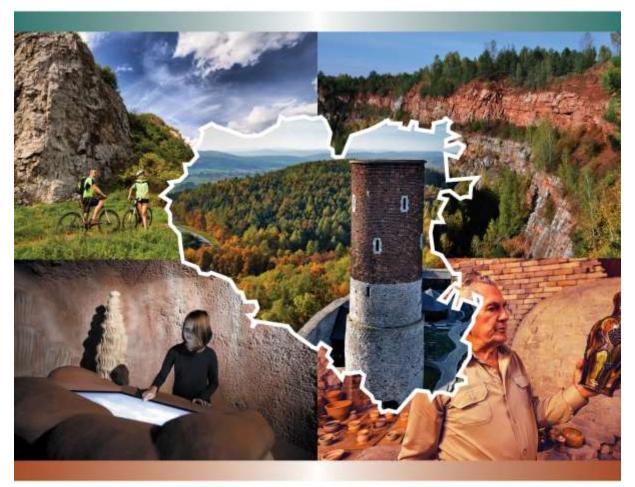


GEOPARK ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI HOLY CROSS MOUNTAINS GEOPARK

PROGRESS REPORT







INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the remedial actions implemented by the aspiring Geopark Świętokrzyski from the moment of obtaining comments and recommendations contained in the report from the UNESCO Global Geopark Council 3rd session (8-9 September 2018, Madonna di Campiglio, Italy) to the date of dispatch of this document, i.e. 27.11.2020 In connection with the above, the report also includes points with explanations, which were provided in the letter of 23/09/2019 sent to UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat via the Polish UNESCO Committee.

This Progress Report consists of three parts:

Part I - Description of corrective actions implemented by aUGGp in relation to the key comments contained in point 61 a) and 61b) of the official UNESCO Global Geopark Council report Part II - Description of corrective actions implemented by aUGGp in relation to the recommendations contained in point 62 of the official UNESCO Global Geopark Council report Part III - Annexes supplementing information on the implemented corrective actions



PART I

POINT 61 - KEY ISSUES

Pt 61 a) The name of the area is problematic. The term 'Geoland' implies some kind of 'theme park' and should be avoided. It is recommended to reconsider the aUGGp name in a way that the UGGp Council can endorse.

Due to the remark of the UGGp Council regarding the term "Geoland" used in the name of the Geopark, the Geopark Management Board has implemented the following corrective measures to date:

- Withdrawal of the term "Geoland" from the name of the aspiring geopark and formal change of the name of the association and geopark to Geopark Świętokrzyski / The Holy Cross Mountains Geopark (Annex 1)
- Modification of the Geopark logotype to a new logotype containing the current name of Geopark
 Świętokrzyski in the Polish and The Holy Cross Mountains Geopark in the English version (Annex 2)
- Modification of the website (<u>www.geopark.pl</u>) and e-mail addresses in connection with the change of the Geopark's name
- Replacement of marking of tourist facilities and infrastructure in the field for marking with a new logo and name of the Geopark (Annex 3)
- Printing of promotional materials with a new logo and name of the Geopark (Annex 4)

Pt 61 b) The area is also selling geological material, something that contravenes one of the essential criteria of being a UGGp (criterion (vii)

Due to the remarks of the UGGp Council regarding the sale of souvenirs made of geological materials in two locations in the aspiring UNESCO Geopark, the Geopark Management Board has implemented the following corrective measures to date:

- Geopark Board asked organizations conducting or intermediating in the sale of geological materials in the two localizations: Kadzielnia and Raj (Paradise Cave), to withdraw these materials from sale. We would like to inform that the result of these consultations is positive and we have obtained assurance supported by a statement from both organizations, on withdrawal from sale of souvenirs made of geological materials (copies of the statements of both organizations Annex 5 and 6).
- Geopark Board has developed and published on the official Geopark website the Code of Principles and good practices related to the collection of geological specimens (Annex 7). This



document contains the following points dedicated to the collecting and sale of geological specimens

PART II

POINT 62 - RECOMMENDATIONS

Pt 62 a) Much confusion is created by the 'Geopark Kielce' branding for the management team for the aUGGp and its use at a range of sites and places. It is recommended that the areas is rebranded to focus on the entire area of The Geoland of the Holy Cross Mountains. In practice this means changing the team/organisational name to reflect an organisation that covers the whole aUGGp and removing references to Geopark Kielce in literature, on geosites, in/on museums and other related buildings and on corporate clothing etc. and replacing it with the new identity.

In connection with the recommendation of the UGGp Council regarding the withdrawal of the name "Geopark Kielce" and replacing it with a new identification, the Geopark Management Board has implemented the following corrective actions to date:

- The Management Board of the Świętokrzyski Geopark agreed and approved, together with the Director of the Kielce Geopark, the plan to change the name of the unit "Geopark Kielce" to "Kielce Natura Park"
- In connection with the approval of the new name "Kielce Natura Park" by the Director of Geopark
 Kielce, a new logotype of the unit was developed (Annex 8)
- This year it is planned to start the procedure of changing the name with the logotype to "Kielce Natura Park" and activities related to the replacement of the old label with the name Geopark Kielce with the new one containing the logo and the name "Natura Park Kielce"
- Due to the planned withdrawal from the use of the name "Geopark Kielce" and its replacement with a new name "Natura Park Kielce", the following measures are planned to be implemented by March of the following year:
 - change of name and labeling on websites and facebook profiles
 - change of name and labeling on promotional materials (folders, roll-ups, promotional walls, corporate clothing, etc.)
 - change of name and labeling on tourist facilities and infrastructure in the field (information and educational boards, billboards)
 - development of a letterhead design and business cards with a new name and logo



Pt 62 b) Avoid the use of the word 'Geoland' in the aUGGp name to avoid misrepresentation of what a UGGp is.

