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# **GEOCONSERVATION (GEOPARKS) CASE STUDY**



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Hateg Country Dinosaurs Geopark

# Summary

- Geoconservation - new concept
- Geoparks
- International Associations & Networks
- Key elements of a geopark
- Hateg Geopark - Romania

## 90` - New words & new concepts

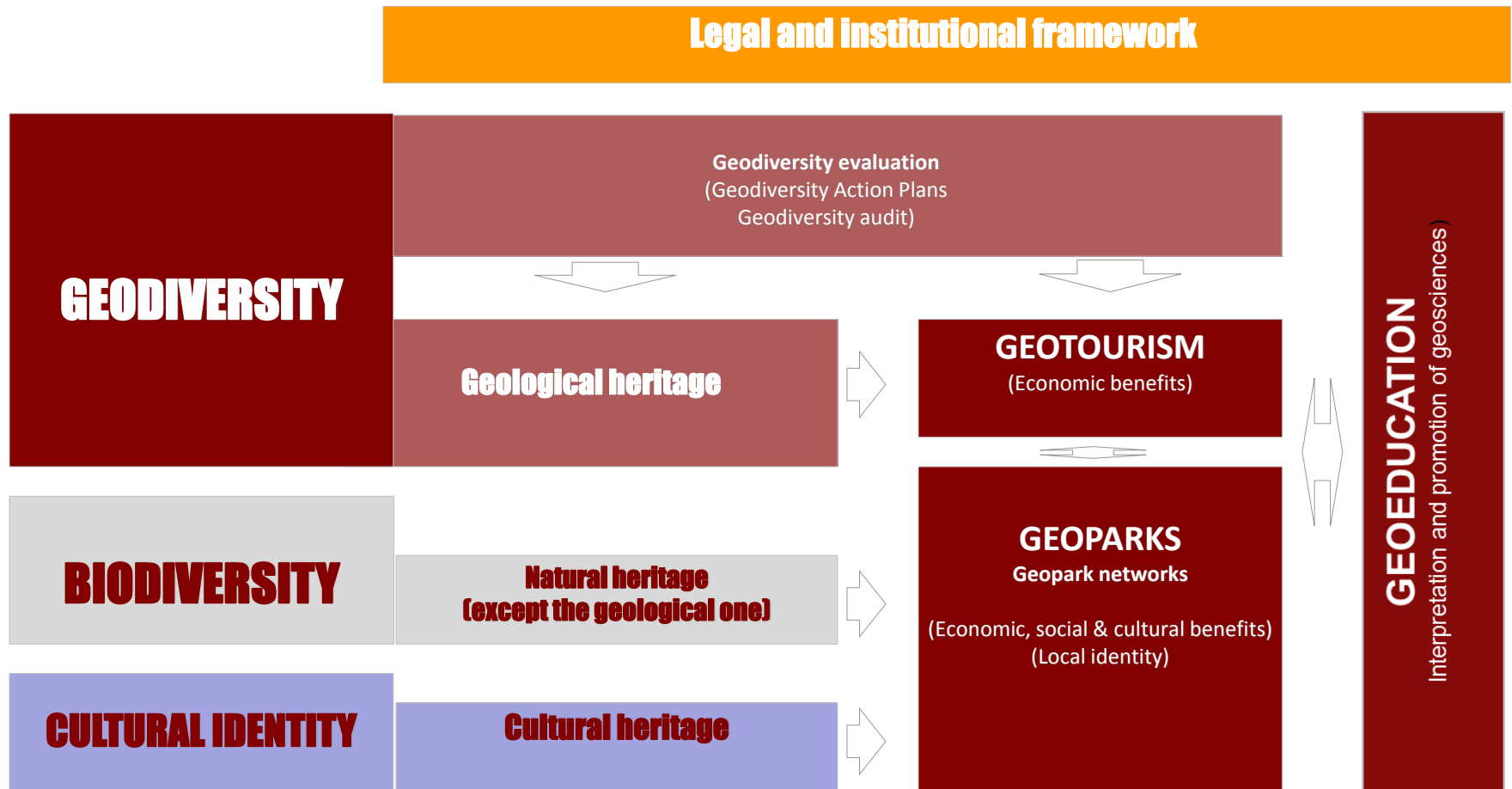
Geotop / Geosite  
Geodiversity  
Geological heritage  
Geoconservation  
Geoeducation  
Geoparks



