

Top 16 Focus Areas



Yangling 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.



Muskau Arch UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany & Poland

Education for Sustainability

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". They also offer education, both formal and informal, for adults and retired people.



Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark Italy

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.



KunLun Mountain UNESCO Global Geopark, China

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.



Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada

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.



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.



Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Republic of Korea

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.



Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Natural Resources Wise Use

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 depleting of natural resources. UNESCO Global Geoparks inform people about the sustainable use and need for natural resources, while at the same time promoting respect for the environment and the integrity of the landscape.



Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

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.



Villaverde Torres Jara UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

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. 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.



Swabian Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

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.



Palatiros UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

Science & Research

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. These 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.



Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark Iceland

Geological Hazards Risk Reduction

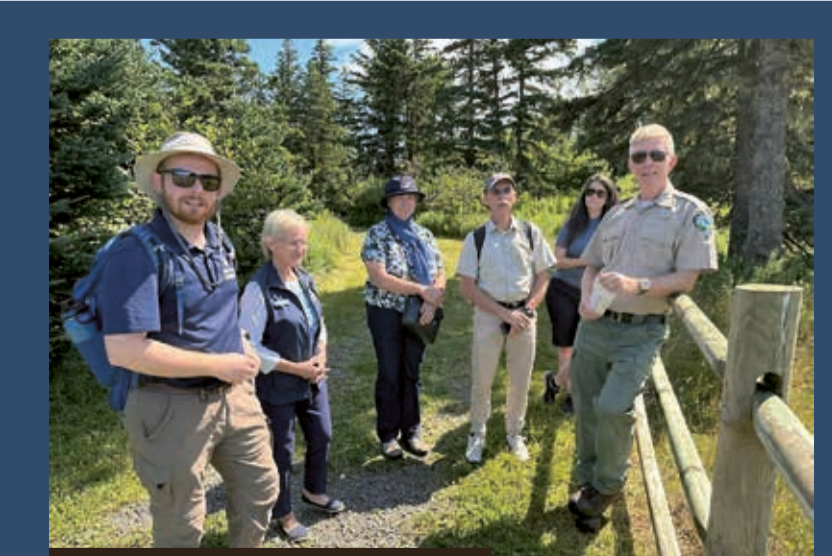
UNESCO Global Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Through educational activities for the local people and visitors many UNESCO Global Geoparks give information on the source of geological hazards and ways to reduce their impact including disaster 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 coordinates common activities and helps prepare disaster mitigation strategies among Geoparks.



Ngorongoro-Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark, Tanzania

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.



Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark Canada

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 is subject to a thorough reevaluation every 4 years. The Global Geoparks Network is supporting the Geopark evaluation and reevaluation process by providing the experts for the evaluation missions and maintaining the roster of evaluators.

Global Geoparks Network

2004-2024 20 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development



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 four GGN Regional Geoparks Networks are the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), the European Geoparks Network (EGN), the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeOLAC) and the African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUJGGN).

The objectives of the Global Geoparks Network are:

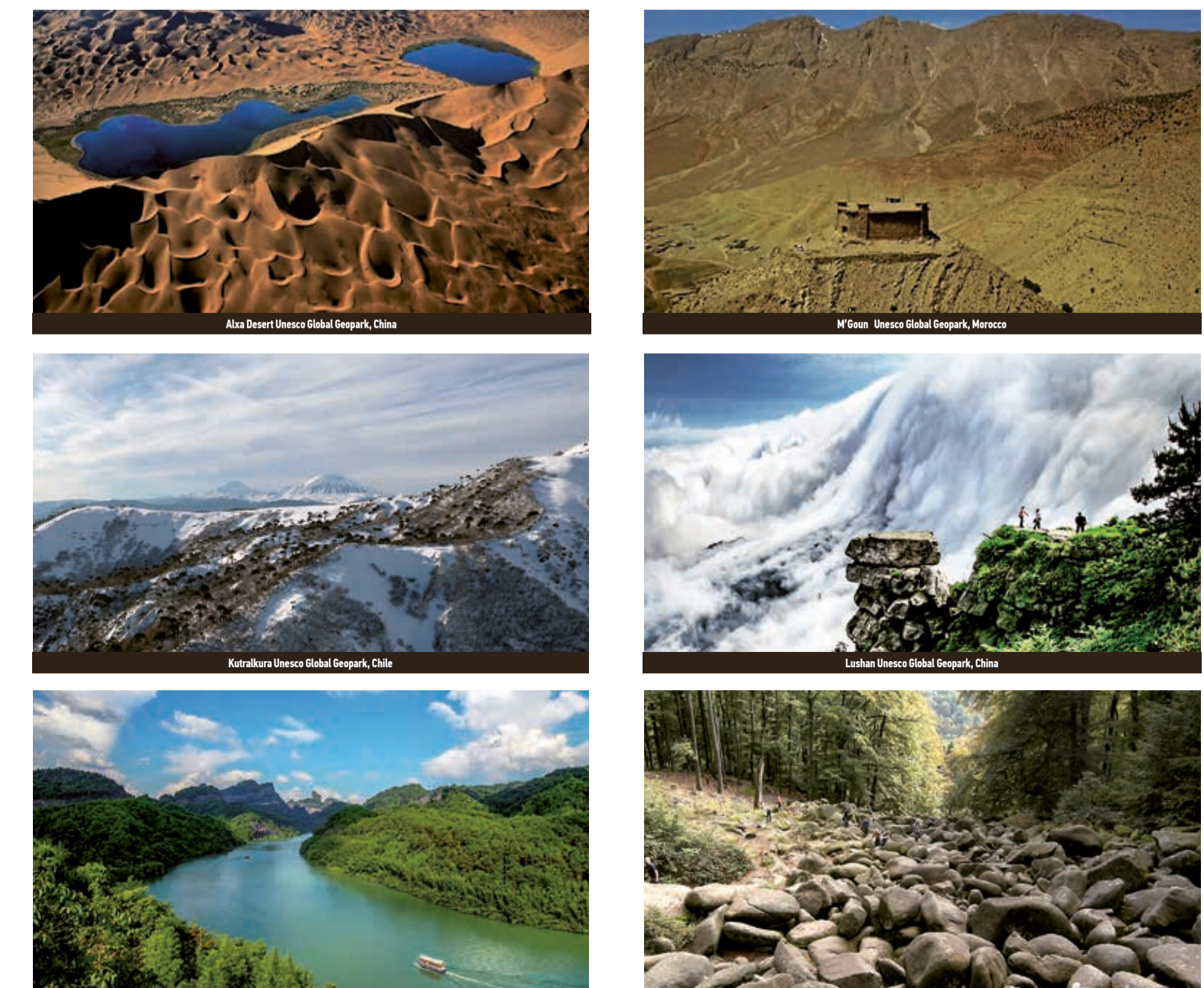
- to promote the equitable geographical establishment, development and professional management of Global Geoparks,
- to advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, function and role of Global Geoparks,
- to assist local communities to value their natural and cultural heritage,
- to preserve Earth heritage for present and future generations,
- to educate and teach the broad public about issues in geo-sciences 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.



