Global Geoparks in Italy

Global Geoparks are listed in order of acceptance into the Global Geoparks Network

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Madonie Global Geopark, Italy

Geology: The Madonie Global Geopark is an area of enormous geological interest: in it there are outcrops of rocks covering a time span of over 200 million years and representing all aspects of Sicilian geology, except for active volcanism. Its position in the central portion of the Sicilian Apennine, its geological-structural arrangement and the morpho-dynamic processes acting in it make this mountain group a fundamental area for knowledge and reconstruction of the geological history of the Apennine-Maghrebine chain and hence of the central Mediterranean. Because of these characteristics, the Madonie have constituted and continue to constitute an exceptional study area, as well a teaching “gymnasium” for generations of university students in geological sciences and natural history. The area contains seven type formations accepted by the international scientific community and more than forty geosites. Recent tectonics also make the area an excellent training ground on geo-hazards.

Geography: In the course of time there has been no guide to Sicily or Italy that has not devoted tens of pages to the Madonie, and not only because of the particular landscapes in these splendid mountains. With an overall surface area of about 400 km², the Madonie Global Geopark takes in a large part of Palermo province. It is a sort of quadrilateral whose approximate vertices are the villages of Campofelice di Roccella to the northwest, Finale di Pollina to the northeast, Petralia Sopran to the southeast, Sclafani Bagni to the southwest, while its confines are the Tyrrhenian Sea to the north, the valley of the Pollina river to the east, the chalk-sulphur plateau to the south, and the valley of the northern Imera to the west. This rural area includes the territories of 15 towns and villages and a datum of major importance in scientific and landscape terms is that this location stretches from a few metres to about 2,000 metres above sea level.

Education and Sustainable Development: The geological aspects of the Madonie Global Geopark territory, in addition to being appreciated by scholars, also stimulate the interest, curiosity and imagination of “laymen”, who are not insensitive to the beauty of the landscapes that follow one another from the slopes up to the peaks of mountains, always different and fascinating, or to the strange shapes of the fossils in the rocks, the sweet coolness given off by the gushing waters of the numerous springs scattered around in the massif, or the mysteriousness of the many caves that are also the gateways to subterranean and unknown mountains. All these elements are constantly used by three Environmental Education and Interpretation Centers, recognized by Madonie Global Geopark, where pedagogical activities are performed for schools and adults. Besides, Madonie Global Geopark has attracted interest from public institutions and productive sector, formalizing partnerships in order to stimulate, in a sustainable development perspective, the economic activity of the regional eco-tourism.

Dates
Year of EGN membership entry: 2001
Year of GGN membership entry: 2004
Subsequent Revalidation: 2017

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Global Geoparks in Italy as of September 2015

Map of Madonie Global Geopark

Map of Italy showing location and size of Madonie Global Geopark
Beigua Global Geopark, Italy

Geology: The Beigua Global Geopark is characterized by a natural heritage linked to the various disciplines related to Earth Sciences. Its geological features are important in the context of the geological history of Italy to understand the evolution of the Alpine chain and its relationship with the Apennine chain. The area has an extraordinary geodiversity and results in forming a large variety of landscapes and rich geomorphology. Geologically, the area is mainly characterized by ophiolitic outcrops with an Alpine metamorphic imprinting that represents a fragment of the original Jurassic ocean basin (from 200 to 145 million years ago). Highlights of the Beigua Global Geopark also include fascinating well-preserved Oligocene palaeontological outcrops of a tropical fossil fauna and flora such as leaves, shells and corals; specific minerals mainly found in the ophiolitic area such as spectacular examples of garnets. From a geomorphological point of view Beigua Geopark reveals peculiar forms derived from a periglacial environment (blockstream and blockfields), it also shows evidence of sea level fluctuation such as the marine terraces located in the coastal strip and Varazze, and the impressive canyons in the Oligocene conglomerates of Val Gargassa, in the area of Rossiglione.

Geography: Beigua Global Geopark is located in Liguria, in the north-western part of Italy, near the boundary of France. It includes the Beigua Regional Nature Park and a broad zone linked to the nature park, involving ten municipalities (Arenzano, Campo Ligure, Cogoleto, Genova, Masone, Rossiglione, Sassello, Stella, Tiglieto, Varazze) and two provincial districts (Genova and Savona), covering an area of 392 km². The line of the Ligurian-Tyrrhenian watershed stretches along about 25 km from the Giovo of Sassello hill to the Turchino pass and represents a natural axe that divides the area into a southern and a northern side. The Beigua massif dominates the coast with summits widely over 100 meters of altitude and reaching 1287 meters above sea level with the Beigua mountain. The area is easily reachable by state roads from the main highways. A good range of main and side roads is available inside the area, the eastern and the southern side are provided also with the national railway.

