

Priorities of the German GGN on the GGN Action Plan 2025 - 2027

Pillar 1. Preserving Our Earth, Environment and Resources	
Key 1. Climate Change Adaption – Roadmap for Resilience	
Action 1. Raising General Community Awareness on Climate Change	
Example 1: Common Activity of German GGN with the National Committee of UGGps (Working Group): Identification of activities and parameters related to climate and soil education in all German UGGps to be integrated into the German Climate Adaption Plan (ESD, outreach and quantification)	
Example 2: Programme “Forest of the Future” for member communities in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp: Forest excursion combined with representative planting of 50 climate resilient trees, outdoor exhibition, Ranger activity for kids and snack in collaboration with Forest Department	
Example 3: Greenhouse Gas Neutrality, UGGp Ries: In 2025 the District of Donau-Ries started the process to become greenhouse-gas neutral by 2040. The District of Donau-Ries is the largest district in the Geopark Ries, and the Managing Director of the Geopark Ries is in the steering group.	
Example 4: Sustainability Days in Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen UGGp: Annual events, public presentations of sustainability topics, open discussions with participants	
Example 5: General approach to raise awareness on climate change and its impact in TERRA.vita UGGp: Educational trails such as Ice Age Explorer Trail in Bippen and Stone and Culture Trail Gattberg, TERRA.info brochure on soil erosion, exhibition in the TERRA.vita information center in Museum am Schölerberg, annual climate talk, TERRA.guide tours, Climate Case and Soil Case educational tools for kindergarten and school classes, sustainability measurement part of the new masterplan 2024-2034	
Example 6: Future UNESCO Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen/Łuk Mużakowa Education Centre in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Site Muskauer Park, focusing on climate history and climate change	
Key 2. Protecting and Conserving Geoparks Heritage, Geodiversity and enhancing links between all types of heritage	
Action 2. Protecting and Conserving Geological Heritage	
Example 1: Common Activity of German GGN related to the National Day of the Geotope (annual event): Public presentation of Geosites and Geoheritage of the respective Geopark territories with common PR and overview programme	
Example 2: Where rocks become natural life - soils as archives of the past and essential life support for our future in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp: Annual Soil Awareness Programme including soil profiles, field trips, Childrens’ workshops, exhibition, ESD Academy and Soil booth at Geopark Day	

Example 3: Improving the protection of geological heritage (VulkaneifelUGGp): In 2025, together with the Lower Nature Conservation Authority and the Bavarian State Office for the Environment, one new natural monument was designated and 12 existing regulations were revised and reformulated to incorporate all Geopark interests. This process will continue with the other districts as well.

Example 4: From rocks to soils and landscapes: In cooperation with the Soil Science Institute of the University of Trier, a booklet is being prepared that presents the diverse soil types of the **Vulkaneifel UGGp**. Soils are one of the most important resources for humankind; this project aims to raise awareness and foster a deeper understanding of soils. The booklet will serve as a guide to key soil-profile locations across the Vulkaneifel.

Example 5: Geotope management in TERRA.vita UGGp: Geoconservation measures and geosite maintenance at most important geologic highlights, close collaboration with the soil protection department of Osnabrück county for new and running mining plans, biannual Geological Meeting for the Piesberg, close collaboration for paleontologic finds with the Archaeology of the City and County of Osnabrück and the Museum am Schölerberg, strategic geosite management part of the new masterplan 2024-2034

Example 6: UGGp Thüringen Inselsberg – Drei Gleichen: International research project at the Bromacker tetrapod fossil site with an extensive science communication programme during the excavations (guided tours with researchers, family days, activities for school classes, social media presence)

Pillar 2. Strengthening Communities: Fostering Inclusion and Resilience

Key 5. Promoting Geoparks as implementation fields for the SDGs and their expected programme beyond 2030

Action 2. Reporting from each Geopark on its contribution to SDGs

Example 1: Common Activity of German GGN related to the reporting of the SDG activities: Collection of SDG activities of all German UGGs and presentation at the respective Geopark Websites

Example 2: Activity of all German UGGps with special Concern to SDG 4: ESD programmes like ESD Academies, Ranger activities, Geopark schools, Geopark Kindergartens, guide and stakeholder trainings

Example 3: Materials to communicate the SDGs to the public in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp: SDG postcard with checklist, SDG roadmap to our sustainable future, SDG Happy Wheel, SDG Memo, SDG cubes, SDG platform Website, SDGs in Geopark Magazine, SDGs at General Assemblies and Panels

Example 4: Sustainability Activists: The UGGp Ries and its largest district, the District of Donau-Ries have implemented the Sustainability Activists.

Example 5: ESD coordination in TERRA.vita UGGp: SDGs are a core topic of TERRA.vitas educational strategy, SDGs presented in all printed material, talks, and on the website, SDG

Sustainability Wheel as a game and SDG cube seats for fairs, regular ESD networking meetings with educational partners

Key 6. Empowering local communities and strengthening Geoparks management

Action 1. Ensuring the participation of Local Communities in Geoparks management

Example 1: UGGp Ries: Members of the Geopark Ries Registered Association are all local communities and part of the Geopark activities.

Example 2: Harz.Braunschweiger Land.Ostfalen UGGp: joint projects with local associations, management body consists of the Districts and most 4 most relevant associations

Example 3: Bottom-up principle in TERRA.vita UGGp: geotouristic and educational projects always conducted with local associations, administration and entrepreneurs, communities and home associations can become member in TERRA.vita UGGp, TERRA.season guide to find local producers on the website, support of bearers of intangible heritage

Example 4: UGGp Thüringen Inselsberg – Drei Gleichen: In the organisational structure of the Geopark, all mayors of the member municipalities are the decision-making body. All member municipalities jointly decide on and finance Geopark projects. All projects in the Geopark are implemented in very close cooperation with all municipal administrations and tourism staff.

Example 5: EGTC ltd. Geopark Muskau Arch as a transnational German-Polish supporting organisation and decision-making and financing body + German-Polish advisory board with members from geological services, science, nature conservation, tourism and tourism service providers, educational institutions, socially relevant groups

Action 4. Ensuring the involvement of the young generation in all levels of Geoparks

Example 1: Ries UGGp: Intensification of projects with schools (e.g. Geopark schools), regular activity

Example 2: Youth and children's participation campaign 2026–2028 in Muskau Arch UGGp through a variety of age-appropriate participation projects, including competitions, design and workshop activities, International Geopark Camp (IGC) for Youth and ERASMUS project with other UGGps in Europe (in the pipeline)

Example 3: UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen: Developed a multi-day ESD programme with young people on the topic of forests and water and their interactions as part of a holiday programme with a youth club in the Geopark member municipality of Ruhla (sampling, guided tours with district foresters, tree planting).

Example 4: Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp: Development of Geopark Schools as quality brand in context with Ranger programmes and Geopark Workshops by the Geopark ESD team

Pillar 3. Optimizing GGN, Building Capacity, Leadership and Global Impact

Key 9. Uplifting Leadership and Organizational Capacity of GGN
Action 2. Strengthening networking among UGGps at regional and national levels
<i>Example 1: Common Activity of German GGN: Regular online and face-to-face meetings of the German GGN with common activities and strategies including participation of German Commission for UNESCO and guests from politics and sciences</i>
<i>Example 2: Regional Network of Geoparks in the Federal State of Thuringia: joint projects to promote Geoparks in Thuringia (Harz.Braunschweiger Land.Ostfalen and Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen UGGp + 2 National Geoparks)</i>
<i>Example 3: Common Activity of German GGN: monthly online meetings of all ESD staff from all German UGGs to exchange information about various educational projects.</i>
<i>Example 4:</i>
Action 4. Communication and promotion of the UGGp concept. Development of user-friendly materials to clearly communicate the UGGp concept and language to local communities
<i>Example 1: Common Activity of German GGN: Development of a common childrens' tiny book about the fascination of the Geopark stories through millions of years as give away for local communities as well as for schools in context to ESD activities</i>
<i>Example 2: Common Activity of German GGN: Collaboration with German Commission for UNESCO: Information brochures on German UNESCO Global Geoparks by the German UNESCO commission</i>
<i>Example 3: UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen: New Geopark image film that presents the region in its entirety, highlighting its geoscientific, cultural, historical and natural features (shown at many tourist information centres and on the Geopark's YouTube channel)</i>
<i>Example 4: Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp – Geopark Magazine, brochures and Newsletter communicate the UGGp concept: Geopark Magazine (2 times per year) and Geopark Newsletter (online, 13 times per year) present best practice, activities and impressions of the UGGp concept and philosophy directly on site. Brochures offer a broad and general view on the Geopark approach.</i>
Pillar 4: Strengthening Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development
Key 11. Strengthening Collaboration with UNESCO Site Designations
Action 1. Common meetings and collaboration with other UNESCO Designations

