

Integrated Cultural Landscape Management for Local and Global Sustainability

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Challenges in the creation and management of a Global Geopark

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Since the beginning of humanity, landscapes and geological structures have fascinated the first civilizations around the world.

These early humans attributed to these places a magical or religious value.



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1991

International Declaration of the rights of the memory of the Earth

Digne-les-Bains (France),
supported by UNESCO



Translated into 50 languages, this declaration is at the base of international policies on geological heritage

International declaration of the rights of the memory of the Earth

- 1 - Just as human life is recognized as being unique, the time has come to recognize the uniqueness of the Earth.
- 2 - Mother Earth supports us. We are each and all linked to her, she is the link between us.
- 3 - The Earth is 4,5 billion years old and the cradle of life, of renewal and of the metamorphosis of life. Its long evolution, its slow rise to maturity, has shaped the environment in which we live.
- 4 - Our history and the history of the Earth are closely linked. Its origins are our origins, its history is our history and its future will be our future.
- 5 - The aspect of the Earth, its very being, is our environment. This environment is different, not only from that of the past, but also from that of the future. We are but the Earth's companion with no finality, we only pass by.
- 6 - Just as an old tree keeps all the records of its growth and life, the Earth retains memories of its past... A record inscribed both in its depths and on the surface, in the rocks and in the landscapes, a record which can be read and translated.
- 7 - We have always been aware of the need to preserve our memories - i.e. our cultural heritage. Now the time has come to protect our natural heritage, the environment. The past of the Earth is no less important than that of human beings. Now it is time for us to learn to protect, and by doing so, to learn about the past of the Earth, to read this book written before our advent: that is our geological heritage.
- 8 - We and the Earth share our common heritage. We and governments are but the custodians of this heritage. Each and every human being should understand that the slightest depredation mutilates, destroys and leads to irreversible losses. Any form of development should respect the singularity of this heritage.
- 9 - The participants of the 1st international symposium on the protection of our geological heritage, including over a hundred specialists from over thirty nations, urgently request all national and international authorities to take into consideration and to protect this heritage by means of all the necessary legal, financial and organizational measures.

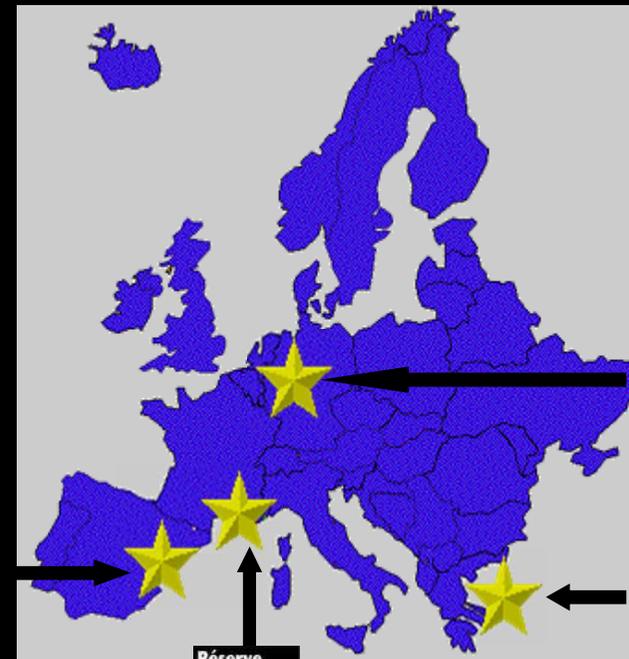
Written on the 13th June 1991 in Digne, France.



