

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.

At present, there are 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries.

All the UNESCO Global Geoparks are institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO's work with Geoparks began in 2001, when a collaboration agreement was signed between UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences and the European Geoparks Network.

In 2004, 17 European and 8 Chinese geoparks came together at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to form the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) where national geological heritage initiatives contribute to and benefit from their membership of a global network of exchange and cooperation.

On 17 November 2015, the 195 Member States of UNESCO ratified the creation of a new label, the UNESCO Global Geoparks, during the 38th General Conference of the Organisation. This expresses governmental recognition of the importance of managing outstanding geological sites and landscapes in a holistic manner.

UNESCO supports efforts in all countries to establish UNESCO Global Geoparks all around the world, in close collaboration with the Global Geoparks Network.

Global Geoparks Network

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a non-profit and a non-governmental organisation. It was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership developed under the umbrella of UNESCO, and was officially registered as an association in 2014 subjecting to French law. The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Networking and collaboration among Global Geoparks is an important component of the Global Geoparks Network.

The Global Geoparks Network also promotes networking on a regional basis.

The three regional Geoparks networks are in Asia - Pacific, Europe and Latin America and Caribbean.

The objectives of the Global Geoparks Network are:

- to promote the equitable geographical establishment, development and professional management of Global Geoparks,
- to advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, function and role of Global Geoparks;
- to assist local communities to value their natural and cultural heritage;
- to preserve Earth heritage for present and future generations;
- to educate and teach the broad public about issues in geosciences and their relation with environmental matters and natural hazards;
- to ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development based on the natural (or earth) 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;
- to stimulate research when appropriate;
- 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.

Post produced by the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest / Christos Paraskevaldis based on brochure designed by Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. Globes by the Applied Geomorphology Laboratory / University of the Aegean, Greece. © Global Geoparks Network / Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece. Photos: Global Geoparks Network archive unless otherwise indicated

UNESCO Global Geoparks

Top 16 Focus Areas



Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Geological Heritage Conservation

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, 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.



Katla Geopark UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

Climate Change Awareness

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.



Central Catalunya UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Cultural Heritage Enhancement

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.



Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

Sustainable Tourism

UNESCO Global Geoparks create infrastructure and activities to support visitor's 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 a gold partner of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2017 to support the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for development.



Stonehamner UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada



San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

Biodiversity Protection

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 a holistic concept.



Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

Capacity Building Activities

UNESCO Global Geoparks 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 supporting the development of Geoparks in many countries especially in Regions with not many UNESCO Global Geoparks.



Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador

Employment

UNESCO Global Geoparks are a platform for the development, nurturing and promotion of local cottage industry and craft products. UNESCO Global Geoparks are contributing for the sustainable development of areas hosting significant geological heritage sites through the creation of new enterprises and the employment of young people in their territories.



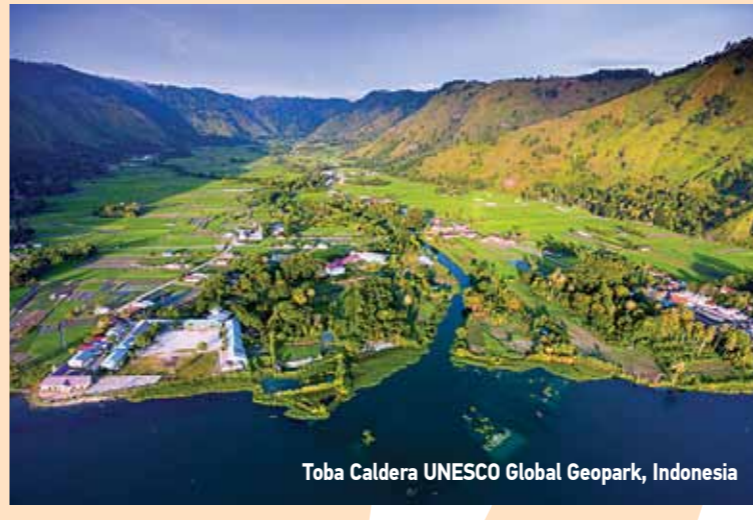
Colaba Yn Aduas UNESCO Global Geopark, Peru

Women Empower

UNESCO Global Geoparks have a strong emphasis on empowering women whether through focused 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.

UNESCO Global Geoparks

2021/2022



Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia



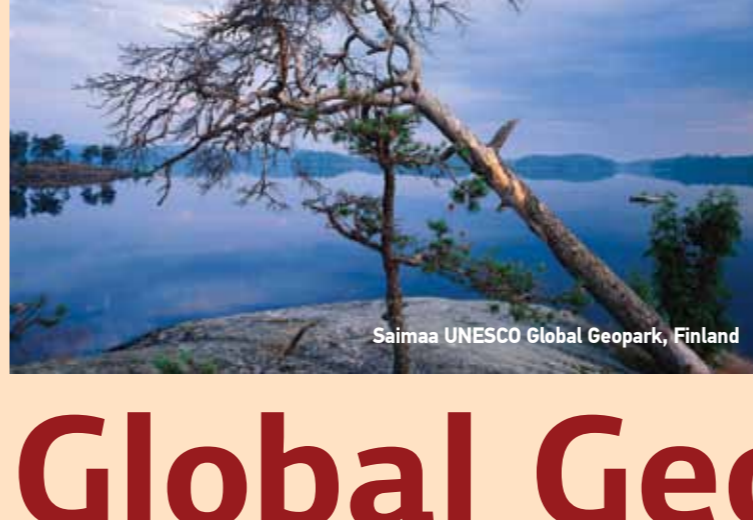
Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark, China



