



Preserving Earth's resources is crucial, especially at significant locations. SDG 12 guides us on using Earth's resources wisely and reducing waste. When a special place in our community is both geologically and culturally important, it becomes a geoheritage site. Keeping these places protected ensures they remain in good condition for the future.



Credit: UN Photo / Martine Perret

Project Summary

Scientists and communities are teaming up to explore and protect special places in our neighborhoods with geological and cultural importance. These places, called geoheritage sites, are like treasures that tell stories about the Earth's history and how people and the places affect each other. It is important to keep these places safe so people like us and those in the future can visit and enjoy them.

A program called Global Geoparks was created to protect these special places around the world and help people learn about their history. Geoparks are areas where that are managed with a holistic approach to conservation, education, and sustainable development. This means that geological features and cultural, ecological, and economic values are also preserved and promoted. Two examples that are part of the Global Geoparks program are Magma Geopark in Norway and Zigong Geopark in China.



Credit: Wikimedia/Phreakster

Magma Geopark and Zigong Geopark

Magma Geopark in Norway has about 45 spots that are good to visit if you want to learn about rocks and minerals. The people at Magma Geopark work with local communities to teach everyone about the incredible geological history of Norway. They even encourage visitors to come to the park using eco-friendly transportation like buses or bikes to keep the air clean.

Magma Geopark also is part of a project called GEOfood. It's about making food in a way that is good for the Earth and sharing traditional production methods and ancient cooking techniques. It also strives to collect stories about food that are connected to geology. The program has been so successful that it is now in over 30 other Geoparks around the world!

Zigong Geopark in China is like stepping into a real-life dinosaur park. It is an enormous area where you can explore rocks and walk on the land where dinosaurs once roamed. Zigong Geopark is home to more than 160 dinosaur sites. It also has a museum with ancient fossils and relics from the Jurassic period.

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