

# **Geoparks: is it possible in Latvia and Lithuania?**

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# What is Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) 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.



# unesco

## Global Geopark

“Landscapes and geological formations are key witnesses to the evolution of our plane and determinants for our future sustainable development.”

*Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks*



# Geological heritage of international value

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In order to become a UNESCO Global Geopark, the area must have geological heritage of international value. This is assessed by scientific professionals, as part of the “UNESCO Global Geopark Evaluation Team”. Based on the international peer-reviewed, published research conducted on the geological sites within the area, the scientific professionals make a globally comparative assessment to determine whether the geological sites constitute international value.



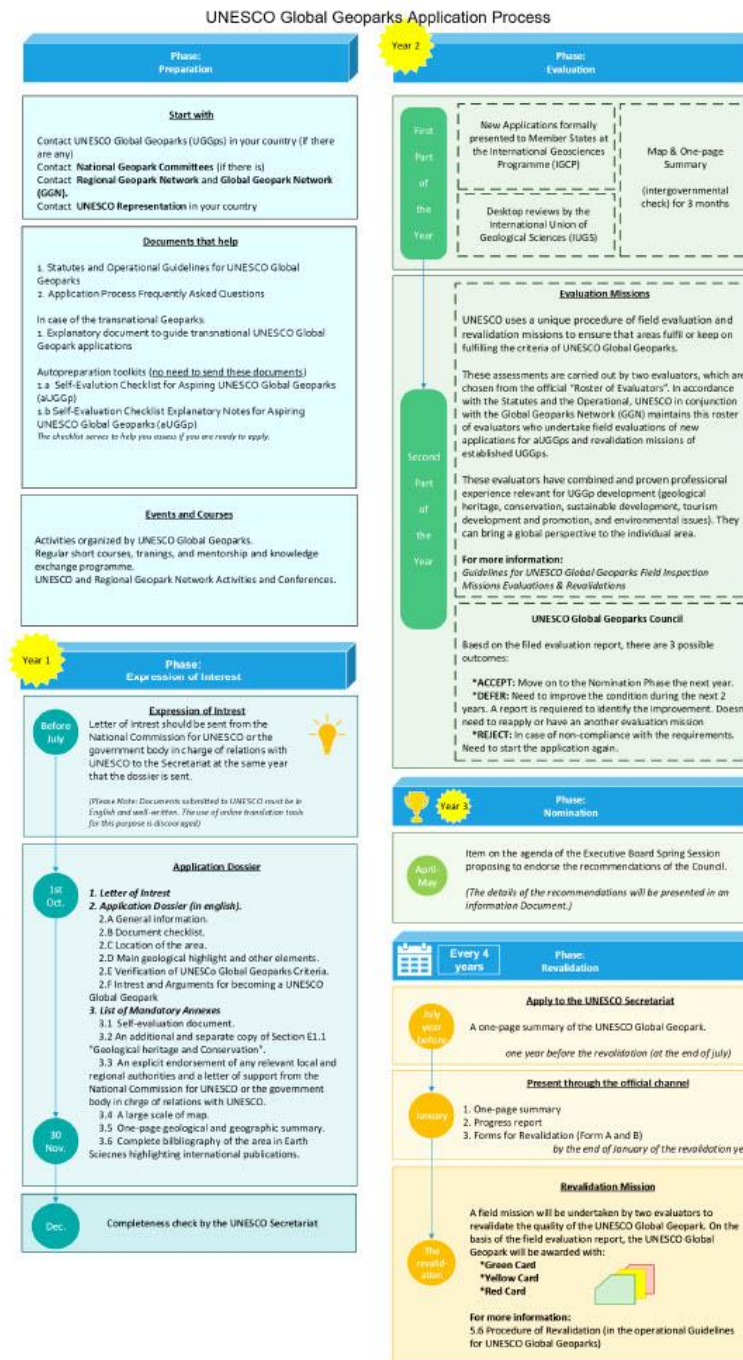
# Is there any criteria?

