

POLISH GEOPARKS FORUM

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG TERM STRATEGY 2025-2027

Pillar 1: Preserving Our Earth, Environment and Resources				
Key 1. Climate Change Adaptation– Roadmap for Resilience				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Raising General Community Awareness on Climate Change	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collection / sharing of climate data and preparation for use of citizen science apps - Geoparks as platform between science and public: (low-threshold) lectures with scientists in combination with workshops, tastings etc. - Supporting and promoting local products and explaining the benefits of short distances and supply chains - investigation and reports on regionally adapted and tested methods: Regional climate adaptation strategies (e.g. agriculture, forestry, pond farming, green cities) - developing cooperation with geopark schools in organizing online training sessions and seminars on climate change topics for teachers and students (using the formula of the Geopark Teachers Forum as a platform of communication and exchange good practices) - strengthening collaboration between geoparks and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations involved in promoting climate change awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - joint lists of specialists and experts for specific topics - list of local products related to geopark themes yearly - list/ number of conferences/seminars / training sessions and number of participants (children, students, teachers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shared experience and ideas - an increase in knowledge and public awareness about the causes and effects of climate change, as well as the prevention of its negative impacts - raising awareness of the role of UNESCO Global Geoparks as territories for implementing sustainable development strategies and climate education

		- participation of representatives of UNESCO Global Geoparks in climate congresses/conferences (including the UN Climate Change Conference)		
2. Encouraging Population's Actions on Waste Management and Recycling Material Use - Introducing zero plastic policy.	Individual Geoparks	- information and participation media (e.g. postcard with checklist) - promotion of alternative packaging materials among Geopark partners - clean-up actions in environmentally valuable areas organized in cooperation between geoparks, local non-governmental organizations, and the local community	- number of distributed post cards, - number of clean-up actions - number of actions participants	integrating important topics into people's everyday lives
3. Analyzing UGGps Energy Use	GGN/Individual Geoparks	- annual self-evaluation in the own management organisation - CO ² consumption for flights (meetings, conferences, missions...) - collection of data from municipalities on renewable energy sources		increasing visibility and importance in our own administration
4. Evolving the Network's Operation	GGN/Individual Geoparks	- creation of a stable local basis: annual reports in our own managing organisations - improvement of junior staff work		
5. Adoption of a GGN Carbon Offset Policy and Procedure				
6. Collecting and using of Carbon Offsetting	Individual Geoparks	- CO ² consumption for flights		
7. Promoting Annual UGGp action plan on climate change adaptation	Individual Geoparks	- addition of information on climate change and actions to minimise the effects of climate change on the Geoparks' websites		

Key 2. Protecting and Conserving Geoparks Heritage, Geodiversity, Biodiversity and Resources

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Raising General Community Awareness on Geopark Heritage and enhancing links between all types of heritage	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular dialogue at management level to identify overlaps and pool measures, intellectual and technical capacities, personnel capacities, etc. - organization of geopark popular science events modeled on TEDx, aimed at spreading valuable ideas related to the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of geological, natural, and cultural heritage - special field seminars with the participation of the local community and representatives of institutions/non-governmental organizations involved in the protection of geological, natural, and cultural heritage 	number of events with UNESCO visibility	raising awareness of value of UNESCO in society
3. Protecting and Conserving Geological Heritage	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual inventory with the involvement of the specialised authorities and municipalities / counties - collection of best practice from all continents - creation of a geopark good practices catalogue (digital version for online distribution) in the field of protection and conservation of various types of heritage - active participation of UNESCO Global Geoparks in the consultation of planning documents related to the protection and conservation of legally protected environmentally valuable areas (in particular, representative geosites under legal protection) 	collection of examples/ projects	shared experience and ideas
4. Collaborating on the management of Protected Natural Areas and Protecting Biodiversity	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual meetings with neighbouring parks and administrative organisations - development of joint projects in the field of diversity; taking into account biological and geological components 	nr. of projects nr. of actions	- enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation between geoparks and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - communicating interdisciplinary approaches in public presentations - joint educational activities organized in cooperation with the national geological survey and state and regional institutions responsible for the protection and conservation of geological and natural heritage (including Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection, and institutions managing national and landscape parks) - 		<p>institutions/organizations involved in the protection and conservation of environmentally valuable areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing awareness among representatives of national and regional nature conservation institutions about the value and necessity of protecting geological heritage
5. Promoting Cultural Heritage and enhancing links between all types of heritage	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthening communication measures for intangible heritage, enabling data exchange to support research, more intensive use of the UNESCO logo for intangible heritage - joint elaboration and/or sharing of common expertise, development of joint projects - organization of educational and promotional events (walks, lectures,) showcasing the connections between cultural heritage and geological as well as natural heritage - organization of annual photography contests under the theme "Stone in the deposit, landscape, and culture", aimed at highlighting the geological heritage of geoparks in a landscape and cultural context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - number of actions - number of participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing awareness among the local community about the connection between cultural heritage, geodiversity, and biodiversity