In connection with this remark / recommendation, the Geopark board took appropriate actions related to the change of the name, logo and visual signs on all materials and objects promoting the geopark initiative and located in geopark's territory. The new name of the geopark is: ,,Geopark Świętokrzyski'' (in eng. ,,The Holy Cross Mountains Geopark''). The implemented corrective actions related to this recommendation are described in point 61a.

Pt. 62 c) Interpretation: Review and replace much of the on-site interpretation, including at (but not limited to) all sites visited during the mission. The development and use of brand guidelines might also be useful for partners developing their material within the aUGGp.

In an official letter of 23/09/2019, the Geopark Management Board presented a number of remedial actions initiated in connection with the above-mentioned recommendation. Among the most important activities indicated in the above-mentioned the letter included the following:

- improving the quality of geological interpretation on selected representative geosites by replacement of existing tables or placing new ones containing content tailored to recipients who are not professional geologists (Annex 9 and 10)
- developing cooperation between the Geopark Board and municipalities members of the Association with scientific institutions and non-governmental organizations in preparation and implementation of related projects with access to geo-sites and interpretation of geological content
- improvement of the geopark identification in the field by placing the logotype on information
 / educational boards and direction signs (Annex 3)

With reference to the above-mentioned of the recommendation, it should be emphasized that from 23/09/2019, many new activities related to the creation of paths and interpretation panels on selected geo-stands and the implementation by communes - members of the association of geopark identification principles at selected tourist facilities have been implemented, initiated or planned in the area of the aspiring Świętokrzyski Geopark. The most important of these types of activities are:

• agreement between the Geopark Management Board and the communes - members of the Geopark to intensify activities in the field of improving the identification of the Geopark brand



in the field by introducing additional marking in selected geotourist facilities, including geostands,

- commissioning of the new educational infrastructure implemented as part of a large investment project entitled "Expansion of the educational infrastructure in naturally valuable areas" worth PLN 13,940,000.00 (EUR 3,118,568.24), co-financed by the European Union and implemented by a member of the Świętokrzyski Geopark the Kielce commune. As part of this project, the exhibition in the main information and education center of the Geopark Geoeducation Center in Kielce was modernized, as well as a new educational infrastructure in the field was created and marked: Geological Experiences Garden at the Geoeducation Center, educational path in the geosite "Wietrznia Międzygórz Wschodni" and educational path in the "Kadzielnia" geosite (Annex 10),
- providing a new geosite ,,Geological outcrop in the Botanical Garden" and putting into use a new educational infrastructure implemented as part of a large investment project entitled "Expansion of the Botanical Garden in Kielce based on endogenous natural heritage resources" worth PLN 10,604,110.70 (EUR 2,372,284.28), co-financed by the European Union and implemented by a member of the Świętokrzyski Geopark Kielce commune. As part of this project, the new geosite has been made available for public use by building an educational path with interpretation panels (Annex 11),
- starting the construction of new educational infrastructure (including new educational boards) in the "Moczydło" and "Jaworznia" geosites as part of the investment project entitled "Preserving biodiversity in the reserves in the Piekoszów commune" with a value of PLN 1,843,000.00 (EUR 412,304.25) co-financed by the European Union and implemented by a member of the Świętokrzyski Geopark the Piekoszów commune. As part of this project, the geosites "Moczydło" and "Jaworznia" will be made available to tourists by creating a new educational infrastructure in the form of educational paths with interpretation panels and a viewpoint (Annex 12).

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, it is planned to develop selected geosites and create a coherent system of Geopark identification in the field, as part of a large partnership project entitled "The use of natural and cultural heritage resources in the area of the Świętokrzyski Geopark to build and strengthen the territorial brand aspiring to UNESCO", the total value of which is estimated at PLN 106,835,000.00 (EUR 23,900,447.43). The project is planned for implementation by communes - members of the Geopark, under the auspices of the Świętokrzyski Geopark.



At the present stage, a preliminary project fiche has been developed and submitted, and the project and formula of the Świętokrzyski Geopark as an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark have been included in the 2030+ strategy of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

As part of the project, it is planned to develop at least 15 geosites in the Geopark area by building educational paths with interpretation panels and accompanying infrastructure.

The remaining activity planned to be implemented under the project is create an integrated identification and information system in the Geopark area through the implementation of the following activities:

- construction and marking of the "Trail of natural and cultural heritage of the Świętokrzyski Geopark";
- creating a mobile application "Geopark Świętokrzyski" for smartphones and websites;
- creating a coherent system of field information and educational signage integrated with the mobile application and website;
- substantive and graphic development and printing of geotourist guides, maps and folders presenting selected geological, natural and cultural objects of the Geopark.

Pt 62 d) Site Management and maintenance : Several prominent geosites should be cleaned more regularly and better maintained.

The Geopark Management Board, together with the communes - members of the Geopark, undertook a number of remedial measures related to the management and maintenance of geosites, including the improvement of cleanliness and maintenance. The scope of remedial actions taken related to this recommendation was given in the letter of 23/09/2019. In this Progress Report we would like to indicate specific examples of such actions taken in 2019-2020 by the Geopark Management Board and municipalities - members of the Geopark, in cooperation with the public administration , enterprises and non-governmental organizations:

- in the 2019-2020, the Kielce Commune, as a member of the Świętokrzyski Geopark, implemented a number of activities related to the improvement of the tourist infrastructure and maintenance of green areas in geosites: Ślichowice, Kadzielnia and Wietrznia (Annex 13)
- in 2020, Geopark in cooperation with the company "Eneris", the company "Rejonowe Przedsiębiorstwo Zieleni i Usług Komunalnych in Kielce" and representatives of local nongovernmental organizations (Świętokrzyski Alpine Club, WLK4 Foundation) carried out a series of garbage cleaning campaigns in selected geosites on Kielce area (Annex 13)



