



GGN STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-2027

UNESCO Global Geoparks (2004-2024) **WORLD TOURISM DAY 2024** **TOURISM AND PEACE** **September 2024** **27 Friday** **World Tourism Day** **Global Geoparks Network**

UNESCO Global Geoparks **INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY DAY** **10 OCTOBER** **GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK** www.globalgeoparknetwork.org

WOMEN IN GEOPARKS **unesco** **2024** **20th Anniversary** **Global Geoparks Network**

World Wetlands Day **unesco** **2024** **20th Anniversary** **Global Geoparks Network**

UNESCO Global Geoparks MOUNTAIN DAY **unesco** **2024** **20th Anniversary** **Global Geoparks Network**

Celebrating International Geodiversity Day **unesco** **2024** **20th Anniversary** **Global Geoparks Network**

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT **unesco** **2024** **20th Anniversary** **Global Geoparks Network**

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION **unesco** **2024** **20th Anniversary** **Global Geoparks Network**

Pillar 1: Preserving Our Earth, Environment and Resources			
Key 1. Climate Change Adaptation– Roadmap for Resilience			
ACTION 1. Raising General Community Awareness on Climate Change			
	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Disseminate information on the memory of past climate events and the current realities of human-induced climate change within the Geopark territory, targeting different audiences through appropriate communication channels (e.g., events, publications, online platforms, social media, etc.)	By 2027, at least two communication products addressing climate change issues in the Geopark territory are produced and shared	Climate change education, communication, and public awareness are enhanced within Geoparks Creation of a diverse range of outreach materials on climate change, adapted for different audiences, including schools, tourists, and local communities, demonstrating broad engagement across the UGGp (e.g., infographics, videos, blog posts, educational handouts) Co-develop a communitybased climate information and education program with a local schools and local populations / elder members / indigenous populations, involving at youth participants in documenting climate impacts within each UGGp.
2)	Promote the Geopark territory as a living laboratory for research agendas that offer solutions (i.e., mitigation and adaptation strategies) to address the multiple challenges of human-induced climate change across all spatial scales (local, regional, and global)	Number of research initiatives carried out within Geoparks that contribute to the understanding of the impacts of climate change and the development of relevant mitigation and adaptation strategies.	Support scientific research to consistently support the formulation of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies tailored to the specific characteristics of the Geopark territory Create initiatives in the Geopark to enhance understanding of climate change effects and promote the creation of tailored strategies for mitigation and adaptation, establishing the Geopark as a key location for climate resilience studies.
ACTION 2. Encouraging Population's Actions on Waste Management and Recycling Material Use - Introducing zero plastic policy			
1)	Raise public awareness about the need and shared responsibility for transitioning to a circular economy focused on the reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastic.	Number of community members participating in awareness workshops, campaigns, or events related to zero plastic use. Increase in the use of reusable alternatives (e.g., cloth bags, bottles) reported through surveys or local sales data.	At least 2/3 of the UGGps will have actively participated in zeroplastic awareness initiatives, leading to a measurable shift toward the use of reusable materials in daily life.
2)	Encourage Geopark partners to actively engage in the environmentally sound management of plastic waste.	Number and variety of actions involving Geopark partners in supporting or improving practices related to the environmentally sound management of plastic waste.	
ACTION 3. Analyzing UGGps Energy Use			
1)	Explore and encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy where possible including, but not limited to, transportation and for heating/cooling.	Number and diversity of initiatives promoting energy efficiency and use of renewable energy within Geopark infrastructure and services.	Enhance the integration of sustainable energy practices in Geopark operations, promoting energy efficiency, cleaner mobility, and reduced carbon emissions across facilities and services.
ACTION 4. Evolving the Network's Operation			
1)	Establish Climate Change Focal Points in all UGGps	Number or percentage of UGGps that have officially designated a climate change focal point by the end of 2026. Number of capacitybuilding sessions or training events attended by designated focal points.	By the end of 2026, all UGGps will have an officially designated and trained climate change focal point actively involved in integrating mitigation and adaptation measures into local management practices.
ACTION 5. Adoption of a GGN Carbon Offset Policy and Procedure			
1)	Develop and Approve a GGN-Wide Carbon Reduction and Offset Policy and Operational Guidelines	Existence of a formally approved GGN Carbon Reduction and Offset Policy and implementation guidelines by the end of 2026. Number of stakeholder consultations (e.g., workshops, surveys, expert reviews) conducted during the policy development process.	By the end of 2026, a comprehensive GGN Carbon Reduction and Offset Policy and operational guidelines will be formally approved and adopted by the network, providing a clear framework for consistent and credible carbon offsetting across member Geoparks.
ACTION 6. Collecting and using of Carbon Offsetting			
1)	Develop regional Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plans on a four year basis.	Existence of a general model/template for UGGp climate change adaptation and mitigation plans developed by the GGN and adapted by Regional Networks. Existence of regional climate change adaptation and mitigation plans by mid 2026. Percentage of planned adaptation and mitigation actions successfully implemented by participating UGGps each year. Number of annual meetings held with documented mid point progress reports and updates to the climate change adaptation and mitigation plans.	By the end of 2027, a regional climate change adaptation and mitigation plan based on a shared GGN model will be developed by each Regional Geoparks Network, and implementation will have begun ensuring clear progress towards reducing climate vulnerability and enhancing resilience across the GGN.
ACTION 7. Promoting Annual UGGp action plan on climate change adaptation			

1)	Encourage each UGGp to include basic climate adaptation reference in its local plan	Number of UGGps mentioning climate topics	Establishment of initial climate sections in park plans
Key 2. Protecting and Conserving Geoparks Heritage, Geodiversity, Biodiversity and Resources			
ACTION 1. Raising General Community Awareness on Geopark Heritage and enhancing links between all types of heritage			
1)	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Compiling activities for a Geo-Biodiversity Day e.g. Spanish Geosite Day / German Geotop Day in September etc. ... yearly	Template to collect data on number of activities, number of participant numbers, costs	quantitative data on visitors, costs (investment of UGGps), report for GGN Workshop and for GGN magazine with DOI
2)	Coordinating contributions on Facebook by GGN members & communication WG of GGN on the geodiversity/biodiversity actions on that day		
3)	Strengthening GGN branding by promoting Geopark gastronomy and create a calendar of events on international food-related dates and occasions to introduce different dishes, products, ethics, etc., from different geoparks and promote the linkage between gastronomy elements and other types of heritages.	Creating a datasheet of the data related to the different links between gastronomy and the different types of heritage	Gathering information from different geoparks on this topic to analyze the variety of existing cases.
ACTION 2. Protecting and Conserving Geological Heritage			
1)	Collecting best practice examples and develop a template to collect them on projects to protect and conserve geological heritage by WG	Number of different disciplines of geosites – geodiversity, volume of site protection, new methodology	Qualitative results and innovative protection & conservation methodology report after 2 years and an e-booklet for next GGN conference and GGN assembly
2)	Awareness campaign aiming to promote not selling geological material		
ACTION 3. Collaborating on the management of Protected Natural Areas and Protecting Biodiversity			
1)	Integrating GGN members on compiling best practise examples of national parks and geoparks etc.	Number of participants in these activities	Qualitative - type of projects and project topics – report with DOI after 2 years for GGN magazine
ACTION 4. Promoting Cultural Heritage and enhancing links between all types of heritage			
1)	Collecting and exchanging best practise examples of collaboration between UGGps & Cultural Heritage	number of participants, type of collaborations, challenges etc.	E-Booklet at the end of 2 years GGN strategy
Key 3. Collaborating on the management of Water Resources			
ACTION 1. Encouraging sustainable management of Water Resources in Geoparks			
1)	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Online workshop on traditional and innovative water management as well as water waste management in different areas such as agriculture, food-related industries, and food preparation stages, with the presentation of best practices	Create a report on how gastronomy could be affected by water shortage, and provide examples of best practices on the issue of management	Raising awareness among the local community on the importance of water usage reduction Exchanging knowledge and experience in this field
ACTION 2. Promoting conservation of existing water sources			
1)	Identify vulnerable water sources (springs, wells, groundwater) and share protection strategies	Number of protection strategies shared	Enhanced conservation efforts of local water resources
ACTION 3. Sustaining rivers and healthy water-dependent ecosystems			
1)	Organize collaborative river and lakes cleanups involving community members and stakeholders	Collaborative river cleanups implemented effectively	Reduced river pollution and increased environmental awareness in the community
Key 4. Protecting Ocean and Marine Ecosystems			
ACTION 1. Protecting coastal resources and combat marine pollution in Geopark			

	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Encourage voluntary clean-up efforts at coastal areas held in conjunction with World Oceans Day (June 8)	Number of clean-up activities	Increased awareness on marine pollution
ACTION 2. Reducing plastic pollution in the oceans and coasts			
1)	Campaign through social media on reduction, reuse and recycle of plastic	1 per year	Raising public awareness on microplastic in the oceans and health problems
ACTION 3. Supporting Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)			
1)	Facilitate information exchange between UGGps and adjacent MPAs	Number of coordination activities or case studies	Improved integration of Geoparks and MPA conservation efforts
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 1. Continuation of the activity of the GGN SDGs working group at international, regional and national levels			
	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Individual SDG Action plan with ongoing and regular activities throughout the year (workshops, template of SDG contributions)	Individual SDG Action plan with ongoing and regular activities throughout the year (workshops, template of SDG contributions)	Visibility of benefits on SDG activities in UGGps - SDGs
ACTION 2. Reporting from each Geopark on its contribution to SDGs			
1)	Each UGGp submits annual simple SDG activity report (list format)	Number of reports submitted	Accumulation of national SDG data
ACTION 3. Creation of a GGN Report on the contribution of Geoparks to SDGs			
1)	Develop and implement a standardized SDG reporting framework tailored to geopark activities	Publication of annual SDGs Assessment for the Rinjani Lombok UGGp and BR.	Consistent, relevant data collection across geopark programs aligned with SDG targets
Key 6. Empowering local communities and strengthening Geopark management			
ACTION 1. Ensuring the participation of Local Communities in Geoparks management			
	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Involve local communities in the organisation of bottom-up initiatives in cooperation with the UGGp (educational, training, information, recreational, cultural and social activities) to network ideas and expertise on selected topics (management and enhancement of geological, natural and cultural heritage, activities consistent with the SDGs).	Organization of an annual competition involving municipalities, associations, economic operators, schools and creative and cultural enterprises of the UGGp territory	Empowerment of local communities directly involved in the activities on the topics defined by the UGGp; improvement of the management of the UGGp which will define the strategic objectives and monitor the proposed activities; creation of an annual programme of events and activities proposed in the UGGp.
ACTION 2. Strengthening the Geopark management body staff and partners (increasing of the number of staff, budget, number of partners)			
1)	Consider cooperation with local stakeholders and scientific entities within networks that allow for the incorporation of professionals (full-time or part-time, for specific tasks or projects, or as expert volunteers)		
ACTION 3. Ensuring the gender equality as a basic framework in the Geopark operation and communication of Geopark			
1)	Develop gender-equality policies, training, and ensure equal representation in leadership and programs	1. Increase of women in leadership roles in geoparks and geopark communities 2. Gender sensitivity training 3. Gender balance in participation in Geopark outreach programmes and community involvement	Gender-inclusive geopark structure and operations
ACTION 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			
1)	Encourage youth program development within each UGGp	Number of youth activities reported	Young generation's exposure to geopark work

ACTION 5. Ensuring the recognition and representation of Indigenous communities in Geoparks			
1)	Conduct basic research on indigenous peoples and traditional communities in the region. Implement activities that introduce the cultures of these groups, such as holding lectures for residents and guides, producing publications, installing signs, and conducting guided tours.	Annual reporting by GGN based on the activities of the members.	Learning from the history and culture of indigenous peoples and local traditional communities that are nurtured by their environment contributes to regional sustainability resilience.
ACTION 6. Documenting and promoting local knowledge, traditions, and intangible heritage			
1)	Reevaluate and document technologies, knowledge, skills, cultures, festivals, and indigenous communities that are in danger of shrinking or disappearing within the region, and carry out preservation and promotion activities as a geopark.	GGN members aim to compile a catalog of tangible and intangible regional cultural heritage by 2027.	
ACTION 7. Creating policies and tools to preserve and promote local languages			
1)	Promote activities such as conducting surveys on the current status of the official, local and indigenous languages and creating tools for their preservation.	Implementation of events and tours using the developed tools	This will result in a more profound understanding of the region, enhance educational opportunities, and highlight the region's appeal.
ACTION 8. Working to confront demographic challenges in rural areas			
1)	Living and visiting in Geoparks and share good practices related to rural tourism, eco-education, etc.	Examples collected	Informal knowledge exchange
Key 7. Mitigating Natural Disasters			
ACTION 1. Strengthening the activity of the GGN Geohazards working group activity at the international, regional networks and national and community levels			
	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Creating awareness for the importance of disaster prevention focused on regional specifics with similar regional activities / geohazards	Establishing a list of UGGps with similar activities	Population safeguarding and readiness on Geohazards
2)	Promote activities related to the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) in all UGGps.	Once a year in each UGGp	Reporting to the UNESCO and UN using a template prepared by the Geohazards Working Group, which will be counted by the UN. Promote through GGN channels
3)	Survey with questionnaire on geohazards faced by all UGGps, and the results of the analysis will be shared at workshops and international conferences of Geoparks.	Performed in 2025, and the results will be shared at the Cutralkura Conference.	We can know the distribution of geohazard potential across the UGGps.
4)	Social media campaign to raise community awareness of natural disasters and build self-resilience by creating small infographics, cartoons and media that depict a critical situation that could pose a risk to life and personal property.	Periodically through GGN, regional networks, and geoparks social media	Can send messages to communities with banners and posters to increase knowledge about geohazard protection and disaster resilience.
ACTION 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)			
1)	Publish a simple and easy-to-understand ebook for the public in UGGps to raise awareness not only about geohazards, but also about the Geoparks Initiative.	By the end of 2027, finalize e-book content and authors, title, template, and publication schedule, and begin author writing.	Can deliver important information about risk awareness to vulnerable people and areas, promoting their understanding
ACTION 3. UGGp action plan on geohazards and disaster mitigation			
1)	Encourage each UGGp to include a basic section on geohazards in their management plans	Number of UGGps with geohazard content in plans	Integrated disaster mitigation efforts at local level
ACTION 4. Preparation of an annual GGN report on geohazards and climate change			
1)	Collect simple updates from UGGps and compile into annual GGN thematic summary (combine in one sentence with WG proposal)	Reports compiled and submitted	GGN visibility in global disaster and climate discussions enhanced
2)	Report the activities of these two groups for dissemination and documentation purposes.	Annual reporting	Strengthen the image and efficiency of GGN
Pillar 3: Optimizing GGN, Building Capacity, Leadership, and Global Impact			
Key 8. 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			
ACTION 1. Preparation of an annual GGN report on geohazards and climate change			
	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS

1)	Participate in UNESCO and GGN capacity building activities	1 representative from each UGGp	Increase staff knowledge and capacities regarding UGGp operation
2)	Create an annual capacity-building calendar in collaboration with UNESCO, covering aspiring geoparks, evaluators, and managers	Participation confirmed	KGNN managers and staff exposed to international training

ACTION 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.

1)	Mentoring program at national (when possible) and international (always) levels. The UGGp are invited to join this program, which will support the aUGGp in its process of establishing and applying to the GGN. In addition to contributing to an easier and more monitored process, it allows aUGGp to develop international networking projects from the beginning.		
2)	Patronage Program: Promote educational projects between UGGps and aUGGps, aligned with the GGN's mission and objectives, creating a smoother path for territories in developing countries to join the Network.		

ACTION 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

1)	Regular workshops for evaluators including feedback forms from evaluators and evaluated territories; FAQ of junior evaluators or topics asked by territories	Start a list of workshop dates, of numbers of participants, list of active evaluators and of inactive; List of FAQ of junior evaluators	Quality safeguarding
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ACTION 4. Capacity building activities for Geopark Managers: intensive courses for new managers of the GGN members

1)	Participate in capacity building activities organized by GGN	1 staff from management structure per activity	Increase management skills of Geopark staff
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ACTION 5. Supporting capacity-building activities for GGN members at regional and national levels

1)	Encourage and support workshops and experience-sharing sessions on capacity building at regional and national conferences and meetings organized by network members.		
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ACTION 6. Developing GGN digital tools for its members (Geoparks Educational e-Library, Geoparks e-Learning Database)

1)	Participate in global platform discussions and share basic national education materials	Participation confirmed	Visibility within GGN e-library system
2)	Good Practices in Geoparks Education Platform: Create an online platform with brochures, e-books, articles, and short videos (10 minutes or less) developed by GGN members, showcasing good practices in various territorial and cultural contexts.		

