

UNESCO Global Geoparks Application Process

Phase: Preparation

Start with

Contact UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps) in your country (if there are any)
 Contact **National Geopark Committees** (if there is)
 Contact **Regional Geopark Network** and **Global Geopark Network (GGN)**.
 Contact **UNESCO Representation** in your country

Documents that help

1. Statutes and Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks
2. Application Process Frequently Asked Questions

In case of the transnational Geoparks:

1. Explanatory document to guide transnational UNESCO Global Geopark applications

Autopreparation toolkits (no need to send these documents)

- 1.a Self-Evaluation Checklist for Aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks (aUGGp)
- 1.b Self-Evaluation Checklist Explanatory Notes for Aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks (aUGGp)

The checklist serves to help you assess if you are ready to apply.

Events and Courses

Activities organized by UNESCO Global Geoparks.
 Regular short courses, trainings, and mentorship and knowledge exchange programme.
 UNESCO and Regional Geopark Network Activities and Conferences.

Year 1

Phase: Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest

Before July

Letter of Interest should be sent from the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO to the Secretariat at the same year that the dossier is sent.



(Please Note: Documents submitted to UNESCO must be in English and well-written. The use of online translation tools for this purpose is discouraged)

Application Dossier

1st Oct.

1. **Letter of Interest**
2. **Application Dossier (in english).**
 - 2.A General information.
 - 2.B Document checklist.
 - 2.C Location of the area.
 - 2.D Main geological highlight and other elements.
 - 2.E Verification of UNESCO Global Geoparks Criteria.
 - 2.F Interest and Arguments for becoming a UNESCO Global Geopark
3. **List of Mandatory Annexes**
 - 3.1 Self-evaluation document.
 - 3.2 An additional and separate copy of Section E1.1 "Geological heritage and Conservation".
 - 3.3 An explicit endorsement of any relevant local and regional authorities and a letter of support from the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO.
 - 3.4 A large scale of map.
 - 3.5 One-page geological and geographic summary.
 - 3.6 Complete bibliography of the area in Earth Sciences highlighting international publications.

30 Nov.

Dec.

Completeness check by the UNESCO Secretariat

Year 2

Phase: Evaluation

First Part of the Year

New Applications formally presented to Member States at the International Geosciences Programme (IGCP)

Map & One-page Summary

(intergovernmental check) for 3 months

Desktop reviews by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

Second Part of the Year

Evaluation Missions

UNESCO uses a unique procedure of field evaluation and revalidation missions to ensure that areas fulfil or keep on fulfilling the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

These assessments are carried out by two evaluators, which are chosen from the official "Roster of Evaluators". In accordance with the Statutes and the Operational, UNESCO in conjunction with the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) maintains this roster of evaluators who undertake field evaluations of new applications for aUGGps and revalidation missions of established UGGps.

These evaluators have combined and proven professional experience relevant for UGGp development (geological heritage, conservation, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues). They can bring a global perspective to the individual area.

For more information:

Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks Field Inspection Missions Evaluations & Revalidations

UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

Based on the filed evaluation report, there are 3 possible outcomes:

- ***ACCEPT:** Move on to the Nomination Phase the next year.
- ***DEFER:** Need to improve the condition during the next 2 years. A report is required to identify the improvement. Doesn't need to reapply or have another evaluation mission
- ***REJECT:** In case of non-compliance with the requirements. Need to start the application again.



Year 3

Phase: Nomination

April-May

Item on the agenda of the Executive Board Spring Session proposing to endorse the recommendations of the Council.

(The details of the recommendations will be presented in an information Document.)



Every 4 years

Phase: Revalidation

July year before

Apply to the UNESCO Secretariat

A one-page summary of the UNESCO Global Geopark.

one year before the revalidation (at the end of July)

January

Present through the official channel

1. One-page summary
2. Progress report
3. Forms for Revalidation (Form A and B)

by the end of January of the revalidation year

The revalidation

Revalidation Mission

A field mission will be undertaken by two evaluators to revalidate the quality of the UNESCO Global Geopark. On the basis of the field evaluation report, the UNESCO Global Geopark will be awarded with:

- ***Green Card**
- ***Yellow Card**
- ***Red Card**



For more information:

5.6 Procedure of Revalidation (in the operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks)