

Plean Bainistíochta Gheopháirc Mhúrna, Shliabh gCuillinn agus Bhaile Loch Cuan

Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark Management Plan



**MOURNE
GULLION
STRANGFORD**
Geopark



unesco
Global Geopark

Ag obair le chéile chun a mhór a dhéanamh dár dtírdhreach álainn
Working together to make the most of our beautiful landscape

Contents

| | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| 1. | Mourne Gullion Strangford Strategic Framework | 2 |
| 1.1 | Role of the Management Plan | 2 |
| 1.2 | Our Vision..... | 2 |
| 1.3 | Our Mission | 2 |
| 2. | Geopark Governance and Management..... | 3 |
| 2.1 | Governance Structure | 3 |
| 2.2 | The Geopark Management Group: Steering Vision and Goals | 3 |
| 2.3 | AONB and MPA | 4 |
| 2.4 | Lead Partner and Legal Custodian | 4 |
| 2.5 | Decision-Making and Accountability | 5 |
| 2.6 | Financial Governance | 5 |
| 2.7 | Risk Management and Oversight..... | 5 |
| 2.8 | Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Management..... | 6 |
| 2.9 | Governance Evolution..... | 6 |
| 3. | Partnerships and Other Relationships | 6 |
| 3.1 | Geopark Partner Programme..... | 6 |
| 3.2 | Sustainable Tourism Cluster | 6 |
| 3.3 | GEOfood Programme | 7 |
| 3.4 | Geopark Communities (Launching 2025)..... | 7 |
| 3.5 | Youth Investment Plan | 7 |
| 3.6 | Other Key Partnerships and Community Initiatives | 8 |
| 4. | Coordination and Communication..... | 9 |
| 4.1 | Internal Coordination..... | 9 |
| 4.2 | External Communication | 9 |
| 4.3 | Alignment with Strategy and Monitoring | 9 |
| 4.4 | Community Feedback Integration | 10 |
| 4.5 | Communication Roles and Responsibilities..... | 10 |
| 5. | Staff | 10 |
| 5.1 | Volunteers | 11 |
| 5.2 | Time-bound or externally funded projects..... | 11 |
| 5.3 | Geopark Management Group (GMG) members | 11 |
| 5.4 | Capacity Building and Staff Development..... | 11 |
| 5.5 | Operational Management and Alignment..... | 12 |
| 6. | Budget..... | 12 |
| 6.1 | Core Operational Funding..... | 12 |
| | The core activities of the Geopark and the AONB and MPA designations are jointly funded by: | 12 |
| 6.2 | Project-Specific and Strategic Funding | 12 |
| 6.3 | Annual Budgeting and Forecasting..... | 13 |
| 6.4 | Annual Budget Summary (Approved 2025.26 Indicative 2026.27 and 2027.28)..... | 13 |

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 7. | Monitoring, Reporting, and Review | 14 |
| 7.1 | Monitoring Framework | 14 |
| 7.2 | Reporting Mechanisms | 14 |
| 7.3 | Review Processes..... | 15 |
| 8. | Delivery and Implementation | 15 |

1. Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark Strategic Framework

The Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark Strategy, Action Plan, and Management Plan collectively provide the framework for the Geopark's governance, operation, and development. The Strategy is renewed every eight years, the Action Plan every four years (with progress monitored and recorded quarterly), and the Management Plan is reviewed annually and renewed if required. These three documents are implemented in conjunction with one another to ensure cohesive governance and effective execution.

1.1 Role of the Management Plan

The Management Plan, reviewed annually, provides a comprehensive framework for effective governance and operation of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark. It outlines the Geopark's governance structure, financial planning, partnerships, communication processes, staff roles, budget allocation, and systems for monitoring, reporting, and review. It also sets out responsibilities and timelines, ensuring accountability and alignment with the strategic objectives set out in the Strategy and Action Plan.

