



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark

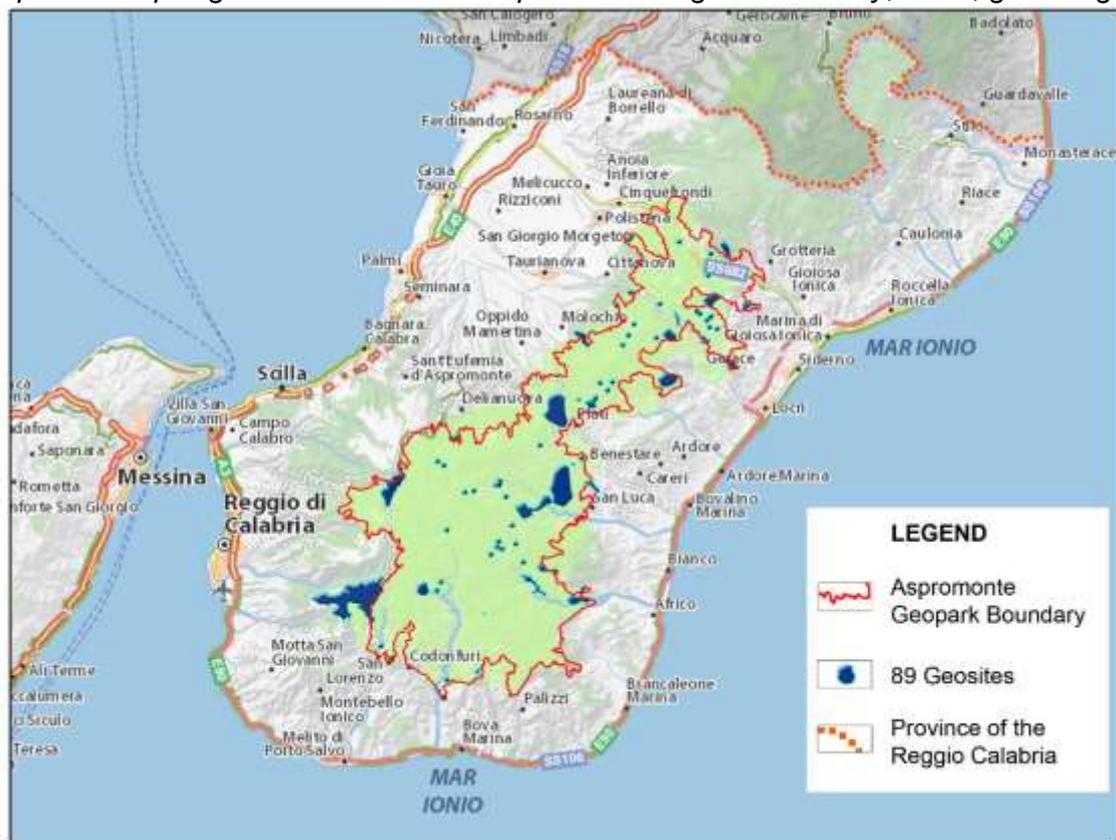
Aspromonte Geopark, Calabria (Province of Reggio Calabria)

geographical and geological summary

Location of the aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark



Map of the aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark indicating the boundary, cities, general geographic points



1. Physical and human geography- 1500 characters

The area proposed as Geopark coincides with the perimeter of the Aspromonte National Park with the overall surface area covering 65.645,46 hectares and comprises, in whole or in part, administrative territories of 37 municipalities from the internal parts of the province of Reggio Calabria. The population resident in the municipalities falling within the territory of the geopark consists of 273.159 inhabitants (2016). Its territory is identified with the Massif of Aspromonte, a sort of rocky acrocoron with corrugation, with its highest peak in Montalto (1956 m above sea level) limited geographically to the east by the Ionian Sea, to the south by the Straits of Messina and to the west by the Tyrrhenian Sea. The northern border is located at the Limina Pass. The geological limit, however, is identified with the connecting line Palmi-Antonimina, important tectonic line which separates the Massive of Aspromonte from the Massif of the Serre, two crustal blocks with very different geological histories. The unique geographical collocation and morphologic features of Montalto give the possibility to enjoy an extraordinary 360 degree view of unique panoramas and sceneries embracing the Straits of Messina, Mount Etna, the Aeolian Islands, the Calabrian Greek territories, the territory of Locri as well as the Plain of Gioia Tauro.

2. Geological features and geology of international significance

The main geological peculiarity of Aspromonte Geopark, lies in the geodynamic and seismotectonic origin and geomorphology and hydrographic evolution of this southern peninsular fragment of Orogene (Arco) Calabrian-Peloritano (OCP). OCP is, in fact, a stranger element along the Apennine chain, the result of a rare orogenetic process: it corresponds to a fragment of the alpine (partly ercinic) chain detached from Spain, NorthWest Italy, Sardinia and Corsica area (caused by the opening of the Ligurian-Piedmontese Basin and the Tyrrhenian Sea), located east-southeast and thus overwhelmed entirely in the lower Miocene above the nascent Apennine Chain. A unique "geological system" emerges on the Mediterranean scale, ancient and yet still in formation, whose main components geological heritage - consist of: crystalline-metamorphic paleozoic rocks; rivers and waterfalls; plateaux or sea terraces (and continental); unique geomorphological forms (Stones and Rocche), great landslides and the profound gravitational deformations of Versante.