

UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Their bottom-up approach of combining conservation with sustainable development while involving local communities is becoming increasingly popular. At present, there are 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 35 countries.

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN), is a non-profit and a non-governmental organisation, officially established in 2014 subject to French legislation. The Global Geoparks Network is official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The GGN was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership developed under the umbrella of UNESCO and serves to develop models of best practice and set quality-standards for territories that integrate the protection preservation of Earth heritage sites in a strategy for regional sustainable economic development.

Networking and collaboration among Global Geoparks is an important component of the Global Geoparks Network. The Global Geoparks Network promotes networking on a regional basis.

For Global Geoparks in Asia – Pacific the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) acts as the Regional Network of the GGN. For Global Geoparks in Europe, the European Geoparks Network (EGN) acts as the Regional Network of the GGN.

For Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean, the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network acts as the as the Regional Network of the GGN.

The GGN prioritises the creation of similar Regional Networks, reflecting local conditions, elsewhere in the world.

The objectives of the Global Geoparks Network are:

- (i) to promote the equitable geographical establishment, development and professional management of Global Geoparks,
- (ii) to advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, function and role of Global Geoparks;
- (iii) to assist local communities to value their natural and cultural heritage;
- (iv) to preserve Earth heritage for present and future generations;
- (v) to educate and teach the broad public about issues in geosciences and their relation with environmental matters and natural hazards.
- (vi) to ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development based on the natural (or geological) system to foster multi-cultural links between heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity, using participatory schemes of partnership and management;
- (viii) to stimulate research when appropriate;
- (ix) to promote joint initiatives between Global Geoparks (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, twinning).

The Global Geoparks Network establishes ethical standards which must be adopted and respected by Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals.

The Global Geoparks Network organises co-operation and mutual assistance between Global Geoparks and between Global Geopark professionals.

The Global Geoparks Network initiates and co-ordinates thematic Working Groups which will foster international co-operation in a variety of issues related with Geopark operation and activities.

The Global Geoparks Network represents, advances, and disseminates knowledge in Geodiversity management and other disciplines related to studies in Geo-conservation, Geo-tourism, Geo-education and/or the management and activities of Global Geoparks.



Poster designed by the Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark / Christos Paraskevaidis
© Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark.
Globes prepared by the Applied Geomorphology Laboratory, University of the Aegean, Greece.



Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark, France



Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece



Shilin stone Forest UNESCO Global Geopark, China

UNESCO Global Geoparks



Celebrating Earth Heritage Sustaining Local Communities

2017/2018

Global Geoparks Network



UNESCO Global Geoparks

Global Geoparks Network

Top 15 Focus Areas



Biodiversity

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas where the analysis of specific interactions between the lithosphere and biosphere provides an integrated concept of the role of the geological environment in the evolution of the biosphere. Geopark activities and projects are important in order to raise awareness on the relationship between the geological environment and modern ecosystems and their rational management under an holistic concept.



Culture

In many countries emblematic geosites are considered as sacred places. Since ancient times, sacred sites have had a mysterious allure for billions of people around the world. Legends and contemporary reports tell of extraordinary experiences people have had while visiting these places. Different sacred sites have the power to heal the body, enlighten the mind and inspire the heart. People built in such places temples and monasteries. UNESCO Global Geoparks host some important sacred places emphasizing the connection between specific landscapes and land-forms with mythology, archaeology and history . UNESCO Global Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are: it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore and folk traditions. UNESCO Global Geoparks therefore engage in a range of activities to celebrate these links.

Research

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. Thus Geoparks are interesting to implement results of scientific research in the field of geo-conservation , tourism and sustainable local development. UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to work with academic and research institutions to engage in active scientific research in the Earth Sciences, and other disciplines as appropriate, to advance our knowledge about the Earth and its processes. A UNESCO Global Geopark is an active laboratory where people can become engaged in science from the highest academic research level to the level of the curious visitor.