The Stein Family - GeaNorvegica

*The forgotten part of nature conservation*

# Geoconservation - basic concepts, relationships and activities



# Milestones in concept development

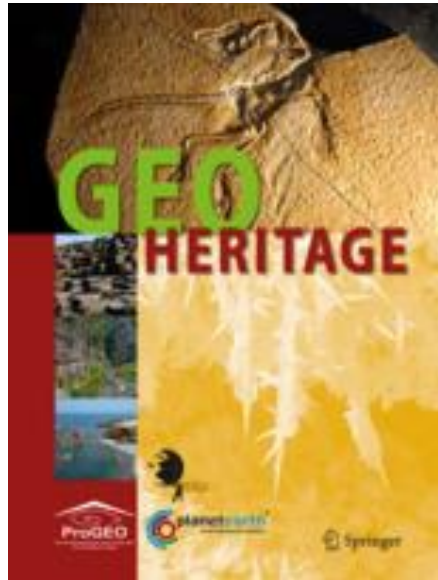


- **Up to 1991** – Subordinated to other activities related to nature conservation
- **1991/1992 – 2000**: development of different methods for geological heritage conservation;
- **2000 – 2004** – Geopark - Global concept



- Development of EGN
- Setup of Global Geoparks Network (GGN)
- **Since 2004 – new area of applied geology**
  - CE Recommendation 3 / 2004 (Geologic heritage)
  - IUCN (2012); / Worldwide activities
  - UNESCO (program ?)





# Geoconservation development

## Scientific publication

**GEOHERITAGE - ProGEO publication**  
(Wimbledon. W., & Brilla, J. )(eds)

## Books

**Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation**  
(Wimbledon, W., Smith – Mayer, S.) (eds)



### Introduction

A movement for nature conservation in Romania started at the end of the 19th century. The promoters were especially biologists and artists, and their first activities were focused on studying and raising about the richness of natural heritage. Several associations for nature conservation formed, and considerable thought for a special law on nature protection, adopted on 7th July 1930. Based on this act, in 1931, the first National Park was created in the Bucegi Mountains. The Decree about national parks (Decree 100/1931, Alba Iulia) was the first official national geological site, in 1938.

A new Act for Nature Protection was adopted in 1972, and additional regulations in 1974. Through this law National and Regional Committees for Nature Management Protection were created under the high patronage of the Romanian Academy. The new legal provisions made local authorities responsible for the organization and carrying out of the protected areas in their districts.

This new framework encouraged geologists and other natural scientists (mostly from universities and research institutes) to identify and recommend new significant sites for protection. Consequently their number increased up to the year 1988. Since 1990, new legislative instruments in the areas of nature conservation, local administration, land planning process, public participation, social security involvement and compliance with European Union standards have given a totally new dimension to nature conservation activities. These could be synthesized as being in three main directions:

- Increasing the number of people involved in geoconservation, either as researchers in the field (mostly students in Geology) or as employees in specialized environmental protection bodies, created within central and local administrations.
- Development of programmes and projects to increase public awareness and education.

Let's keep Romania (from: Elena Andriescu)

Early stages in Europe and its conservation - Romania



Natural monument in the Central Forest (from: Elena Andriescu)

Development of a legal framework, compatible with European Union legislation to allow a better approach to protection and site management.

An important impulse to geoconservation came from the internationalization of activity. In 1987, one of the authors (D. Ciocanel) signed the Digne Declaration and Romania became a member of the European Association for Conservation of the Geological Heritage - ProGEO.