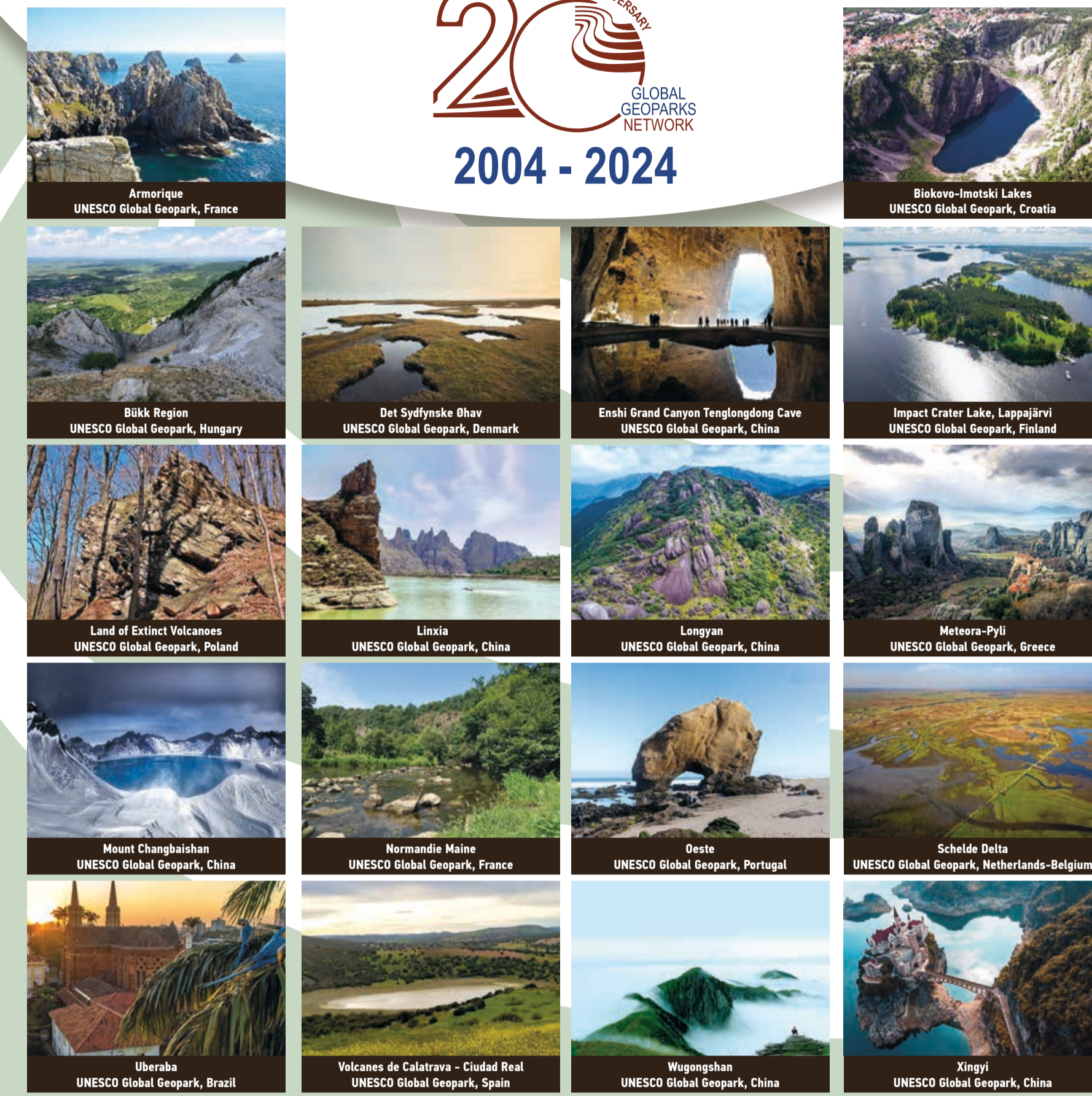
UNESCO Global Geoparks

2024 / 2025



Global Geoparks Network

2004-2024 20 years of collaboration for geo-conservation and sustainable development



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 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 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 co-operation.

