UNESCO and GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE



THE GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

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Geological Survey of Northern Ireland

UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL GEOPARKS

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.



Naturtejo, Portugal

A geopark must use its geological heritage as it's primary promotional tool but must also promote other aspects of it's natural and cultural heritage.





UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL GEOPARKS

A GEOPARK is not....

an area of outstanding geological heritage alone

a small, single site of geological interest

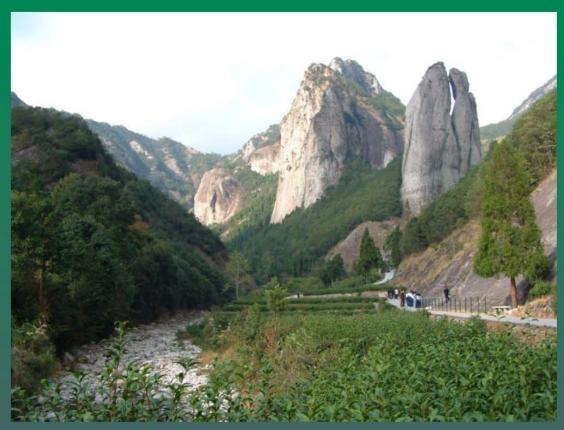
a fenced off area just for scientists

a geological theme park

an area with no local community involvement

an area with no sustainable economic development strategy

a formal, legislative designation and, as such, carries no legal obligations or restrictions.



Yandangshan, China





UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL GEOPARKS

Comprises all 37 members of the European Geoparks Network plus 22 members of the National Geoparks Network of PR of China, 3 in Japan plus one each in Iran, Brazil, Malaysia & Australia.

Regional Networks: For a European territory to become a member they must first become a member of the European Geoparks Network



Langkawi, Malaysia



















UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL GEOPARKS Geopark Development

Submission of application to Paris / Digne-les-Bains (for Europe only)

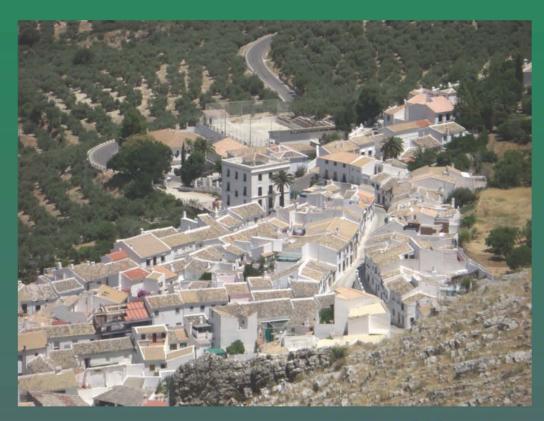
Application is assessed by GGN
Bureau / EGN CC (for Europe only)

Possible request for further clarification

Evaluation mission & report

Assessment by GGN Bureau / EGN CC

Decision



Sierras Subbéticas, Spain



GEOPARKS: Building A Strong Brand

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



NW Highlands, UK

Poor and/or technical communication will mean a yellow card and may mean a red card.





UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL GEOPARKS Geopark Development

On approval, a territory is only endorsed as a geopark for 4 years

A revalidation assessment is then performed

- · progress in geoconservation
- · progress in education
- · progress in sustainable tourism
- · progress in community involvement
- · progress in economy
- involvement in network
- · continuing financial security
- visibility



Hateg, Romania

Green Card

Yellow Card

Red Card



TRADITIONAL:

Talks / lectures
Guided walks / field trips
Books, leaflets etc
Interpretive Panels

Most of these things are exclusive

NON-TRADITIONAL:

Geology & the Arts Geology & Culture Geology & Industry

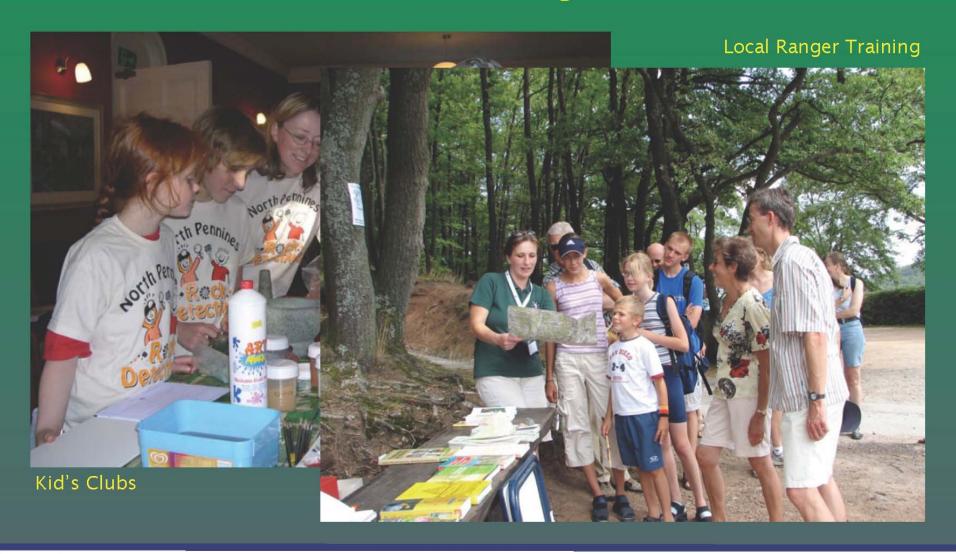
These adopt a holisitic approach



Lesvos Petrified Forest Workshop 2009, Hellas







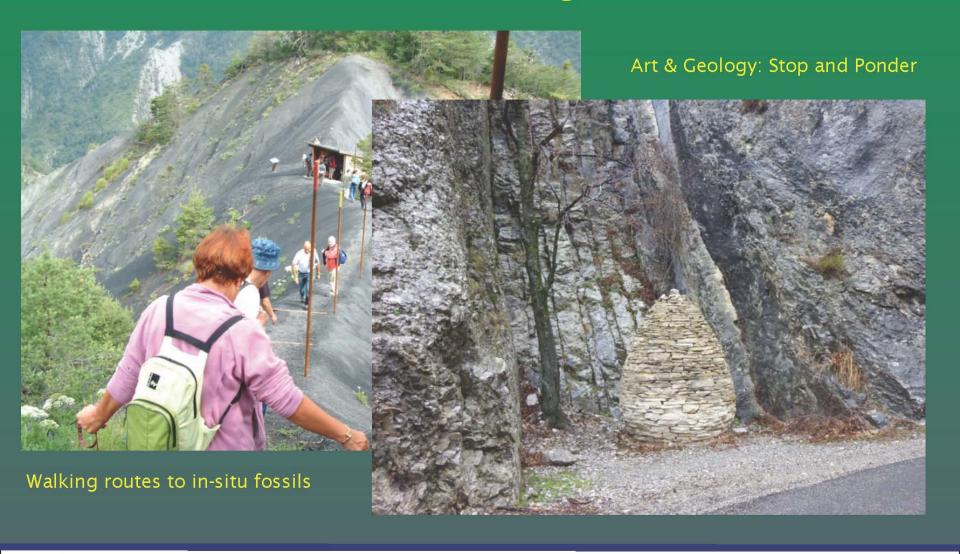


















Walks

Talks

Plays

Kids projects

Food Fairs

Media Events

Special Offers!

Music

Geopark Villages



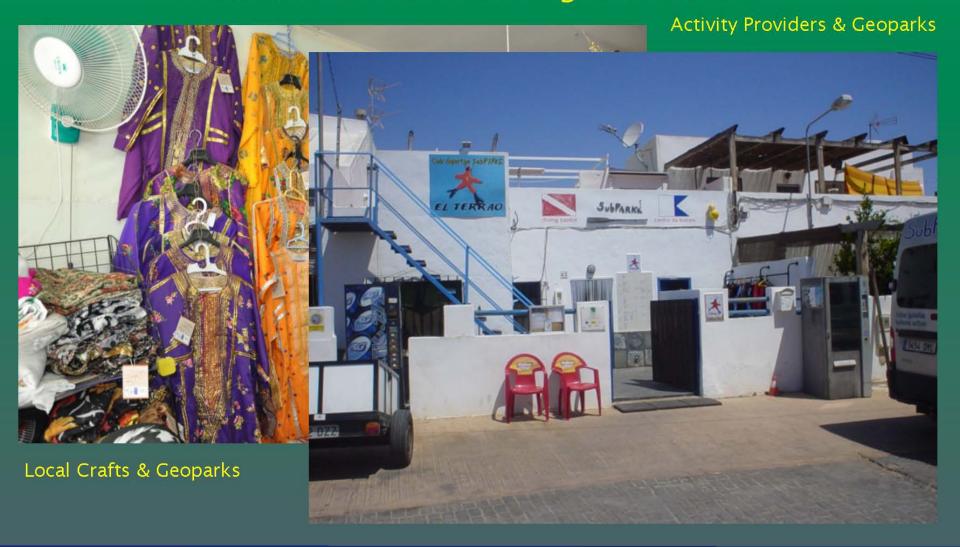
May 23 - June 6, 2010

European Geoparks Week













UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL GEOPARKS Position within UNESCO

Geoparks is an official initative of UNESCO within the Division of Ecological & Earth Sciences

Geoparks is not a programme within UNESCO

Geoparks is not subject to an international convention

Membership of the GGN / EGN is voluntary

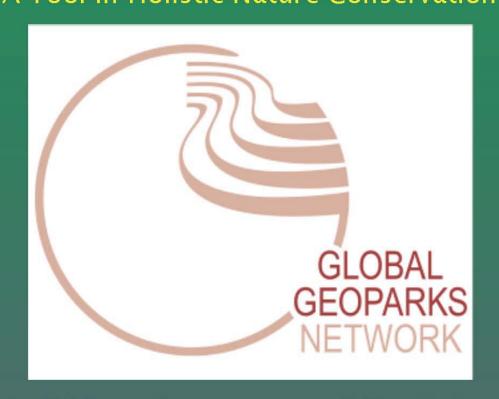
There is a growing political movement among UNESCO member states to strengthen the position of Geoparks within the UN system.



Langkawi, Malaysia



UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK A Tool In Holistic Nature Conservation



Using 4, 500 million years of Earth history to promote sustainable development for all

www.petrifiedforest.gr October 1 - 5, 2010