Agroponte UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy



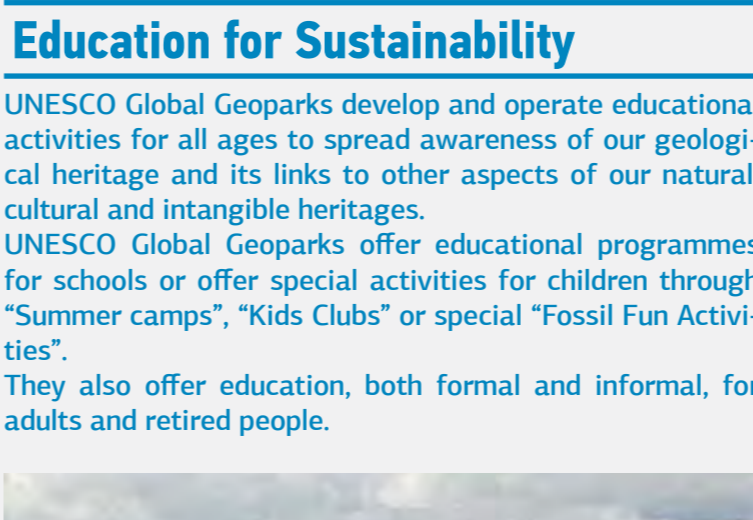
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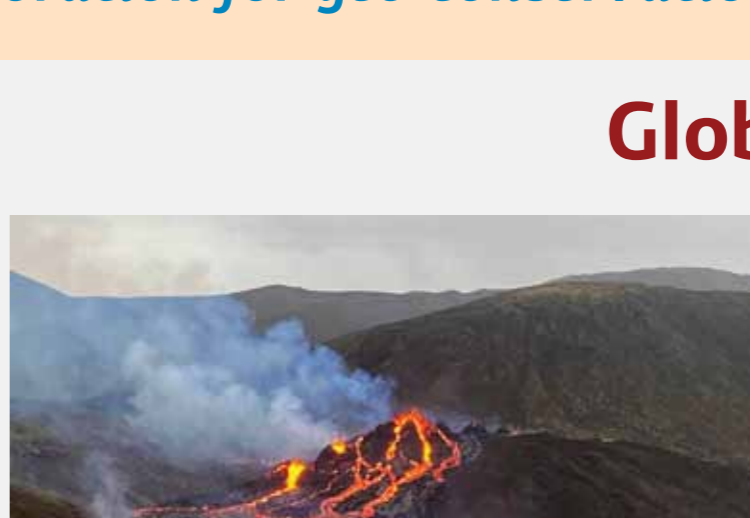
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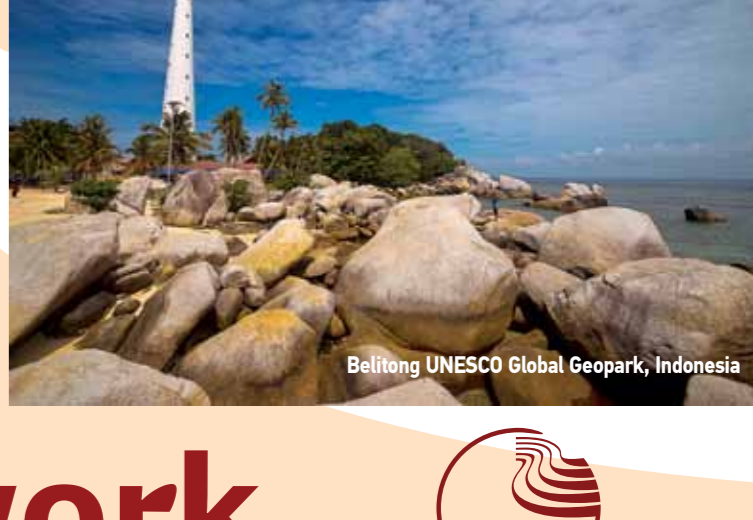
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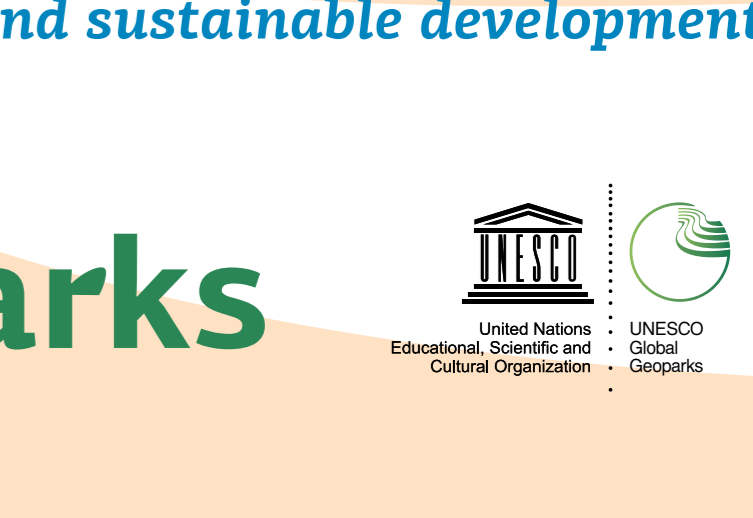
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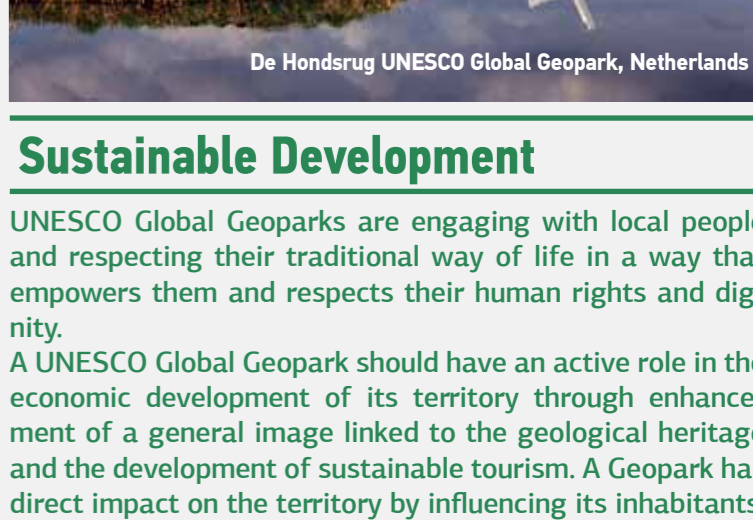
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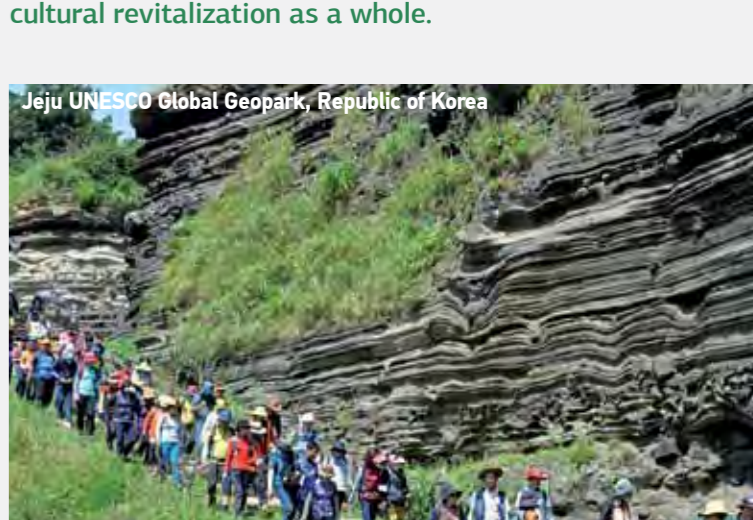
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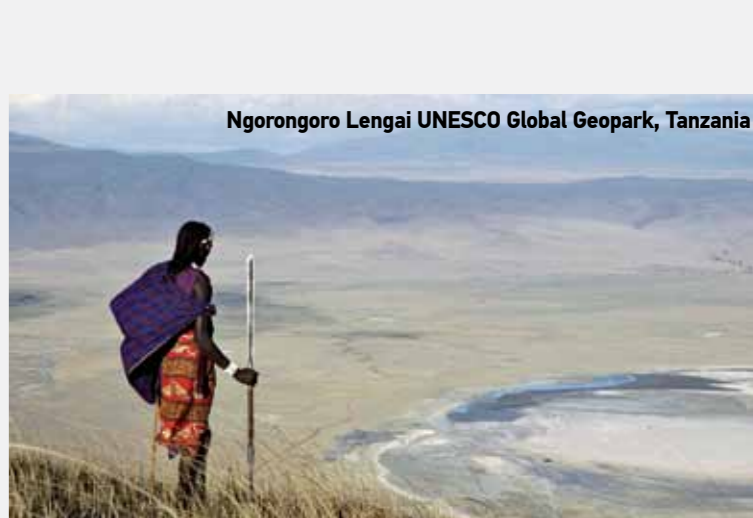
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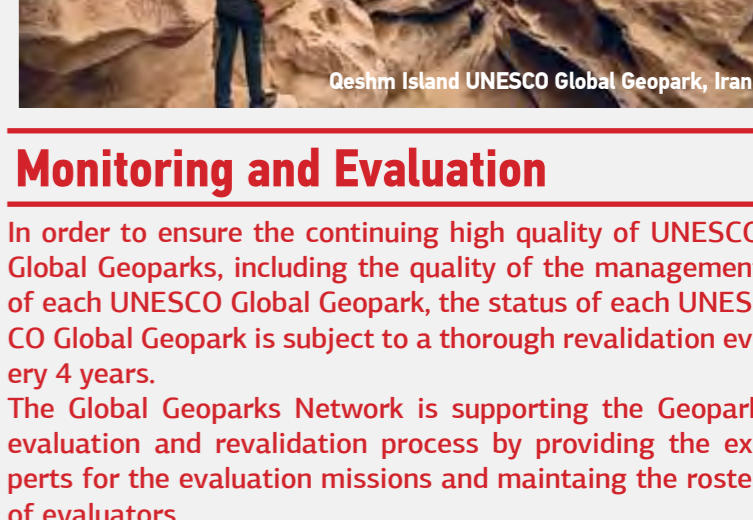
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Global Geoparks Network