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2000

The concept of a new transnational territory
European Geoparks Network



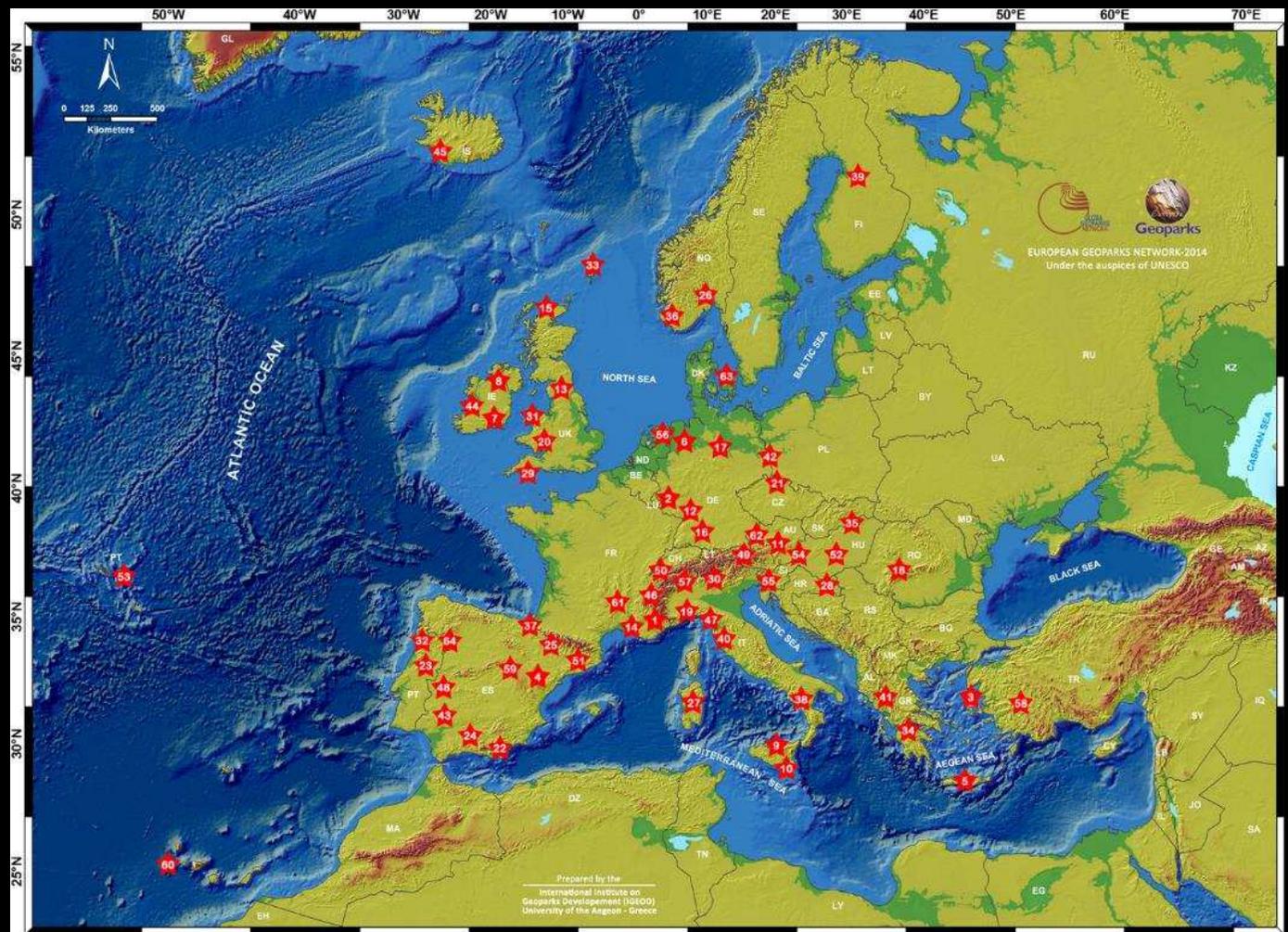
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2014
Global Geoparks Network (GGN)
111 territórios
34 países



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2014
European Geoparks Network (EGN)

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2001 UNESCO-GEOPARK initiative

40 years after the creation of two UNESCO Programmes

- World Heritage Programme
- MAB Programme

was created a third world territory:

Programme “Global Geoparks of UNESCO”



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Apheleia
Ἀφέλεια
Erasmus+



2004 UNESCO sets up the Global Geoparks Network (GGN)



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A GEOPARK is an area with....

a particular geological heritage of international significance

but also with....

a sustainable development strategy or plan involving local communities.



