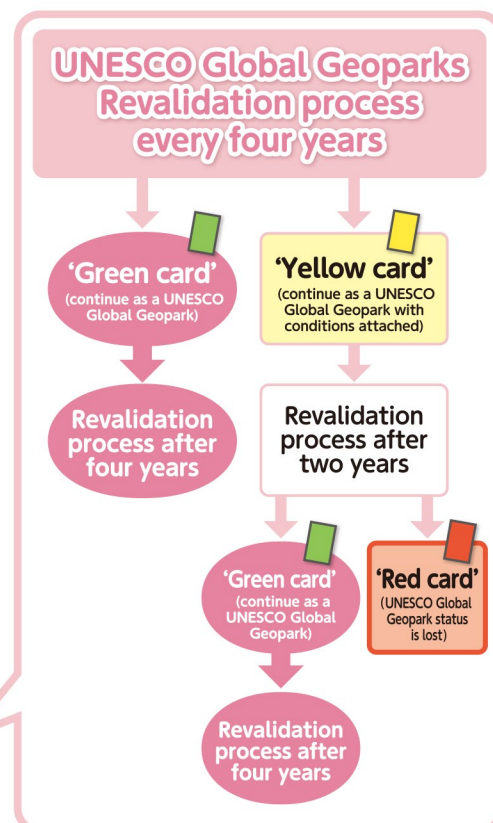
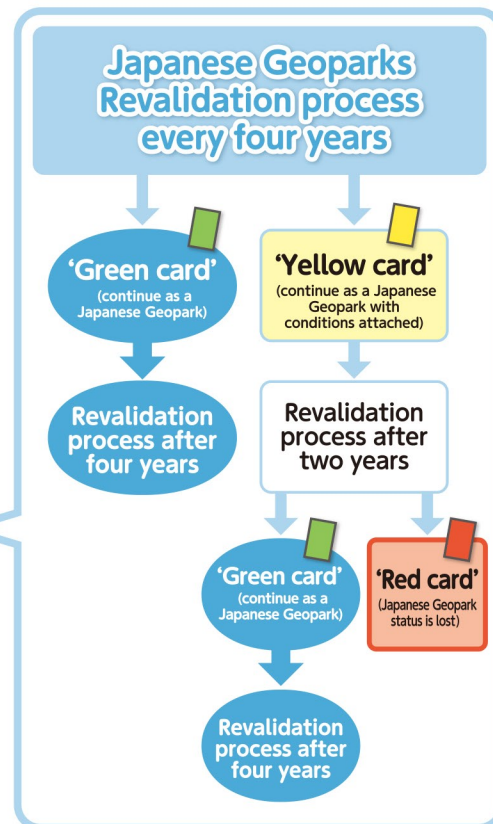