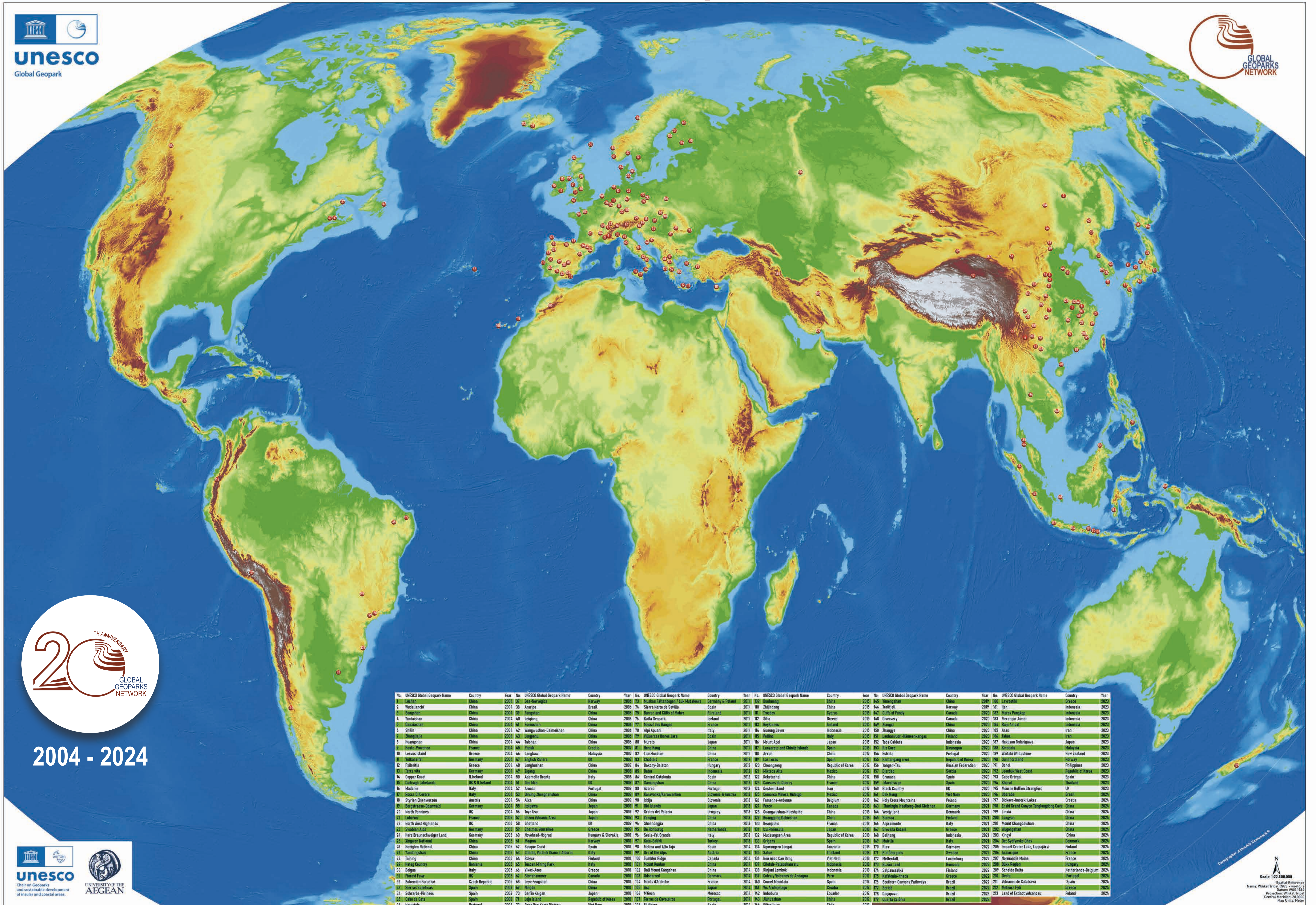
On 17 November 2015, the 195 Member States of UNESCO ratified the creation of a new label, the UNESCO Global Geoparks, during the 38th General Conference of the Organisation. This expresses governmental recognition of the importance of managing outstanding geological sites and landscapes in a holistic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

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



Poster produced by the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest / Christos Paraskevidis based on brochure designed by Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. Map 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 2024 / 2025