- in the 2019-2020, the Geopark's partner the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kielce, as part of its statutory activities and as part of special actions organized in cooperation with the Geopark, carried out a number of activities related to the maintenance, cleaning and maintenance of selected geosites protected as nature reserves in the area of the Świętokrzyski Geopark (Annex 14). The effect of these actions was, among others uncovering valuable geological profiles, preserving the sites of xerothermic grasslands and improving the cleanliness in the following geosites: Miedzianka, Wolica, Zelejowa and Kadzielnia (Annex 14)
- in 2019 and 2020 as part of the project implementation "Preservation of biodiversity in the reserves in the Piekoszów commune", Piekoszów Commune a member of the Geopark, carried out cleaning and maintenance works on the" Moczydło "and" Jaworznia "geosites (Annex 15),
- The Association of "Świętokrzyski Geopark" in cooperation with the local non-governmental organization "Stowarzyszenie Ziemia Świętokrzyska" carried out the cleaning of the "Moczydło" geosite in the Piekoszów commune. As a result of this action, the most valuable fragments of the geosite related to the remains of historical ore mining were cleaned of rubbish. (Annex 16)
- in the 2018-2019, the Kielce Commune, as a member of the Świętokrzyski Geopark, carried out activities related to the maintenance and protection of the "Kadzielnia" geosite as part of the project "Development of educational infrastructure in naturally valuable areas". As part of the activities undertaken, the slopes and walls of the former quarry (now the "Kadzielnia" geosite), which were threatened by mass movements, were secured, and the condition of the tourist infrastructure within the geosite was improved (Annex 17)

Pt 62 e) Sale of Geological Material: Small amounts of original geological material are sold at a small number of locations promoted by the aUGGp management body. This sale should be stopped and the aUGGp should provide a letter from each relevant partner, confirming that they have permanently ceased selling original geological material.

In connection with the indication of the problem of selling individual souvenirs made from geological materials in two locations on the geopark territory, the Geopark board took appropriate action and solved this problem by consulting with organizations selling or intermediating in sale of the souvenirs made of geological materials. A detailed description of the problem, corrective actions taken and results obtained is presented in response to the note in point 61 b)



Pt 62 f) A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a methodology on the criteria required to become a partner with a formal agreement with the aUGGp. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

In connection with this recommendation, the Management Board of the Geopark has created an official document "Partnership Strategy", which specifies the exact rules and criteria for organizations and institutions wishing to establish partnership cooperation with Geopark (Annex 18).

Pt 62 g) Active involvement in the activities of the Global Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network promoting the International value of the territory through the partnership with other UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The most important activities undertaken by Geopark in relation to this recommendation are listed in the first progress report sent to the UNESCO secretariat on September 23, 2019. Below we present the updated list of these activities together with the documentation of selected activities included in the indicated attachments to this document:

- active participation in International Conferences on UNESCO Global Geoparks and European Geoparks Conference (Annex 19). We would like to point out that, as persons representing the emerging geopark initiative from Kielce (Poland), we have actively participated in geopark conferences since 2009 (8th European Geoparks Conference held in the Naturtejo Geopark Portugal)
- establishing long-term cooperation with the transborder "Muskau Arch" UNESCO Global Geopark (Polish/Germany) and aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark "Land of Extinct Volcanoes (Poland), (Annex 20)
- establishing cooperation with Oki Island UNESCO Global Geopark: as part of cooperation in the Holy Cross Mts. Geopark took place study visit of Mr. Kazuhiro Nobe - director of the Oki Island UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee, as well as long-term cooperation on the exchange of experiences between both geoparks (Annex 21)
- establishing cooperation with the Ice Age Center operating within Vooremaa Geopark from Estonia, in the exchange of experience and good practices related to the creation of exhibitions and geological education centers (Annex 22)
- establishing cooperation with the aspiring Iron Mountains Geopark and Bohemian Paradise
 UNESCO Global Geopark, in the exchange of experience and good practices related to
 geotourism and geoeducation; as part of cooperation a study visit of Mr. Jan Doucek from



Iron Mountains Geopark and Vaclav Menzl from Bohemian Paradise Geopark was carried out in the Holy Cross Mts. Geopark (Annex 23)

- cooperation with ProGEO The European Association for the conservation of the geological heritage, as part of the IX International ProGEO Symposium in the Holy Cross Mts. Geopark (Annex 24)
- begin cooperation with Miłosz Huber phD from Marie-Curie Skłodowska University (Lublin, Poland) in the field of support for the geopark initiative located on the Kola Peninsula in Russia
- establishing cooperation with the UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering Education at the AGH UST; as part of this cooperation, students from various countries of the world visited the main information and educational center of the Geopark -Geoeducation Center in Kielce, as well as took part in educational workshops (Annex 24)

In the context of developing international cooperation, in October 2020 Świętokrzyski (The Holy Cross Mountains) Geopark submitted documents for the partnership project VR@Geoparks under the Erasmus+ funds. VR@Geoparks is a 24 months Strategic Partnership in the field of school education. VR@Geoparks focuses on promoting high-quality school education aiming to provide teachers all the necessary knowledge and VR and AR tools to prove the benefits of e-learning and depict situation of the awareness and usage of different methodologies and tools in school education. The project aims to create innovative resources for teacher and equip teachers with the necessary skills to include geoparks as educational points in the most efficient way. In the consortium, there are 7 different institutions from 6 countries (Italy, Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Turkey Portugal) that 2 of them are participating in the project as geoparks (Madonie Geopark - Italy and our Holly Cross Mountains Geopark), 3 of them are primary and secondary school that are located in Geopark areas, 1 that will develop the VR@Geoparks App and an university - Universita Degli Studi Mediterranea Di Reggio Calabria (Italy) that will work on creating 3D datasets from the geopark areas via Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems. As part of the projects, a meeting is planned that will be held in May 2022 in our the Świętokrzyski (The Holy Cross Mountains) Geopark.

As part of international cooperation, it is assumed to begin cooperation with other geoparks operating in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. The cooperation aim will focused, among other things, at the implementation of joint projects in the field of geotourism, exchange of experience and



good practices in the area of creation and promotion of local and regional products as well as in the protection and conservation of geological heritage.