1.2 Our Vision

"A cherished landscape where the interconnected essence of people, place, and nature is protected, promoted, and revered for the prosperity of present and future generations."

1.3 Our Mission

As stewards of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark, we are dedicated to realising our vision through a comprehensive approach centred on protection, education, and sustainable development. We pledge to safeguard the richness of our natural heritage, improve biodiversity, conserve geodiversity, and address the challenges posed by climate change. By celebrating the unique geological features that define our landscape, we aim to instil a sense of pride and appreciation among our communities.

Through collaborative efforts with local stakeholders, statutory organisations, and other authorities, we strive to create a harmonious balance between conservation, education, and sustainable practices. Our goal is to ensure the enduring well-being of our communities and the environment, promoting resilience and prosperity for generations to come, in harmony with global initiatives for peace, poverty alleviation, and sustainable progress.

2. Geopark Governance and Management

2.1 Governance Structure

The Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark operates under a governance model that ensures effective leadership, strategic direction, and accountability. This structure supports the implementation of the Geopark Strategy, Action Plan, and Management Plan, which together form the strategic framework.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) acts as the lead and primary delivery body for the Geopark, with governance oversight provided through internal reporting lines and the Geopark Management Group. This group comprises key representatives from statutory bodies, local authorities, environmental and heritage organisations, academic partners, and community stakeholders¹.

The Management Group plays a vital role in supporting the implementation of the Geopark's priorities. It ensures alignment with strategic objectives, facilitates collaborative working, and contributes to ongoing monitoring and review. The group meets regularly and works in line with the principles of transparency, shared responsibility, and mutual respect.

A staff team embedded within NMDDC carries out the operational delivery of the Geopark, with clear lines of reporting and accountability. The team supports project delivery, partner engagement, community participation, and communications, in line with the goals and actions outlined in the Strategy and Action Plan.

Governance and Collaborative Management

The governance structure of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark reflects a commitment to collaborative and inclusive management, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the conservation and promotion of our unique geological, environmental, historical, and cultural heritage.

2.2 The Geopark Management Group: Steering Vision and Goals

The Geopark Management Group takes on the responsibility of steering the vision and mission of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark. The group's remit is to contribute to the coordination, facilitation and promotion of the management of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark:

- **Coordinate and Facilitate Geopark Management:** The Geopark Management Group's primary mission is to coordinate and facilitate the effective governance of the geopark, ensuring it maintains its prestigious UNESCO Global Geopark status. Through strategic planning and collaborative

¹ Geopark Management Group Members and Terms of Reference - <https://mournegullionstrangfordgeopark.com/geopark-management-group-members/>

efforts, the group works towards the sustained success of the geopark within the global network.

- **Promote and Support Geopark Initiatives:** Actively promoting, supporting, and facilitating a diverse range of local, national, and international projects, initiatives, and events, the Geopark Management Group is dedicated to safeguarding and enhancing awareness of the geopark's geodiversity, biodiversity, historical, and cultural heritage. By fostering a sense of stewardship, the group contributes to the conservation and appreciation of the geopark's unique qualities.
- **Strengthen Partnerships and Develop Networks:** Integral to the group's mandate is the building of partnerships and forging new connections. By establishing strong collaborations, the group ensures that the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark is not only preserved but also promoted. This commitment extends beyond the present, striving to secure these qualities for the enjoyment and understanding of both current and future generations.

2.3 AONB and MPA

Each of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Marine Protected Area (MPA) plays a vital role in the stewardship of the geopark, the Geopark Management Group includes representatives from the three AONB Partnerships (Mourne AONB, Ring of Gullion AONB, and Strangford and Lecale AONB), the three Marine Protected Areas (Strangford Lough, Murlough Bay, and Carlingford Lough MPA).

Instrumental in managing various forums dedicated to different aspects of the geopark's well-being, the AONB and marine Protected Area Partnerships play a crucial role. These forums include but are not limited to: the Environment, Outdoor Recreation, Rangers, Officers, Conservation Volunteers Fora, as well as Heritage Festival, Invasive Species, Climate Change, Research and Development, Community Engagement, Blue Carbon Working Groups.

