

History of UNESCO's Global Actions in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development for the last 75 Years (1945-2021)



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Dr. Miguel Clüsener-Godt

Visiting Professor at the Yokohama National University



Division of Natural Environment and Information, Faculty of Environment and Information Sciences.

Dr. rer. nat. Miguel Clüsener Godt

Dr. h. c.

Former Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Paris, France

Email: m.clusener57@gmail.com



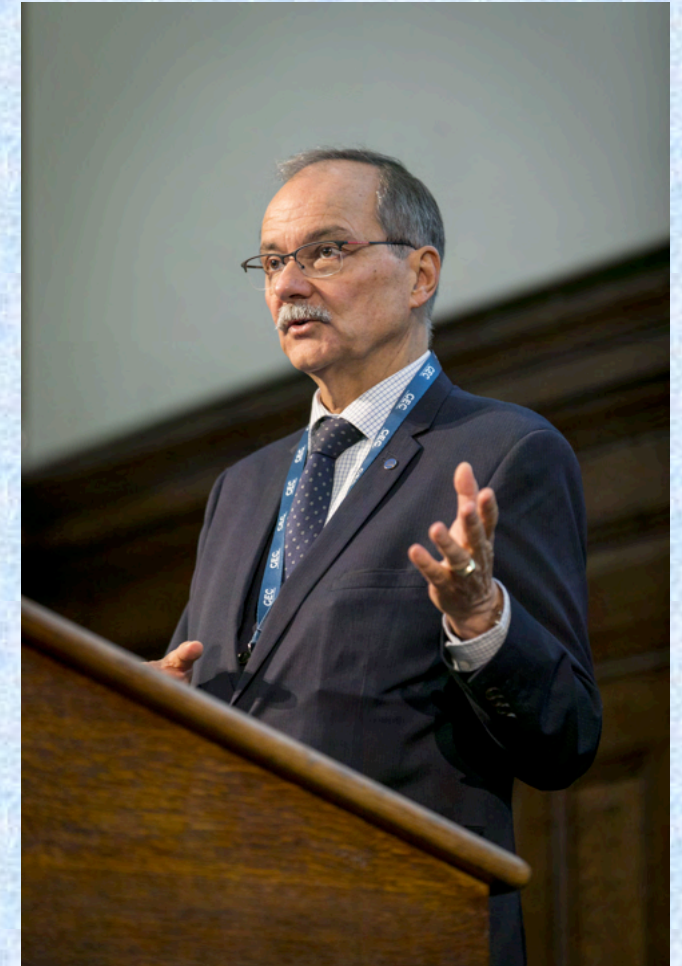
Presently Senior Research Associate, UNESCO Chair on Biodiversity
Safeguard for Sustainable Development
Life Sciences Department

Calçada Martim de Freitas, 3000-459 Coimbra, Portugal

Email: clusenergodt@uc.pt



Visiting Professor at Yokohama National University
Division of Natural Environment and Information
Faculty of Environment and Information Sciences
Email: clusener-miguel-mj@ynu.ac.jp



The Origin of UNESCO

- UNESCO was established on November 4th, 1946 as a specialized agency of the UN. Its 1st General Conference was held on November 19th, 1946 in Paris.



- ©UNESCO

The Origin of UNESCO

- The forerunner of UNESCO is said to be International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation (ICIC) established in Geneva under the League of Nations in 1922. ICIC was comprised of celebrated scholars, such as Albert Einstein (German-born theoretical physicist), Marie Curie (Polish-French physicist and chemist) and so on. Inazo Nitobe, Japanese scholar and one of the Under-Secretaries General of the League at that time, became a founding director of ICIC.
- In 1926, the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation (IIIC) was established in Paris with financial aid from the French government to implement plans and policies made by ICIC. IIIC was an active institution with activities in variety of fields such as universities, libraries, intellectual property, arts, information and media. However, these activities were suspended due to the outbreak of WW II.
- Soon after WW II, in November 1945, a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization was convened in London with representatives from 44 countries. Initiated by France and the United Kingdom, the delegates decided to create an organization that would embody a genuine culture of peace. At the end of the conference, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was founded and the [Constitution of UNESCO](#), signed on 16 November 1945, came into force on 4 November 1946. (MEXT.GO.JP)

Present and Former Director-Generals of UNESCO

- 2017 - today Audrey Azoulay (France)
- 2009 - 2017 Irina Bokova (Bulgaria)
- 1999 - 2009 Koichiro Matsuura (Japan)
- 1987 - 1999 Federico Mayor (Spain)
- 1974 - 1987 Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow (Senegal)
- 1962 - 1974 (acting 1959, 1961-1962) René Maheu (France)
- 1958 - 1961 Vittorino Veronese (Italy)
- 1953 - 1958 Luther Evans (U.S.A.)
- 1952 - 1953 (acting DG) John W. Taylor (U.S.A.)
- 1948 - 1952 Jaime Torres Bodet (Mexico)
- 1946 - 1948 Julian Huxley (U.K.)