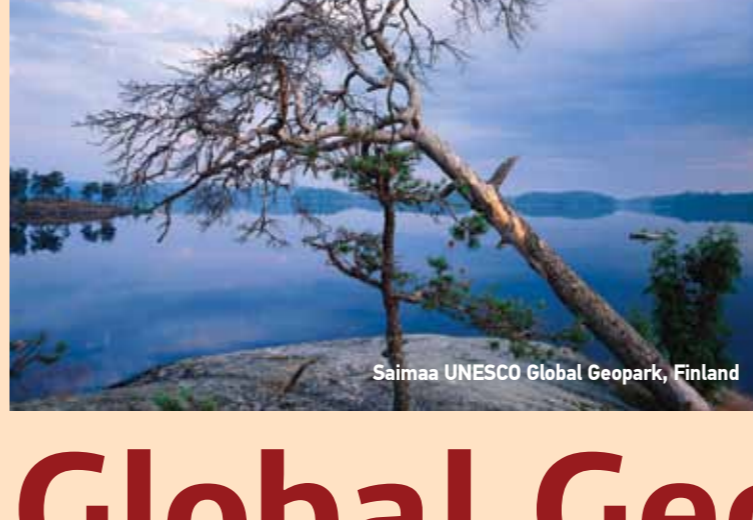
2004-2021 17 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development

UNESCO Global Geoparks

2021/2022



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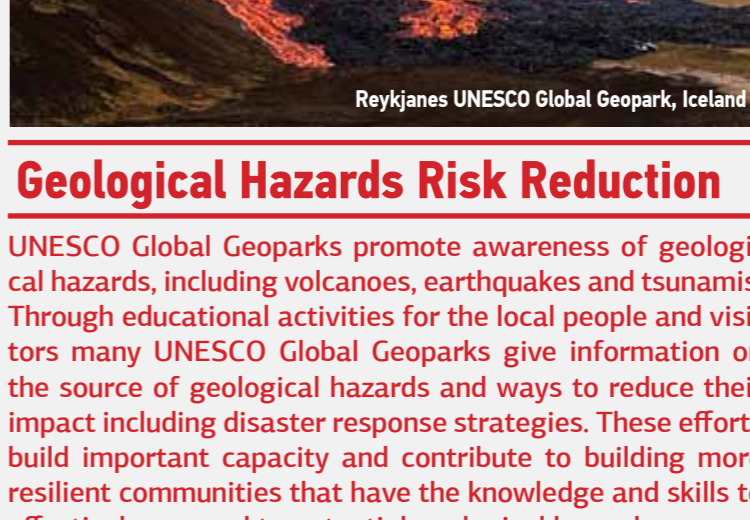
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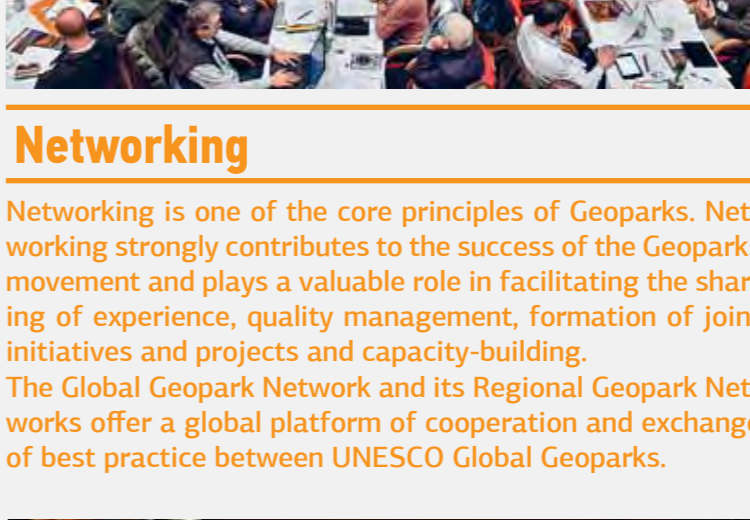
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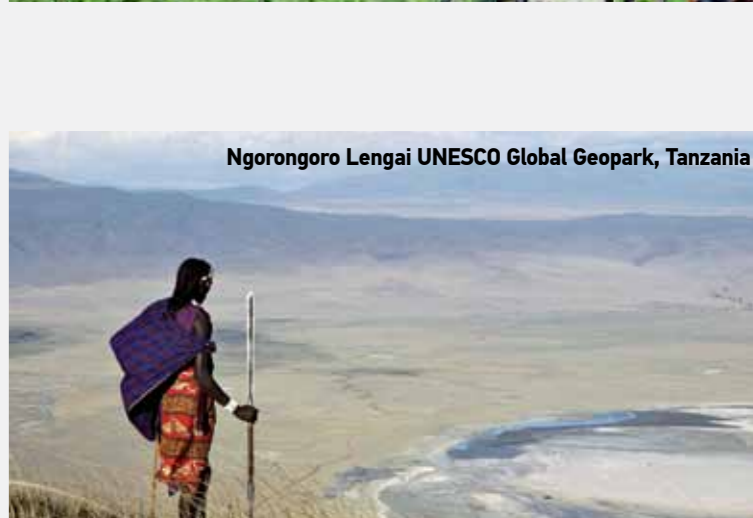
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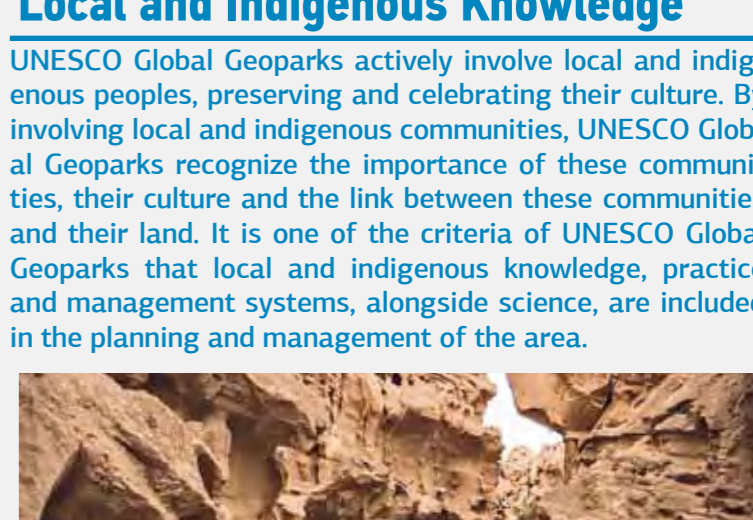
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Global Geoparks Network