A massive process of inventory and identification of new sites increased the number of national protected areas to 827. All these sites are part of the National Protected Areas Network (NPAN) representing 1.7% of Romanian territory. Among other categories, 25% are geomorphological and geological sites, and more than 10% are geological and palaeontological monuments and geological nature reserves.

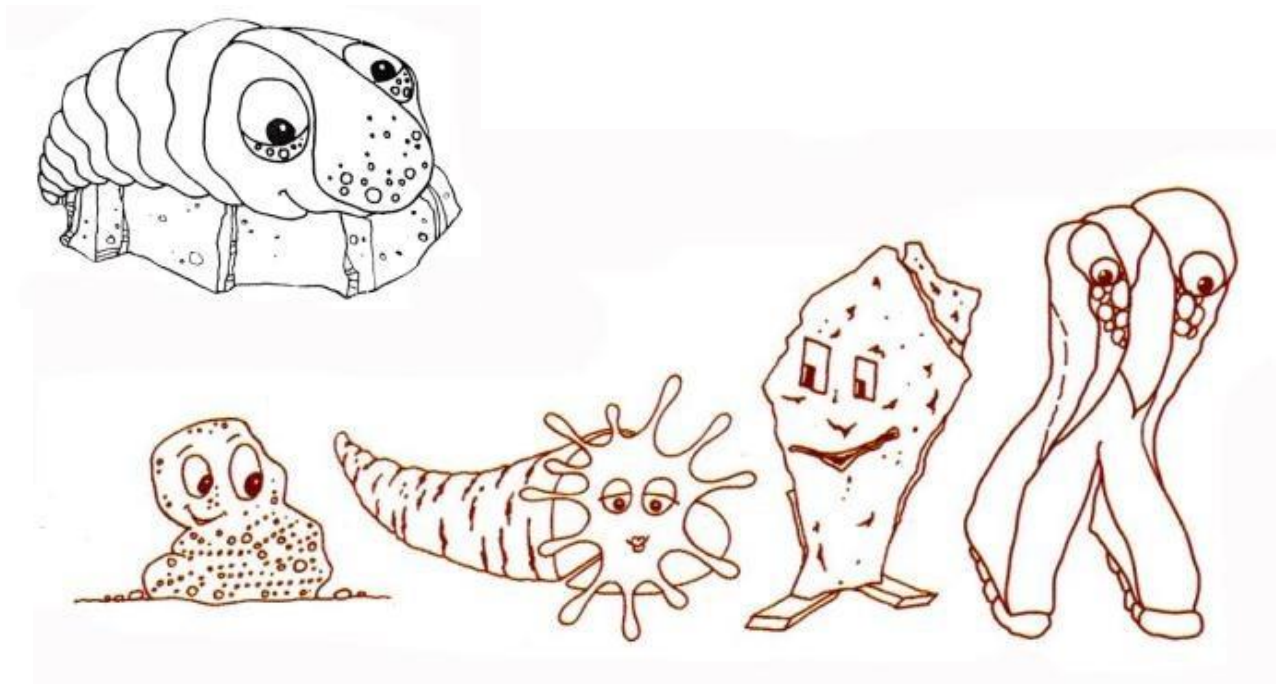
The national ProGEO group has developed several projects in order to sustain the genetic sites: site protection, public awareness and education related to geodiversity conservation. It has issued a concentration in order to mobilize the respective

## Research projects

## Educational programs (EVS case study)

## Geoparks development

**Geoconservation is giving “life” to rocks, is telling stories about our planet to make people to understand and love it.**



