



# European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2017

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## New Geoethic challenges in the framework of the UNESCO Global Geoparks

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The creation in 2000 of the European Geoparks Network is seen as a milestone in sustainable territorial development of regions with geological heritage of international significance, requiring its protection and promotion through a holistic development strategy which also includes the natural and cultural heritage of those territories.

Later, in 2004, the Global Geoparks Network was established under the auspices of UNESCO



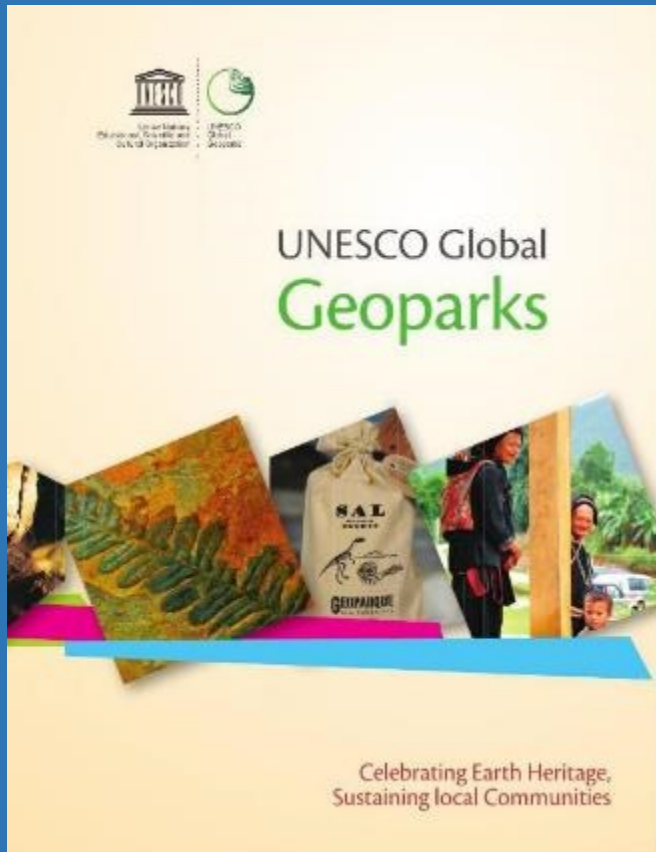


**Geoparks became a concept mainly applicable to rural areas where an exceptional geological heritage is the base of a strategy to promote the well-being of the populations, while maintaining maximum respect for the environment.**





Nowadays , the new scientific International Geoscience and Geoparks Program defines the UNESCO Global Geoparks – UGG as:



# 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 the impact of natural disasters. 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.



In this sense, taking into account the role of geoscientists in this innovative territorial management process seeking to contribute to an effective regional sustainable development...





Taking into account also the role of the ones chosen to become evaluators regarding missions on new UNESCO Global Geoparks or revalidations, more than ever it is important to consider geoethics the conducting wire of all the decisions and actions of these key-actores.



© Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark





# In fact, Geoethics should also be at the core of the UNESCO Global Geoparks concept at all levels.



within UNESCO Global Geoparks

- Natural Resources
- Geological Hazards
- Climate Change
- Education
- Science
- Culture
- Women
- Sustainable Development
- Local and indigenous Knowledge
- Geoconservation



**But how can this be implemented in a Network that counts already with 119 territories across 33 countries and that it will be increasing every year?**





**Which main actions must be developed and who should be involved?**








**Can capacity-building on this issue be spread out worldwide through this Network?**





# Who is responsible for it?



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## EARTH SCIENCES

UNESCO » Natural Sciences » Environment » Earth Sciences » International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme

**Earth Sciences**

**International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme**


International Geoscience Programme

UNESCO Global Geoparks

Earth Science Education in Africa

Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction

### International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)



© Jon Paul Llordés  
Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

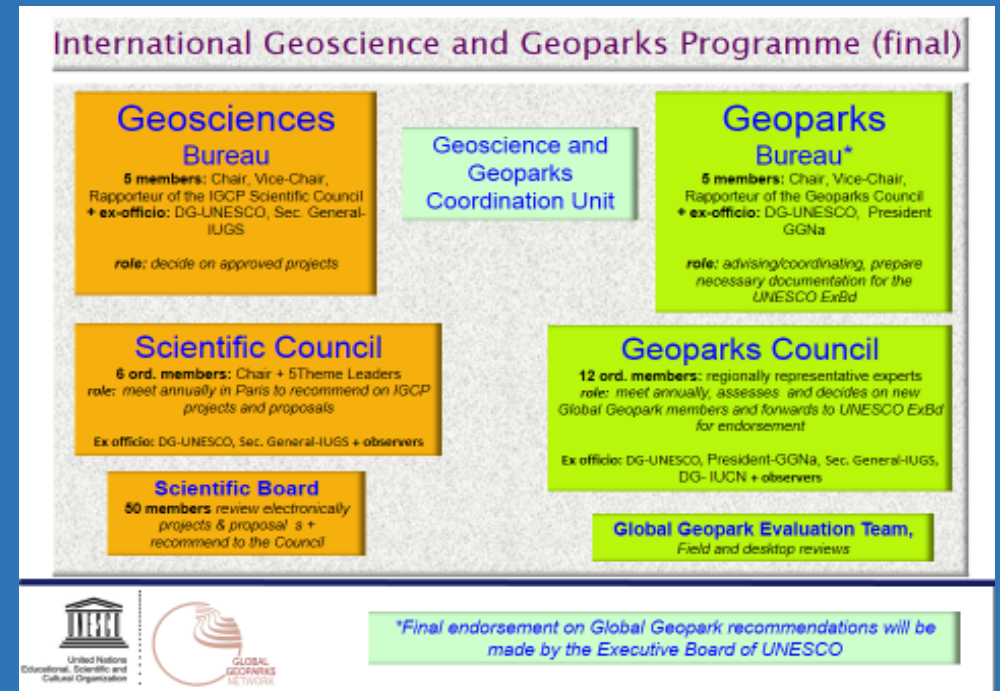
The Earth sciences provide us with invaluable knowledge about the Earth, its systems and its 4.6 billion year history. This knowledge is essential for responding to present-day challenges of human society, such as preserving our Earth's resources for future generations, mitigating the impact of global warming and mitigating the risks of geological hazards.

In order to more closely reflect the societal challenges of Earth Science today and provide an international status to a former network of sites of geological significance, UNESCO's General Conference approved, on 17

November 2015, the creation of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). The IGGP comprises the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), which for over 40 years has brought geoscientists together from all regions of the world to study the Earth and geological processes under themes which have increasing societal relevance, and the UNESCO Global Geoparks, which promote sites of international geological value and are the basis of local sustainable development.

**More information**

- Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)  
English | Français | Español | Русский | العربية | 中文 (PDF)
- Press release "UNESCO gives Global Geoparks a new label"
- International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)
- UNESCO Global Geoparks





GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

**CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK WEBSITE | ABOUT | NEWS | MEMBERS | JOIN UGN | FAQs | CONTACT | LINKS



Terras de Cabaleiros Global Geopark – Portugal



# STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AND GEOPARKS PROGRAMME

## Article 2: UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

- 2.1 A Council is hereby set up for the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- 2.2 The Council shall be composed of 12 ordinary members, with the right to vote, who shall be individuals appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and of Member States. In addition the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the GGN, the Secretary-General of the IUGS, the Director-General of the IUCN or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Council without the right to vote.

## Article 4: UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau

- 4.1 A Bureau is hereby setup for the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- 4.2 The Bureau will consist of five members: the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Council of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Director-General of UNESCO and the President of the GGN or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Bureau without the right to vote.

- (c) to select the evaluation team for each application and revalidation.

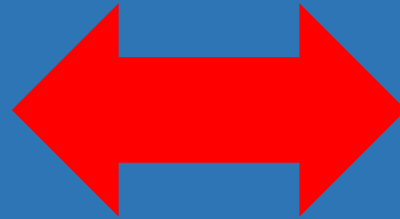
## Article 5: Evaluation Teams

- 5.1 Evaluation Teams shall independently:
- (a) evaluate applications, extensions and revalidations for UNESCO Global Geoparks on the basis of the strict guidelines provided by the Council;
  - (b) prepare a report to the Council on the applications, extensions and revalidations evaluated.
- 5.2 The Secretariat in conjunction with GGN shall maintain a roster of evaluators.
- 5.3 Members of each Evaluation Team will be chosen by the Bureau from the roster of evaluators.
- 5.4 Evaluators will serve in their personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective States or any other affiliated entities. The GGN will be required to ensure that evaluators have no conflict of interest regarding new UNESCO Global Geopark applications or those requiring revalidation. Evaluators will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities and will not conduct missions in their own country.

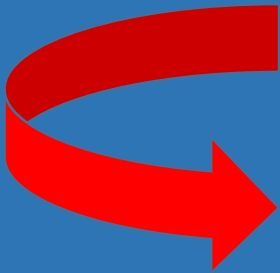




# Who is responsible for it at a national level?



e.g.  
Portugal



Based in a bottom-up approach



These are some questions that need to have constructive and positive answers from all those involved in this new UNESCO designation...







INTERNATIONAL / SCIENTIFIC / MULTIDISCIPLINARY PLATFORM

with the goal of widening the debate  
on problems of Ethics applied to the Geosciences

<http://www.geoethics.org>





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**Thank you for your attention!**