2004-2021 17 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development

Global Geoparks Network



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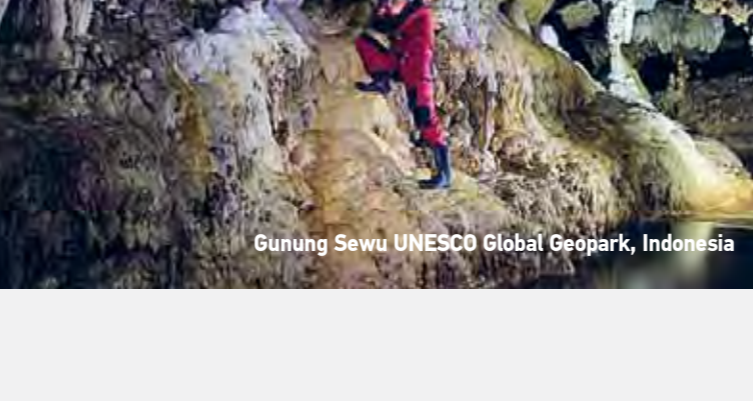
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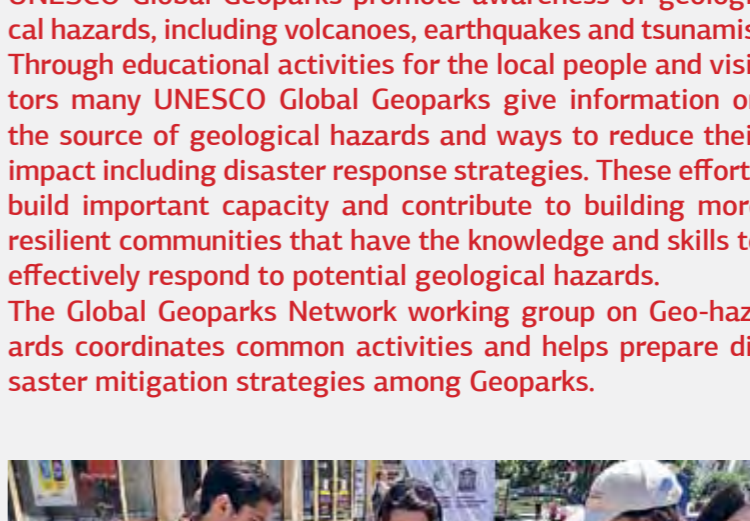
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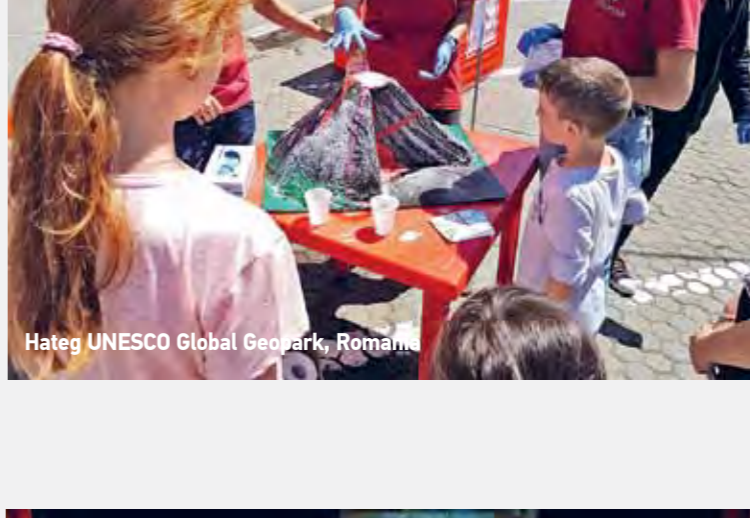