2004 - 2024

No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year	No.	UNESCO Global Geopark Name	Country	Year				
1	Lushan	China	2004	27	Dea-Norvegia	Norway	2006	53	Muskau Falls/Elbogen / Jak Mazakava	Germany & Poland	2010	89	Dunhuang	China	2015	145	Yimangshan	China	2019	180	Lavrentis	Greece	2023
2	Wudalianchi	China	2004	38	Araripe	Brazil	2006	74	Sierra Norte de Sevilla	Spain	2010	100	Zhijindong	China	2015	146	Trolltjelli	Norway	2019	181	Ijen	Indonesia	2023
3	Sapuntan	China	2004	39	Fiji	Fiji	2006	75	Borjgaa/Leits of Mäler	Iceland	2010	101	Sioux	Sweden	2015	147	Elfersjöfjärden	Sweden	2019	182	Warta/Panigrah	Indonesia	2023
4	Yontsihan	China	2004	40	Liqing	China	2006	76	Kalla Geopark	Iceland	2010	102	Sila	Greece	2015	148	Discovery	Canada	2020	183	Morangie Jambli	Indonesia	2023
5	Danzhashan	China	2004	41	Funiushan	China	2006	77	Mosai des Bauges	France	2010	103	Rykjanes	Iceland	2015	149	Xingxi	China	2020	184	Raja Ampat	Indonesia	2023
6	Shilin	China	2004	42	Wangwushan-Dameishan	China	2006	78	Alpi Apuani	Italy	2010	104	Gongung Sewu	Indonesia	2015	150	Zhangye	China	2020	185	Aras	Iran	2023
7	Zhangjiajie	China	2004	43	Jingyue	China	2006	79	Wilancan Botes Jara	Spain	2010	105	Pallini	Italy	2015	151	Lipshansen-Bamekangas	Finland	2020	186	Abas	Iran	2023
8	Huangshan	China	2004	44	Taishan	China	2006	80	Muroto	Japan	2010	106	Mount Agul	Japan	2015	152	Toba Caldera	Indonesia	2020	187	Nakan Sederigawa	Japan	2023
9	Haizi-Puoyuan	France	2004	45	Fapuk	Croatia	2006	81	Hong Kong	China	2010	107	Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands	Spain	2015	153	Rio Coca	Nicaragua	2020	188	Kinabalu	Malaysia	2023
10	Levros Island	Greece	2004	46	Langkawi	Malaysia	2007	82	Tianbushan	China	2010	108	Arxan	China	2015	154	Estrala	Portugal	2020	189	Waikaki Whirestone	New Zealand	2023
11	Vulkanland	Germany	2004	47	English Riviera	UK	2007	83	Chahkai	France	2010	109	Las Lajas	Spain	2015	155	Banliang river	Republic of Korea	2020	190	Sinnherland	Norway	2023
12	Pulihits	Greece	2004	48	Longshouan	China	2007	84	Bakury-Balaton	Hungary	2010	110	Cheongang	Republic of Korea	2015	156	Tangan-Lau	Philippines	2020	191	Bihai	Philippines	2023
13	Feriz Vite	Bosnia	2004	49	Jingji	China	2008	85	Bakar	Indonesia	2010	111	Micicua Ala	Malaysia	2015	157	Belelup	Malaysia	2020	192	Jorobuk West Coast	Malaysia	2023
14	Copper Coast	Ireland	2004	50	Adamello Brenta	Italy	2008	86	Central Catalonia	Spain	2010	112	Kekobuai	China	2015	158	Granada	Spain	2020	193	Cabo Ortegal	Spain	2023
15	Coiligh Lakelands	UK & Ireland	2004	51	Geo Men	UK	2009	87	Sansonghan	China	2010	113	Caucasus da Quarry	France	2015	159	Maestrange	Spain	2020	194	Khorat	Thailand	2023
16	Mudonie	Italy	2004	52	Aroca	Portugal	2009	88	Azeved	Portugal	2010	114	Black Country	Iran	2015	160	Black Country	UK	2020	195	Mourne Gullion Strangford	UK	2023
17	Boconil-Corve	Italy	2004	53	Huangling Zhongshan	China	2009	89	Hidzshika/Karavankas	Slovenia & Austria	2010	115	Geopark Minira, Maliga	Malaysia	2015	161	Geopark	Viet Nam	2020	196	Horseshoe	Japan	2023
18	Styrian Eisenwurzen	Austria	2004	54	Alta	China	2009	90	Irtija	Slovenia	2010	116	Famenne-Ardenne	Belgium	2015	162	Holy Cross Mountains	Poland	2020	197	Bjokve-Imotski Lakes	Croatia	2024