Each forum or working group addresses specific aspects of the geopark's management, ensuring a holistic and focused approach to its conservation and sustainable development.

NMDDC also supports additional thematic groups focusing on education, youth engagement, sustainable tourism, and Irish language and cultural initiatives, ensuring inclusivity and innovation across all programme areas.

2.4 Lead Partner and Legal Custodian

NMDDC is the designated legal custodian and lead for the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark. NMDDC provides the structural, financial, and administrative backbone necessary for effective geopark operation. NMDDC supports the Geopark through direct staffing, financial contributions, procurement services, governance support, and integration across relevant departments such as Tourism, Economic Development, and Sustainability.

2.5 Decision-Making and Accountability

Decisions within the Geopark governance system are based on consensus and informed by evidence, local knowledge, and UNESCO principles. Final accountability for decisions and resource deployment rests with NMDDC as the lead and legal custodian, with formal reporting lines to Council committees and, where required, to funders, National Fora, UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

Conflict Resolution and Stakeholder Engagement

The Geopark Management Group operates under clear Terms of Reference which include mechanisms for addressing disputes and resolving conflicts among stakeholders. This framework supports open communication, collaborative problem-solving, and ensures that all voices are heard and concerns managed constructively to maintain strong partnerships and effective governance.

2.6 Financial Governance

The financial governance of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark is critical to the successful implementation of its objectives. NMDDC, as the Lead and Legal Custodian, ensures that all financial resources allocated to the Geopark are managed transparently, accountably, and sustainably.

A clear financial framework supports the operations of the Geopark, detailing the allocation of resources, budgeting processes, and funding sources, which primarily include public sector contributions and external funding from national and international bodies. Financial management is subject to regular monitoring and reporting to ensure alignment with the Geopark's strategic goals.

Annual reviews of the Geopark's financial status ensure that expenditures are appropriately allocated and adjusted as necessary to meet the evolving needs of the Geopark. Furthermore, comprehensive reporting and auditing procedures ensure that all financial activities comply with local government standards and relevant regulations.

2.7 Risk Management and Oversight

The Geopark Management Group maintains oversight of strategic and operational risks associated with the Geopark's delivery. A formal risk register is developed every four years and reviewed quarterly to identify, assess, and mitigate potential challenges. This proactive risk management ensures that emerging threats are addressed promptly, safeguarding the Geopark's long-term sustainability and operational effectiveness.

2.8 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Management

The Management Plan shows a commitment to ensuring that the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark remains resilient in the face of climate change. It integrates adaptive governance structures, operational flexibility, and proactive community engagement to respond effectively to climate risks and opportunities.

- **Governance:** The Geopark Management Group incorporates climate resilience considerations.
- **Operations:** Day-to-day management practices, from conservation to infrastructure maintenance, prioritise sustainable approaches that enhance ecosystem resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate impacts. Monitoring programmes include tracking climate-related indicators to inform adaptive responses.
- **Community Engagement:** The Management Plan facilitates ongoing education and participation initiatives that empower local communities to understand climate challenges and contribute to resilience-building activities. Youth programmes and local groups are actively involved in climate awareness, practical conservation, and sustainable living efforts.

This approach ensures that climate resilience is embedded not only as a strategic goal but as a lived practice within the Geopark's management and wider community.

2.9 Governance Evolution

This governance structure is adaptive by design. As the Geopark evolves, particularly in response to climate action, policy change, or emerging opportunities, the governance system will remain flexible and open to revision. This includes the potential establishment of an independent advisory to increase strategic reach, transparency, and community ownership in the future.