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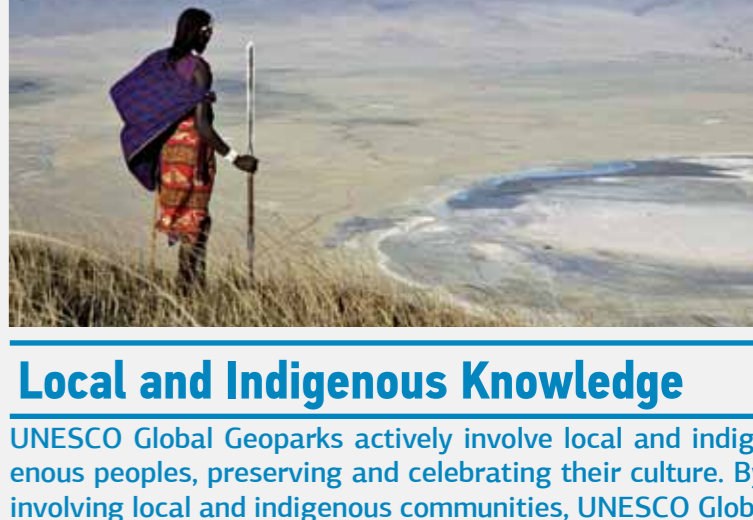
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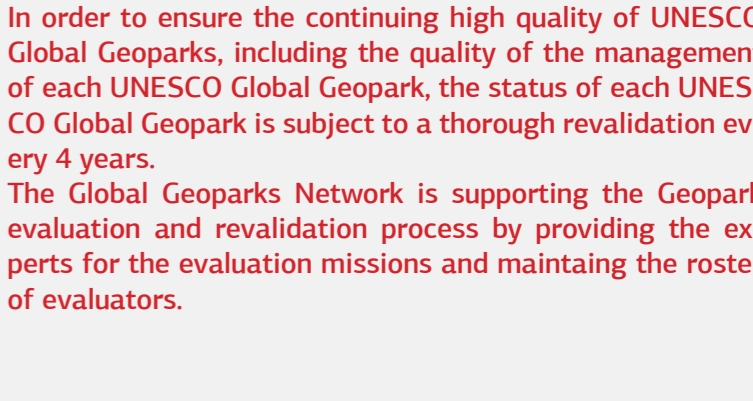
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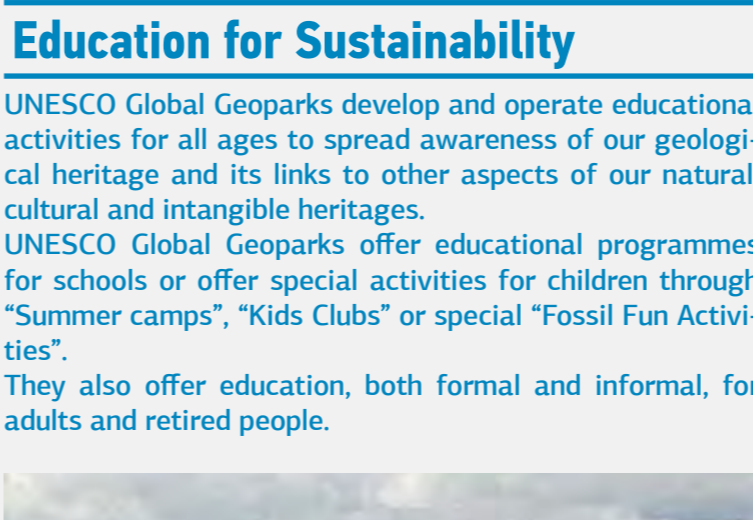
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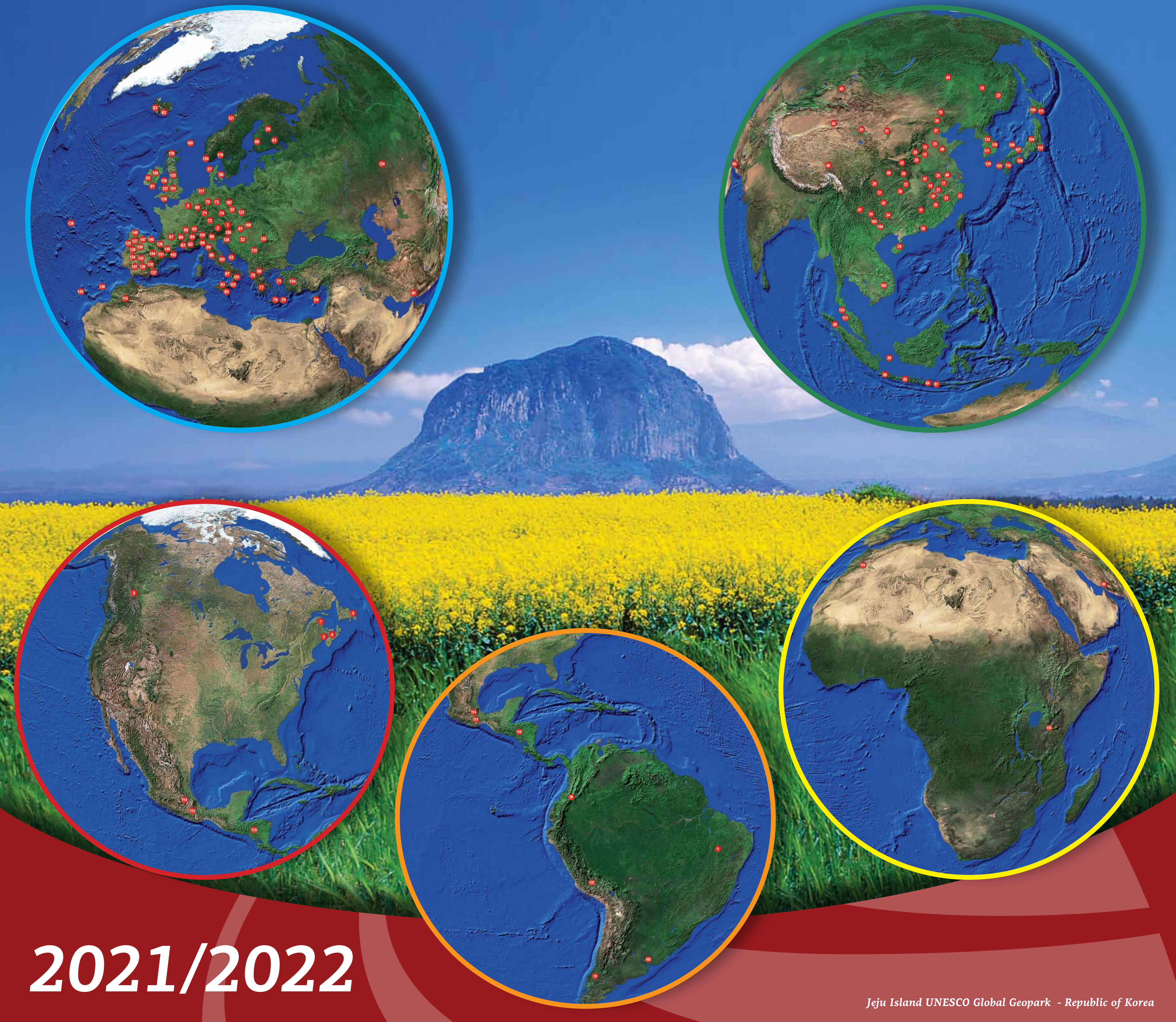


