

# Global Geoparks Network



\*\*\* Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, Ireland



## What is a Global Geopark?

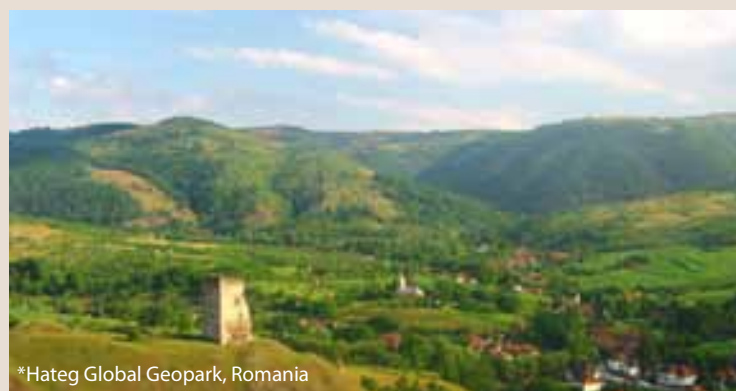
A Global Geopark is a unified area with geological heritage of international significance. Geoparks use that heritage to promote awareness of key issues facing society in the context of the dynamic planet we all live on. Many Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies among local communities. Geoparks hold records of past climate change and are educators on current climate change as well as adopting a best practise approach to utilising renewable energy and employing the best standards of "green tourism." Geoparks also inform about the sustainable use and need for natural resources, whether they are mined, quarried or harnessed from the surrounding environment while at the same time promoting respect for the environment and the integrity of the landscape. Geoparks are not a legislative designation though the key heritage sites within a geopark should be protected under local, regional or national legislation as appropriate.



Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada.

## Where are the Global Geoparks?

As of September 2014, there are 111 Global Geoparks spread across 32 countries. While the Global Geoparks until recently been concentrated in Europe and in China, the last few years have seen the geoparks initiative spread worldwide so that there are existing Global Geoparks, or active applications to become Global Geoparks, on all continents.



\*Hateg Global Geopark, Romania



Dong Van Karst Plateau Global Geopark, Viet Nam

## What is the Global Geoparks Network?

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) is a legally constituted not-for-profit organisation. The GGN is a dynamic network where members are committed to work together and exchange ideas of best practise and join in common projects to raise the quality standards of all products and practises of a Global Geopark. While the GGN as a whole comes together every two years, the GGN functions through the operation of regional networks such as the European Geoparks Network which meets twice a year to develop and promote joint activities.

## Is a Geopark only about geology?

No! While a geopark must demonstrate geological heritage of international significance, the purpose of a geopark is to explore, develop and celebrate the links between that geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural, cultural and intangible heritages. It is about reconnecting human society at all levels to the planet we all call home and to celebrate how our planet and it's 4,600 million year long history has shaped every aspect of our lives and our societies.