Present and Former Director-Generals of UNESCO



©UNESCO/Roger Lesage, UNESCO et UNESCO/Michel Claude (Left: Maheu (right) Center: M'Bow (middle) Right: Mayor (right))



Audrey Azoulay
DG of UNESCO



©UNESCO/Felici, UNESCO et UNESCO (Left: Matsuura (right) with the Pope Center: Bodet (2nd from right) Right: Evans (right))

UNESCO's Efforts for Conservation and Sustainable Development in the past 50 Years



World Heritage Convention, created in 1972



Man and the Biosphere Programme, created in 1971



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

**UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme,
created in 2015**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

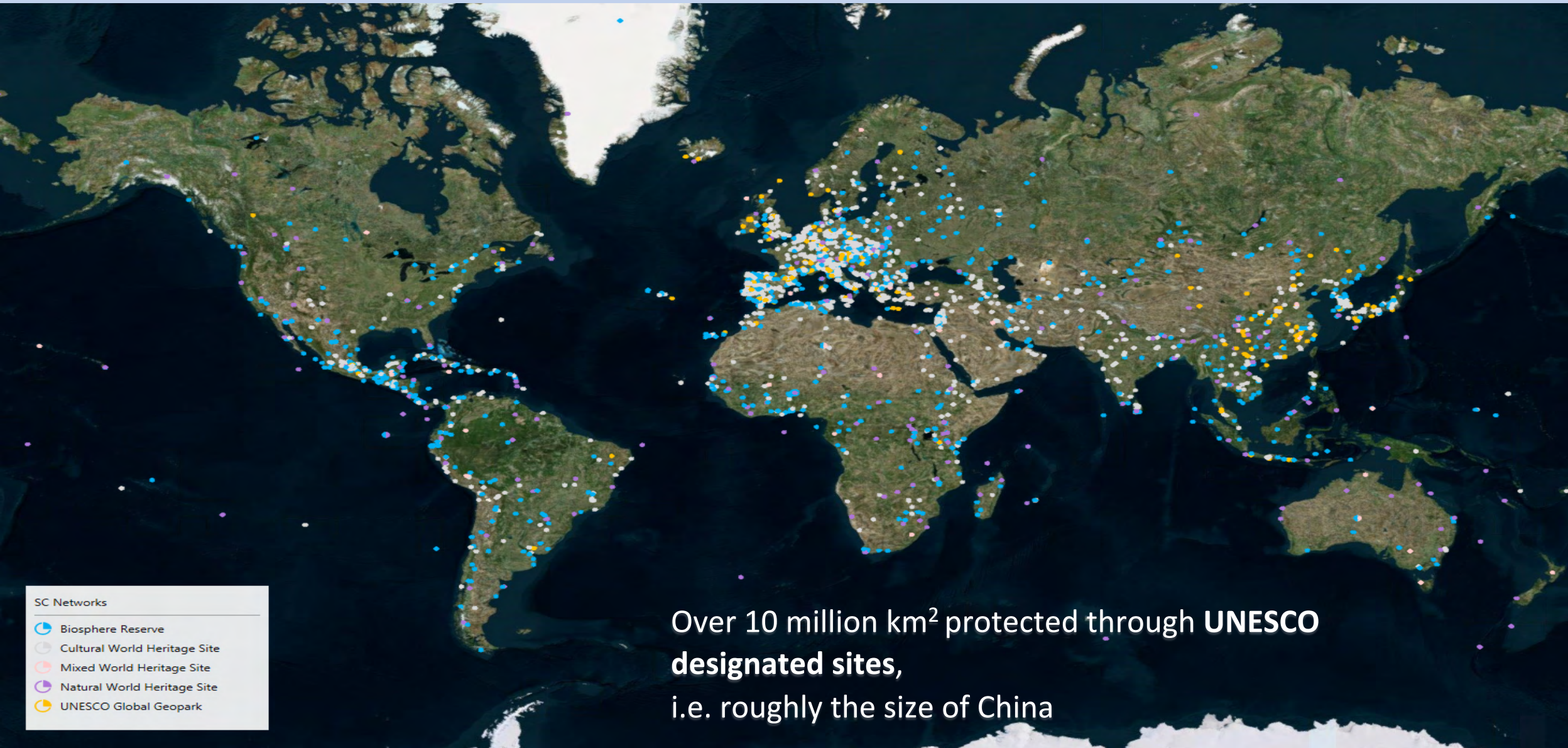


Sustainable
Development
Goals

UNESCO for Conservation and Sustainable Development



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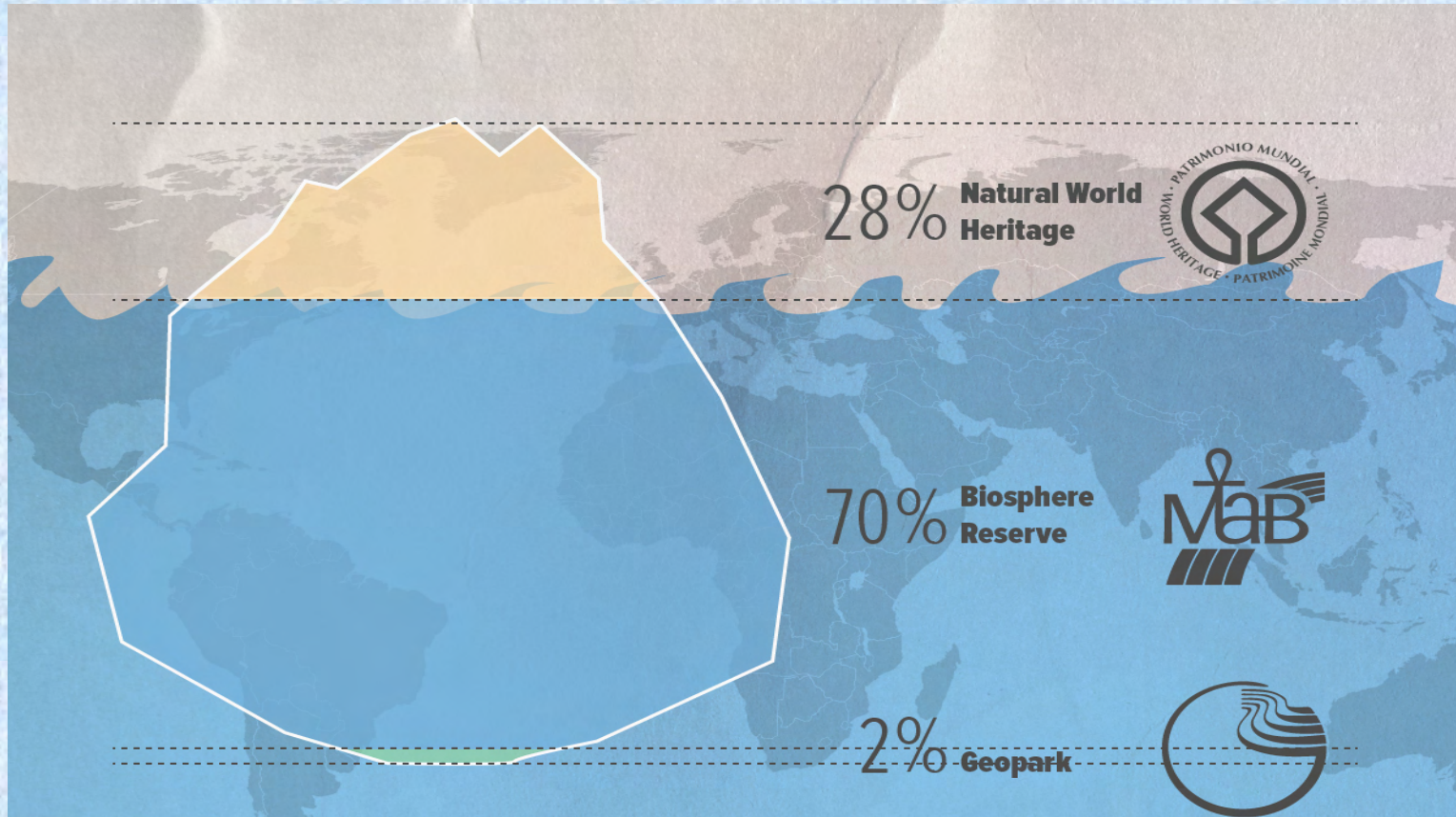


SC Networks

-  Biosphere Reserve
-  Cultural World Heritage Site
-  Mixed World Heritage Site
-  Natural World Heritage Site
-  UNESCO Global Geopark