Education and Sustainable Development: After becoming GGN member in 2005, the Beigua territory has gathered increasing attention from local authorities, tourism operators, entrepreneurs, universities and research institutions, schools, volunteers and environmental associations. Based on a shared local strategy for the enhancement and development of the territory, Beigua Global Geopark activated several programmes in the field of education and encouraged new opportunities for sustainable tourism. Thematic interpretation facilities have been developed: three Visitor Centres, two Educational Centres and two Information Points. They provide practical tourist information about what activities can be done in the area, and host educational activities and exhibitions. In order to popularize natural and cultural heritage many thematic trails have been equipped with panels and other interpretative tools, which allow visitors to appreciate and understand the link between geology, biology and culture. The Beigua Global Geopark schedules events all year round and offers different kind of accommodation: farm holidays and mountain shelters mainly in the hinterland, B&B or hotels and residences in the seaside towns.

Dates
Year of GGN membership entry: 2005
Subsequent Revalidation: 2016

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Global Geoparks in Italy as of September 2015

Map of Beigua Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Beigua Global Geopark
Geological Mining Park of Sardinia, Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The lithostratigraphic sequences are among the most complete ones of the European and Circum-Mediterranean area and document a geological history older than 500 million years. The stratigraphic successions of Sardinia preserved in an extraordinary way evidence of geological events, from when Sardinia joined to the bottom edge of the European plate and when it separated from it during the Oligocene-Miocene, as a result of the opening of the western Mediterranean (rifting phase and subsequent counter-clockwise rotation of the Sardinian-Corsican microplate). The geological history of Sardinia therefore is part of the geological history of western Europe and is totally different from that of the Italian peninsula. In the course of time, dynamic, physical and chemical processes led to the accumulation of ore deposits of different types and origins. They have been known for millennia and from abundance archaeological mining evidence we can reconstruct their history.

**Geography:** Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean with 24,090 km². Since September 2, 2014, with Resolution no. 34/10 of the Regional Government, the Global Geopark was extended to the whole of Sardinia (377 municipalities: 1,649 million inhabitants). Located into the center of the Western Mediterranean, Sardinia is located only 12 km from Corsica, 120 km from Tuscany, and 185 km from the coast of North Africa. It has no high mountain ranges but predominately mesas between 300 and 1,000 m high. Among the mountain ranges stands out the Gennargentu in the center of the Island, with its highest peak *Punta La Marmora* (1,834 m). The climate is generally mild with a higher concentration of rainfall in autumn and winter.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** Thanks to the climate and geographical location, the area is rich in different environments and landscapes, characterized by Mediterranean vegetation and fauna rich in endemic races. A network of trails allows discovering the Global Geopark on foot, by bike or on horseback, makes it the ideal place for a sustainable and responsible tourism. The Global Geopark is particularly engaged in promoting and spreading environmental awareness involving schools of various types and grades and several accredited Education Centers for Environment and Sustainability. Four different sites were awarded with the Eden Prize backed by the European Commission. EDEN is the acronym for European Destinations of Excellence, a project promoting sustainable tourism development models across the European Union, selected for their commitment to social, cultural and environmental sustainability.

**Dates**
Year of GGN membership entry: 2007
Subsequent Revalidation: 2017

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Map of Geological Mining Park of Sardinia, Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Geological Mining Park of Sardinia, Global Geopark

Global Geoparks in Italy as of September 2015

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Rocca di Cerere Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The name Rocca di Cerere has been chosen because of the ancient consecration of this territory to the Chthonic Goddess Ceres and it reflects the close relationship, established through time, between mythology, the Earth mother and man. The Global Geopark is characterized by its geological diversity. In its northern area the thrust belt within the southern branch of the Erei Mountains, was formed by the collision of the African and European tectonic plates. This on-going tectonic impact will ultimately lead to the closure of the Mediterranean Sea. The area is significant for its gypsum and sulphur deposits which were laid down during the Messinian Salinity Crisis between 5.96/5.33 million years ago. Abandoned sulphur mines and the history of sulphur extraction can be seen in the Floristella-Grottacalda Mining Park, one of the most significant sites for industrial archaeology in southern Italy. This crisis occurred due to the desiccation of the Mediterranean Sea when the Straits of Gibraltar closed. The crisis ended with the return of the sea and the deposition of "shallow marine" deposits. Here emerged diffusely the most powerful and extended sequences of evaporitic rocks of Messinian age of the entire mediterranean basin.