# **Why a geopark?**

**A geopark integrates geodiversity, biodiversity and local culture and strengthens local identity;**

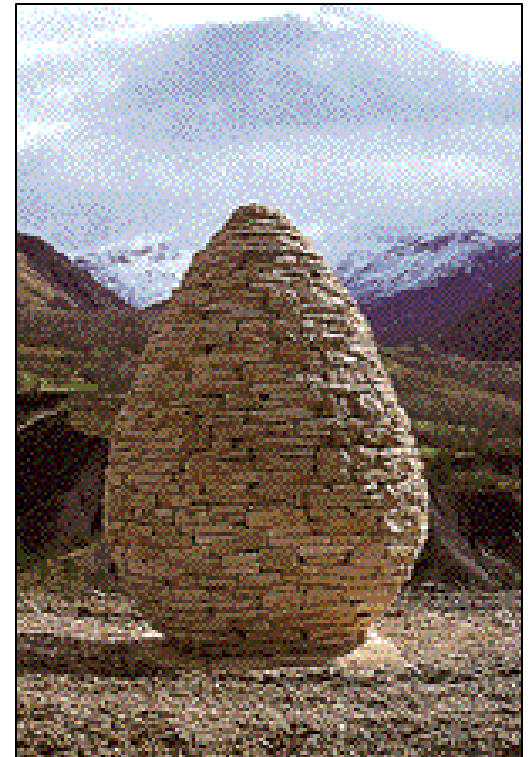
**A geopark is a powerful tool for sustainable development (rural areas) - no other resources;**

**A geopark promotes Earth Sciences.**

## **A Geopark INNOVATES**

**Each geopark has to bring something new (ex.  
RGHP & Lesvos Geoparks, EGN)**

**Innovation in site conservation ad promotion  
Site museum, land art, Time Travel**



## Develops traditional and new local products

geo-products

local brands



## A geopark promotes innovative projects and cooperation INTERREG, LEADER, ERASMUS



# Innovation in education and public awareness

## GEORIUM, Geo-kids, Time Travel

Promoting geosciences



A group of children, mostly girls, are wearing traditional Romanian folk costumes with intricate embroidery. They are gathered around a table, focused on writing on postcards. One girl in the foreground is writing intently, while others are looking on or also writing. The scene is outdoors, with natural light.

1-2 Iunie 2010  
SÂNTĂMĂRIE ORLEA

## SĂPTĂMÂNA EUROPEANĂ A GEOPARCURILOR

Școala din Sântămărie Orlea a găzduit evenimentele legate de Săptămâna Europeană a Geoparcurilor. Au fost onvitate toate școlile din Țara Hațegului pentru a prezenta de este valoros din punct de vedere a culturii și naturii, în Țara Hațegului.

### Expoziția naturii

Înainte de evenimentele în aer liber, Școala din Sântămărie Orlea a deveni spațiu de expoziție. Școlile participante au adus seturi de imagini care ilustrat tema promovată în programele de educație ale Geoparcului. Este vorba de natura și cultura din comunități și percepția respectiv respectarea ei. De la grădini până la stânci cu povești locale, elevi și profesori au creat o expoziție „personalizată” a Țării Hațegului.

### Tradițiile hațegane

Competiția de tradiții a fost punctul de maximă intensitate, mai multe școli pregătind momente de referință din viața satului, complete de dansuri, demonstrații și povești sătești.

### Mesaje către Europa

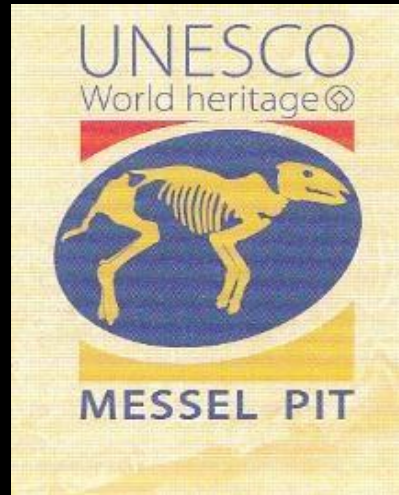
În efortul de exprimare a apartenenței la rețeaua europeană a Geoparcurilor, în 2010 am continuat activitățile de comunicare one on one. Cărți poștale ale geoparcului au fost alese și completate de către copii, completate și trimise către celelalte Geoparcuri din Rețeaua Europeană a Geoparcurilor.