PART III APPENDICES

Annex 1 – Scan of the document confirming the change of the name of the Geopark and the Association "Geopark Świętokrzyski"

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Annex 2 – New identification of the Geopark: new name and logotype

1) New name: GEOPARK ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI | THE HOLY CROSS MOUNTAINS GEOPARK

2) New logotype





POLISH VERSION

ENGLISH VERSION



Annex 3 - Marking tourist facilities and infrastructure with the new Geopark identification

Fig. 1 New identification on interpretative panel – example from Kadzielnia geosite



Fig. 2 New identification on interpretative panel – example from Wietrznia – Międzygórz Wschodni geosite





Fig. 3 Marking with a new logo of the main information and educational center of the Geopark - Geoeducation Center in Kielce



Annex 4 – New identification of the Geopark on promotional and educational materials



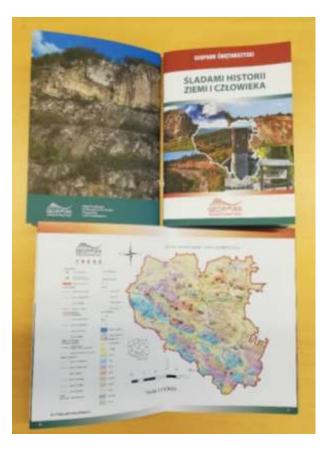


Fig. 1 - A new roll-up of Geopark with the current name and logo "Geopark Świętokrzyski" / Holy Cross Mountains Geopark

Fig. 2 – A new geopark's folder with the current name and logo "Geopark Świętokrzyski" / Holy Cross Mountains Geopark



Annex 5 - Statement of the "Świętokrzyski Speleoklub" regarding the sale of geological materials

Kielce, 30 September 2018

STATEMENT

In connection with the letter received from the management board of Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski regarding the need to withdraw geological materials from the sale of souvenirs carried out at the Underground Tourist Route at Kadzielnia, we declare as follows:

 The sale of geological materials in this site was associated with the sale of rocks obtained by a private person from active open-cast mines, in which these rocks, due to their parameters, commonness and lack of significant scientific value, are subject to industrial exploitation for the needs of the cement and lime industry and road engineering.

2. As a non-governmental organization intermediating in the sale of the above materials, we declare that this sale took place without any formal participation of the management board of Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski and municipalities included in the Geopark association,

3. As a non-governmental organization involved in activities related to the protection of geological heritage (in particular cave objects), we are aware of the need to protect and preserve individual elements of this heritage, which are an integral part of rocks, minerals and fossils occurring in the Geopark territory,

4. In connection with the above conditions and a letter addressed to our organization by the management board of Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski, we undertake to withdraw geological materials from the sale of souvenirs carried out at the Underground Tourist Route in Kadzielnia.

5. In connection with the activities undertaken by Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski, we express our will for future cooperation in the design, creation and distribution of souvenirs inspired by the regional natural and cultural heritage and created in accordance with the principles of sustainable development conducive to the protection and preservation of individual elements of this heritage.

Speleoklub Śwjętokrzyski w Kleicosch u rut-żurawicza 25453 kielen NIP 6572624403 REC

Speleoklub Świętokrzyski



Annex 6 - Statement of the "Przedsiębiorstwo Turystyczne Łysogóry" regarding the sale of geological materials

Kielce, 30 September 2018

STATEMENT

In connection with the letter received from the management board of Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski regarding the need to withdraw geological materials from the sale of souvenirs carried out at Raj (Paradise) Cave administered by Przedsiębiorstwo Turystyczne ,, Łysogóry " we declare as follows:

 The sale of individual souvenirs made of geological materials taking place at the stand at Raj (Paradise) Cave, was mainly associated with the types of rocks commonly found in the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, obtained from active open-cast mines, in which these rocks due to their parameters, commonness and lack of significant value are subject to industrial exploitation for the needs of the cement and lime industry and road engineering,

 As an intermediary in the sale of the above materials, we declare that this sale took place without any formal participation of the management board of Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski and municipalities included in the geopark association,

3. As Przedsiębiorstwo Turystyczne ,, Łysogóry " actively supporting the protection of geological heritage, including by monitoring and protecting the abiotic and biotic environment of the Raj Cave, we are aware of the need to protect and preserve this heritage, which are an integral part of rocks, minerals and fossils found in the geopark territory,

4. In connection with the above conditions and the letter addressed to our organization by the management board of Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski, we undertake to withdraw from the sale of souvenirs made of geological materials,

5. In connection with the activities undertaken by Geopark Geoland Świętokrzyski, we express our will for future cooperation in the design, creation and distribution of souvenirs inspired by the regional natural and cultural heritage and created in accordance with the principles of sustainable development conducive to the protection and preservation of individual elements of this heritage.

HEKTOR SPOLKI GLÓWNA KSIEGOWA Iwona Wójcik Durnik Członek Zarządu Zarządu

Przedsiębiorstwo Turystyczne "Łysogóry"



Annex 7 – General rules and code of a good practices for collecting rock, fossils and minerals on aUGGp territory

1. Rocks, fossils and minerals as an integral component of geological heritage require protection and preservation to the same extent as other elements of geological heritage and natural science.

2. Searching for and collecting fossils and minerals present in the Geopark area in positions covered by legal protection is subject to the relevant provisions of the Act of 16 April 2004 on nature protection.

3. Acquisition of minerals and scientifically valuable fossils being a component of national heritage is subject to relevant legal provisions.

4. Acquiring specimens of rocks, minerals and fossils from active quarries exploiting stone for industrial purposes may only take place with the consent of the management of mining plants, but it must not contradict the principles set out herein in points 3, 4, 7 and 8

5. Geopark Świętokrzyski does not run, mediate or support associated activities with the acquisition and sale of specimens of rocks, minerals and fossils. This rule applies to both specimens from the territory of the Geopark as well as from other areas outside of the Geopark.