**Geography:** The Global Geopark area is located in the central zone of Sicily Region and falls into the central southern belt of the Province of Enna. The boundaries are determined from the territories of the nine municipalities that are included in the Global Geopark: Assoro, Aidone, Calascibetta, Enna, Leonforte, Nissoria, Piazza Armerina, Valguarnera, Villarosa. Enna is the principle town of the province and headquarter of the Global Geopark: it is 72 km away from the Airport of Catania, 120 km away from the Airport of Palermo, 100 km away from the seaport of Termini Imerese and 85 Km away from the seaport of Catania. The area includes an important Unesco World Heritage Site: The Villa Romana del Casale which is a partner of the Global Geopark.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** The Rocca di Cerere Global Geopark is represented by public and private entities working together in "districtual" form in order to promote the territory and its resources in new and innovative ways, by proposing the development of geotourism through the creation of "pathways" aimed at valorising and improving the fruition of the natural-geological, agro-alimentary, historic and culture heritage of the area in an integrated and sustainable way, including complementary services and facilities. The District operates through projects and pluriannual programmes for development mainly financed by EU funds that are managed by the Rocca di Cerere s.c.ar.l. a local development agency and coordination structure of the Geopark. In the last decade the following structures and services have been realised to support the fruibility of the area and by visitors: visitor centres, territorial experience centres, info-points, guided itineraries, accommodation structures, promotional materials. Furthermore, training courses for specialised geo-guides, environmental education programmes, books and educational kits have been developed, mainly targeting students and young people.

**Dates**
Year of EGN membership entry: 2001
Year of GGN membership entry: 2004 (first designation), 2008 (second designation following a new application)
Subsequent revalidation: 2016

**Official Website**
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Map of Rocca di Cerere Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Rocca di Cerere Global Geopark
Adamello Brenta Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The Adamello Brenta Global Geopark is characterized by the presence of two distinct sectors with different petrology characteristics: the Adamello-Presanella Group made up of tonalite, the greatest complex of magmatic rocks in the Alps, and the Brenta Dolomites, Unesco World Heritage Site, made up of limestone and dolomite. The territory covers a “key area” of the Rhaetian Alps characterized by the presence of the tectonic boundaries between the Austrian Alps and the Southern Alps and of the crossover of three structural segments of the Periadriatic Lineament. The geological units are testimony to a long and complex geological evolution that started in the Lower Paleozoic: the main steps of this evolution are clearly defined from the pre-alpine orogeny, from the long phase of lithosphere extension that led to the genesis of the Adriatic passive margin, and from the Alpine orogeny, started in the Cretaceous and still going on (neo-tectonic, seismicity). The landscape shows evidences of the glacial morphogenesis that has intensely remodeled the area and also of the karstic phenomena, in the Dolomites group, both at the surface and at depth.

**Geography:** The Adamello Brenta Global Geopark is located in the Rhaetian Alps, the Italian sector of south-central Alps, in the western part of Trentino between Giudicarie, Non and Sole valleys. The Geopark comprises the whole territory of the Adamello Brenta Nature Park, the largest protected area in Trentino and one of the largest areas in the Alps, and the 38 municipalities belonging to it, covering an area of 1188 square kilometers. The Global Geopark is easily reachable by state roads from the main highways. A good range of main and side roads is available inside the area, the eastern and the northern side are provided also with a local railway and public transportation are available all over the Global Geopark. The area is located in a strategic position, on the north-south axis that links Italy with Europe.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** The Adamello Brenta Global Geopark is strongly committed to environmental education: indeed it’s the perfect place for educational activities on the themes of geology, ecology, conservation strategies, preservation of knowledge on local traditions and historical-cultural values and the implementation of joint participatory sustainable development policies. Many education projects are carried out with thousands of students every year, from the guided visits to the Park’s Visitor Centres, through residential activities in the Park’s houses, to classroom activities and field trips in the Global Geopark. During summer several activities are organized in cooperation with local tourism bodies involving tourists and residents. All the work carried out by the Global Geopark is done following the principle of the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism, obtained since 2006.

