be represented within the management body and should be able to participate in aUGGp decision making.

Q64 - Does your aUGGp have a permanent and professional working team?

An aspiring UGGp cannot achieve its mission and purpose without a unified permanent and professional team dedicated to its activities. The aUGGp team can be directly employed by the management body or the team can be constituted from individuals from different institutions or departments with a percentage of working time dedicated to the aUGGp. In the latter case, a formal partnership agreement should exist specifying the number of staff concerned, names, areas of specialization as well as the percentage of time dedicated to working for the aUGGp.

All aUGGp teams should have well-defined roles and responsibilities with professional skills that can be adapted to the needs of the aUGGp. Adequate training should be provided to ensure professional management and operations. Specific UGGp training is highly recommended through the UNESCO intensive course, UGGp workshops and the UGGp mentorship and knowledge exchange programmes.

Q65 - Does your team include a geoscientist working within your aUGGp on a daily basis?

Geoheritage of international geological value is the core of an aUGGp. It is therefore important that at least one geoscientist is included in its staff, available on a daily basis, in support of the management and interpretation of geological sites and related activities.

Q68 - Do you have an aUGGp management plan or a main general concept for it?

For management bodies to be properly equipped, all aUGGps need to have a vision document, setting out their strategy and main concept for future development.

Management plans take time to develop and establish and need to be realistic and achievable. Therefore, a fully elaborated management plan will be checked in detail during the first revalidation of a UGGp.



A management plan can, for example, follow the formal structure of the candidate dossier or UGGp progress reports in order to provide a clear outline for actions and planned targets in a clear structured manner for at least a period of four years. In that sense, the management plans could include:

- Geopark personnel and capacity building
- Geoconservation strategy including protective and conservation measures and activities
- Heritage interpretation infrastructure, tools and publications
- Geoeducation strategy including partners, educational programmes and tools
- Geotourism<sup>4</sup> strategy including services and activities
- Sustainable local development, partners and activities<sup>5</sup>
- Geopark promotional activities and tools
- Networking and Partnerships

Q70 - Have other UNESCO designated sites been informed about the aUGGp existence and does it positively support the development and concept of your aUGGp?

An aUGGp needs to be mindful that it is part of the UNESCO designated sites (World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, UGGps) and therefore should have policies and mechanisms in place to work collaboratively with any other of the UNESCO designated site present within its territory.

Q71 - Have you clearly examined the complementarity of your aUGGp with this other UNESCO designated site?

If a UNESCO designated site exists within an aUGGp territory, the aUGGp should meet the management team of this site before applying for candidature, to explain how their project will operate and reflect jointly on how the aUGGp will provide complementary activities with the other designated site. In such cases, a letter of support should be provided by the other UNESCO designated site(s) to acknowledge general support for the aUGGp candidature.

Q75 - Do you have a formal partnership agreement with the other designated site(s)?

Cooperation and partnerships between different UNESCO designated sites within the same territory should be subject to a formal partnership/cooperation agreement. Formal agreements define and clarify the different territorial responsibilities between the UNESCO designated sites and will establish the common commitments between them like shared training, collective actions, partnered activities, etc..

Q91 - Networking

Networking among UGGps and with the GGN community helps exchange good practice and joint programmes and projects, among others. By visiting other UGGps one can see not only how a UGGp is operating but also what type of networks exist, with their different partnerships.

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<sup>4</sup>Arouca Declaration on Geotourism :

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/Geopark\\_Arouca\\_Declaration\\_EGN\\_2012.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/Geopark_Arouca_Declaration_EGN_2012.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> (accompanied by a co-management plan, setting out the partnership with local and indigenous communities where relevant)

*(Please note the difference to UGGp partners located within the UGGp territory, dealt with under question 38. These partners are part of the UGGp stakeholder group.)*

Q98 - Is selling of geological material occurring inside your aUGGp infrastructure or in an aUGGp partner infrastructure?

UGGp guidelines (vii) clearly define the UGGp responsibilities concerning the selling of geological material. Therefore, the aUGGp cannot support, promote or sell geological material in any of its facilities like Museums, Info Centres and shops. This also extends to aUGGp partner premises and buildings.

An aUGGp should be used as leverage for promoting the protection of geological heritage locally and nationally. The management body must not 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 aUGGp (regardless of their origin) and should actively discourage unsustainable trade in geological materials as a whole. 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 aUGGp. 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 aUGGp in relation to local circumstances. Such circumstances will be subject to approval by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council on a case-by-case basis and should be clearly indicated in the application file.

<b>Abbreviations</b>	
aUGGp(s)	Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark(s)
UGGp(s)	UNESCO Global Geopark(s)