3. Partnerships and Other Relationships

3.1 Geopark Partner Programme

The Geopark Partner Programme is designed to engage local businesses, community groups, and organisations in the Geopark's mission. Partners commit to upholding the values of conservation, education, and sustainable development. In return, they receive support, promotional opportunities, and inclusion in Geopark activities. This collaborative approach ensures that the wider community plays an active role in the stewardship and promotion of the Geopark.

3.2 Sustainable Tourism Cluster

The Sustainable Tourism Cluster brings together stakeholders from the tourism sector to develop and implement practices that align with the Geopark's sustainability goals. This includes creating sustainable tourism products and services,

promoting responsible visitor behaviour, and ensuring that tourism development does not compromise the Geopark's natural and cultural assets. Regular meetings and workshops facilitate knowledge exchange and collaborative planning among cluster members.

3.3 GEOfood Programme

The Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark actively participates in the GEOfood initiative, a global network that promotes sustainable food practices within geopark regions. This programme encourages the use of local ingredients, supports regional producers, and fosters a connection between gastronomy and geological heritage. By integrating GEOfood principles, the Geopark enhances sustainable tourism, educates visitors on local traditions, and bolsters the local economy.

3.4 Geopark Communities (Launching 2025)

The Geopark Communities initiative formally supports community groups within the Geopark to develop local projects aligned with its core values of protection, education, and sustainable development. Each Geopark Community will be encouraged to celebrate local identity, heritage, and environment, while benefiting from networking, capacity-building, and potential support for community-led initiatives.

3.5 Youth Investment Plan

The Geopark is committed to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards through a comprehensive Youth Investment Plan. This includes several key programmes:

- **Youth Rangers:** Offering young people structured opportunities to learn about geodiversity, biodiversity, and heritage through hands-on experiences and guided training.
- **Youth Leaders:** A progression route for returning participants and older youths, providing advanced skills development, leadership training, and mentoring roles within Geopark projects.
- **Ambassadors:** A peer-led programme empowering young people to represent the Geopark in their communities, support outreach, and lead on climate and sustainability awareness and actions.
- **Youth Volunteering:** Open to schools, colleges, and youth groups, this strand engages young people in meaningful volunteering that contributes directly to Geopark priorities and community-based environmental action.

These youth-focused programmes are designed to build skills, foster connection to place, and support long-term engagement with the natural and cultural landscape of the Geopark.

3.6 Other Key Partnerships and Community Initiatives

Strategic and Governance Partnerships

The Geopark benefits from a broad and collaborative governance model that brings together a wide range of stakeholders. These include:

- **AONB Partnerships** (Ring of Gullion AONB, Strangford and Lecale AONB): Long-standing landscape-scale partnerships supporting landscape management, public engagement, and heritage promotion.
- **MPA Management Groups**: These bring together statutory and community partners to support sustainable management of Murlough Bay, Strangford Lough, and Carlingford Lough, which are all key marine elements of the Geopark.
- **Newry Mournie and Down District Council**: Provides strategic oversight and direct staffing, governance, and resource management for the Geopark.
- **Statutory Agencies**: Including Geological Survey Northern Ireland (Department for the Economy), Tourism Northern Ireland (Department for the Economy), Forest Service NI (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs), Historic Environment Division (Department For Communities), NI Water (Department for Infrastructure), who support monitoring, research, and strategic policy alignment.
- **Third Sector and NGO Partnerships**: Including National Trust, Ulster Wildlife, Mourne Heritage Trust, local heritage organisations, and outdoor activity providers, all of whom collaborate on programmes spanning geodiversity, biodiversity, access, education, and sustainability.
- **Project-Specific and Academic Partnerships**: The Geopark actively develops partnerships with other organisations as needs and opportunities arise. For example, we are currently working (2025 – 2029) with Ulster University, University of Galway, University College Cork, Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, Trinity College Dublin, Northern Ireland Environment Link (Climate NI), Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) (NI), Louth County Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Bord na Móna, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Crichton Carbon Centre, and Atlantic Technology University Letterkenny, on funded research and conservation initiatives. These collaborations provide additional capacity, expertise, and innovation to support strategic delivery and community impact.