**Dates**
Year of GGN membership entry: 2008  
Subsequent Revalidation: 2016

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Map of Adamello Brenta Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Adamello Brenta Global Geopark
Cilento and Vallo di Diano Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The area is characterized by a high geo-diversity made up of sedimentary rocks both carbonate and siliciclastic. The Cilento region can be defined as a "Morpho-structural Province", which represents a sub-unit of the larger Campanian-lucanian Tectonic Region. The area belongs to the Southern Appenines fold-and-thrust belt, which developed between late Cretaceous and Pleistocene ages as a consequence of the interaction between the European and the African plates and spreading of the Tyrrhenian oceanic basin. Due to the long and complex lithogenetic and orogenetic history, several litho-stratigraphical units in form of nappes and/or irregular sequences can be distinguished. Such nappes are grouped as internal units and external units, according to the original position before the tectonic deformation. Quaternary postorogenic deposits help us understand the geomorphic processes on the relieves and on the plain and coast, relating also to climatic changes.

**Geography:** The Global Geopark is 1.810 km² in size and located in the South of Italy, in the region Campania, entirely in the province of Salerno and extends from the Tyrrhenian coast up to the feet of the Lucania mountains. It is accessible through the highway A3 Salerno-Reggio Calabria that runs along the perimeter of the northern and oriental sides of the park. By train the park is accessible though the Naples-Salerno-Reggio Calabria railway.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** The annual program of environmental education in the schools of the Global Geopark has the purpose to introduce the young generations to environmental problems helping them to understand the values of the territory in which they live and the necessary actions for the correct maintenance and fruition. Projects for popularisation have been planned to integrate excursions to the territory into this school program to provide direct knowledge of the natural beauties and particularly of the geo-diversity in the area. The educational program is divided into modules and learning units, and includes a number of proposals for environmental education, differentiated by themes and targets: biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape, sustainable development, nutrition education, sports & nature.

Every year the Global Geopark organizes a special Award for students. In the last two education programmes the Global Geopark sponsored the visit (transport and tickets) in particular to geosites and museums, to promote the knowledge about the Global Geopark.

**Dates**
Year of GGN membership entry: 2010
Subsequent Revalidation: 2018

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Map of Cilento and Vallo di Diano Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Cilento and Vallo di Diano Global Geopark
Tuscan Mining Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The geological features of the area are the result of the long and complex geological history of southern Tuscany and the formation of the Apennine chain. The Apennine orogenesis caused in southern Tuscany the translation and overlapping, from SW to NE, of tectonic units from different sedimentation and palaeogeographical areas: Ligurian domain, Subligurian domain, Tuscan domain. The Ligurian domain was an oceanic basin formed by ultrafemic and femic magmatic rocks (ophiolites) covered by a sedimentary succession deposited in a deep marine environment. The Subligurian and Tuscan domains were epicontinental settings constituted by a metamorphic basement underlying a sedimentary coverage. This territory embraces the area of the Colline Metallifere (Metalliferous Hills), one of most important ore districts of Italy. In this area, there are several sulphide orebodies that for their grade and size were intensely exploited from remote to modern age for production of lead, zinc, copper, silver, iron, pyrite, alum and lignite.

**Geography:** The territory of the Colline Metallifere (Metalliferous Hills), stretches between the provinces of Grosseto and Livorno in Tuscany, a predominantly hilly area, covered by extensive forested areas over an area of 1087 km$^2$ and includes the territories of seven municipalities: Follonica, Scarlino, Gavorrano, Massa Marittima, Montieri, Monterotondo Marittimo, Roccastrada. The population density is relatively low (46,030 inhabitants; 42.34 inhabitants/km$^2$). The agricultural landscape near the coast is crossed by drainage canals that affected the plains in a consistent manner mainly in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. On the higher ground, large areas of forest prevail. The vegetation of the upper valley comprises what remains of long-established holm oak forests. The wooded areas are mostly part of nature reserves and are made accessible through an efficient network of hiking trails enabling visitors to reach most of the archaeological sites, mining and geological sites.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** The Global Geopark is inspired by the concept of sustainability that pays attention to the environmental, economic, social and cultural issues of the territory. It employs environmental guides who follow annual specialized training. LEA-La Finoria International Center for ESD is the Global Geopark’s operational partner who works with schools coming from all over Europe. A team of very well-trained educators offers about 70 different learner paths suitable for different age from three years up to adults. Most of the activities are based on learning by doing activities and cooperative learning methodologies. In 2014 the Global Geopark received the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism Certification and it is deeply committed by its active involvement of various stakeholders in implementing its sustainable development strategy.