Key 9. Uplifting Leadership and Organizational Capacity of GGN

ACTION 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

	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Active participation of each UGGp in such activities through each National Network to the governance through AC representation and channel feedback and recommendations between the Ex board and geopark managements		

ACTION 2. Strengthening networking among UGGps at regional and national levels

1)	Organize National GGN annual meeting and informal exchanges among members	Meetings held	Stronger internal network
2)	National GGN to provide formal communication platform for geoparks through National GGN meetings and annual forums.	Good participation rates by geopark representatives	Strong networking base and sharing of information and support

ACTION 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

1)	National GGN to share GGN logo instruction pack with geoparks and encourage use of GGN logo on appropriate media and communications.	More visibility of GGN logo within Geoparks and at National GGN level	Improved visibility of GGN brand and support for Geoparks amongst local communities and geopark users.
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ACTION 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

1)	Creating a marketing strategy for GGN promotion		
2)	Share materials explaining geopark concepts with local, national and international governments and stakeholders	Number of outreach events	Wider public understanding developed

ACTION 5. Empowering national GGN Networks and strengthen their connection and collaboration with the National Commissions for UNESCO and the National Delegations at UNESCO

1)	Regular exchange and meetings	Number of meetings	
2)	National GGN Develop digital material to share with National Commissions and Delegations on the role of the National Networks and GGN, and how they could be supported. E.g. in strengthening the UNESCO Brand and Linking other UNESCO designations with Geoparks through the National Commissions. National GGN Investigate producing a video or promotional material	Geopark video, booklet, banner stands	Better connections between the NN and the National Commission for UNESCO.
3)	Strengthen information exchange with UNESCO-related parties such as members of the UNESCO National Commission.	Send information about the annual Geoparks National Conference to UNESCO-related parties. Additionally, GGN members will participate in as many open domestic conferences related to UNESCO as possible.	Awareness of the Geoparks program will be promoted throughout GGN, and the collaboration with other UNESCO programs will be encouraged.

Pillar 4: Strengthening Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Key 10. Ensuring Quality in the International Geo-sciences Geoparks Programme IGGP

ACTION 1. Facilitating the GGN's tasks in relation to the IGGP

	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Better cooperation with the institutions involved in the national IGGP programme, in particular in the area of geoparks involvement	More activities on field of cooperation	Sustainable integration of IGGP projects into the work of national research institutions

ACTION 2. Facilitating the roster of Evaluators in conjunction with UNESCO / IGGP Secretariat

1)	Selection of evaluators with broad experience on geoparks management and operation	Visible list of evaluators /revalidators being active / inactive	Safeguarding quality, experience and knowledge transfer
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ACTION 3. Organizing advisory missions in aspiring and yellow-card holding Geoparks

1)	Encourage active participation of UGGPs in such activities		
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ACTION 4. Supporting activities co-organized in conjunction with UNESCO / IGGP Secretariat

1)	Encourage active participation of UGGPs in such activities		
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ACTION 5. Strengthening the position of the IGGP in member states in relation to other UNESCO programmes

1)	Regular exchange with permanent delegations	Number of events with members of permanent delegations	Improving acceptance of and awareness for IGGP
2)	Mutual presentations and introductions of the programmes		
3)	Provide information regarding the UGGPs to the public		

ACTION 6. Strengthening collaboration with IGCP

1)	Encourage joint workshops, research exchanges, or case study between IGCP and UGGPs councils and projects sharing	Number of joint actions or exchanges	Integration of geoscience and geopark activities enhanced
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Key 11. Strengthening Collaboration with UNESCO Site Designations

ACTION 1. Developing a collaborative proposal for joint activities between site UNESCO designations

	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
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1)	Common meetings with other UNESCO designations	Number of meetings / events / activities	Strengthening UNESCO aims in general in Society
ACTION 2. Promoting the resources and the potential of the UGGps as sustainable developing territories			
1)	Development of common communication material	Number of publications	Improving awareness on UGGps and GGN
Key 12. Enhancing International Cooperation			
ACTION 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.)			
	ACTION PLAN 2025-2027	INDICATORS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1)	Promote joint projects, mutual participation in global forums, and information exchange with relevant bodies	Number of collaborative initiatives and participations	Stronger global alliances and broader integration of geopark values in international agendas
2)	Participation in tourism fairs like ITB to promote GGN/Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations through direct promotion (distribution of brochures etc...) and indirect valorization enhancing through tourism agencies (inclusion in the offers)	Contact numbers at fairs incl. total Fair participants to indicate the importance of the Fair participation	Highlighting, promoting and including Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations of excellency
3)	Participate in the UN Tourism gastronomy world and regional forums	Exchange in the wider field in the bracket among UN tourism members	Encouraging Geoparks to link their gastronomy identity to their tourism attraction and activities to support their marketing