- UNESCO Global Geoparks must be single, unified geographical areas;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks should use that heritage, in connection with all other aspects of that area's natural and cultural heritage, to promote awareness of key issues facing society;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks should be areas with a management body having legal existence recognized under national legislation;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks should actively involve local communities and indigenous peoples as key stakeholders in the Geopark;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to share their experience and advice and to undertake joint projects within the GGN. Membership of GGN is obligatory;
- UNESCO Global Geopark must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage;
- In the case where an applying area overlaps with another UNESCO designated site, such as a World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserve, the request must be clearly justified and evidence must be provided for how UNESCO Global Geopark status will add value by being both independently branded and in synergy with the other designations



# How to apply?

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat coordinates the proposal submissions



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# How to apply?

A successful UNESCO Global Geopark application should at least demonstrate that:

- It has geological heritage of international value and is managed by a body with legal recognition under national legislation.
- The management body should include all relevant stakeholders, including partners and scientific, local and indigenous (if any) communities.
- It has a comprehensive management plan, covering governance, development, communication, protection, infrastructure, finance, and partnership issues.
- It is in regular contact with other UNESCO Global Geoparks as well as with the Global Geoparks Network.
- Its geological heritage is connected with its cultural and natural heritage, and this connection is used for educational purposes, awareness raising, and informing visitors and locals alike.
- It is a single unified territory – no interrupted borders; the entire territory should be involved in the Geopark's activities.
- If the Geopark project is closer than 100km from an existing UNESCO Global Geopark, ensure that an independent study is undertaken to demonstrate the geological difference and possible complementarity with that Geopark.
- The Geopark engages in appropriate branding, visibility and communication efforts, to both visitors and local people through a dedicated website, signposts, panels, museums, geopark corners, visitor centers, leaflets, and detailed map of the area that connects the area's geological and other sites. An aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark must have a corporate identity, differentiating it from other designations or protected areas in the vicinity.



# Is it big family of Global Geoparks?

At present, there are 229 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 50 countries.

## UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS 2023

**Albania**

- 1 Sharr Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark
- 2 Cerafite Alps UNESCO Global Geopark

**Argentina**

- 1 Monte Aconcagua UNESCO Global Geopark

**Australia**

- 1 Uluru-Kata Tjuta UNESCO Global Geopark

**Austria**

- 1 Hohe Tauern UNESCO Global Geopark

**Brazil**

- 1 Serra da Capivara UNESCO Global Geopark

**Canada**

- 1 Banff National Park UNESCO Global Geopark

**China**

- 1 Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark
- 2 Wuyang UNESCO Global Geopark
- 3 Jiuzhaiguo UNESCO Global Geopark
- 4 Zhenyuan Ancient Town UNESCO Global Geopark