**Dates**
Year of GGN membership entry: 2010
Subsequent Revalidation: 2018

**Official Website**
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Map of Tuscan Mining Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Tuscan Mining Global Geopark
Apuan Alps Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The Apuan Alps, at the north-western edge of Tuscany in Northern-Central Italy, are a fascinating orographic complex, worldwide known for its marbles, abysses and caves of its karst underground. The Apuan Alps have long been considered a classical area of the Italian geology, as they represent the most important tectonic window of the Northern Appennines where the lowermost units of the belt are exposed, being formed by a complex of greenschist metamorphic rocks. This complex is overthrusted by allochthonous units formed by non-metamorphic rocks. Overall, the Apuan Alps display rocks covering a long time span, from the Palaeozoic basement to the Cenozoic foredeep sandstones. However, their characteristic rocks are the marbles (e.g. the Carrara marble) occurring at different levels of the metasedimentary sequences. As for mineralogy, the Apuan Alps are also a very interesting area with about 200 mineral species, among which 18 were discovered in this region.

**Geography:** The Apuan Alps are a geographic subregion located in central Italy and is well-defined and delimited by the Serchio river (to the north-east, east and south), the Aulella stream, tributary of Magra river (to the north and northwest) and the borders of the Massa Carrara-Versilia plain (to the south-west). The Global Geopark comprises the whole territory of the Apuan Alps regional Park and includes all the high slopes next to the main watershed of the mountain range and the deep Apuan valleys. This is why the height difference ranges from 1,947 m a.s.l. of Mt. Pisanino to 45 m a.s.l. of the Frigido river near Massa. The surface of the Global Geopark totals 493.87 km² and is situated within the administrative borders of 20 municipalities belonging to the Provinces of Lucca and Massa Carrara in Tuscany Region.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** The Global Geopark territory is a special open-air educational laboratory, as it is characterized by natural phenomena of extraordinary illustrative value, the most remarkable being geological. The Global Geopark engages in tourism activities in parallel with the promotion of environmental and nature education and promotes initiatives relating to geo-conservation and/or improvement of the sustainable use of non-renewable geo-resources. Every year the Global Geopark offers courses for primary and secondary schools and excursions with the help of the Park Guides. The programme envisages initiatives on the tradition and culture of the Apuan territory as well as activities promoting the understanding and knowledge of landscapes and environments, with a focus on bio- and geodiversity. During summer, the Park organizes “green weeks” in the protected and surrounding area for kids from 8 to 15 years old. Educational activity takes place in the woods and high-altitude meadows while the Park provides facilities for their accommodation.

**Dates**
Year of GGN membership entry: 2011
Subsequent Revalidation: 2019

**Official Website**
[http://www.apuanengeopark.it/ENGLISH_VERSION/apuanengeopark_home_eng.html](http://www.apuanengeopark.it/ENGLISH_VERSION/apuanengeopark_home_eng.html)
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Global Geoparks in Italy as of September 2015

Map of Apuan Alps Global Geopark

Map of Italy showing location and size of Apuan Alps Global Geopark
Sesia Val Grande Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The territory can be considered as the world’s most accessible reference section of continental crust, consisting of a diverse association of rocks from the deep, middle and upper crust that provide an unprecedented model. These rocks were exposed at the surface of the earth by the collision between the continents of Africa and Europe, which has progressed over the past 100 million years, driving the Alpine orogeny. Along the Alps, the boundary between the two continents is the Insbricer line. In the same area, the Supervolcano of the Sesia erupted approximately 280 million years ago forming a huge caldera, the remains of this and its magmatic plumbing system are clearly visible today. Extending from the Po Valley to the peaks of the Alps, the Global Geopark offers the opportunity to observe the effects of climate change recorded by the Pleistocene geomorphology, by the recent retreat of glaciers, and patterns of human settlements dating from the Paleolithic.