GEOCONSERVATION

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas that use the concept of sustainability, value the heritage of Mother Earth and recognize the need to protect it. The defining geological sites in UNESCO Global Geoparks are protected by indigenous, local, regional and/or national law and management authorities, in cooperation with the appropriate agencies, which allow for the necessary monitoring and maintenance of these sites. A UNESCO Global Geopark develops, experiments and enhances methods for preserving the geological heritage. The Global Geoparks Network is developing partnerships among UNESCO Global Geoparks for sharing best practice and know-how on the protection, conservation and rational management of the geological heritage sites.

CLIMATE CHANGE

UNESCO Global Geoparks hold records of past climate change and are educators on current climate change as well as adopting a best practice approach to utilising renewable energy and employing the best standards of "green tourism." UNESCO Global Geoparks serve as outdoor museums on the effects of past and current climate change thus giving the opportunity to show visitors how climate change can affect our environment, and raise awareness on the potential impact of climate change on the region, and provide the local communities with the knowledge to mitigate and adapt to the potential effects of climate change.



Geological Hazards

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Through educational activities for the local people and visitors many UNESCO Global Geoparks give information on the source of geological hazards and ways to reduce their impact including disaster response strategies. These efforts build important capacity and contribute to building more resilient communities that have the knowledge and skills to effectively respond to potential geological hazards. The Global Geoparks Network working group on Geo-hazards coordinate common activities and help prepare disaster mitigation strategies among Geoparks.



Education

UNESCO Global Geoparks develop and operate educational activities for all ages to spread awareness of our geological heritage and its links to other aspects of our natural, cultural and intangible heritages. UNESCO Global Geoparks offer educational programmes for schools or offer special activities for children through " Summer camps", "Kids Clubs" or special "Fossil Fun Activities". UNESCO Global Geoparks also offer education, both formal and informal, for adults and retired people.



Capacity Building

UNESCO Global Geoparks also offer training courses and capacity building activities for local stakeholders and young unemployed people who can then, in turn, support Geopark activities and operation. The Global Geoparks Network in collaboration with UNESCO organizes International Training Courses on Geoparks for Geopark staff and your scientists, supporting the development of Geoparks in many countries especially in Regions with less number of UNESCO Global Geoparks.



Sustainable Tourism

UNESCO Global Geoparks create infrastructure and activities to support visitors access and interpretation of the Geological heritage as well as the development of sustainable tourism activities in the Geopark territory. UNESCO Global Geoparks promote themselves as sustainable tourism destinations offering a diversity of guided field walks and nature tourism activities, authentic experience and local gastronomy. The Global Geoparks Network became gold partner of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2017 to support the celebration of the International Year of sustainable Tourism for development.



Sustainable Development

UNESCO Global Geoparks are engaging with local people and respecting their traditional way of life in a way that empowers them and respects their human rights and dignity. Unless a UNESCO Global Geopark has the support of local people it will not succeed. A UNESCO Global Geopark should have an active role in the economic development of its territory through enhancement of a general image linked to the geological heritage and the development of sustainable tourism. A Geopark has direct impact on the territory by influencing its inhabitants' living conditions and environment. The objective is to enable the inhabitants to re-appropriate the values of the territory's heritage and actively participate in the territory's cultural revitalization as a whole.



Women

UNESCO Global Geoparks have a strong emphasize on empowering women whether through focussed education programmes or through the development of women's cooperatives. In some UNESCO Global Geoparks women's cooperatives also provide an opportunity for women to obtain additional income in their own area and on their own terms.



Local and indigenous Knowledge

UNESCO Global Geoparks actively involve local and indigenous peoples, preserving and celebrating their culture. By involving local and indigenous communities, UNESCO Global Geoparks recognize the importance of these communities, their culture and the link between these communities and their land. It is one of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks that local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems, alongside science, are included in the planning and management of the area.