EUROPEAN  
GEOPARKS WEEK

20 MAI - 5 Iunie 2010

# Could generate strong brands

Germany



Germany

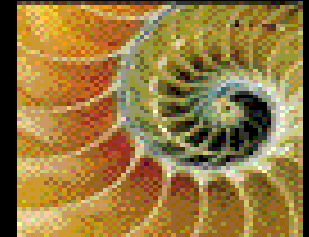


Romania



Spain

Réserve  
Naturelle  
Géologique  
de Haute  
Provence



France



Brasil

Portugal

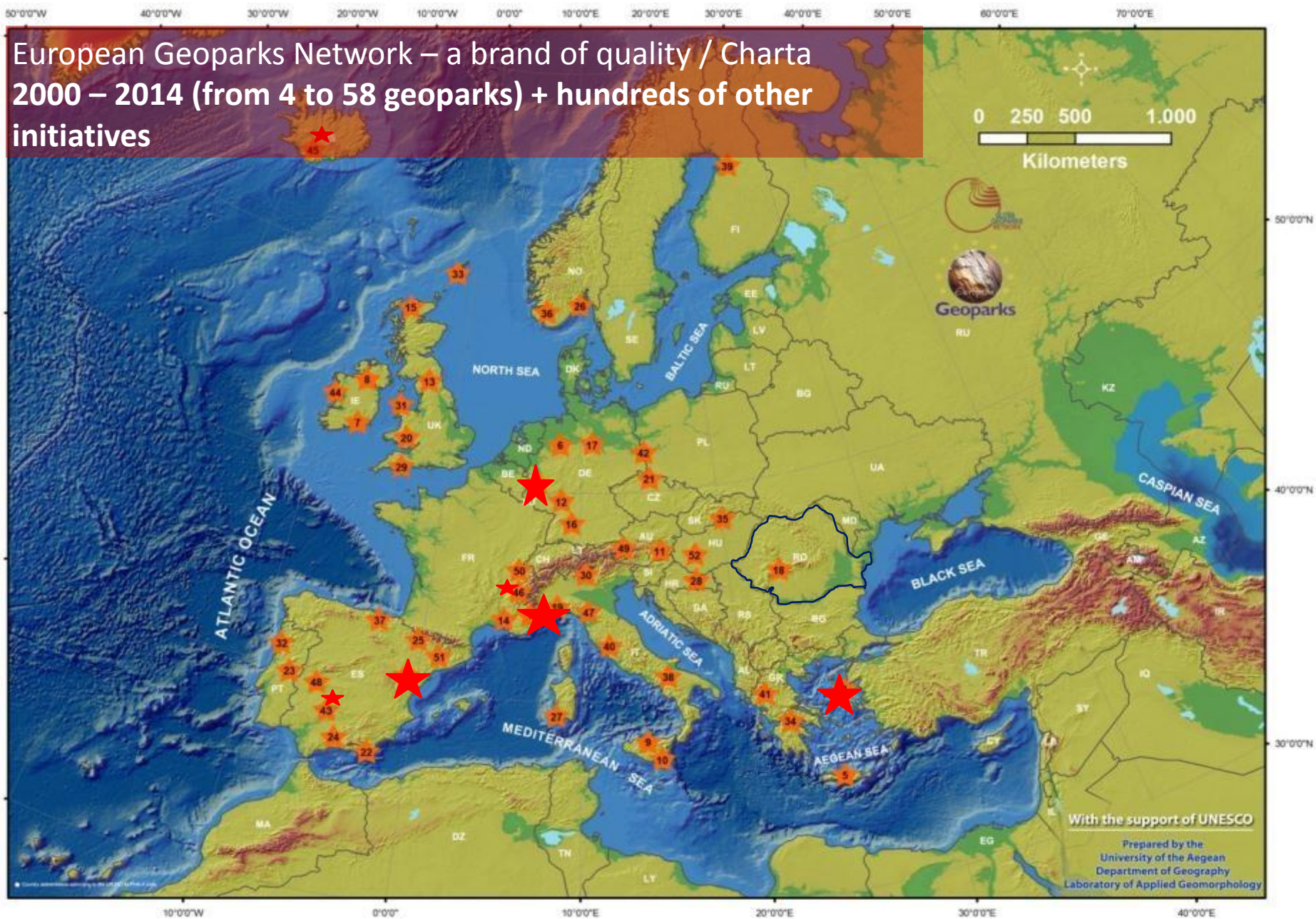


Refuges  
d'Art

Andy Goldsworthy en Haute-Provence



European Geoparks Network – a brand of quality / Charta  
2000 – 2014 (from 4 to 58 geoparks) + hundreds of other  
initiatives