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Beilung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia





Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark - Republic of Korea

Austria *

1. Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark
2. One of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark

Belgium

3. Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark

Brazil

4. Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark

Canada

5. Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
6. Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark
7. Percé UNESCO Global Geopark
8. Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark
9. Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark

Chile

10. Kútralkura UNESCO Global Geopark

China

11. Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark
12. Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark
13. Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark
14. Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark
15. Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark
16. Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark
17. Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
18. Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark
19. Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark
20. Taining UNESCO Global Geopark
21. Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark
22. Yangdangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
23. Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark
24. Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark
25. Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark
26. Wangwushan-Daimaishan UNESCO Global Geopark
27. Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
28. Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark
29. Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark
30. Longhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
31. Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark
32. Qinling Zhongnanshan UNESCO Global Geopark
33. Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark

34. Leye Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark
35. Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark
36. Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark
37. Sanqingshan UNESCO Global Geopark
38. Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark
39. Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark
40. Mount Kunlun UNESCO Global Geopark
41. Dali-Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
42. Dunhuang UNESCO Global Geopark
43. Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark
44. Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark
45. Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark
46. Guangyushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark
47. Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark
48. Jiuhashan UNESCO Global Geopark
49. Yirmengshan UNESCO Global Geopark
50. Xiangqi UNESCO Global Geopark
51. Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark
- Croatia**
52. Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark
53. Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark
- Cyprus**
54. Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark
- Czechia**
55. Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark
- Denmark**
56. Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark
57. Vestsjylland UNESCO Global Geopark
- Ecuador**
58. Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark
- Finland**
59. Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark
60. Lauhanvuori-Hämeenkasas UNESCO Global Geopark
61. Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark
- France**
62. Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark
63. Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark

64. Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark
65. Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark
66. Monts d'Ardeche UNESCO Global Geopark
67. Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark
68. Beaujolais UNESCO Global Geopark

Germany*

69. Vulkanifel UNESCO Global Geopark
70. TERRA. vita UNESCO Global Geopark
71. Bergstraße–Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark
72. Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark
73. Harz, Braunschweiger Land UNESCO Global Geopark
74. Thuringia Inselberg-Drei Gleichen UNESCO Global Geopark

Greece

75. Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark
76. Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark
77. Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark
78. Vikos - Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark
79. Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark
80. Grevena Kozani UNESCO Global Geopark

Hungary*

81. Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark

Iceland

82. Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
83. Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark

Indonesia

84. Batur UNESCO Global Geopark
85. Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark
86. Ciletuh - Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark
87. Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark
88. Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark
89. Belitong UNESCO Global Geopark

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

90. Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark

Ireland*

91. Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
92. Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

Italy

93. Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark
94. Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark

- 95. Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark
- 96. Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark
- 97. Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UNESCO Global Geopark
- 98. Tuscan Mining Park UNESCO Global Geopark
- 99. Alpi Apuani UNESCO Global Geopark
- 100. Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark
- 101. Pollino UNESCO Global Geopark
- 102. Aspromonte UNESCO Global Geopark
- 103. Majella UNESCO Global Geopark
- Japan**
- 104. Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark
- 105. Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark
- 106. Toya - Usu UNESCO Global Geopark
- 107. San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark
- 108. Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark
- 109. Ōki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
- 110. Aso UNESCO Global Geopark
- 111. Mt. Apo UNESCO Global Geopark
- 112. Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark
- Malaysia**
- 113. Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark
- Mexico**
- 114. Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UNESCO Global Geopark
- 115. Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark
- Morocco**
- 116. M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark
- Netherlands**
- 117. De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark
- Nicaragua**
- 118. Rio Coco UNESCO Global Geopark
- Norway**
- 119. Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark
- 120. Magma UNESCO Global Geopark
- 121. Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark
- Peru**
- 122. Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark

Poland ★

123. Holy Cross Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark

Portugal

124. Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional UNESCO Global Geopark

125. Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark

126. Açores UNESCO Global Geopark

127. Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark

128. Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark

Republic of Korea

129. Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark

130. Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark

131. Mudeungsan Area UNESCO Global Geopark

132. Hantangang UNESCO Global Geopark

Romania

133. Hateg Country UNESCO Global Geopark

Russian Federation

134. Yangan-Tau UNESCO Global Geopark

Serbia

135. Djerdap UNESCO Global Geopark

Slovakia ★

Slovenia ★

136. Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark

Spain

137. Cabo de Gata-Níjar UNESCO Global Geopark

138. Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark

139. Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark

140. Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark

141. Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark

142. Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark

143. Central Catalonia UNESCO Global Geopark

144. Molina y Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark

145. El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark

146. Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

147. Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark

148. Origins UNESCO Global Geopark

149. Courel Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark
150. Granada UNESCO Global Geopark
151. Maestrazgo UNESCO Global Geopark
Tanzania
152. Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark
Thailand
153. Satun UNESCO Global Geopark
Turkey
154. Kula –Salihi UNESCO Global Geopark
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
155. North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark
156. North-West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark
157. Florest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark
158. English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark
159. GeoMón UNESCO Global Geopark
160. Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark
161. Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark
Uruguay
162. Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark
Viet Nam
163. Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark
164. Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark
165. Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark

*** List of transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks.**
Austria & Slovenia
166. Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark
Germany & Poland
167. Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark
Hungary & Slovakia
168. Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark
Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
169. Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark

- * List of transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Austria & Slovenia**
 - 166. Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark
- Germany & Poland**
 - 167. Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Muzakowa UNESCO Global Geopark
- Hungary & Slovakia**
 - 168. Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark
- Ireland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
 - 169. Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark



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