Networking

Networking is one of the core principles of Geoparks. Networking strongly contributes to the success of the Geoparks movement and plays a valuable role in facilitating the sharing of experience, quality management, formation of joint initiatives and projects and capacity-building. The Global Geopark Network and its Regional Geopark Networks offer a global platform of cooperation and exchange of best practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks.



Monitoring and Evaluation

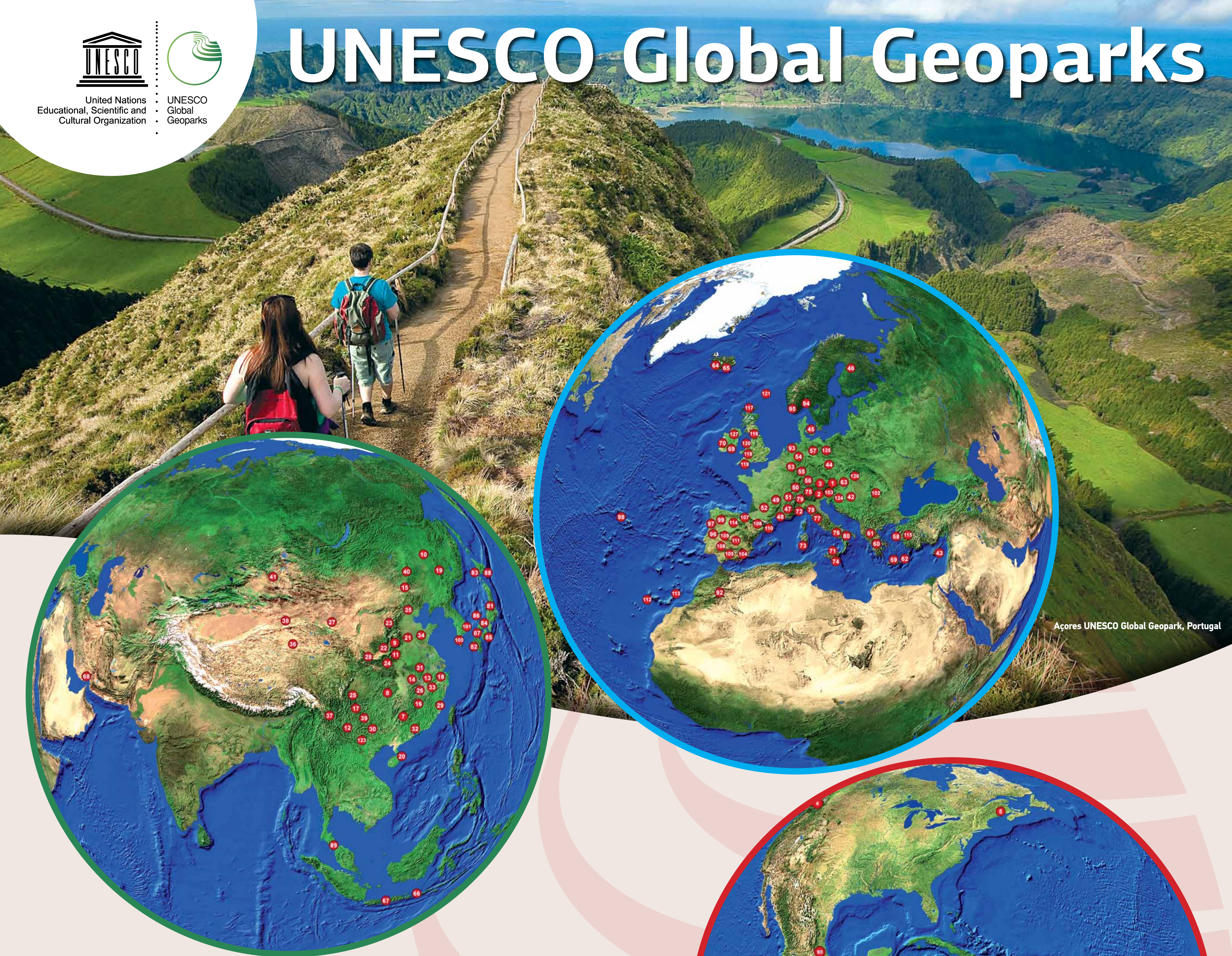
In order to ensure the continuing high quality of UNESCO Global Geoparks, including the quality of the management of each UNESCO Global Geopark, the status of each UNESCO Global Geopark shall be subject to a thorough revalidation every 4 years. The Global Geoparks Network is supporting the Geopark evaluation and revalidation process by providing the experts for the evaluation missions and maintaining the roster of evaluators.