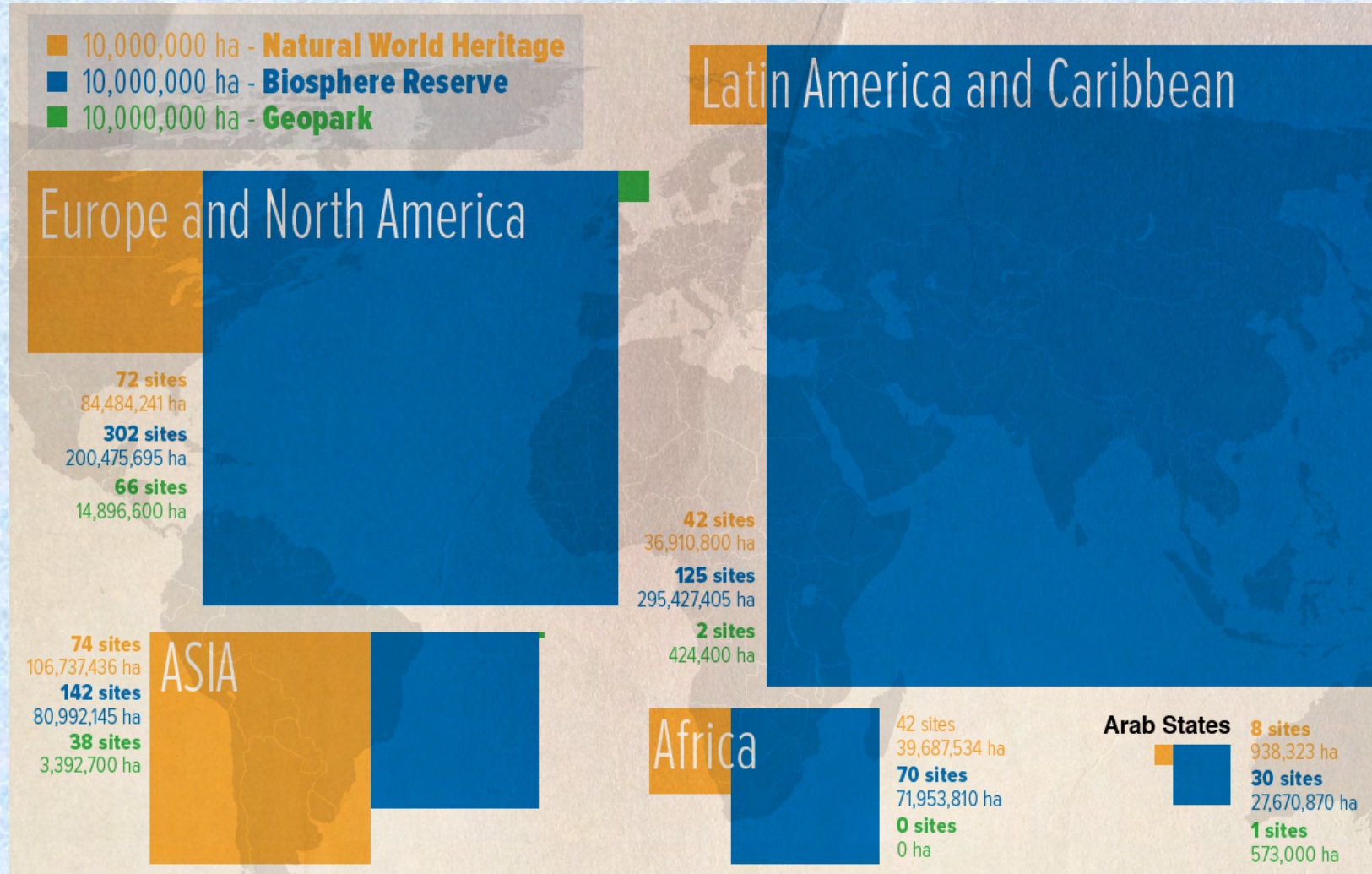
Over 10 million km² protected through UNESCO designated sites, i.e. roughly the size of China

UNESCO designated sites



UNESCO designates sites to encourage national governments and local communities to identify special sites and work together to ensure their conservation and sustainable use for current and future generations.

Area (ha) protected by UNESCO sites at the global level





World Heritage

World Heritage Centre

- Secretariat of the 1972 Convention since May 1992
- Organizes statutory meetings such as the World Heritage Committee, General Assembly, etc.
- Assistance to the 194 States Parties for the implementation of the Convention (nomination, capacity-building & training, technical assistance)
- Administration of the World Heritage Fund;
- Monitoring the state of conservation in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN)



The Advisory Bodies

ICOMOS:

International Council On Monuments and Sites



**International Council on
Monuments and Sites**

**Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites**

ICCROM:

**International Centre for the Study and Preservation and Restoration
of Cultural Property**



IUCN:

International Union for Conservation of Nature





- Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List;
- Ensure the effective **Conservation** of World Heritage Properties;
- Promote the development of effective **Capacity-building** in States Parties;
- Increase public awareness, involvement and support for WH through **Communication**;
- Enhance the role of **Communities** in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

194 States Parties to the Convention

1,154 World Heritage sites
in 167 countries
(as of July 2021)

897 Cultural
218 Natural
39 Mixed



1,154 World Heritage Sites

218 Natural

Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection, Panama

Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia

897 Cultural

Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, Barbados

Baekje Historic Areas, Republic of Korea

39 Mixed

Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, Peru

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Australia



World Heritage

Outstanding Universal Value



They are all sites of

Outstanding Universal Value

....cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

- Together they form a common heritage of humankind
- They deserve protection and transmission to future generations and this is our shared responsibility

Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal



Xinjiang Tianshan, China





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World Heritage

Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania)





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Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China)





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Cultural Organization

Yakushima Island (Japan)





The MAB Programme


The World Network of Biosphere Reserves

727 

Biosphere Reserves

Present in 131  countries

22 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves

3 in Africa, 12 in Europe & North America, 3 in Latin America & the Caribbean 

2 Transcontinental Biosphere Reserves

Intercontinental del Mediterraneo (Europe/Arab States) and Great Altay (Europe/Asia & Pacific)




