

GGN Action plan 2025 – 2027 for Austria

Austria hosts **three UNESCO Global Geoparks** — **Erz der Alpen, Styrian Eisenwurzen**, and the **transboundary Karawanken/Karavanke Geopark**. Together, they address key priorities of the GGN Action Plan and reflect the specific needs of Alpine regions.

A central focus lies on **geohazards and climate change adaptation**. The Alpine environment is highly vulnerable to mass movements, floods, and extreme weather. Therefore, the geoparks prioritise hazard awareness, monitoring, community education, and the integration of geohazard chapters in management plans, aligned with GGN guidelines. Strengthening **climate resilience**—from water resource protection to energy-efficient operations and regional adaptation strategies—is essential.

Protecting **geodiversity** is another core task. Austria's geoparks implement educational programmes, site protection, and public communication to raise awareness of geological heritage. At the same time, they continuously enhance **geotourism**, which plays a key role in sustainable regional development and knowledge transfer, including hosting expert field excursions.

The **Karawanken/Karavanke Geopark**, organized as a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), holds a special bilateral status: it is legally recognized in both Austria and Slovenia and thus considers itself part of both national geopark fora. Its contributions should be included identically in both national reports, a question relevant for all cross-border geoparks.

Overall, the Austrian geoparks strengthen SDG implementation, climate adaptation, international cooperation, and sustainable regional development in the Alpine space.