Natural Resources

The history of mankind and civilization is based on the resources exploited from Earth's crust. The development of modern societies is limited by the consequences of depletion of natural resources UNESCO Global Geoparks inform people about the sustainable use and need for natural resources, whether while at the same time promoting respect for the environment and the integrity of the landscape.

UNESCO Global Geoparks



What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disasters-related risks. By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.

List of UNESCO Global Geoparks

Austria* <div><div>1 Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>2 Carnic Alps UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>3 Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	<div><div>34 Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>35 Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>36 Mount Kunlun UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>37 Dali-Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>38 Dunhuang UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>39 Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>40 Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>41 Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	<div><div>60 Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>61 Vikos - Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>62 Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
Brazil <div><div>4 Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Croatia <div><div>42 Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Hungary* <div><div>63 Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
Canada <div><div>5 Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>6 Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Cyprus <div><div>43 Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Iceland <div><div>64 Katla UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>65 Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
China <div><div>7 Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>8 Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>9 Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>10 Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>11 Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>12 Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>13 Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>14 Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>15 Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>16 Taining UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>17 Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>18 Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>19 Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>20 Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>21 Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>22 Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>23 Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>24 Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>25 Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>26 Longhushan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>27 Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>28 Qinling Zhongnanshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>29 Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>30 Leye Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>31 Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>32 Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>33 Sanqingshan UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Czechia <div><div>44 Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>45 Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Indonesia <div><div>66 Batur UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>67 Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Malaysia <div><div>87 Aso UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>88 Mt. Apo UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		
	Denmark <div><div>46 Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Iran (Islamic Republic of) <div><div>68 Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Malaysia <div><div>89 Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		
	Finland <div><div>47 Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>48 Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>49 Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>50 Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>51 Monts d'Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>52 Causse du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Ireland* <div><div>69 Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>70 Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Mexico <div><div>90 Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>91 Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		
	France <div><div>49 Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>50 Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>51 Monts d'Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>52 Causse du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Italy <div><div>71 Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>72 Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>73 Parco Geominerario della Sardegna UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>74 Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>75 Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>76 Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>77 Tuscan Mining Park UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>78 Alpi Apuani UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>79 Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>80 Pollino UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Morocco <div><div>92 M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		
	Germany* <div><div>53 Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>54 TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>55 Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>56 Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>57 Harz, Braunschweiger Land UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Japan <div><div>81 Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>82 Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>83 Toya - Usu UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>84 San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>85 Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>86 Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	Netherlands <div><div>93 De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		
	Greece <div><div>58 Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>59 Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		Norway <div><div>94 Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>95 Magma UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		
		Poland* <div><div>96 Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
		Portugal <div><div>97 Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>98 Açores UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>99 Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
		Republic of Korea <div><div>100 Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>101 Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
		Romania <div><div>102 Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
		Slovakia* <div><div>103 Idríja UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>			
			Slovenia* <div><div>103 Idríja UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>		
				Spain <div><div>104 Cabo de Gata-Níjar UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>105 Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>106 Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>107 Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>108 Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>109 Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>110 Central Catalonia UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>111 Molina & Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>112 El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>113 Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>114 Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	<div><div>118 Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>119 English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>120 GeoMôn UNESCO Global Geopark</div><div>121 Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>
				Uruguay <div><div>122 Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	
				Viet Nam <div><div>123 Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	
				* List of transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks	
				Austria & Slovenia <div><div>124 Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	
				Germany & Poland <div><div>125 Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	
				Hungary & Slovakia <div><div>126 Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	
				Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <div><div>127 Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark</div></div>	