The Geopark actively fosters cross-border and international cooperation beyond its UNESCO Global Geopark network, engaging with neighbouring regions and international partners to share best practices, participate in joint projects, and strengthen the geopolitical and cultural ties that enrich the Geopark's mission and impact.

The Geopark is committed to upholding principles of inclusion and diversity, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals and UNESCO criteria. Partnerships and programmes actively encourage the participation of underrepresented groups and

promote equitable access to opportunities, ensuring that the Geopark reflects and benefits all members of its communities.

These diverse and mutually supportive partnerships underpin the delivery of the Geopark's ambitions and strengthen its role as a unifying framework for environmental and heritage action across the region.

4. Coordination and Communication

4.1 Internal Coordination

Effective internal coordination is vital for the successful implementation of the Geopark's objectives. The Geopark team, embedded within NMDDC, works closely with various departments, including Tourism, Economic Development, and Sustainability. Regular inter-departmental meetings ensure alignment of activities, resource sharing, and cohesive planning.

4.2 External Communication

The Geopark employs a multifaceted communication plan to engage with external stakeholders, including local communities, visitors, educational institutions, and international partners. This includes:

- **Digital Platforms:** Maintaining an up-to-date website and active social media presence to disseminate information and promote events.
- **Educational Outreach:** Developing educational materials and programs for schools and community groups to foster awareness and appreciation of the Geopark's values.
- **Publications:** Producing newsletters, brochures, and reports to inform stakeholders about ongoing projects and achievements.
- **Events and Workshops:** Organizing events that encourage community participation and provide platforms for feedback and collaboration.

Feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure that communication is two-way, allowing the Geopark to adapt and respond to the needs and suggestions of its stakeholders.

4.3 Alignment with Strategy and Monitoring

Communications across the Geopark team are naturally aligned with the overarching strategic goals and thematic priorities. Recognising the value of strengthening this further, the Action Plan includes developing formal monitoring systems to evaluate communication effectiveness and audience engagement. This will help ensure communications remain focused, impactful, and responsive to the needs of our stakeholders.

4.4 Community Feedback Integration

The Geopark regularly undertakes formal consultations and engagement exercises at key stages, ensuring that community input informs major plans and initiatives. Building on this strong foundation, the Action Plan seeks to develop more continuous and accessible feedback channels to foster ongoing dialogue. This will empower local communities to have a more active and regular role in shaping the Geopark's day-to-day activities and future development.

4.5 Communication Roles and Responsibilities

Communication is a shared responsibility of the entire Geopark team, ensuring consistent messaging and outreach across projects and activities. The team is supported by the Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) Marketing and Corporate Communications unit, which provides additional expertise and resources to amplify Geopark visibility.

5. Staff

The effective management and operation of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark are supported by a dedicated and skilled team. The core Geopark team, employed by NMDDC, includes:

- AONB and Geopark Manager – Oversees the strategic direction, coordination, and overall management of the Geopark and associated designations.
- AONB and Geopark Officers (2) – Lead and implement conservation, heritage, access, and education projects, while supporting stakeholder engagement and partnership development.
- AONB and Geopark Administrative Officer – Provides essential administrative support, including budgeting, financial reporting, data management, and coordination.
- AONB and Geopark MPA Officer – Delivers activities relating to the management, awareness, and protection of the Marine Protected Areas within the Geopark.
- AONB and Geopark Volunteer and Outreach Officer – Develops and runs the volunteering programme and public engagement initiatives.
- AONB and Geopark Marine and Coastal Engagement Officer – Leads on coastal outreach and marine education projects.