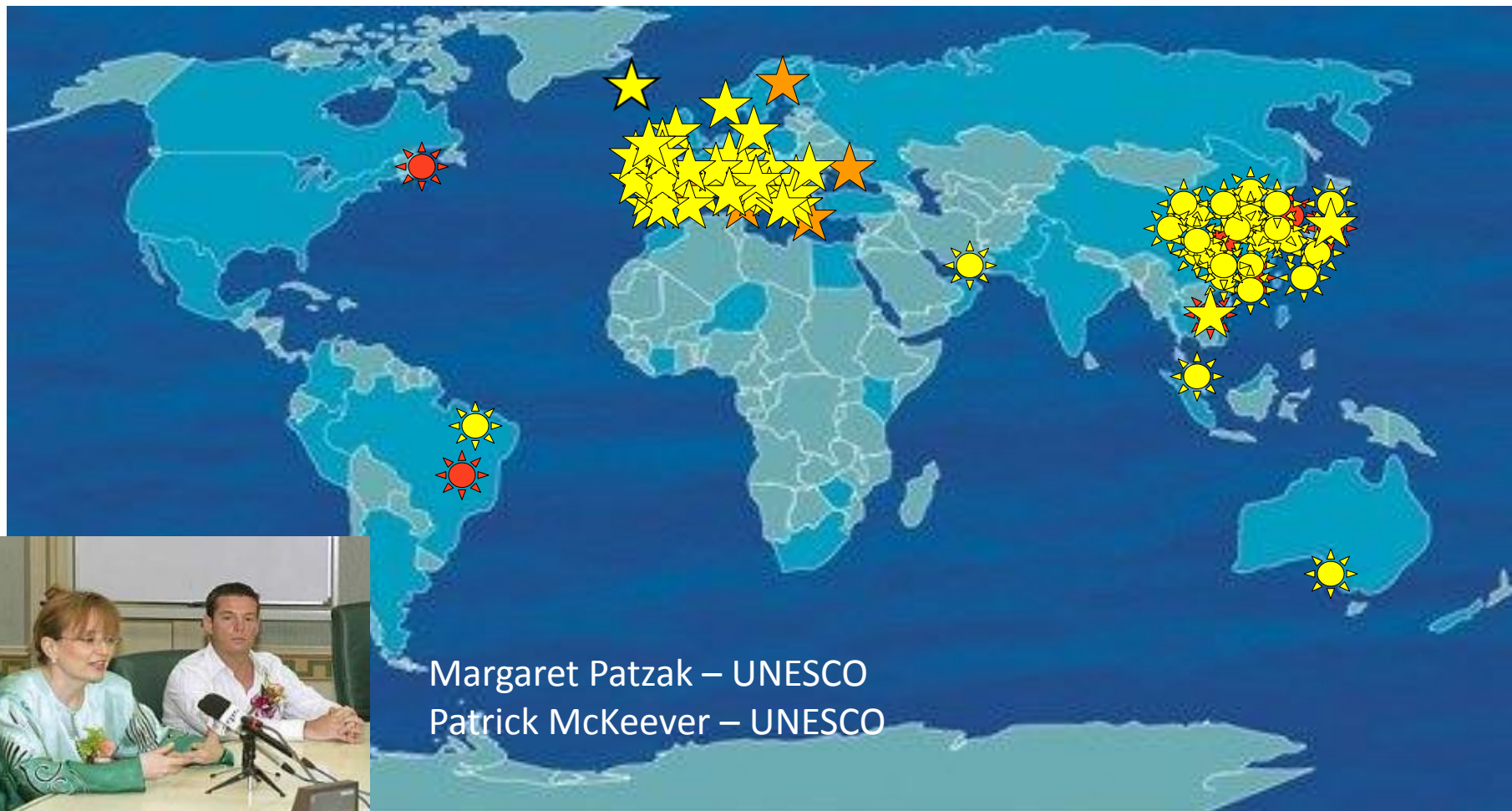


United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



# Chinese & global stories

## Global Network of National Geoparks / UNESCO (100 geoparks) and 1000 projects



Margaret Patzak – UNESCO  
Patrick McKeever – UNESCO



# Key elements could be analysed by students (Research question)

- **TERRITORY/RESOURCES** - sustainability;
- **PARTNERS and their ROLE** (comparison with other territories)
- Commitment of the territory (**STRATEGY vs BUDGET**);
- **REQUIEREMENTS (MANAGEMENT / POLICY)** (Evaluation / documents)
- **Economic and social BENEFITS** (ground zero and geopark impact)
- **Specific PROJECTS.** From plan to impact analyse.



EGN Charta  
(2000)  
UNESCO Guidelines  
2004, 2008)