Global Geopark Haute-Provence, France

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Um Geoparque não é ...

only an area with an extraordinary geological heritage

a small or simple place of geological interest

a sealed area just for scientists

A thematic geological park

an area without the involvement of the local community

an area without a sustainable economic development strategy



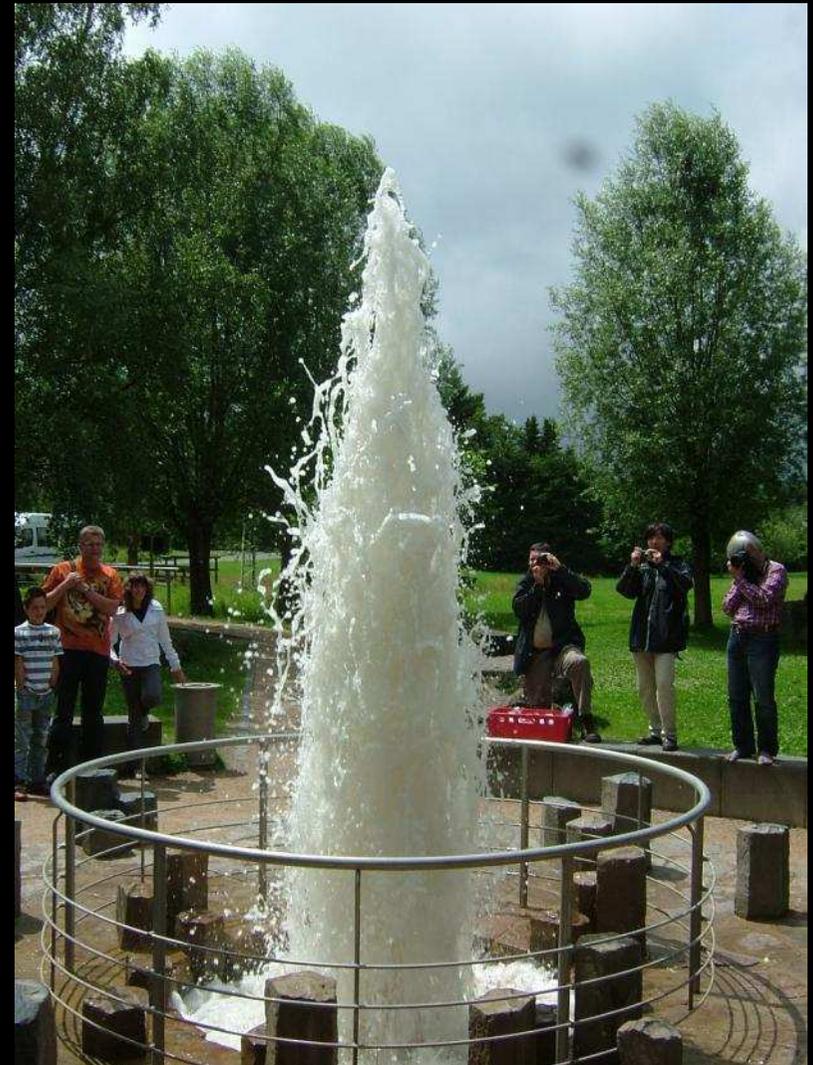
Geoparque Naturtejo (Portugal)

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IS A GEOPARK JUST ABOUT GEOLOGY?

No!

Besides to demonstrate geological heritage of international significance, the purpose of a geopark is to explore, develop and celebrate the links between the geological heritage and all other aspects of natural areas, including cultural and intangible heritages. It is about reconnecting human society at all levels with the planet and its 4,600 million year of histories that has shaped every aspect of our lives and our societies.



Vulkaneifel Geopark (Germany)

When we think about the Geoparks concept : Keywords ...