275 million people call Biosphere Reserves their home



5%

of the world's surface

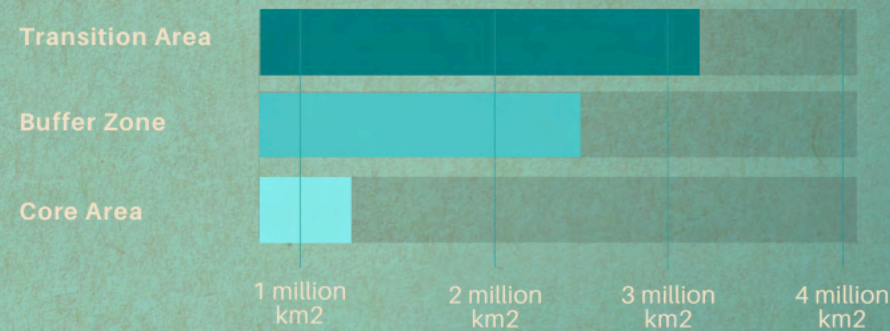
Altogether, 7,040,031 km², approximately the size of Australia 



Strictly protected core areas, altogether, amount to 1,381,132 km², bigger than Peru



1% of the entire world surface

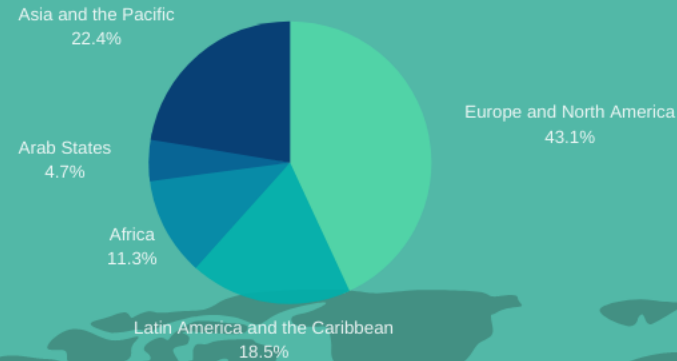


Did you know?

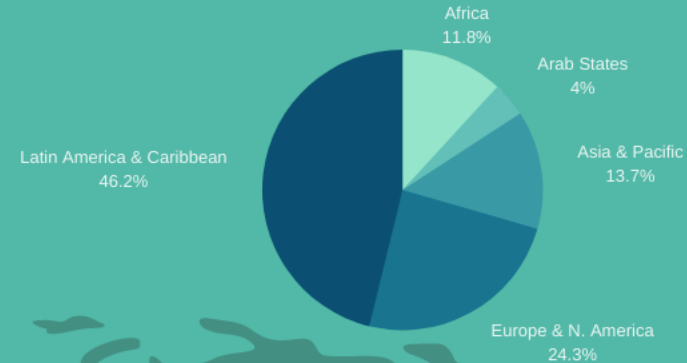
Curious facts about Biosphere Reserves

Present in every region in the world and covering each and every ecosystem, Biosphere Reserves are sites of excellence for Sustainable Development through participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing, poverty reduction and enhanced capacities to cope with climate change.

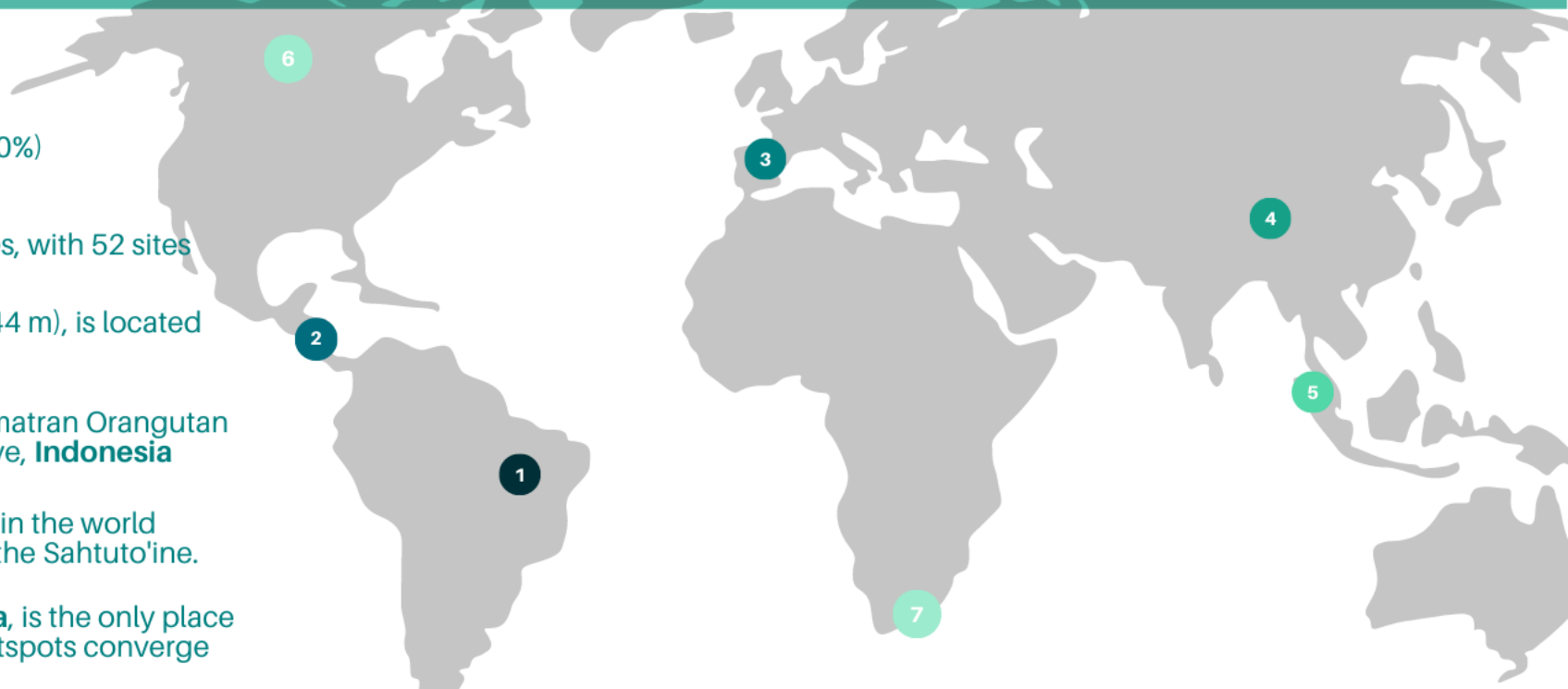
Regional Distribution of Biosphere Reserves