19	Bergstrasse-Odenwald	Germany	2004	55	Hogawa	Japan	2009	91	Oki Islands	Japan	2010	117	Percé	Canada	2015	163	Ithangia Inseltberg-Drei Giechen	Germany	2020	198	Enshi Grand Canyon Tenglonggong Cave	China	2024
20	North Pennines	UK	2004	56	Toya Uzu	Japan	2009	92	Gratas del Palacio	Uruguay	2010	118	Guangwahsan-Huashuihe	China	2015	164	Vestjylland	Denmark	2020	199	Linxia	China	2024
21	Lübbert	France	2005	57	Wuzhen Volcanic Area	Japan	2009	93	Wanggang Dabeshan	China	2010	119	Silang	Philippines	2015	165	Silang	Philippines	2020	200	Kiriguan	China	2024
22	North West Highlands	UK	2005	58	Shetland	UK	2009	94	Shennongjia	China	2010	120	Beaulieu	France	2015	166	Agroprene	Italy	2020	201	Mount Changshaihan	China	2024
23	Swabian Alb	Germany	2005	59	Cheimok, Wourauks	Greece	2009	95	De Rendung	Netherlands	2010	121	Izo Península	Japan	2015	167	Ervenia Kazant	Greece	2020	202	Huangshan	China	2024
24	Harz Braunschweiger Land	Germany	2005	60	Nevohrad-Nograd	Hungary & Slovakia	2010	96	Sesia-Vál Grande	Italy	2010	122	Mudangan Area	Republic of Korea	2015	168	Belling	Indonesia	2020	203	Xingyi	China	2024
25	Argemone National	China	2005	61	Magma	Hungary	2010	97	Alta-Sella	Italy	2010	123	Orghina	Spain	2015	169	Masia	Italy	2020	204	Diéi Syfyshka Ohai	Denmark	2024
26	Neivogen National	China	2005	62	Baoguo Coast	Spain	2010	98	Molina and Alto Tajo	Spain	2010	124	Nigerogoro Lengat	Tanzania	2015	170	Ries	Germany	2020	205	Impact Crater Lake, Lappajarvi	Finland	2024
27	Yanagishan	China	2005	63	Chicote, Valle al Diavolo Albarran	Italy	2010	99	Diré of the Alps	Austria	2010	125	Satan	Thailand	2015	171	Pfaffenberg	Sweden	2020	206	Acinrague	France	2024
28	Taining	China	2005	64	Roka	Finland	2010	100	Tumber Ridge	Canada	2010	126	Nou nuo Cao Bang	Viet Nam	2015	172	Mitidari	Luxembourg	2020	207	Normandie Maine	France	2024
29	Hainan Country	Russia	2005	65	Toscan Mining Park	Italy	2010	101	Mount Karan	China	2010	127	Clérah-Palabhanaru	Indonesia	2015	173	Buka Land	Russia	2020	208	Bika Region	Hungary	2024
30	Belgia	Italy	2005	66	Waco-Jaso	Greece	2010	102	Dali Mount Cangshan	China	2010	128	Rinjani Lombok	Indonesia	2015	174	Salpasasuka	Finland	2020	209	Schelde Delta	Netherlands-Belgium	2024
31	Fitzjarral	UK	2005	67	Stonemason	Denmark	2010	103	Dabshere	Denmark	2010	129	Edoia & Micianshi de Andagua	Peru	2015	175	Kidzhuja-Mibica	Peru	2020	210	Gele	Peru	2024
32	Bohemian Paradise	Czech Republic	2005	68	Leye Fengshan	China	2010	104	Monts d'Ardeche	France	2010	130	Monts d'Ardeche	France	2015	176	Southern Canyons Pathways	Brazil	2020	211	Volcanes de Calatrava	Spain	2024
33	Sierras Subeicas	Spain	2005	69	Ningde	China	2010	105	Ase	Japan	2010	131	Serisi	Croatia	2015	177	Serisi	Croatia	2020	212	Mistrala Pyli	Greece	2024
34	Sabrarbe-Pirinees	Spain	2005	70	Sarin Kagan	Japan	2010	106	Mison	Morocco	2010	132	Imbabura	Ecuador	2015	178	Cagpaga	Brazil	2020	213	Land of Extinct Volcanoes	Poland	2024
35	Cabrerle de	Spain	2005	71	Jiguan	Republic of Korea	2010	107	Hierve de Cavalleres	Portugal	2010	133	Yajshakhan	China	2015	179	Quarta Colina	Brazil	2020	214			
36	Naturteje	Portugal	2005	72	Dong Van Karst Plateau	Viet Nam	2010	108	El Hierro	Spain	2010	134	Kifurakura	Chile	2015	180							



Scale: 1:22,500,000
 Spatial Reference
 Name: Winkler Triep (EPSG - world) 2
 Datum: WGS 1984
 Projection: Winkler Triep
 Central Meridian: 00.0000
 Map Units: Meter