In addition to the core team, a number of staff across NMDDC contribute to the Geopark's operation and success, including:

- Head of Tourism, Product Development and Visitor Experience
- Product Development and Trade Engagement Officer (Tourism)
- Assistant Tourism Development Officer
- Tourism Facilities Development Manager
- Sustainable Food Coordinator

Support is also provided by Council departments including Human Resources, IT, GIS, Legal, Procurement, Sustainability, and Grounds Maintenance. This integrated staffing model ensures the Geopark is embedded within Council structures while benefiting from cross-departmental expertise and support.

5.1 Volunteers

Significant volunteer hours are contributed to the delivery of the Geopark's Vision. The Geopark benefits from a growing network of dedicated volunteers who assist with habitat and geodiversity conservation, biodiversity monitoring, invasive species control, community events and education outreach. These individuals including participants in the youth investment plan programmes and other volunteer initiatives play a vital role in connecting people with place and expanding the reach and impact of Geopark activities. The volunteer programme also builds local stewardship, enhances skills and wellbeing, and creates a sense of shared responsibility for the landscape.

5.2 Time-bound or externally funded projects

To support the delivery of time-bound or externally funded projects, additional fixed-term staff are recruited as needed. These project-specific roles ensure that new initiatives are appropriately resourced and delivered by individuals with the required expertise. This approach maintains flexibility while upholding the quality and integrity of Geopark workstreams.

5.3 Geopark Management Group (GMG) members

Although the Geopark Management Group (GMG) members do not directly employ staff for the Geopark, many GMG partner organisations commit significant resources; including staff time, expertise, facilities, and programme delivery to help achieve the aims of the Geopark Strategic Framework. These in-kind and collaborative contributions are critical to the success of the Geopark and exemplify its cooperative, multi-partner approach.

5.4 Capacity Building and Staff Development

Recognising that effective management relies on skilled and motivated staff, the Geopark supports continuous professional development through regular training, including a biannual People, Perform, Grow (PPG) programme. This approach fosters staff growth, ensures up-to-date skills and knowledge, and supports succession planning to maintain organisational resilience.

5.5 Operational Management and Alignment

The Geopark's operational activities are closely aligned with the strategic priorities and governance frameworks outlined in this Management Plan. This ensures that day-to-day management, project delivery, and community engagement directly support the Geopark's vision and objectives.

Staff workloads and operational efficiency are actively monitored through regular team meetings and the biannual People, Perform, Grow (PPG) reviews, enabling balanced task allocation and supporting staff well-being. This operational oversight facilitates adaptive management, allowing the team to respond effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities.

A culture of continuous improvement is embedded within Geopark operations, with open feedback mechanisms between staff, the Geopark Management Group, and external partners. This promotes ongoing learning, innovation, and refinement of practices to enhance impact and sustainability.

6. Budget

The implementation of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark Framework is underpinned by a blended funding model, reflecting the collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach at the heart of the Geopark.

6.1 Core Operational Funding

The core activities of the Geopark and the AONB and MPA designations are jointly funded by:

- **Northern Ireland Environment Agency Environment Fund** – The Environment Fund, applied for once every five years, provides essential annual funding, ensuring the delivery of statutory AONB and Geopark functions, including conservation, engagement, and education.
- **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council** – NMDDC provides critical match funding to the NIEA contribution, demonstrating its commitment as the Geopark's lead partner and legal guardian.

6.2 Project-Specific and Strategic Funding

To extend the reach and impact of the Geopark, additional funding is sought from a range of sources, including:

- **The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)** – Enabling community-driven heritage, biodiversity, and conservation projects.

- **PEACEPLUS Programme** – Facilitating inclusive community development and cross-community engagement through heritage and natural assets.
- **GEOfood and Sustainable Tourism Projects** – Often supported through sector-specific funding streams, including agri-food innovation funds and tourism development grants.

Leveraging Value through Partnerships

Through strategic partnerships with academic institutions, local businesses, and third-sector organisations, the Geopark also benefits from in-kind support, volunteer hours, and co-delivery arrangements. These contributions add substantial value to project delivery, capacity-building, and community engagement.

