

EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK

March 28, 2019

Swabian Alb Declaration on UNESCO Global Geoparks

On March 27-28 2019, representatives from 72 UNESCO Global Geoparks across 25 European countries convened in the Swabian Alb, celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network and the first three years of operation of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP).

The Global Geoparks Network was founded in 2004 to promote Global Geoparks as mechanisms for the protection and management of the geological heritage of international value and as tools for the sustainable development of their territories.

In 2015, the Member States, the UNESCO Secretariat and the Global Geoparks Network established the UNESCO Global Geoparks; its Statutes and Operational Guidelines were unanimously adopted during the 38th General Conference of UNESCO.

The Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network declares its commitment to the implementation of the current UNESCO Global Geoparks Statutes and Operational Guidelines. We will continue to provide active support and expertise to UNESCO for further development of the extremely successful UNESCO Global Geoparks.

We strongly believe that the UNESCO Global Geoparks, a new and effective programme, are a proven model for networking and collaboration among territories and for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by local authorities and communities, through a bottom-up approach.

Assessments of the UNESCO Global Geoparks programme should follow the regular procedures and timetable common to all UNESCO programmes and should be agreed with the participation of Member States, the UNESCO Secretariat and the Global Geoparks Network.

The constant dialogue and close collaboration between the UNESCO Secretariat and the Global Geoparks Network is vital. We underline our dedication to work with UNESCO for the world-wide advancement of the UNESCO Global Geoparks and for sustainable regional development.