6. In the case of persons or companies not formally associated with the Geopark, but trading in specimens of rocks, minerals and fossils in the Geopark area, the Geopark Board sends a special written appeal requesting the change of the specifics of commercial activities and replacement of original geological specimens with replicas or other materials which usage is not contrary to the idea of protection and preservation of local geological, natural and cultural heritage.

7. In the event of a positive appeal by a person / company trading in specimens of rocks, minerals and fossils, Geopark offers substantive support and consultations on the development of a new marketing strategy related to the replacement of natural geological specimens with souvenirs made of other materials, non-hazardous towards the protection of geological, natural and cultural heritage.

8. Geopark Świętokrzyski supports the collection of rocks and minerals and fossils for educational and scientific purposes, provided that it is carried out in accordance with applicable law and does not pose a threat to the protection and preservation of geological, natural and cultural heritage and landscape.

9. Acquiring specimens of rocks, minerals and fossils by people who do not have adequate knowledge and education in the field of Earth sciences may entail omitting or damaging valuable specimens for science. In connection with the above, Geopark offers assistance in consulting such finds with specialists - employees of scientific and research institutions and universities cooperating with the Geopark.

10. Geopark Świętokrzyski supports the creation of educational collections for local schools and nongovernmental organizations focused on nature education of children and youth.

The above set of rules is also published on the official geopark's website: http://geopark.pl/en/dla-kolekcjonerow/



Annex 8 - New name and logotype of Geopark Kielce

1) New name: NATURA PARK KIELCE

2) New logotype





Annex 9 – Examples of improving the quality of geological interpretation on selected representative geosites – new educational panels and infrastructures



Fig. 1 New interpretation panel in Kadzielnia geosite



Fig. 2 New educational infrastructure – "Geological Garden of Experiences" in Wietrznia Nature Reserve (Wietrznia – Międzygórz Wschodni geosite)



Annex 10 – New educational infrastructure in the "Kadzielnia" and "Wietrznia" geosites as well as in the Geoeducation Centre in Kielce



Fig 1. The "Waterfall" educational site as part of the newly built educational path in the "Kadzielnia" geosite in Kielce



Fig. 2 New interpretation panels as part of the educational path in the "Kadzielnia" geosite in Kielce





Fig. 3 New interpretation panel as part of the educational path in the "Wietrznia" geosite in Kielce



Fig. 4 New educational infrastructure in the Geological Garden of Experiences at the "Wietrznia - Międzygórz Wschodni" geosite in Kielce





Fig. 5 Interactive stand with a multimedia panel on karst forms and processes - part of the modernized permanent exhibition at the Geoeducation Center in Kielce



Fig. 6 Interactive stand with a multimedia panel on karst forms and processes - part of the modernized permanent exhibition at the Geoeducation Center in Kielce





Fig. 7 An interactive stand with a mechanical device presenting the formation of fold mountains - part of the modernized permanent exhibition at the Geoeducation Center in Kielce



Fig. 8 Interactive stand with animation presenting Devonian armored fish - part of the modernized permanent exhibition at the Geoeducation Center in Kielce



Annex 11 - Access to a new geosite - "Geological exposure in the Botanical Garden in Kielce" - new educational path with interpretation panels



Fig. 1 "Geological exposure in the Botanical Garden in Kielce" geosite - the state before opening



Fig. 2 "Geological exposure in the Botanical Garden in Kielce" geosite - current state



Annex 12 – Sample visualizations of the educational infrastructure from the project of the nature educational path planned to be built in the "Moczydło" and "Chelosiowa Jama" geosites in the Piekoszów commune





Source: Project documentation from AMC Kraków; Investor – Piekoszów commune



Annex 12 – Sample visualizations of the educational infrastructure from the project of the nature educational path planned to be built in the "Moczydło" and "Chelosiowa Jama" geosites in the Piekoszów commune





Source: Project documentation from AMC Kraków; Investor – Piekoszów commune



Annex 13 – Cleaning and maintenance of educational infrastructure in the Wietrznia and Ślichowice geosites in Kielce



Fig. 1 Garbage cleaning in the "Wietrznia" geosite in Kielce



Fig. 2 Replacement of damaged interpretation panels in the "Ślichowice" geostation in Kielce



Annex 14 - Conservation of selected geosites on the Geopark's area carried out by a partner institution - the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kielce



Fig. 1 Uncovering valuable sites of xerothermic grasslands and limestone in the "Miedzianka" geosite - condition before and after maintenance



Fig. 2 Uncovering valuable sites of xerothermic grasslands and natural rocky ridge with karst forms in the "Góra Zelejowa" geosite - condition before and after maintenance



Annex 14 – Conservation of selected geosites on the Geopark's area carried out by a partner institution - the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kielce



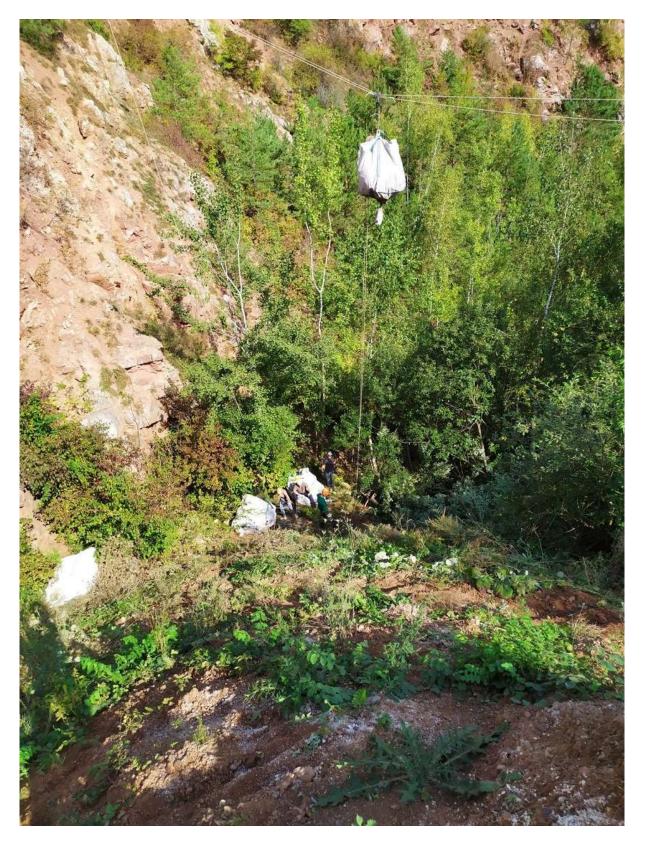
Fig. 3 Cleaning the "Góra Miedzianka" geosite