Percentage of total Biosphere Reserves' territory in the regions



- Brazil** has the biggest BR territory (1,754,883 km²)
- Costa Rica** has the highest % of territory as BR (52.10%)
- Spain** has the biggest number of Biosphere Reserves, with 52 sites
- The highest mountain in the world, Mt. Everest (8,844 m), is located in the Qomolangma Biosphere Reserve, **China**
- The entire population of the highly-endangered Sumatran Orangutan (6,600) lives in the Gunung Leuser Biosphere Reserve, **Indonesia**
- The Tsá Tué, **Canada**, is the first Biosphere Reserve in the world designed and managed by its indigenous peoples, the Sahtuto'ine.
- The Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve, **South Africa**, is the only place in the world where three recognized biodiversity hotspots converge





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After decision of 2021 33rd MAB/ICC 727 BRs in 131 countries including 22 TBS

WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES
RÉSEAU MONDIAL DES RÉSERVE DE BIOSPHERE
RED MUNDIAL DE RESERVAS DE BIOSFERA
WELTNETZ DER BIOSPHÄRENRESERVATE
2019-2020



National Commissions for UNESCO
of Germany, Austria,
Switzerland and Luxembourg

701 Biosphere Reserves
Réserve de biosphère
Reservas de Biosfera
Biosphärenreservate

124 countries
pays
países
Staaten



World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Celebrations & Events

IUCN Congress Marseille, France 3-11 September 2021

As part of its partnership with LVMH, UNESCO hosted a pavilion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which reflected the shared fundamental conviction that, because biodiversity is the basis for life on Earth, **they must act together within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to define better ways of living together in harmony with nature** and to implement the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.



IUCN
WORLD
CONSERVATION
CONGRESS
Marseille





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International
Geoscience
Programme



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

UNESCO is the only UN agency with a mandate to increase capacity building in geology and geophysics

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International
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For a Sustainable Earth, for Sustainable Societies

UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE & GEOPARKS PROGRAMME (IGGP)

INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAM (IGCP)

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) serves as a knowledge hub of UNESCO to facilitate international scientific cooperation in the geosciences.

The IGCP mission includes promoting sustainable use of natural resources, advancing new initiatives related to geodiversity, geoheritage and geohazards risk mitigation.

- 500+ projects funded
- 10,000 participants from 136 member states
- 44 national committees

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS (UGGp)

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection.

They also act as laboratories for sustainable development which promote the recognition and management of our Earth heritage and sustain local communities.