National  
framework

Local context

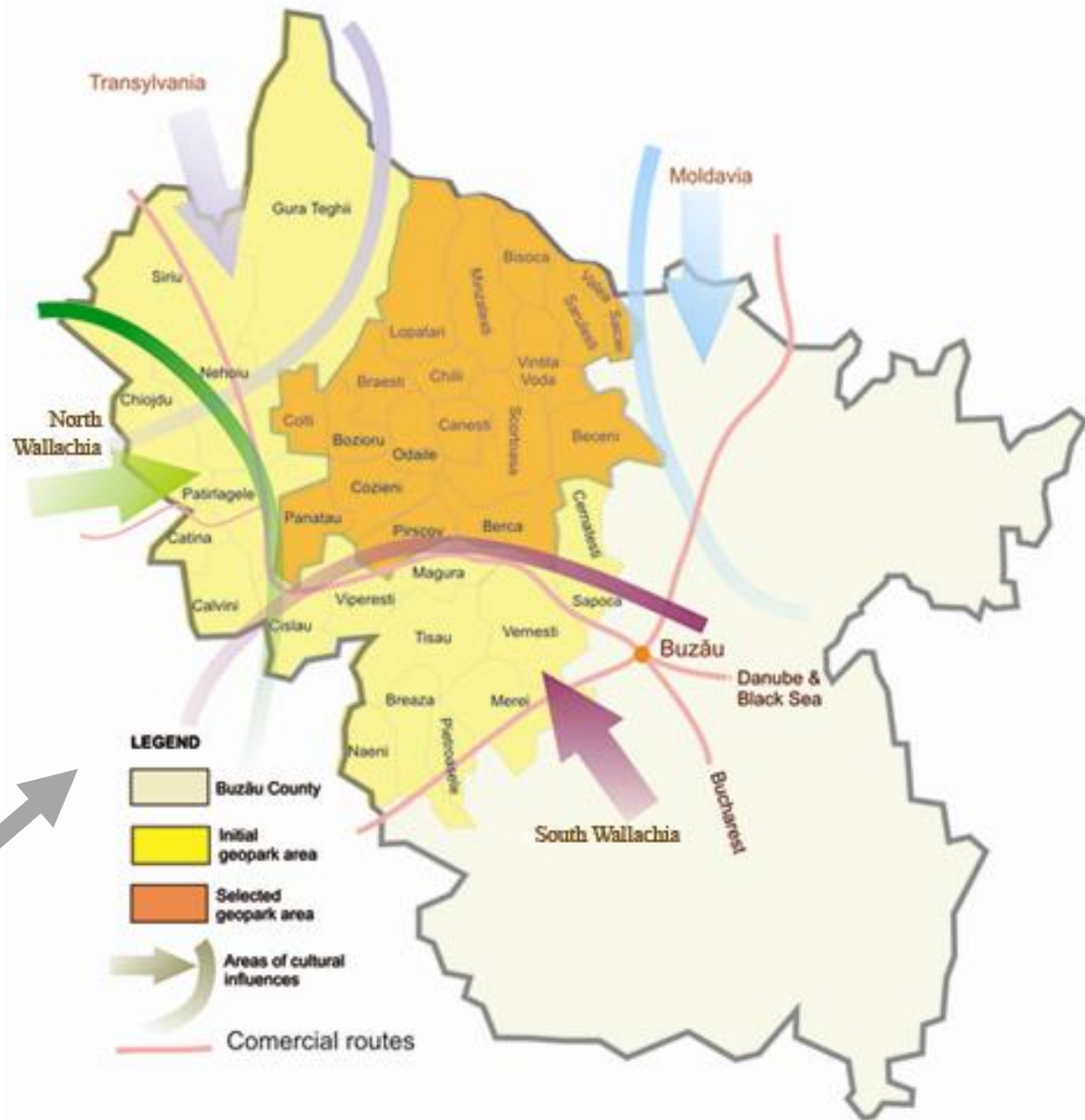
# BUILDING AND MANAGING A GEOPARK

1. **Territory** – well defined borders (optimum territory) (administrative units;
2. Clear **structure in charge** with the geopark project
3. Geopark set-up – **Route map**;
4. **Territorial diagnosis**;
5. **Strategic documents**;
6. **Administrative and scientific board**;
7. **Territorial identity** (logo, ID, logotype, communication strategy);
8. **Interpretation infrastructure**;
9. **Projects and activities** for tourism, education, heritage conservation;
10. **Geopark team, secured budget & Activity plan**

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

## Optimal territory

A comparison between initial (light yellow) and final areas for the geopark (dark yellow)



# **GEOPARK DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT**

**2004**  
**Natural park**

**2005**  
**member**  
**EGN & GGN**

**2005 - 2015**  
**University of**  
**Bucharest**  
**Management contract**



- **Bottom up approach**
- **Interdisciplinary research studies since 2001**
- **Close cooperation with local stakeholders**
- **Strategy for local development (LEADER Territory)**
- **Partnership**
  - **Association (county council, local councils, APM, universities)**
  - **National partners – Peasant Museum, Antipa Museum**
  - **Educational partnership (universities – local schools)**
  - **International partnership (EGN & GGN)**
- **Education, research training framework**
  - **Local curriculum development (Education for SD)**
  - **Educational projects**
  - **International area of research (ERASMUS, EVS Course)**
- **Strengthening local identity, tourism promotion**
  - **Cultural projects**
  - **Rebranding “Hațeg Geopark”**

# Requirements & sensitive points



- **Long term strategies**
- **Political changes / all levels**
- **Correlate all the activities of the territory: tourism strategy, physical planning, heritage conservation**
- **Active involvement of local communities**
- **Lack of experience in common activities**
- **Passivity of local population / lack of confidence**
- **Rural areas - lack of infrastructure for transport, tourism**
- **Socio – economic development**
- **Tourism impact on local communities**
- **Money flow (inside/outside)**



**The geopark is not about geology is about local community**

**A geopark has a cultural market value**

**A geopark is a tool for strenghtening local identity**