PROTECT **VALORIZE** **SUPPORTING**
RESOURCES **NATURALS** **HERITAGE**
ORGANIZE **PROMOTE** **SCIENCE**
EDUCATION **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**
TOURISM **HEALTH**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **MAKING**
EMPLOYMENT **SUSTAINABLE** **SMART**
INCLUSIVE **EVENTS** **QUALITY**
 ACTIVITIES **EXCELLENCE**
 WELFARE
CULTURE **KNOWLEDGE** **PARTNERSHIP**
NETWORKING **SHARING**

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Venus of Brassempouy -24.000 years

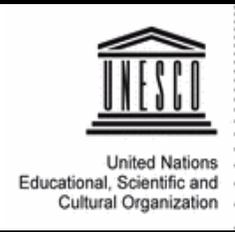


Venus of Kostenki -23.000 years



Venus of Willendorf -23.000 years

With this 'geological presence', appeared in prehistoric first cults. Those of the goddess Earth. Woman and fertile.



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Directly connected with the early cults, 'Mother Earth' of the Greek mythology.

GAIA → **GEO**

which gives birth to Uranus (the sky), Pontos (the sea), Ourea (mountains). She is also the grandmother of Zeus



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GEO

GEOmetry

GEOgraphy

GEOmancy

GEOcentric

GEOdesic

GEO

GEOphysic

GEOmorphology

GEOthermal

GEOpolitic

GEOlogy

(...)

The **GEOPARK** word comes from GEO and not of GEOLOGY

A Geopark **is not** a geological museum in the open air



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How to create a Geopark: pre-requisites

- Significant geological heritage
- Geoconservation activities
- Sustainable tourism activities
- Educational activities
- Community involvement
- Strong management structure
- Secure financial basis
- Network charter **MUST** be adhered to -
e.g. no selling of geological material



Eizenwurzen, Osterreich

A territory must demonstrate at the time of application that they are already a geopark “de-facto”

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How join the GGN?

Consultation with NatCom, Nat Forum, Nat Committee, Ministry, etc.

Submission of application to UNESCO (Paris)

Application is assessed by GGN Bureau

Possible request for further clarification

Evaluation mission & report

Assessment by GGN Bureau

Decision



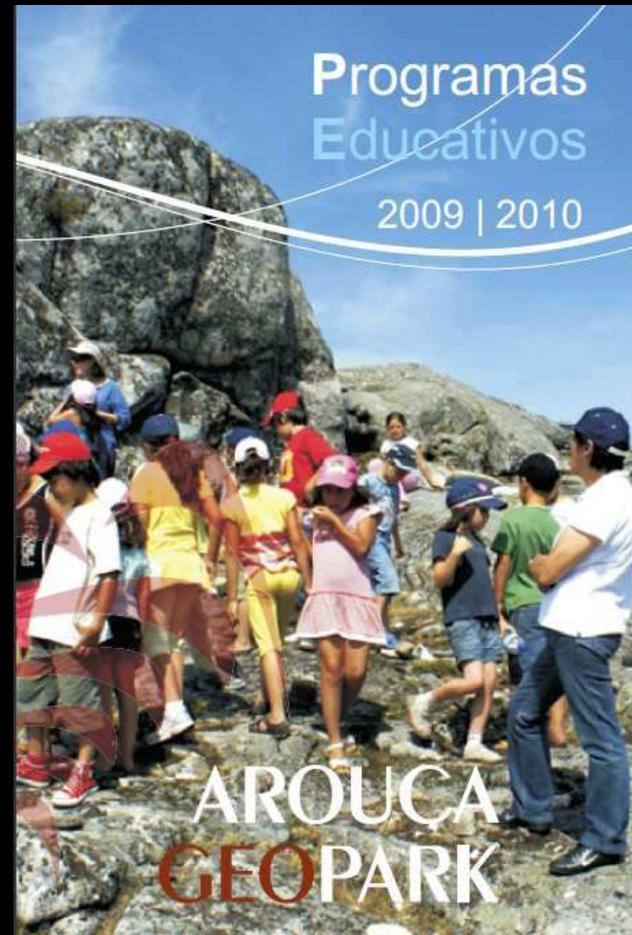
Unzen, Japan

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Geoparks & Education

It is a prerequisite 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.