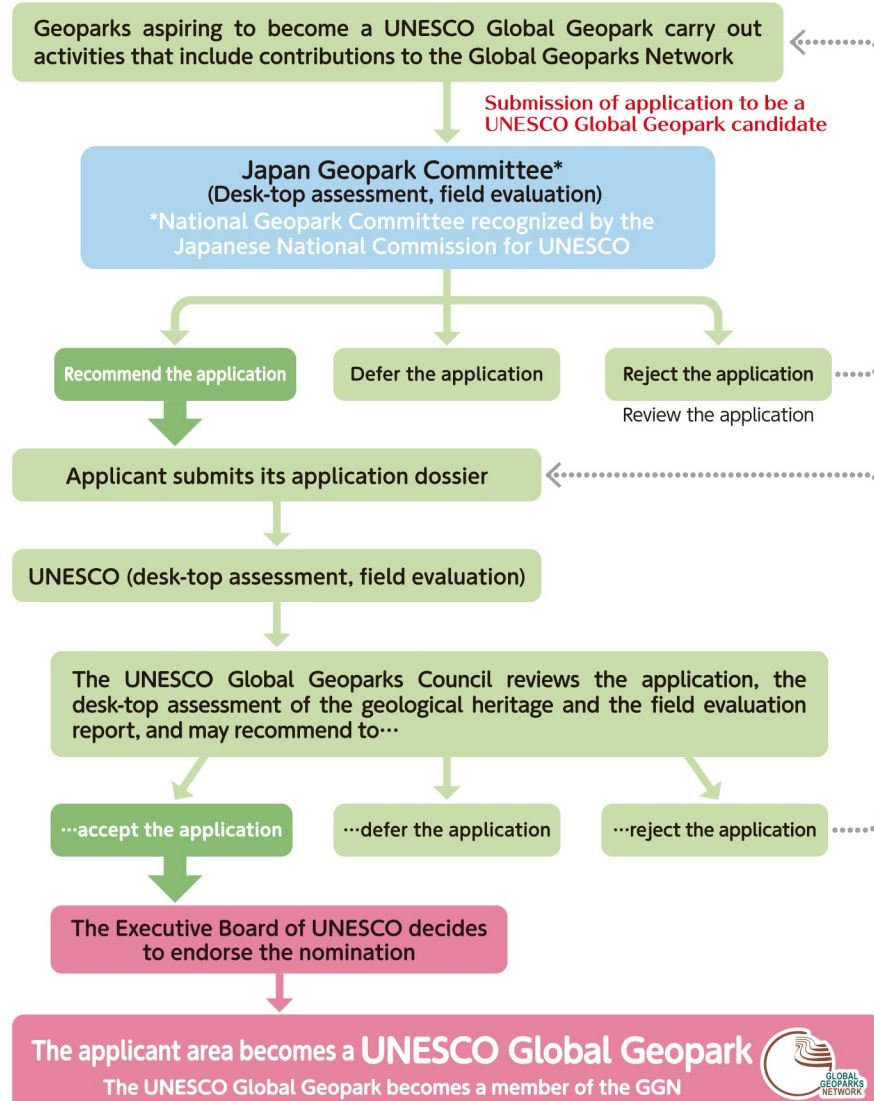
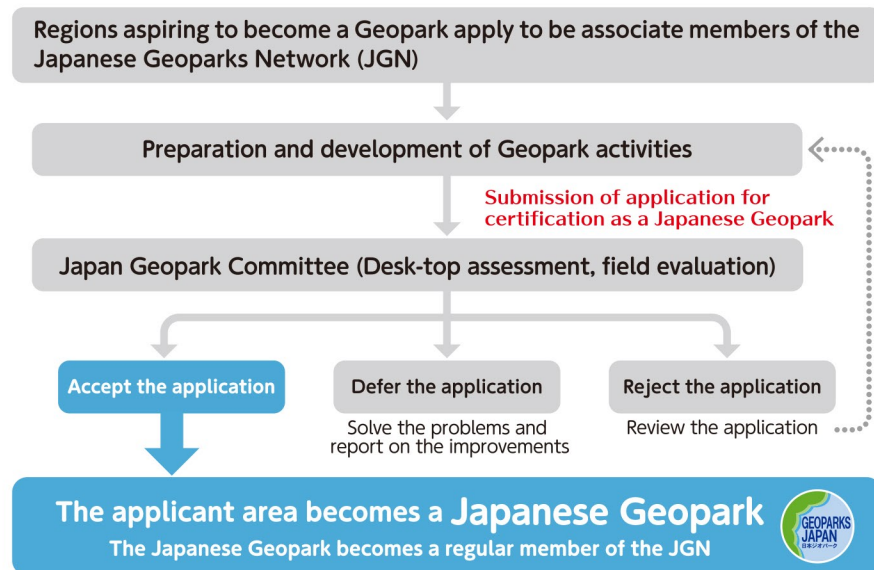