**Geography:** The area is located on the north-east of Piemonte Region, NW Italy, and encompasses areas of the Verbano Cusio Ossola (VCO), Biella, Novara and Vercelli Provinces. 90 municipalities make up the territory of a total surface of 2,023 km$^2$ and a population of 169'581 inhabitants. It includes the Val Grande National Park, two regional parks (Alta Valsesia and Monte Fenera), and the Special Nature Reserves of S.Monte of Varallo, Sanctuary of Ghiffa and Domodossola all three entitled as UNESCO WH. The area is bordered to the west by Valle d’Aosta and the massif of Monte Rosa, to the north by the Ossola and Vigezzo valleys and the Swiss border, to the east and south by Lake Maggiore and the Po plain. This makes the Sesia-Val Grande Global Geopark the highest and the steepest one in Europe. Within 60 km the territory ranges from the Gnifetti Peak at 4,554 m. asl to Lake Maggiore at the 190 m asl.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** Educational activities are at the heart of the Global Geopark initiatives. Environmental education programs are organized for elementary and high school students which cover a broad range of activities such as mineral and rocks identification, alpine orogeny and plate tectonic and nature observation. School visits are organized all year round. Educational activities for local schools help raise the awareness of the local inhabitants as to the importance of the natural monuments and their conservation. The Global Geopark serves as a management tool for sustainable regional development by consciously combining all the strengths of the territory regarding business, community, culture, the environment and politics. It links geology, landscape, culture and development and devotes special attention to typical food and wine, which represent a great potential for economic development and for raising Global Geopark awareness.

**Dates**
Year of GGN membership entry: 2013
Subsequent Revalidation: 2017

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Map of Sesia Val Grande Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Sesia Val Grande Global Geopark (green colour)
Pollino Global Geopark, Italy

**Geology:** The area of the Pollino chain has always been of great geological interest in the Mediterranean and southern Italy regions. It represents one of the keys for understanding the structural relationship between the peloritano-Calabrian Arch and Southern Apennines because it connects the sedimentary soils of the Apennine limestone and the crystalline metamorphic and sedimentary geology of the Calabrian Arch. This touch point is identified as the "Fault Sangineto" located immediately south of the mountain chain of the Monti dell'Orsomarso. It marks the point of contact between the Apennines and the Peloritano Calabrian Arch. The geological and structural characteristics of the units that appear in the Apennines of Calabria and Lucania, constitute one of the ways that we are able to reconstruct the main stages of development of this orogen. In addition, the ophiolitic units provide information on the processes of accretion that developed between the Late Cretaceous-Eocene and Oligocene following the closing Tethys Ocean.

**Geography:** The Global Geopark covers 1,925 km² and includes the administrative territories of 56 municipalities, 24 of which in Basilicata and 32 in Calabria. The resident population consists of 150,624 inhabitants. Pollino Global Geopark is located in Southern Italy. The area consists of several massif mountains, between the Ionian and the Tyrrhenian Sea that rise up to the higher elevations of the Southern Apennines: the Pollino Massif, the Orsomarso mountains and Mount Alpi. The Pollino massif consists of five summits all over 2000 m, of which the highest point is Serra Dolcedorme at 2267 m above sea level, it is the highest point of the Southern Apennines, and the only Italian massif from where it is possible to get a glimpse of three seas: the Ionian, the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Adriatic.

**Education and Sustainable Development:** For several years the Global Geopark has been developing a number of actions aimed at raising awareness of local communities with regard to the protection and enhancement of the geological and environmental aspects including the following:

- Collaboration with the Association Meteoweb for the installation of meteorological stations within the territory of the Global Geopark (Pollino snowfield, Masistro sinkhole).
- Environmental education program and incentives for school trips, for the elderly and disabled people in the Pollino National Park with a visit to geosites in the Global Geopark carried out by the official guides of the Park and local associations working in the field of geo-tourism.
- Project “Secure Gorges”: the Gorges of Raganello were equipped with specific signage which describes the general characteristics of the geological site and the main rules of conduct to be followed.
- Educational activities aimed at an adult audience, dedicated to geological topics.
- Participation in the national radio program Radio3 Science in Matera (European Capital of Culture 2019) at the event MATERADIO to tell the story of the ancient Pollino glacial plateau, monitoring of the existing snowfield and the application as a Global Geopark.

**Dates**

Year of GGN membership entry: 2015
Subsequent Revalidation: 2019

**Official Website**

Map of Pollino Global Geopark
Map of Italy showing location and size of Pollino Global Geopark