Arouca Geopark, Portugal

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Geoparks & 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.



Araripe Geopark, Brazil

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Geoparks & 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.



Langkawi Geopark, Malaysia

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Geoparks & Culture



A material cultural heritage

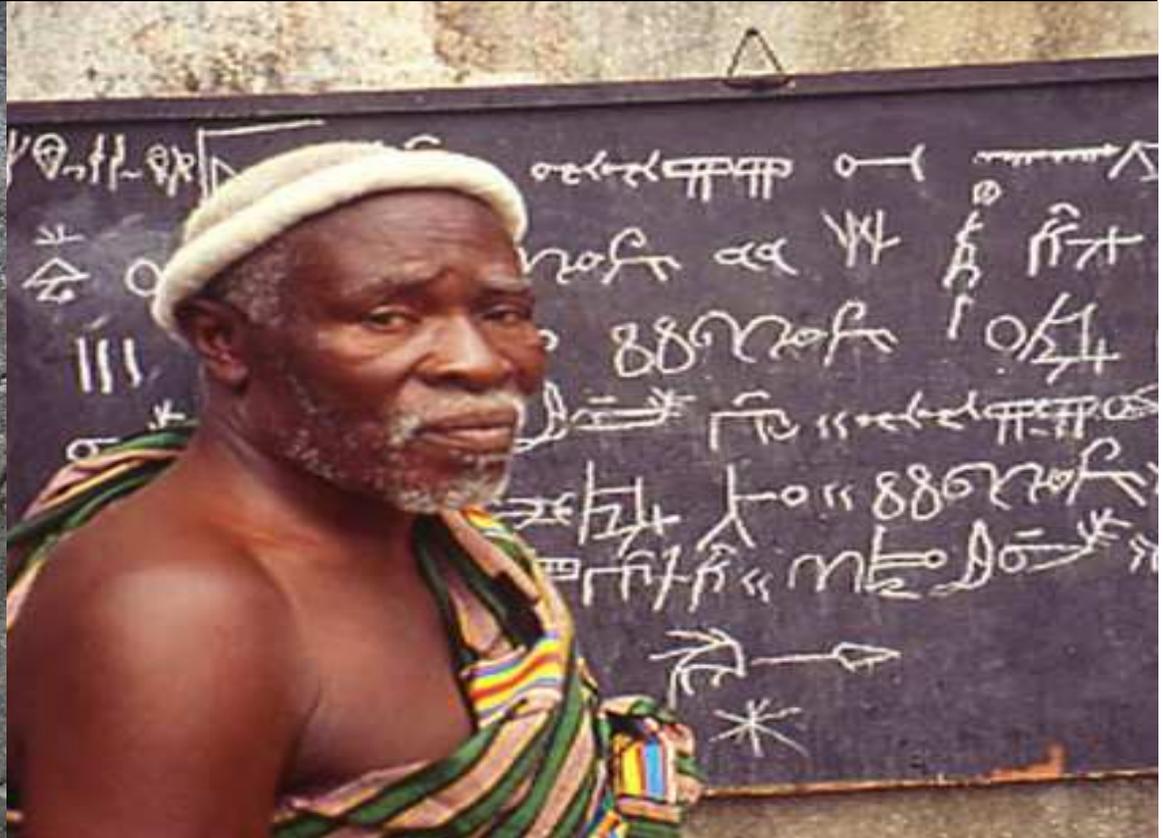
Yanqing Geopark, China



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Geoparks & Culture



As well as an intangible cultural heritage.