6.3 Annual Budgeting and Forecasting

The Geopark team prepares and reviews annual budgets aligned to strategic priorities, grant conditions, and anticipated project delivery schedules. This ensures resources are deployed efficiently, risks are managed, and opportunities for additional funding are maximised.

6.4 Annual Budget Summary (Approved 2025.26 Indicative 2026.27 and 2027.28)

| Budget Area | Funding Source(s) | Estimated Annual Budget (£) | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | 25.26 | 26.27 | 27.28 |
| Core Operations | NIEA Environment Fund | £296,883 | £299,646 | £302,464 |
| | NMDDC (Match funding) | £160,000 | £160,000 | £160,000 |
| Project Funding | PEACEPLUS C-Map project^ | £230,000 | £230,000 | £230,000 |
| | PEACEPLUS PeatPlus project^ | £80,000 | £80,000 | £80,000 |
| | NLHF Mourne Gullion* | | £1,500,000 | £1,500,000 |
| | NLHF Strangford*^ | | £750,000 | £750,000 |
| | Core UGGP, GeoTourism and GEOfood | £40,000 | £40,000 | £40,000 |

| Budget Area | Funding Source(s) | Estimated Annual Budget (£) | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | 25.26 | 26.27 | 27.28 |
| Partnership Contributions & In-kind Support | Volunteers, academic and NGO partners | £135,000 (equivalent value) | £135,000 (equivalent value) | £135,000 (equivalent value) |
| Total Estimated Annual Budget | | £941,883 | £3,174,666 | £3,185,000 |

Note: These figures are indicative and subject to variation based on successful funding applications, project lifecycles, and programme timelines. The budget is reviewed annually in alignment with the financial year and programme delivery schedules.

**These applications are being submitted in 25.26 and due to start 26.27 for a period of up to 8 years if successful*

^These are part of larger projects, this is the approx. amount being spent within the Geopark

7. Monitoring, Reporting, and Review

Effective monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms are crucial to ensure the successful implementation of the Geopark's strategic objectives. These processes facilitate transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

7.1 Monitoring Framework

The Geopark employs a structured monitoring framework aligned with the Action Plan's performance indicators. Each action within the plan includes specific, measurable targets, responsible parties, and timelines. Progress is tracked quarterly, allowing for timely identification of challenges and opportunities.

7.2 Reporting Mechanisms

Regular reporting ensures stakeholders are informed of the Geopark's progress:

- **Six-monthly Reports:** Detailing progress on Action Plan targets, these reports are shared with the NMDDC Committees and Geopark Management Group and relevant stakeholders.
- **Annual Reports:** Providing a comprehensive overview of achievements, challenges, and financial statements, these reports are submitted to NMDDC.
- **UNESCO Reporting:** As part of the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) and the GGN, the Geopark submits periodic reports to both UNESCO and the GGN, demonstrating compliance with global standards and sharing best practices.

7.3 Review Processes

The Management Plan undergoes an annual review to assess its relevance and effectiveness. This review considers feedback from stakeholders, monitoring data, and changes in the external environment. Revisions are made as necessary to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

8. Delivery and Implementation

The successful delivery of the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark Management Plan relies on effective coordination between governance bodies, staff teams, partners, and local communities. This Management Plan provides a comprehensive framework for governance and operation, forming part of the Geopark's overarching Strategic Framework, while detailed actions, timelines, and responsibilities are set out in the separate Geopark Action Plan.

Governance oversight is provided by the Geopark Management Group, which ensures resources are allocated, partnerships are maintained, and progress is monitored regularly. Staff and partners work collaboratively to implement projects aligned with the Geopark's vision and objectives.

While this Management Plan outlines the broad approach to delivery, the Action Plan contains specific thematic workstreams, performance indicators, and risk management processes to ensure adaptive, responsive management. Together with the Geopark Strategy, these documents enable a coherent and dynamic pathway for achieving the Geopark's conservation, education, and sustainable development goals.

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