

1. Introduction

Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark is a globally significant landscape shaped by extraordinary geology, rich biodiversity, vibrant culture, and strong communities. The Geopark works to protect, celebrate, and promote the interconnected heritage of people, place, and nature across the region.

The Geopark Partner Programme brings together organisations, businesses, community groups, educational institutions, tourism providers, and environmental organisations that share a commitment to sustainability, conservation, education, community participation, and responsible place-based development.

By becoming a Geopark Partner, organisations join a growing network supporting the long-term stewardship, visibility, and sustainable future of the Mourne Gullion Strangford region.

The programme contributes to the wider objectives of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network by supporting conservation, education, sustainable development, and community engagement at a local level.

2. Partnership Vision, Principles and Objectives

Vision

The Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark Partner Programme supports a shared vision of a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient region where geological heritage, biodiversity, culture, communities, and landscapes are protected, celebrated, and promoted for present and future generations.

Through collaboration and partnership, the programme aims to strengthen local identity, support sustainable development, encourage responsible tourism, and enhance awareness of the internationally significant heritage of the region.

Principles

The Geopark Partner Programme is guided by the following principles:

- Sustainability and environmental responsibility
- Community participation and empowerment
- Conservation of geological, natural, cultural, and built heritage
- Education, interpretation, and lifelong learning
- Responsible and regenerative tourism
- Partnership, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing
- Inclusion, accessibility, and local benefit
- Climate resilience and long-term stewardship

Objectives

The Geopark Partner Programme supports the wider objectives of the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark by:

- Protecting and promoting geological, natural, cultural, and built heritage
- Encouraging sustainable and regenerative tourism
- Supporting biodiversity conservation and climate resilience
- Strengthening community participation and local pride
- Enhancing education, interpretation, and awareness
- Encouraging collaboration between organisations, communities, and stakeholders
- Increasing awareness and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geopark designation
- Supporting sustainable economic and social development across the region

3. Who Can Become a Geopark Partner?

The Geopark welcomes applications from organisations, businesses, institutions, and community groups that align with the vision, principles, and objectives of the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark Partner Programme.

Eligible partners may include:

- Tourism and hospitality providers
- Outdoor recreation and activity providers
- Environmental and conservation organisations
- Community and voluntary groups
- Heritage and cultural organisations
- Educational institutions and youth organisations
- Local businesses and social enterprises
- Arts, language, and creative organisations
- Research and academic organisations

To become a Geopark Partner, applicants must:

- Demonstrate alignment with the vision, principles, and objectives outlined within this agreement
- Operate within, or actively contribute to, the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark region
- Demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, conservation, education, responsible tourism, or community engagement
- Agree to the commitments and responsibilities outlined within this agreement
- Not sell or promote the sale of geological materials or specimens

4. Partner Commitments

Core Commitments

Geopark Partners agree to:

- Support and positively promote the vision, principles, and objectives of the Geopark
- Maintain a positive association with the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark and UNESCO Global Geoparks Network
- Promote sustainable and environmentally responsible practices within their organisation or activities where appropriate
- Display Geopark signage, plaques, digital badges, or promotional materials where appropriate and practical
- Include reference to the Geopark on websites, promotional materials, or social media platforms where applicable
- Participate in, support, or promote Geopark initiatives, programmes, campaigns, or events on an ongoing basis where appropriate to the organisation.
- Complete a light-touch annual self-assessment or partnership review when requested
- Use Geopark branding and promotional materials appropriately and in accordance with guidance provided by the Geopark

Encouraged Actions

Partners are encouraged to:

- Promote local heritage, biodiversity, culture, and sustainable tourism experiences
- Participate in Geopark events, workshops, and training opportunities
- Share Geopark news, campaigns, and activities through digital platforms
- Support local supply chains, sustainable sourcing, and low-impact practices
- Develop educational, interpretive, or community engagement activities
- Collaborate with other Geopark Partners and stakeholders
- Contribute ideas, expertise, or resources that support the development of the Geopark

5. Partner Benefits

Geopark Partners will receive:

- Recognition as an official Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark Partner
- Access to approved Geopark Partner branding and digital assets

- Opportunities for promotion through Geopark platforms, campaigns, and communications
- Opportunities to collaborate on projects, initiatives, events, and funding opportunities
- Invitations to Geopark networking, training, and engagement activities
- Access to Geopark storytelling, educational, and interpretive resources where available
- Opportunities to contribute to regional, national, and international UNESCO-related initiatives and partnerships
- Connection to a wider network of organisations supporting sustainability, heritage, conservation, and community development
- Contribution to the long-term stewardship and international recognition of the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark

6. Branding and Visibility

The Geopark will provide approved branding materials, including digital badges, signage, and promotional assets where appropriate.

Partners agree to:

- Use Geopark branding and promotional materials in accordance with guidance provided by the Geopark
- Maintain signage and promotional materials in good condition where applicable
- Not alter, misuse, or misrepresent Geopark or UNESCO branding
- Cease use of Geopark branding and promotional materials if partnership status ends or is withdrawn

The Geopark reserves the right to review or withdraw partnership recognition where branding is used inappropriately or where organisations no longer align with the vision, principles, and objectives of the programme.

7. Partnership Monitoring and Review

The Geopark Partner Programme is intended to encourage active, positive, and collaborative engagement across the region.

Partners may be invited to complete an annual review or self-assessment to help monitor engagement, celebrate achievements, and identify future opportunities for collaboration and improvement.

The Geopark reserves the right to review, suspend, or withdraw partnership status where organisations no longer demonstrate alignment with the vision, principles, objectives, or commitments of the programme.

The Geopark may periodically review and update the Partner Programme to ensure continued alignment with UNESCO Global Geopark principles, strategic priorities, and best practice.

8. Applying to Become a Geopark Partner

Applications to become a Geopark Partner are submitted through the official online application form available on the Geopark website.

Applications will be reviewed by the Geopark team to ensure alignment with the vision, principles, objectives, and commitments of the programme.

Successful applicants will receive confirmation of partnership along with access to relevant branding, resources, and onboarding information.

9. Working Together

The Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark Partner Programme is founded on collaboration, shared stewardship, and a collective commitment to protecting and promoting the region's unique landscapes, heritage, communities, and culture.

Through partnership working, we can strengthen local identity, enhance sustainability, support responsible tourism, encourage lifelong learning, and contribute to the long-term resilience and prosperity of the region.

We thank all partners for their support, participation, and commitment to the shared vision of the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark and the wider principles of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

9. Contact Information

For further information about the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark Partner Programme, including partnership applications, branding guidance, collaborative opportunities, or programme activities, please contact:

Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Email: geopark@nmandd.org

Website: [Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark](https://www.mournegeopark.org)

Further information on the Geopark Partner Programme and online application process is available at: [Geopark Partner Programme](#)