Fig. 4 Cleaning the ,,Wolica quarry" geosite



Annex 15 – Cleaning and maintenance of the "Jaworznia" geosite carried out by the Piekoszów commune - a member of the Geopark





Annex 15 – Cleaning and maintenance of the "Jaworznia" geosite carried out by the Piekoszów commune - a member of the Geopark





Annex 16 - Cleaning and maintenance of the "Moczydło" geosite carried out by the partner organization "Stowarzyszenie Ziemia Świętokrzyska" in cooperation with the Geopark





Annex 17 - Protection against the effects of mass movements of the slopes and walls of the former quarry - "Kadzielnia" geosite in Kielce

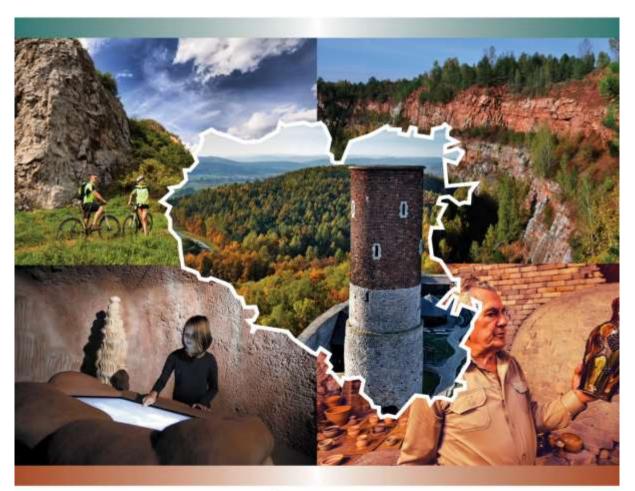




Annex 18 – Partnership Strategy

GEOPARK ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI HOLY CROSS MOUNTAINS GEOPARK

Annex 18 PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY







GEOPARK ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI / THE HOLY CROSS MOUNTAINS GEOPARK ASPIRING UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA OF PARTNERSHIP COOPERATION

I. GENERAL RULES OF PARTNERSHIP COOPERATION

- 1. The Świętokrzyski Geopark, as an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, focuses on the preservation, promotion and use of local geological, natural and cultural heritage in sustainable tourism and partner cooperation related to these areas of activity.
- The Świętokrzyski Geopark functions formally as the Association of Municipalities associating five local government units represented by the municipalities of: Kielce, Chęciny, Morawica, Sitkówka-Nowiny and Piekoszów.
- 3. The principles of cooperation between communes members of the Association are defined in the Association's statute.
- 4. General rules for establishing cooperation between the Association and external entities are set out in Part II § 9 of the Association's Statute.
- 5. In accordance with the Statute, the Association carries out public tasks, defined by the Statute, for the implementation of which it may join existing entities, conclude agreements with other entities, cooperate with inter-municipal unions, economic and social organizations, local government units and establish foreign cooperation.
- 6. Detailed rules of partnership cooperation with various types of entities are defined in the second part of this Partnership Strategy document.



II. DETAILED RULES AND CRITERIA FOR BECOMING AN OFFICIAL PARTNER OF ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI GEOPARK

II.1 SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING SCIENCE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES

- A Geopark Partner may be a scientific institution that conducts research and / or teaching activities in the Świętokrzyski Geopark area and is related to at least one of the following fields: geology, geography, environmental protection, environmental engineering, ecology, biology, tourism, archeology, history.
- 2) Partnership cooperation between Geopark Świętokrzyski and a scientific institution takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement, which does not generate financial obligations for either party,
- 3) If the project or task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations.
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between Geopark and a scientific institution must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" defined in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute, respectively,
- 5) The scope of partnership cooperation between Geopark and a scientific institution may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. promotion of scientific research and / or teaching activities carried out by a scientific institution in the Geopark area,
 - b. scientific consultation and substantive support for Geopark activities related to with science, education and tourism,
 - c. cooperation between the Geopark and a scientific institution in the field of joint research and development projects and related projects with education and tourism,
 - d. cooperation in the organization of conferences and scientific and popular science symposia,
 - e. mutual promotion as part of the statutory activities,
 - f. promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 6) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement cannot contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks specified in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks



II.2 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND UNITS (INCLUDING SCHOOLS)

- 1) A Geopark Partner may be any educational institution or unit that is located in the Geopark area or that conducts didactic activity on its premises,
- Partnership cooperation between Geopark Świętokrzyski and an educational institution or unit takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement that does not generate financial obligations for either party,
- 3) If the project or task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between the Geopark and the educational institution / unit must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" set out in § 1 and § 8 of the Articles of Association, respectively,
- a. The scope of partnership cooperation between the Geopark and an educational institution / unit may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. Cooperation in the field of joint educational projects aimed at using the local geological, natural and cultural heritage in the education of children and school youth,
 - b. Substantive support of the Geopark for educational activities carried out by schools,
 - c. Cooperation in the organization and conduct of workshops, field and stationary lessons as well as online lessons,
 - d. Mutual promotion as part of the statutory activities,
 - e. Promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 5) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement cannot contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks specified in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks



II.3 LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

- 1) A Geopark Partner may be any local government institution or unit that is located in the Geopark's area or that conducts business in its area,
- Partnership cooperation between Geopark Świętokrzyski and a local government institution / unit takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement that does not generate financial obligations for any of the parties,
- 3) If the project or task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between the Geopark and the local government institution / unit must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" set out in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute, respectively,
- 5) The scope of partnership cooperation between Geopark and a local government institution / unit may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. cooperation in joint projects in the field of tourism and promotion and education,
 - b. cooperation in the organization of conferences, meetings and workshops related to the promotion of the natural and cultural values of the Geopark area,
 - c. mutual promotion as part of the statutory activity,
 - d. promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 6) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement cannot contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks specified in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks



II.4 BUSINESS ENTITIES

II.4.1 TRAVEL AGENCIES AND GUIDES

- 1) Only a travel agencies or guides who meets the following criteria may become a Geopark Partner:
 - a. runs a business registered in the area covered by the Geopark or runs a business registered outside the Geopark, but covering the Geopark area,
 - b. the activity carried out by the travel agencies or guide is not in conflict with the objectives, scope and principles of the Świętokrzyski Geopark operation set out in the association's statute and with the guidelines for UNESCO geoparks set out in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks,
 - c. the travel agencies or guide's offer includes geotourist tours including objects / geosites located on the territory of the aUGGp "Geopark Świętokrzyski",
 - d. the travel agencies or guides allows the possibility of modifying the content scenario of trips or field activities after substantive consultation with representatives of aUGGp "Geopark Świętokrzyski"
- 2) The partnership cooperation between the Świętokrzyski Geopark and the tour operator takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement, which does not generate financial obligations for either party,
- 3) If a project or a task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations,
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between Geopark and the travel agencies or guides must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" set out in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute, respectively,
- 5) In the case of support or promotion of the travel agencies or guide's activities by the Geopark, the travel agencies/guide is obliged to post official information about this fact on its website, facebook profile or information materials along with the official Geopark logo.
- 6) The scope of partnership cooperation between the Geopark and the travel agencies/guides may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. Cooperation in the field of joint projects in the field of tourism, with particular emphasis on geotourism as the leading type of sustainable tourism promoted within the Geopark's activities,



- b. Cooperation in the organization and conduct of workshops and field lessons,
- c. Cooperation in the promotion of the geological, natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark and its use in sustainable tourism
- d. Promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 7) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement may not contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks defined in Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks

II.4.2 GASTRONOMY FACILITIES

- 1) Only a catering facility that meets the following criteria may become a Geopark Partner:
 - a. conducts business activity in the Geopark's area,
 - b. promotes regional culinary traditions as part of its activities and offers local dishes or uses local products,
 - c. passes the verification carried out by the representatives of the Geopark, under which the quality and standard of the offered services will be assessed, as well as their compatibility with the goals and scope of the Geopark's activities,
 - d. activities carried out by the partner catering facility do not contradict the objectives, scope and principles of the Świętokrzyski Geopark operation set out in the Association's statute and the guidelines for UNESCO geoparks set out in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks,
- 2) The partnership cooperation between the Świętokrzyski Geopark and the catering facility takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement, which does not generate financial obligations for either party,
- 3) If a project or a task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations,
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between the Geopark and the catering facility must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" set out in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute, respectively,
- 5) Geopark may support marketing activities carried out by a partner catering facility, provided that they are consistent with the statutory objectives of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski"



and the guidelines for geoparks specified in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks

- 6) In the case of support or promotion of a catering facility by the Geopark, the entity managing this facility is obliged to post official information about this fact on its website, facebook profile or information materials along with placing the official Geopark logo in a visible place on the premises of the facility.
- 7) The scope of partnership cooperation between the Geopark and a catering facility may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. collaborating on joint initiatives related to local heritage and culinary traditions,
 - b. cooperation in creating a gastronomic offer inspired by the local geological, natural and cultural heritage,
 - c. cooperation in the promotion of the geological, natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark through the operation of a catering facility
 - d. promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 8) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement cannot contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks defined in Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks

II.4.3 ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

- 1) Only an accommodation facility (hotel, hostel, guesthouse, private accommodation, agritourism farm) may become a Geopark partner that meets the following criteria:
 - a. conducts business activity in the Geopark's area
 - b. passes the verification carried out by the representatives of the Geopark, which will assess the quality and standard of the services offered, as well as their compatibility with the goals and scope of the Geopark's activities,
 - c. the activities carried out by the accommodation facility do not contradict the objectives, scope and principles of the Świętokrzyski Geopark operation set out in the Association's statute and the guidelines for UNESCO geoparks set out in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks,
- Partnership cooperation between the Świętokrzyski Geopark and the accommodation facility takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement, which does not generate financial obligations for either party,



- 3) If a project or a task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations,
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between the Geopark and the accommodation facility must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" specified in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute, respectively,
- 5) Geopark may support marketing activities carried out by a partner accommodation facility, provided that they are consistent with the statutory objectives of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" and the guidelines for geoparks specified in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks
- 6) In the case of support or promotion of the activity of the accommodation facility by the Geopark, the entity managing this facility is obliged to post official information about this fact on its website, facebook profile or information materials along with placing the official Geopark logo in a visible place on the premises of the facility
- 7) The scope of partnership cooperation between the Geopark and the accommodation facility may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. cooperation on joint initiatives related to the promotion of the geological, natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark,
 - b. cooperation in the creation of a marketing offer inspired by the geological, natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark,
 - c. promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 8) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement cannot contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks defined in Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks

II.4.4 TRANSPORT COMPANIES

- 1) Only a transport company (including a self-employed carrier) that meets the following criteria may become a Geopark Partner:
 - a. conducts business activity in the Geopark's area or conduct business activity which is registered outside the Geopark, but covering the Geopark area,
 - b. the activities carried out by the transport company do not contradict the goals, scope and principles of the Świętokrzyski Geopark operation set out in the association's statute and the guidelines for UNESCO



geoparks set out in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks,

- c. the offer of the transport company also includes the transport of people (in particular for tourist purposes) on the territory of the aUGGp "Geopark Świętokrzyski",
- 2) The partnership cooperation between aUGGp "Geopark Świętokrzyski" and the transport company takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement, which does not generate financial obligations for any of the parties,
- 3) If a project or a task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations,
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between Geopark and the transport company must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" set out in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute, respectively,
- 5) In the case of support or promotion of a transport company by Geopark, the company is obliged to post official information about this fact on its website, facebook profile or information materials along with the official Geopark logo.
- 6) The scope of partnership cooperation between Geopark and a transport company may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. cooperation in the field of joint projects in the field of tourism, with particular emphasis on geotourism as the leading type of sustainable tourism promoted within the Geopark's activities,
 - b. cooperation in the field of field trips and workshops in the Geopark area,
 - c. cooperation in the promotion of the geological, natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark and its use in sustainable tourism
 - d. promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 7) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement may not contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks defined in Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks

II.4.5 THE MANUFACTURERS / SELLERS OF SOUVENIRS (INCLUDING HANDICRAFTS)



- 1) Only a representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry who meets the following criteria may become a Geopark Partner:
 - a. conducts business activity in the Geopark's area
 - b. as part of its activity of selling or producing souvenirs (including handicrafts), it promotes the geological, natural or cultural heritage of the Geopark,
 - c. does not sell or produce souvenirs made from geological materials (rocks, fossils or minerals),
 - d. passes the verification carried out by the representatives of the Geopark, under which the scope and subject of its activity will be verified in terms of compliance with the objectives and principles of the activity of aUGGp "Świętokrzyski Geopark",
 - e. the activity carried out by a representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry does not contradict the goals, scope and principles of the Świętokrzyski Geopark operation set out in the Association's statute and the guidelines for UNESCO geoparks set out in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks,
- 2) Partnership cooperation between Geopark Świętokrzyski and a representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry takes place on the basis of signing a mutual partnership agreement, which does not generate financial obligations for either party,
- 3) If a project or a task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations,
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between the Geopark and the representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry must comply with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" defined in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute,
- 5) Geopark may support marketing activities carried out by a representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry, provided that they are consistent with the statutory objectives of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" and the guidelines for geoparks specified in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks
- 6) In the case of support or promotion of the activity of a representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry by Geopark, the representative is obliged to post official information about this fact on his website, facebook profile or information materials (if he has them) and post the



official Geopark logo at the place of production or selling souvenirs (including handicrafts),

- 7) The scope of partnership cooperation between Geopark and a representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. Cooperation on joint initiatives related to local heritage and cultural traditions,
 - b. cooperation in the creation of an offer of souvenirs (including handicrafts) inspired by the geological, natural and cultural heritage of the Geopark,
 - c. cooperation in the promotion of geological and natural heritage and the cultural Geopark through the activity of a representative of the souvenir / handicraft industry,
 - d. promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 8) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement cannot contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks defined in Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks

II.5 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 1) A non-governmental organization meeting the following criteria may become a Geopark Partner:
 - a. is registered on the territory of the Geopark or, as part of its statutory activities, carries out activities consistent with the objectives and principles set out in the Geopark Association's Statute,
 - b. The scope of its statutory activities covers one or more of the following issues:
 - o protection of inanimate and animate nature,
 - development of sustainable tourism, including geotourism, ecotourism, spa and active tourism,
 - development of sport and recreation,
 - o environmental education,
 - promotion of local geological, natural or cultural heritage (including local traditions and customs),
 - development of sustainable business,
 - activation and support of local communities,
 - c. does not conduct or mediate in the sale or production of souvenirs made from geological materials (rocks, fossils or minerals)



- d. the activities carried out by a partner non-governmental organization do not contradict the objectives, scope and principles of the Świętokrzyski Geopark operation set out in the Association's statute and the guidelines for UNESCO geoparks set out in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks
- 2) Partnership cooperation between the Geopark and the local government organization takes place each time by signing a mutual partnership agreement, which does not generate financial obligations for either party,
- 3) If a project or a task generating financial obligations for one or both parties to the contract is implemented, a separate agreement will be signed, specifying mutual financial obligations,
- 4) The scope and purpose of the partnership agreement signed between Geopark and a non-governmental organization must be consistent with the purpose and tasks of the Association of Municipalities "Geopark Świętokrzyski" set out in § 1 and § 8 of the Association's Statute, respectively,
- 5) The scope of partnership cooperation between Geopark and a nongovernmental organization may include the following areas of activity:
 - a. cooperation in joint projects related to education, tourism and promotion based on the local geological, natural and cultural heritage,
 - b. cooperation in the field of joint projects related to activation and support of local communities,
 - c. cooperation in the organization and promotion of events related to the promotion of local geological, natural and cultural heritage, including local rituals, traditions and crafts,
 - d. mutual promotion as part of the statutory activities,
 - e. promotion of the idea and brand of the UNESCO Global Geopark on the local, regional, national and international forum,
- 6) The scope and purpose of cooperation formalized by means of a partnership agreement cannot contradict the principles and guidelines for geoparks specified in the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks



Annex 19 – Participation in geopark conferences





Annex 20 – Cooperation with transborder "Muskau Arch" UNESCO Global Geopark (Polish/Germany) and aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark "Land of Extinct Volcanoes" (Poland)





Annex 21 – Study visit of UNESCO Global Geopark "Oki Island" representatives from Japan in the Świętokrzyski Geopark







Annex 22 – Study visit of Vooremaa Geopark representatives from Estonia in the Świętokrzyski Geopark







Annex 23 - cooperation with the "Bohemian Paradise" UNESCO Global Geopark and "Iron Mountains" aUGGp from Czech Republic





Annex 24 – Examples of international cooperation: ProGEO Symposium and cooperation with the UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering Education at the AGH UST



Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 The IX International ProGEO Symposium in the Świętokrzyski Geopark







Fig. 7 Annual visit of students from different countries of the world as part of cooperation with the UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering Education at the AGH UST