**Croatia**

- 1 Plitvice Lakes UNESCO Global Geopark

**Czechia**

- 1 Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark

**Denmark**

- 1 Lolland UNESCO Global Geopark

**Ecuador**

- 1 Cotacachi-Cajuma UNESCO Global Geopark

**France**

- 1 Montserrat UNESCO Global Geopark

**Germany**

- 1 Volcanic UNESCO Global Geopark

**Ghana**

- 1 Kakum UNESCO Global Geopark

**Guatemala**

- 1 Cumbre Vieja UNESCO Global Geopark

**Hungary**

- 1 Hortobágy UNESCO Global Geopark

**India**

- 1 Gir Forest UNESCO Global Geopark

**Indonesia**

- 1 Komodo UNESCO Global Geopark

**Italy**

- 1 Dolomites UNESCO Global Geopark

**Japan**

- 1 Mount Fuji UNESCO Global Geopark

**Kazakhstan**

- 1 Altyn-Tau UNESCO Global Geopark

**Korea**

- 1 Jeonju UNESCO Global Geopark

**Latvia**

- 1 Gauja UNESCO Global Geopark

**Lithuania**

- 1 Nemunas UNESCO Global Geopark

**Malaysia**

- 1 Bako UNESCO Global Geopark

**Mexico**

- 1 Copper Canyon UNESCO Global Geopark

**Moldova**

- 1 Suceava UNESCO Global Geopark

**Montenegro**

- 1 Durmitor UNESCO Global Geopark

**Norway**

- 1 Jostedal UNESCO Global Geopark

**Poland**

- 1 Białowieża UNESCO Global Geopark

**Portugal**

- 1 Peneda-Gerês UNESCO Global Geopark

**Romania**

- 1 Retezat UNESCO Global Geopark

**Russia**

- 1 Kamchatka UNESCO Global Geopark

**Slovakia**

- 1 Tatras UNESCO Global Geopark

**Slovenia**

- 1 Triglav UNESCO Global Geopark

**Spain**

- 1 Pico de Aneto UNESCO Global Geopark

**Sweden**

- 1 Laponia UNESCO Global Geopark

**Switzerland**

- 1 Aletsch UNESCO Global Geopark

**Taiwan**

- 1 Sun Moon Lake UNESCO Global Geopark

**Tanzania**

- 1 Ngorongoro UNESCO Global Geopark

**Turkey**

- 1 Cappadocia UNESCO Global Geopark

**Ukraine**

- 1 Carpathian UNESCO Global Geopark

**USA**

- 1 Grand Canyon UNESCO Global Geopark

**Vietnam**

- 1 Phong Nha-Ke Bang UNESCO Global Geopark

**Yemen**

- 1 Socotra UNESCO Global Geopark

**Zimbabwe**

- 1 Great Zimbabwe UNESCO Global Geopark

The best way to visit the UNESCO Global Geoparks is to visit the local people and learn about their culture and traditions. The local people are the best source of information about the Geopark and its history. They can tell you about the local legends, the local customs, and the local way of life. They can also show you the local sights and help you to understand the local environment. The local people are the best source of information about the Geopark and its history. They can tell you about the local legends, the local customs, and the local way of life. They can also show you the local sights and help you to understand the local environment.

Situated in the northern Italian Alps, the Adamello-Brione Geopark is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

The presence of highland islands, streams, and beautiful cave clusters gives the park a unique character. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

Whip the NOONKONG Geopark (Chadron) is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

An essential task of UNESCO Global Geoparks is to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

Striking red sandstones and sandstone cliffs are the main features of the park. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

Discover the Grotto of the Grottoes in the Grotto of the Grottoes. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

The local Jomon-Kofun tribe in the Grotto of the Grottoes. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

Geoparks of the Mito-Geopark. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

Prehistoric artists painted geometric shapes on the rocks of the Grotto of the Grottoes. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are being laboratories and open classrooms. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

The art of Geoparks, modernism and postmodernism of modern times. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

YANGTZE RIVER UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

Children in the HONGKONG UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

You can discover breath-taking landscapes while taking a river boat ride in the HONGKONG UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

AMUSE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

Geopark and sustainable future. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

In the HONGKONG UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK. The park is a beautiful area with a rich history. The park is home to many rare plants and animals, and it is a great place to visit for anyone who loves nature. The park is also a great place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about the local history and culture.

UNESCO Global Geoparks Map 2023 English.indd 1

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# Is it beneficiary?

- UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area.
- Global Geoparks help to promote region;
- Stimulate generation of new revenue sources through geotourism;
- Accelerate close partnership between local communities, municipalities, companies, park administrations and another stockholders;
- Growing up understanding of geology and landscape values, importance for sustainable development;
- Create opportunities for international cooperation





# Who can help in the process?

## Finnish experience

UNESCO designated Salpausselkä Geopark, situated in the Lahti region in southern Finland, tells the story of the best-known geological entity of Finland. The First and Second Salpausselkä are unique ice-marginal formations laid down by ancient meltwater streams at the end of the Ice Age. They reach across the entirety of southern Finland and are at their most spectacular in the area of Salpausselkä Geopark. Here they are joined to eskers of international value, such as the picturesque Kelvenne Island and Pulkkilanharju Esker in Päijänne National Park