Example 1: Collaboration with UNESCO Designations in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp: UNESCO WHS Messel Pit and Lorsch Abbey (Geo-workshops, Geopark Days, exhibitions), UNESCO Associated Schools (3 schools – field trips, geopark workshops, SDG Days) and UNESCO City of Literature Heidelberg: nature writing workshops at geosites and authors' lectures at WHS

Example 2: Collaboration with UNESCO Designations in Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen UGGp: UNESCO Heritage Town Quedlinburg (regular joint events, represented in the Geopark advisory board), UNESCO Schools (yearly field trips), UNESCO Heritage Rammelsberg Mine (regular exchange, events; represented in the Geopark advisory board), support of new UNESCO initiatives in the Geopark.

Example 3: Collaboration with UNESCO Associated Schools: Supporting and accompanying of "Schule am Pulvermaar, Vulkaneifel UGGp" on its way to become a UNESCO Project School

Example 4: Swabian Alb UGGp: Collaboration with Biosphere Reserve Swabian Alb Exchange and cooperation in the area of geopark-/biosphere schools. Geopark Information centre in the Biosphere Visitor Center, participation BR Swabian Alb in the annual geopark festival, joint exhibitions/ guided tours. Cooperation agreement with the State Office for the Protection of Historical Monuments, which oversees UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Baden-Württemberg. UNESCO Heritage "Caves and Iceage Art in the Swabian Jura". Joint events and advice on cave-related topics. Coordinator for World Heritage "Caves and Ice Age Art is part of the Geopark's Scientific Advisory Board.

Example 5: UGGp Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen: Close cooperation with the neighbouring WHS Wartburg Eisenach and Ancient Beech Forests of Hainich, as well as the neighbouring Biosphere Reserve Thuringian Forest, through mutual membership and cooperation agreements.

Example 6: UNESCO 5 – Project of the Lusatian UNESCO sites, which combines two UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (Spreewald and Upper Lusatian Heath and Pond Landscape), a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Muskau Park), one intangible Cultural Heritage Site (Social customs and festivals of the Sorbs throughout the year) and the **UNESCO Geopark Muskau Arch**, actively shaping economic, ecological and social structural change in Lusatia (since 2017)

Key 12. Enhancing International Cooperation

Action 1a. Promote joint projects, mutual participation in global forums and information exchange with relevant bodies

Example 1: Activities of UGGp members of the German GGN: Active participation and contributions as well as lead in Working Groups of the EGN and GGN with regular meetings and exchange

Example 2: Further development of active partnerships between UGGps as ongoing networking task: ESD exchange (Erasmus +) between Bergstrasse-Odenwald and Lesvos UGGps,

Example 3: UGGp Ries: A cooperation agreement with Tanzanian UGGp was officially signed there in 2025. In 2026 a delegation plans to finalize a cooperation agreement with Kraterijervi in Finland.

Example 4: Geopark school collaboration - virtual exchange of students from Spanish UGGp's and Vulkaneifel UGGp on their regional heritage.

Example 5: Partnership with De Hondsrug UGGp (NL) in TERRA.vita UGGp: Exchange of the Geoparks' teams on regular basis and joint projects

Example 6: Partnership between Harz.Braunschweiger Land.Ostfalen UGGp and Odsherred UGGp, Denmark

Action 1b. Participation in Tourism Fairs

Example 1: Common Activity of German GGN: Participation in ITB Tourism Fair (GGN booth), organization of common PR event including politicians and cooperation partners

Example 2: Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp: Participation in local to international Tourism Fairs: ITB Berlin (GGN), CMT Stuttgart, May Market Mannheim (in collaboration with DMO)

Example 3: UGGp Ries: The UGGp Ries participates in 4-5 tourism trade fairs every year as an equal partner with the Ferienland Donau-Ries tourism association. In addition, 3-5 regional and local events are held or attended.

Example 4: Participation in ABF fair Hannover (Harz.Braunschweiger Land.Ostfalen UGGp) fair on outdoor tourism

Example 5: Participation in Münster/Osnabrück airport tourism fair in TERRA.vita UGGp