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Geoparks & Culture



Hexingten Geopark (China)- King Gesar epic tradition -- UNESCO RICHL 2009

Intangible cultural heritage

1- Oral heritage



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Geoparks & Culture



Madonia Geopark (Italy)-Opera dei Pupi- UNESCO RICHIL 2008

Intangible cultural heritage

2- performing arts



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Geoparks & Culture



Psiloritis Geopark (Greece)- Mediterranean Diet -- UNESCO RICHL 2010

Intangible cultural heritage

3 – social and ritual practices, festive events



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Geoparks & Culture



Jeju Geopark, (Korea)- Jeju Chilmeoridang Yeongdeunggut-- UNESCO RICHL 2009

Intangible cultural heritage

4 - knowledge and practices in relation to the nature and the universe



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Geoparks & Culture



Ningde Geopark, (China)- Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges-- UNESCO RICHL 2009

Intangible cultural heritage

5 - know-how linked to traditional crafts



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Geoparks & Culture



Intangible cultural heritage

Living Human Treasures



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Geoparks & Culture

Our role is to work together to establish GEOPARKS as a global brand of quality in both geoheritage and sustainable tourism.

Geoparks are to be as accessible to as wide a sector of the population as possible.

A key to this is effective communication.

This effective communication is so important that it plays a key role during initial evaluation and the ongoing revalidation exercises.



RG Haute-Provence, France

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Geoparks & People

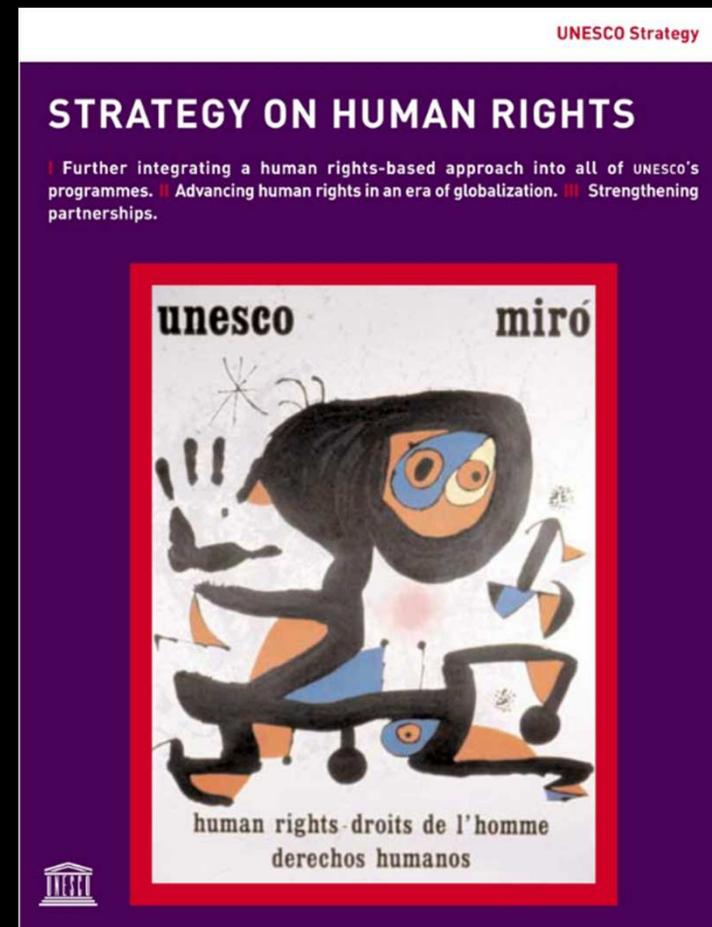
Geoparks are fundamentally about people.

Geopark authorities must therefore work for the people by preserving, nurturing and celebrating their traditions, cultures, and their social values.

Geoparks must consider the social impact of their work.

Geoparks must work with their communities in protecting their environment and in developing employment opportunities.

As geoparks are linked to UNESCO, geoparks are obliged to follow the UNESCO strategy on integrating a human rights-based approach into all of their work.



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Geoparks & 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.



Lesvos Geopark (Greece)

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Geoparks & Sustainable Development

Even if an area has 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.



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Geoparks & Sustainable Development

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.



Lesvos Geopark (Greece)

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Success factors

MANAGEMENT UNIT / TEAM

SENSE OF OWNERSHIP

AWARENESS

TOURISTIC SECTOR

EDUCATION

NETWORK / PARTNERSHIPS

INVOLVEMENT

MULTISECTORAL INTEGRATION

PEOPLE



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Arheleia

Ἀφέλεια



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Thank you for your attention!

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