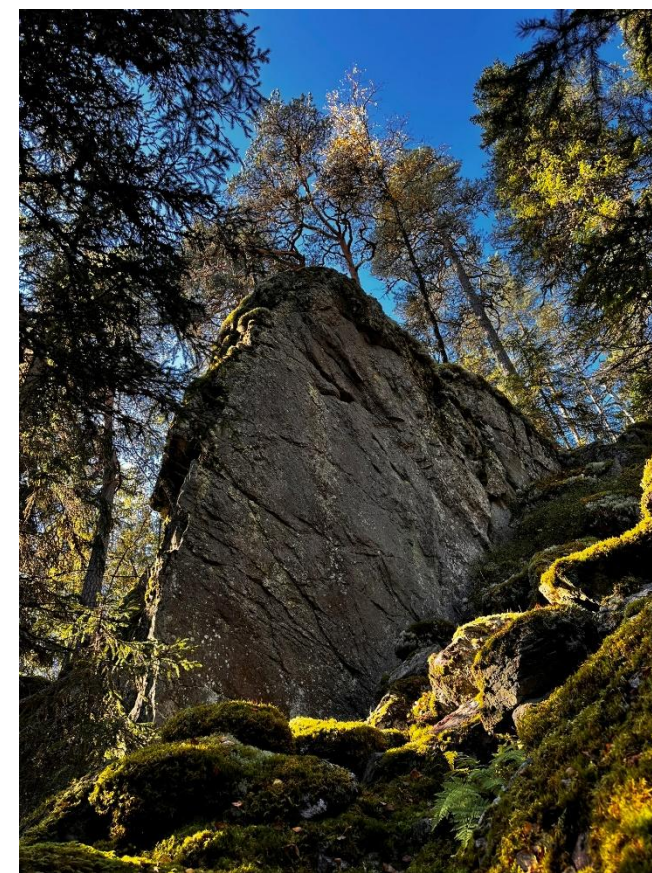
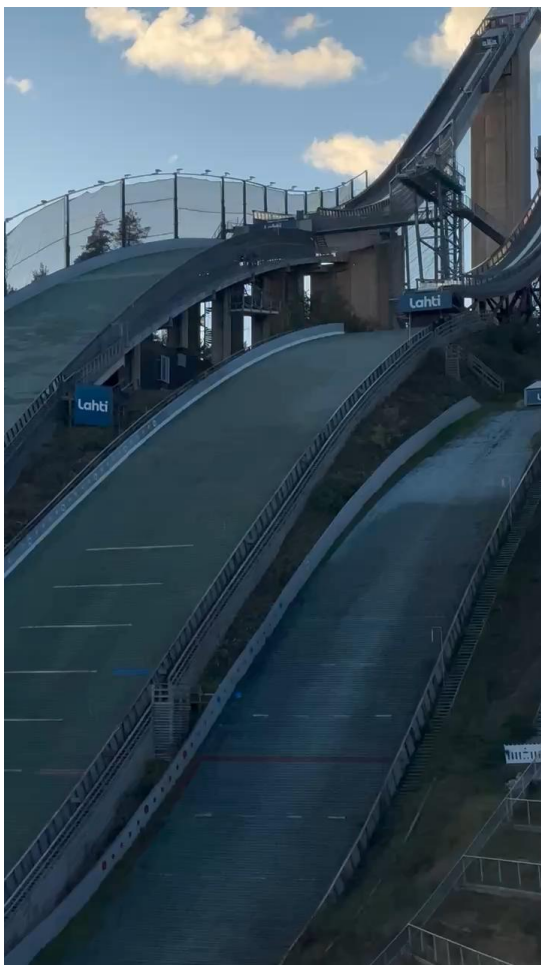




# How can be useful geoformations for local economy?

## Finnish experience

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# How can be useful geoformations for local economy? Finnish experience

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<https://www.lahti.fi/en/news/unesco-global-geopark-designation-to-salpausselka-geopark/>



<https://visitlahti.fi/en/frontpage/salpausselka-geopark/pre-tours-in-salpausselka-geopark/>



# Is it possible to have Global Geopark in LT an LV?

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Maybe UNESCO Geopark can be here?



# Is it possible to have Global Geopark in LT an LV?

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Or here?



# Is it possible to have Global Geopark in LT an LV?

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Have Kurzeme areas known as  
international geological  
significance?

<https://www.copernicus.eu/en/media/image-day-gallery/latvia-slitere-national-park>



# What we can do now?

- Start to understand what UNESCO Global Geopark system is;
- Find protentional areas for Global Geopark;
- Collect data about geological structures and valuable landscapes, rich of geological heritage;
- Start discussions with local players to find most balanced opportunities;
- JUST ACT, DON'T BE AFRAID, BE PATIEN, MOVE FORVARD!!!!

# THANK YOU!

Ramūnas Lydis

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