Key 3. Collaborating on the management of Water Resources

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Encouraging sustainable management of Water Resources in Geoparks	Individual Geoparks	- school projects on the subject of water / rivers / springs - introduction of a 'springs' day - cooperation between geoparks and national, regional, and local institutions managing water resources to organize joint educational activities promoting the protection of groundwater and surface water resources and their sustainable use	- number of actions - number of participants	improving the visibility of the topic and its importance for all of us
2. Promoting conservation of existing water sources	Individual Geoparks	- "Water Weeks": recurrent School event in co-operation with a regional water supply association	nr. of participants	promoting extracurricular environmental education
6. Sustaining rivers and healthy water-dependent ecosystems	Individual Geoparks	- involvement of UNESCO Global Geoparks in regional/national initiatives aimed at promoting the protection of river and lake ecosystems as biodiversity enclaves and water reservoirs (including the nationwide, Polish campaign "Clean River")	- number of actions - number of participants	raising public awareness about the importance of protecting and sustainably using surface water resources within geoparks

Key 4. Protecting Ocean and Marine Ecosystems

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Protecting coastal resources and combat marine pollution in Geopark				
2. Reducing plastic pollution in the oceans and coasts				
3. Supporting Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)				

Pillar 2: Strengthening Communities: Fostering Inclusion and Resilience				
Key 5. Promoting Geoparks as implementation fields for the SDGs and their extended programme beyond 2030				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Continuation of the activity of the GGN SDGs working group at international, regional and national levels	GGN / SDG WG/ Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - building lasting relationships with administration and specialised authorities and establishing the importance of UGGps in the context of SDGs - cooperation with national non-governmental organizations promoting the idea of sustainable development in various aspects (ecology, local communities, business, industry, tourism, healthy food) - individual SDG Action plan with ongoing and regular activities throughout the year (workshops, template of SDG contributions) - promoting individual action among local communities in support of the SDGs (e.g. Buy not more than I consume, Buy regional and seasonal, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - number of partnerships - number of projects/initiatives 	visibility of benefits on SDG activities in UGGps - SDGs
2. Reporting from each Geopark on its contribution to SDGs	Individual Geoparks	- ongoing annual activities	nr. of activities	
7. Creation of a GGN Report on the contribution of Geoparks to SDGs	GGN/ SDG WG			
Key 6. Empowering local communities and strengthening Geopark management				

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Ensuring the participation of Local Communities in Geoparks management	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular meetings and workshops with local municipalities, annual reports, newsletter - promotion and acceptance of the diversity of opportunities for cooperation depending on local characteristics 	nr. of yearly meetings & participants	visibility of social benefit of UGGps for territories & in SDGs
2. Strengthening the Geopark management body staff and partners (increasing of the number of staff, budget, number of partners)	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organization of geopark booths and face-to-face meetings for potential partners during industry trade events related to tourism, education, environmental protection, geology, and other fields connected to geopark activities 	nr. of staff per UGGp - number of partners	visibility of socioeconomic benefit of UGGps in territories
3. Ensuring the gender equality as a basic framework in the Geopark operation and communication of Geopark	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - self-commitment by equal payment, balance of male/female team members, female leading positions 		
4. Ensuring the involvement of the young generation in all levels of Geoparks is essential to for the development and prosperity of these territories in the future	Individual Geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support for voluntary work, volunteer positions - provision of topics and support for Bachelor's/Master's theses, project studies, etc. - cooperation with local schools and universities - cooperation between geoparks and local and regional volunteer centers through the organization of joint promotional and informational campaigns - using social media and modern visual communication tools to spread the idea of geoparks among young people or to engage youth in activities related to promoting geoparks (e.g., GeoTikTokers, GeoInstagramers) 	nr. of supported students / volunteers	

