



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO  
Te Kōwhirihihi Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO

# Timeline

Interested in applying? Anticipated milestones in the application process are:



# UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS PROGRAMME

## Application process

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO is establishing a UNESCO Global Geoparks programme in New Zealand. Up to two candidates per year may be nominated for UNESCO Global Geoparks status.

# What are UNESCO Global Geoparks?

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.

Activities that can be considered typical of a Geopark are mostly geotourism or educational-based.

These include:



Geoparks adopt a holistic approach to their heritage and promote all aspects of their region's natural and cultural heritage.

# Why become a UNESCO Global Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer opportunities to:

- » raise awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today
- » give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area
- » generate new sources of revenue through sustainable geotourism
- » protect geological resources of the area.

Successful applicants will automatically become part of the Global Geoparks Network. Its objectives are to:

- » promote the equitable geographical establishment, development and professional management of Global Geoparks
- » advance knowledge and understanding of the nature, function and role of Global Geoparks
- » assist local communities to value their natural and cultural heritage
- » preserve Earth heritage for present and future generations
- » educate and teach the broad public about issues in geo-sciences and their relation with environmental matters, climate change and natural hazards
- » ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development on the natural (or geological) system
- » foster multi-cultural links between heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity
- » stimulate research when appropriate
- » promote joint initiatives between Global Geoparks.

Members of the Network are entitled to use the registered 'UNESCO Global Geopark' brand as a mark of quality.

# Criteria

Aspiring Global Geoparks must first submit an Expression of Interest to the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. Preferred applicants will be invited to develop a full dossier, including a comprehensive business plan.

A UNESCO Global Geopark must:

- have geological heritage of international value
- be managed by a body having legal existence recognised under national legislation that has a comprehensive management plan, covering governance, development, communication, protection, infrastructure, finance and partnership issues
- be visible to both visitors and local people through a dedicated website, leaflets, and detailed map of the area that connects the area's geological and other sites
- have a corporate identity.

**Note:** Successful Global Geoparks are required to join the Global Geoparks Network. The annual membership fee is €1500. Applicants that are nominated by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO must also cover the cost of travelling and accommodation for two experts from Europe, who will undertake a field evaluation. Sites are re-evaluated every four years.

**To download the Expression of Interest form, visit [www.unesco.org.nz](http://www.unesco.org.nz)**

**To learn more about becoming a UNESCO Global Geopark visit [www.unesco.org/geoparks](http://www.unesco.org/geoparks)**

For more information contact the Secretariat:

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