- 161 Unesco Global Geoparks
- 44 member states



Organisation der Vereinten
Nationen für Bildung,
Wissenschaft und Kultur

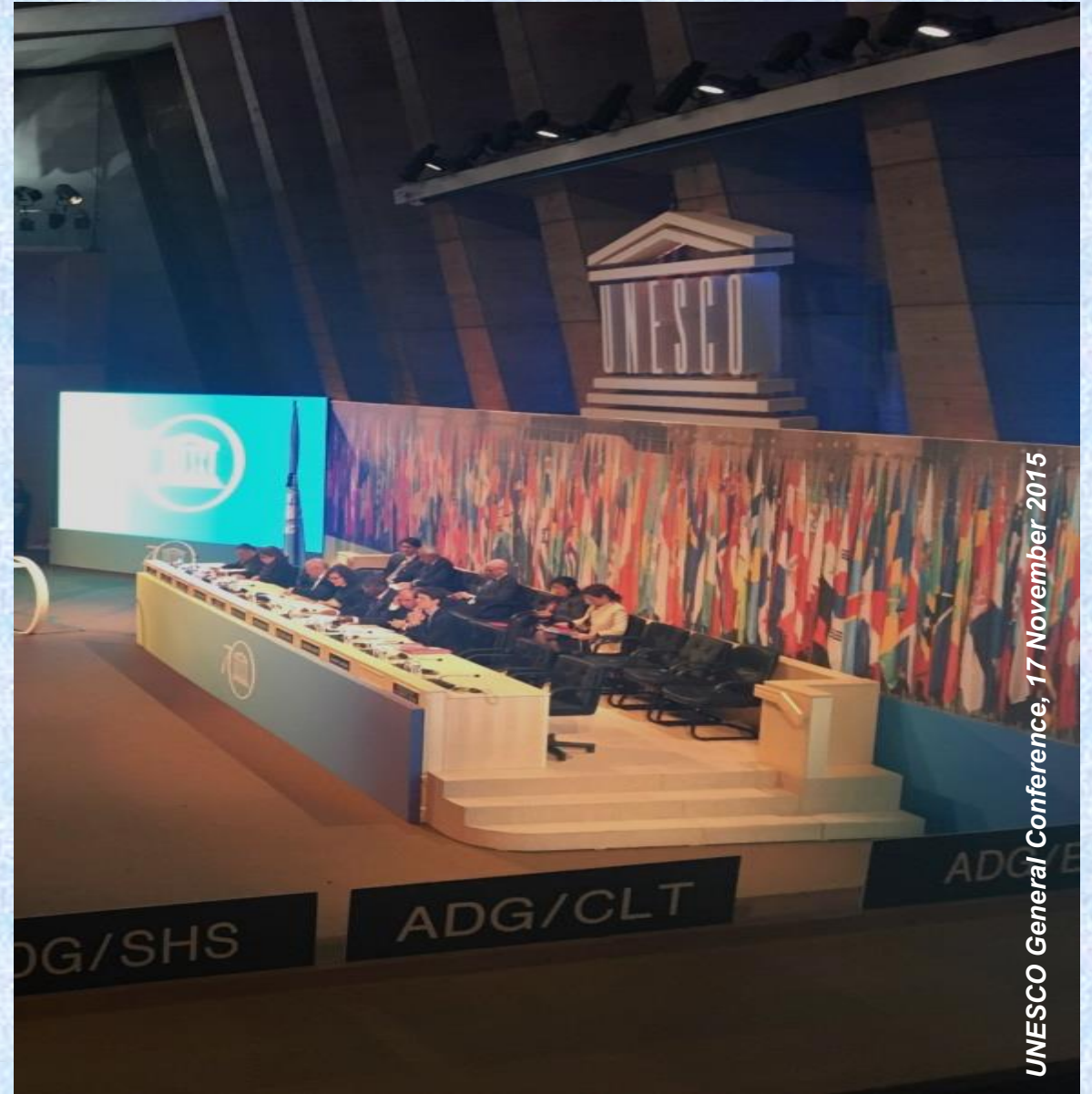


UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

**In 2015, 120 Geoparks of the Global
Geoparks Network received the
label**

Today there are 169 in 44 countries

**“UNESCO Global
Geopark”**



UNESCO General Conference, 17 November 2015



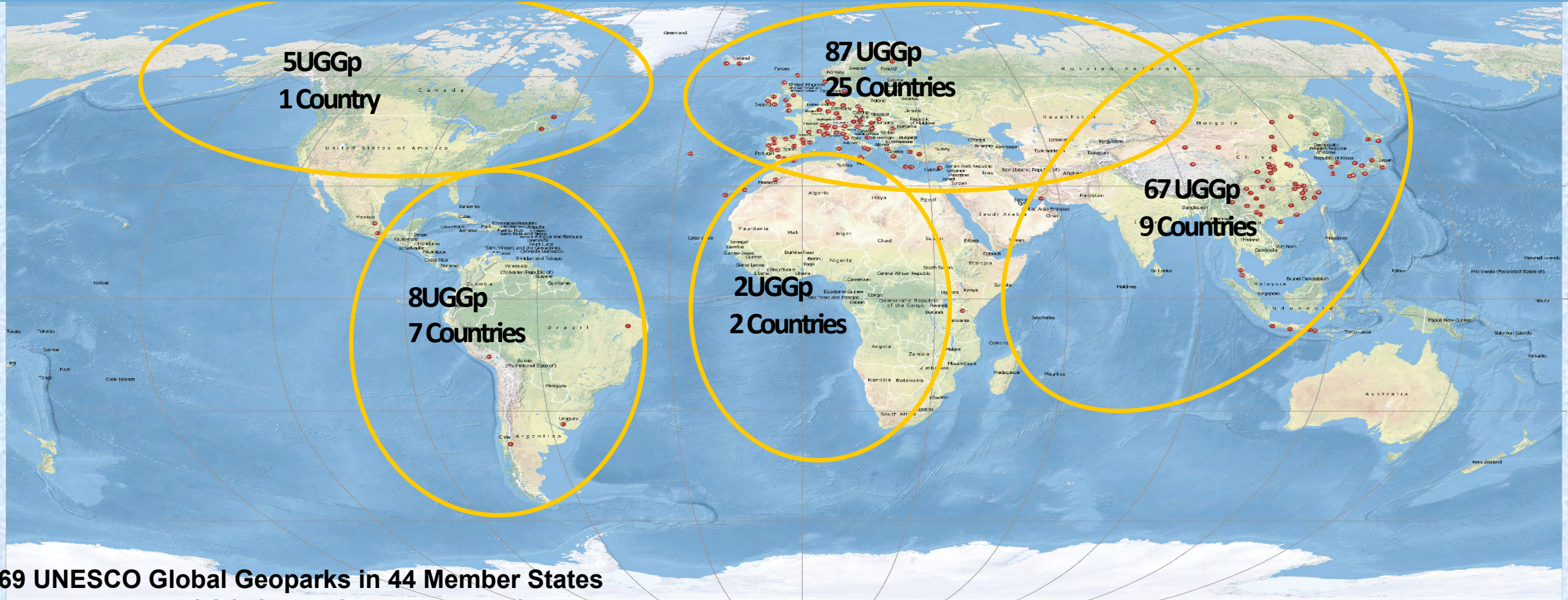
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International
Geoscience
Programme

UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

World Heritage sites Monitoring and reporting

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169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 Member States
 87 European UNESCO Global Geoparks in 25 Countries
 67 Asian UNESCO Global Geoparks in 9 Countries
 5 North-American UNESCO Global Geoparks in Canada
 8 Latin-American & Caribbean UNESCO Global Geoparks in 7 Countries
 2 African UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2 countries Morocco and Tanzania



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Geoparks

Investment vs benefits

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- Direct and indirect benefits from tourism hard to disaggregate, but impact on rural and deprived areas substantial! Attracts development funding!
 - ✓ Increase in tourism: 200% China, 300% Viet Nam
 - ✓ China, 35% of UGGp in poor areas – National Policy
 - ✓ Arxan UGGp: 3,6m visitors, 4,5 billion RMB (640m USD)
 - ✓ Donghuang UGGp: 9m visitors, 280 staff
- Some examples:
 - ✓ UNESCO Global Geoparks in the UK (7) estimated benefit £18,8 m (2012-2013)
 - ✓ Marble Arch UGGP receives 54,000 visitors/y – assured £6 m EU funding/3y
- Non financial: the wider value of the UNESCO designations lies in their rich and creative contribution to the environment, culture and communities, and potential to assist in meeting the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

UGGP Capacity Building Activities in collaboration with Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

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Regional Workshops:

- Japan
- Vietnam
- Iran
- Mexico
- Uruguay
- Colombia
- Russian Federation
- and many others

Intensive Courses:

- Lesvos
- Beijing

Field visits:

- Muscau Arch, Germany/Poland
- Mongolia
- Vietnam

Mentorship Exchange:

- New initiative launched in 2019



Beginner level

Advanced level





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International
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UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

Future of UNESCO Global Geoparks according to UNESCO

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- More UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Better Geographic spread
- Strategic contribution to SDGs




United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | UNESCO Global Geoparks | GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

 UNESCO/GGN
GRANT FOR GEOPARK
in African and the Arab States

M'DRAH UNESCO Global Geopark MOROCCO



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Geoparks

The 30 by 30 Challenge

- 30 by 30 (or 30x30) is a worldwide initiative for governments to designate 30% of Earth's land and [ocean](#) area as [protected areas](#) by [2030](#). This target was proposed by a 2019 article in [Science](#) "A Global Deal for Nature", highlighting the need for expanded [nature conservation](#) efforts to [mitigate climate change](#).
- Launched by the [High Ambition Coalition](#) in 2020, more than 70 nations had agreed to the initiative 70 by October 2021 including India, Germany and Japan. 30 by 30 was promoted at the COP15 meeting of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#). This includes the [G7](#) and [European Union](#).
- \$5b funding called the "Protecting Our Planet Challenge" was announced for the initiative in September 2021.
- The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People is an intergovernmental group of 70 countries co-chaired by Costa Rica and France and by the United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair, championing a global deal for nature and people with the central goal of protecting at least 30 percent of world's land and ocean by 2030.
- The 30x30 target is a global target, which aims to halt the accelerating loss of species, and protect vital ecosystems that are the source of our economic security.

The 30 by 30 Challenge

- UNESCO has a network of around 2000 sites covering almost 6% of terrestrial surface.
- It is important that all 195 countries adhere to the High Ambition Coalition by 2025, and that the 30 by 30 initiative be promoted at all major UN meetings.
- Countries can contribute to achieve 50% of the challenge by nominating additional sites to UNESCO.

ありがとうございました！

Thank you ! Merci ! Gracias!

Спасибо ! 谢谢 ! ! شكرا لك