5. Ensuring the recognition and representation of Indigenous communities in Geoparks		- presence of the topic in the UGGp's management organisation		increase in awareness
6. Documenting and promoting local knowledge, traditions, and intangible heritage	Individual Geoparks	- assistance / support in the creation of cadastres - documentation of first-hand knowledge of older people in the region, involvement of local specialists (e.g. crafts, agriculture...) - support for intergenerational dialogue	nr. of activities and participants	
7. Creating policies and tools to preserve and promote local languages	Individual Geoparks	- creation of audio guides / print products for the local language - creating and strengthening of distribution channels		
8. Working to confront demographic challenges in rural areas	Individual Geoparks	- implementation of special offers for families and children	nr. of activities / participants	

Key 7. Mitigating Natural Disasters

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Strengthening the activity of the GGN Geohazards working group activity at the international, regional networks and national and community levels	Individual Geoparks	- identification of own geo-risks and hazards in cooperation with regional and local authorities and municipalities - creating awareness of the importance of safety preparation and prevention, e.g. through workshops, behavioral and training measures - organization of geopark training sessions and seminars with the participation of representatives from national geological surveys, dedicated to the topic of geohazards; exchange of experiences and best practices in the management of areas at risk of geohazards	list of UGGps having these activities number of activities (seminars, training sessions)	raising awareness of the need for geohazards and raising the population's awareness of geohazards

2. Creating specific tools designed for the population as well as for schools to help them detect risks and respond effectively (e.g., Creating a comic book designed to help local populations in poor rural areas detect signs of possible landslides)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - utilisation of own communication channels (e.g. print products for children) to educate - development of multimedia tools (3D animations) illustrating selected geohazards (the mechanism of the process and its impacts in the context of various geological, geomorphological, and climatic conditions) 	- number of products (including multimedia tools)	Strengthen own awareness of responsibility
3. UGGp action plan on geohazards and disaster mitigation	GGN / Geohazards WG	- inclusion in the masterplan		
4. Preparation of an annual GGN report on geohazards and climate change	GGN / Geohazards WG			

Pillar 3: Optimizing GGN, Building Capacity, Leadership, and Global Impact				
Key 8. Building Capacity, Strengthening Skills and Expertise across GGN				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Comprehensive and coordinated planning of the capacity building activities. Creation of an annual calendar by GGN in collaboration with UNESCO Secretariat for capacity building: aspiring Geoparks, Geopark evaluators, Geopark managers				
2. Capacity building activities for aspiring Geoparks: address the uneven distribution of UGGps and expand the GGN, in particular in African, Middle East, Central Asian countries, small islands developing states (SIDS), etc.	UNESCO /GGN	- provision of senior partners for corresponding continents / regions / thematic priorities and consultancies for interested territories		having a forecast on evtl. applications for UGGp transferring knowledge to new GGN members
3. Capacity building activities for Geopark evaluators: proving and maintaining the quality of evaluators as well as recruiting qualified volunteers who want to contribute to maintaining the quality of the IGGP	GGN/UNESCO	- FAQ for junior evaluators or topics asked by territories - utilising the knowledge and experience of inactive / senior evaluators for training younger / new / inexperienced evaluators	list of active evaluators and of inactive list of annual workshop dates	
4. Capacity building activities for Geopark Managers:	GGN/UNESCO	- mutual support of new and senior UGGps		transferring knowledge to new GGN members

intensive courses for new managers of the GGN members				
5. Supporting capacity-building activities for GGN members at regional and national levels	GGN	- online trainings for members on regional and national level		
6. Developing GGN digital tools for its members (Geoparks Educational e-Library, Geoparks e-Learning Database)	GGN / GGN WGs	- collection of best practise & publications	list	
Key 9. Uplifting Leadership and Organizational Capacity of GGN				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Strengthening GGN's management structure and statutory bodies operation to ensure its long-term partnership with UNESCO. Strengthen functionality of the GGN, building on the achievements of the GGN over the past 20 years	GGN			
2. Strengthening networking among UGGps at regional and national levels	Regional Networks	- annual meetings, common projects - organization/co-organization by UGGps of national and regional conferences and seminars with the participation of representatives of national institutions (ministries, national geological surveys, national tourism organizations), as well as national geoparks and other local initiatives interested in establishing a geopark	list of projects of collaboration or research projects within the regional networks - number of activities	- contribution to IUGS activities, e.g. research projects - better promotion and recognition of the status of UNESCO Global Geoparks and enhanced networking at the national and regional level