- |                       |   |                                      |   |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Austria</b>        | 1 Eisenwurzen                           | 2 Carnic Alps                        | 3 Ore of the Alps                         |
| <b>Brazil</b>         | 4 Araripe                               |                                      |   |
| <b>Canada</b>         | 5 Stonehammer                           | 6 Tumbler Ridge                      |   |
| <b>China</b>          | 7 Danxiashan                            | 8 Huangshan                          | 9 Lushan                                  |
|                       | 10 Shilin                               | 11 Songshan                          | 12 Wudalianchi                            |
|                       | 13 Yuntaishan                           | 14 Zhangjiajie                       | 15 Hexigten                               |
|                       | 16 Taining                              | 17 Xingwen                           | 18 Yandangshan                            |
|                       | 19 Fangshan                             | 20 Funiushan                         | 21 Jingpo                                 |
|                       | 22 Leiqiong                             | 23 Taishan                           | 24 Wangwushan-Daimeshan                   |
|                       | 25 Longhushan                           | 26 Zigong                            | 27 Alxa Desert                            |
|                       | 28 Qinling-Zhongnashan                  | 29 Ningde                            | 30 Leye Fengshan                          |
|                       | 31 Hong Kong                            | 32 Tianzhusan                        | 33 Sanqingshan                            |
|                       | 34 Shennongjia                          | 35 Yanqing                           | 36 Mount Kunlun                           |
|                       | 37 Dali-Cangshan                        |                                      |   |
| <b>Croatia</b>        | 38 Papuk                                |                                      |   |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | 39 Bohemian Paradise                    |                                      |   |
| <b>Denmark</b>        | 40 Odsherred                            |                                      |   |
| <b>Finland</b>        | 41 Rokua                                |                                      |   |
| <b>France</b>         | 42 Réserve Géologique de Haute-Provence | 43 Parc naturel régional du Lubéron  | 44 Massif des Bauges                      |
|                       | 45 Chablais                             | 46 Monts d'Ardèche                   |   |
| <b>Germany</b>        | 47 Vulkaneifel                          | 48 Nature- and Geopark TERRA.vita    | 49 Bergstrasse-Odenwald                   |
|                       | 50 Swabian Albs                         | 51 Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen |   |
| <b>Greece</b>         | 52 Petrified Forest of Lesvos           | 53 Psiloritis Natural Park           | 54 Chelmos Vouraikos                      |
|                       | 55 Vikos Aaos                           |                                      |   |
| <b>Hungary</b>        | 56 Bakony-Balaton                       |                                      |   |
| <b>Iceland</b>        | 57 Katla                                |                                      |   |
| <b>Indonesia</b>      | 58 Batur                                |                                      |   |
| <b>Ireland</b>        | 59 Copper Coast                         | 60 Burren and the Cliffs of Moher    |   |
| <b>Italy</b>          | 61 Parco delle Madonie                  | 62 Parco del Beigua                  | 63 Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia |
|                       | 64 Rocca di Cerere                      | 65 Adamello Brenta                   | 66 Cilento e Vallo di Diano National Park |
|                       | 67 Tuscan Mining Park                   | 68 Apuan Alps                        | 69 Sesia - Val Grande                     |
| <b>Japan</b>          | 70 Itoigawa                             | 71 Unzen                             | 72 Toya Usu                               |
|                       | 73 San'in Kaigan                        |                                      |   |
|                       | 74 Muroto                               | 75 Oki Islands                       | 76 Aso                                    |
|                       |   |                                      | 77 Jeju                                   |
|                       |   |                                      | 78 Langkawi                               |
|                       |   |                                      | 79 M'Goun                                 |
|                       |   |                                      | 80 Hondsdrug                              |
|                       |   |                                      | 81 Gea Norvegica                          |
|                       |   |                                      | 82 Magma                                  |
|                       |   |                                      | 83 Naturtejo                              |
|                       |   |                                      | 84 Arouca                                 |
|                       |   |                                      | 85 Azores                                 |
|                       |   |                                      | 86 Terras de Cavaleiros                   |
|                       |   |                                      | 87 Hateg                                  |
|                       |   |                                      | 88 Idrija                                 |
|                       |   |                                      | 89 Maestrazgo Cultural Park               |
|                       |   |                                      | 90 Cabo de Gata-Níjar                     |
|                       |   |                                      | 91 Sierras Subbéticas                     |
|                       |   |                                      | 92 Sobrarbe                               |
|                       |   |                                      | 93 Basque Coast                           |
|                       |   |                                      | 94 Sierra Norte de Sevilla                |
|                       |   |                                      | 95 Villuercas Ibores Jara                 |
|                       |   |                                      | 96 Central Catalonia                      |
|                       |   |                                      | 97 Molina & Alto Tajo                     |
|                       |   |                                      | 98 El Heirro                              |
|                       |   |                                      | 99 Kula Volcanic Geopark                  |
|                       |   |                                      | 100 Dong Van Karst Plateau                |
|                       |   |                                      | 101 North Pennines A.O.N.B.               |
|                       |   |                                      | 102 North-West Highlands                  |
|                       |   |                                      | 103 Fforest Fawr                          |
|                       |   |                                      | 104 English Riviera                       |
|                       |   |                                      | 105 Geo Mön                               |
|                       |   |                                      | 106 Shetland                              |
|                       |   |                                      | 107 Grutas del Palacio                    |
|                       |   |                                      | 108 Karawanken/Karavanke                  |
|                       |   |                                      | 109 Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark      |
|                       |   |                                      | 110 Novohrad - Nógrád                     |
|                       |   |                                      | 111 Muskau Arch                           |



Araripe Global Geopark, Brazil



Réserve Géologique de Haute-Provence Global Geopark, France

## How to join the Global Geoparks Network?

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) has a rigorous and independent application procedure which involves the submission of a detailed application dossier followed by an evaluation mission. There is a clear timetable for submitting applications and all dossiers must follow the same, specific format. Up-to-date details are available at:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/geoparks/>

On successfully becoming a member of the GGN, the membership period is four years. After this period your membership must be revalidated by a review of your activities as a geopark and by the undertaking of a further "revalidation" mission.

Front cover photographs

Top left: 'Sentinel of Time' by Andy Goldsworthy on the 'Route du Temps' Réserve Géologique de Haute-Provence, France.

Top right: \*\*Shilin Stone Forest Global Geopark, China.

Bottom: North-West Highlands Global Geopark, United Kingdom.



Lankawi Global Geopark, Malaysia



Luberon Global Geopark, France



\*\*Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, Ireland



\*\*Zigong Global Geopark, China



# Global Geoparks Network

## Celebrating Earth Heritage- Sustaining Local Communities



## 2014/2015



Above: School children from Langkawi Global Geopark, Malaysia enjoying a Geopark discovery trip.  
Below: School children from Gea Norvegica Global Geopark, Norway using ropes to explain the concept of geological time to their local politicians.



Above: Unzen Global Geopark, Japan works with scientific experts to educate local people about volcanic hazards.  
Below: The Petrified Forest of Lesvos Global Geopark Greece uses a seismic table to explain safety procedures during an earthquake to local people.



Above: Taishan Global Geopark, one of the five sacred mountains of China links the region's geological and intangible heritages.  
Below: The local people of TERRA.vita Global Geopark, Germany celebrating their status as a Global Geopark.



Above: A women's cooperative from the Lesvos Petrified Forest Global Geopark, Greece making pasta which is sold through the Geopark.  
Below: Women from the Naturtejo Global Geopark, Portugal celebrate their culture during a Geopark festival.



Above: Organic cheese from the Sierras Subbéticas Global Geopark, Spain is sold throughout the country.  
Below: Squid from the San'in Kaigan Global Geopark, Japan is fished sustainably and sold as a product of the Geopark.



## Geoparks and education

It is a pre-requisite that all Global Geoparks develop and operate educational programmes at a range of levels to spread awareness of our geological heritage and its links to other aspects of our natural, cultural and intangible heritages. Many Global Geoparks offer formal educational programmes for schools or offer special activities for children through "Kids Clubs" or special "Fossil Fun Days." Many Global Geoparks also offer education, both formal and informal, for adults and retired people while many provide training for local people who can then, in turn, teach others.



## Geoparks and science

Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. Global Geoparks are thus encouraged to work with academic 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 Global Geopark is not a museum, it is an active laboratory where people can become engaged in science from the highest academic research level to the level of the curious visitor. However, a Global Geopark must take great care not to alienate the public from science and absolutely must avoid the use of technical scientific language on information boards, signs, leaflets, maps and books which are aimed at the general public.



## Geoparks and culture

The motto of the Global Geoparks Network is "Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities." 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 practises, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore and folk traditions. Global Geoparks therefore engage in a range of activities to celebrate these links. Many Global Geoparks have strong links to the arts communities where the synergy released by bringing science and the arts together can yield surprising results.



## Geoparks and women

Many Global Geoparks have a strong focus on empowering women whether through focussed education programmes or through the development of women's cooperatives. Global Geoparks can provide a platform for the development, nurturing and promotion of local cottage industry and craft products. In some Global Geoparks women's cooperatives also operate accommodation services for visitors to the geopark and can provide an opportunity for women to obtain additional income in their own area and on their own terms.



## Geoparks and sustainable development

Even if an area has outstanding, world-famous geological heritage of outstanding universal value it cannot be a Global Geopark unless the area also has a plan for the sustainable development of the people who live there. This development may take the form of sustainable tourism through, for example, the development of walking or cycling trails, training of local people to act as guides, encouraging tourism and accommodation providers to follow international best practise in environmental sustainability. But it can also be about simply 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 Global Geopark has the support of local people it will not succeed. Global Geopark status does not imply restrictions on any economic activity inside a Geopark where that activity complies with local, regional or national legislation.



\*\*Longhushan Global Geopark, China