# How to become a Geopark?



## GEPARK ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN

### What is a Geopark?

Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.



# UNESCO Global Geoparks — a new official program of UNESCO

As of May 2023, there are 195 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 48 countries.

The Top 10 Focus Areas of UNESCO Global Geoparks are Natural Resources, Geological Hazards, Climate Change, Education, Science, Culture, Women, Sustainable Development, Local and indigenous Knowledge, and Geoconservation.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks also work toward achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.



Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs



Learn about the precious natural and cultural resources of the region and discover the connections between people and the Earth

Conserve geological, natural and cultural heritage of the region

## Evaluation and Designation of UNESCO Global Geoparks

The evaluation and designation of UNESCO Global Geoparks is conducted by UNESCO. Geoparks are subject to revalidation every four years.

### Evaluation system in Japan

The Japan Geopark Committee (JGC) conducts the evaluation of candidates for aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks in Japan as the Japan National Committee for Geoparks.

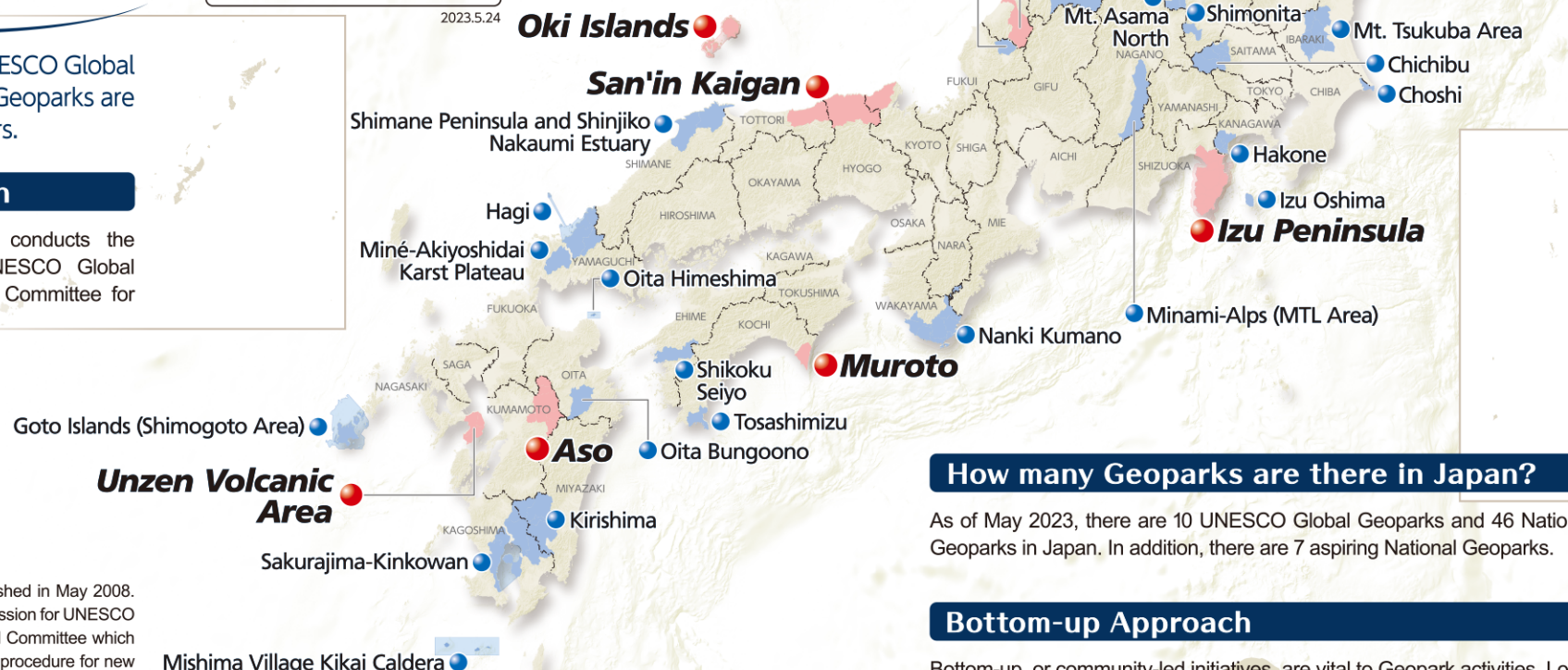


※Japan Geopark Committee (JGC)

The Japan Geopark Committee (JGC) was established in May 2008. On January 25, 2016, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO formally recognized the JGC as the Japan National Committee which would have the authority to conduct the application procedure for new UNESCO Global Geopark candidates in Japan. The JGC also evaluates and designates Japanese National Geoparks. In Japan, a Geopark must be designated as a Japanese National Geopark before applying to become a candidate for UNESCO Global Geopark.

● UNESCO Global Geoparks  
● Japanese Geoparks

2023.5.24



### How many Geoparks are there in Japan?

As of May 2023, there are 10 UNESCO Global Geoparks and 46 National Geoparks in Japan. In addition, there are 7 aspiring National Geoparks.

### Bottom-up Approach

Bottom-up, or community-led initiatives, are vital to Geopark activities. Local residents of Geopark areas work to discover about the value of their wonderful nature and culture and to protect and utilize it for education and sustainable development.

## Networking

Networking is very important for Geoparks. Network members work to improve the capacity and quality through sharing experience and knowledge.

### Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

The Global Geoparks Network was established in 2004 under the auspices of UNESCO with 17 members of the European Geoparks Network and eight Chinese Geoparks. Since 2009, there have been members of the GGN from Japan. In 2014, the GGN became a legal entity. Membership to the GGN is obligatory for UNESCO Global Geoparks.

### The beginning of Geopark activities in Japan

In December 2007, the Japanese Geopark Liaison Council was established with support from Japanese geologists and private organizations that were conducting geological surveys as well as from some local authorities and others who wished to establish Geoparks.

In December 2008, seven areas were designated as national geoparks. In May 2009, the Japanese Geopark Liaison Council became the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN).

### Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN)

The Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) is a specified nonprofit organization.

Aspiring Japanese Geoparks must be associate members of the JGN before the application. When associate members are designated as Japanese Geoparks, they become regular members of the JGN.

Annual membership fees account for most of the income of the JGN. Annual membership fees are 400,000 yen for regular members and 200,000 yen for associate members. If an individual or organization donates more than 3,000 yen, they can become supporting members.

Every year, the JGN National Conference and workshops are held. In addition, active exchange of information and ideas takes place via the internet. Active support is given to areas which have suffered from natural disasters through sharing information about natural disasters such as earthquakes.