3. Enhancing regional and national connections between UGGps with thematic targets to improve the quality and outcome of the GGN, emphasizing the use of GGN logo	National GGNs	- annual meetings, common projects	list of common projects	
4. Communication and promotion of the UGGp concept. Developing user-friendly materials (e.g., comics, videos, publications) to clearly communicate the UGGp concept and language to local communities	GGN / Regional Networks / Individual geoparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of a basic communication tool from the international (GGN) to the national (NUC) level via the state and regional authorities to the management organisations and advisory boards - organization of annual national conferences dedicated to geopark-related topics, with the participation of UGGps, national geoparks, ministries, national geological surveys, national tourism organizations, universities, non-governmental organizations, and business entities (e.g., the National Geo-Product Forum) - implementation by UGGps of joint publication projects and traveling exhibitions dedicated to geoparks, aimed at promoting the idea of geoparks among local communities 	nr. of authorities / organization reached and involved in this process - number of initiatives and participants - number of projects/publications /exhibitions	improving of the UGGp's visibility in government, society etc.
5. Empowering national GGN Networks and strengthen their connection and collaboration with the National Commissions for UNESCO and the National Delegations at UNESCO	National GGNs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular exchange and meetings - involvement of representatives of National UNESCO Committees and National Delegates to UNESCO in joint projects with UGGps; - patronage of National UNESCO Committees over projects implemented by UGGps; - strengthening cooperation between UGGps and National UNESCO Committees by appointing individuals responsible for 	nr. of meetings	

		communication and implementation of joint projects with UGGps within the Committees		
--	--	---	--	--

Pillar 4: Strengthening Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development				
Key 10. Ensuring Quality in the International Geo-sciences Geoparks Programme IGGP				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Facilitating the GGN's tasks in relation to the IGGP	GGN			
2. Facilitating the roster of Evaluators in conjunction with UNESCO / IGGP Secretariat	GGN	- collection of individual expertise of evaluators (e.g. language)	list of evaluators /revalidators	safeguarding quality, experience and knowledge transfer
3. Organizing advisory missions in aspiring and yellow-card holding Geoparks	GGN/Roster of Evaluators	- enabling / supporting counselling by appointing experts	recommendations	increasing successful revalidations
4. Supporting activities co-organized in conjunction with UNESCO / IGGP Secretariat				
5. Strengthening the position of the IGGP in member states in relation to other UNESCO programmes	All bodies of GGN	- mutual presentations and introductions of the programmes - provision of free information		
6. Strengthening collaboration with IGCP	IGGP/IGCP		collection of research projects in UGGps	
Key 11. Strengthening Collaboration with UNESCO Site Designations				
ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Developing a collaborative proposal for joint activities between site UNESCO designations	GGN / UNESCO, individual Geoparks	- presentation of existing best practice - common meetings with other UNESCO programmes - support for cross-regional cooperation, especially in structurally weak regions	list nr. of meetings / events / activities	strengthening UNESCO label in general in society

2. Promoting the resources and the potential of the UGGps as sustainable developing territories	GGN Communication WG	- development of common communication material	nr. of publications / shared links & posts	improving awareness on UGGps and GGN
---	----------------------	--	--	--------------------------------------

Key 12. Enhancing International Cooperation

ACTION	GGN BODY	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Strengthening collaboration with UNESCO, the World Tourism Organization - UNWTO, the International Union of Geological Sciences - IUGS, the International Union for Nature Conservation - IUCN, with other international relevant organizations (i.e. ICOMOS, IGU etc.)	GGN ExB	- invitation of these organizations to GGN Conferences with contributions /booths ... - special session at GGN Conferences	nr. of contributions	