

**GEOfood** is a global initiative that promotes food sourced and produced within UNESCO Global Geoparks. It emphasizes the connections between local food, food traditions, and the geological heritage of the region where the food is produced.

The initiative aims to support sustainable development by encouraging responsible food production, protecting biodiversity, and promoting local economic impact. Only recognized UNESCO Global Geoparks can use the GEOfood brand, ensuring that the raw materials come from within or near these geoparks.

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Here are some key aspects of the GEOfood brand:

1. **Local and Sustainable:** GEOfood products are sourced locally within geoparks, supporting sustainable agricultural practices and local economies
2. **Educational Value:** The brand helps raise awareness about the importance of geological heritage and sustainable food production through educational programs and initiatives
3. **Tourism Enhancement:** GEOfood enhances the tourism experience by offering unique, locally-sourced foods that connect visitors with the region's geological and cultural heritage
4. **Community Engagement:** The brand involves local communities in its initiatives, ensuring that benefits are widely shared and that local knowledge and traditions are preserved
5. **Global Recognition:** Being part of the GEOfood initiative provides international recognition and can enhance the reputation of the geopark

To join the GEOfood initiative, a UNESCO Global Geopark must follow these steps:

1. **Eligibility:** Ensure that the geopark is a recognized UNESCO Global Geopark. Only these geoparks can apply for GEOfood membership.
2. **Application:** Contact GEOfood at [geofoodinternational@gmail.com](mailto:geofoodinternational@gmail.com) to express interest and request membership. The application should confirm that the food products are produced within the geopark and adhere to the GEOfood criteria and values outlined in the GEOfood Manifesto.
3. **Fee:** Pay the annual membership fee, which is currently 250 Euros per geopark.

4. **Compliance:** Ensure that all GEOfood-branded products comply with the sustainable production processes and values promoted by GEOfood, such as supporting local communities and reducing climate impact.
5. **Promotion:** Once approved, the geopark can use the GEOfood brand on local products and restaurants, promoting them through various channels to enhance visibility and support local economies

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development<sup>12</sup>. These geoparks aim to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as sustainable use of Earth's resources, climate change mitigation, and reducing natural hazard-related risks.

Currently, there are 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks spread across 48 countries<sup>1</sup>. These geoparks not only protect geological heritage but also promote local economic development through sustainable tourism and educational activities<sup>2</sup>.

### **GEOfood supports the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks in several impactful ways:**

**Promoting Local Economies:** By branding and promoting local food products, GEOfood helps boost local economies. This encourages sustainable agricultural practices and supports local farmers and producers.

**Enhancing Tourism:** GEOfood products attract tourists interested in unique, locally-sourced foods. This not only increases visitor numbers but also enhances their experience by connecting them with the region's geological heritage.

**Educational Opportunities:** GEOfood initiatives often include educational programs that teach visitors and locals about the connections between geology, biodiversity, and food production. This raises awareness about sustainable practices and the importance of preserving geological heritage.

**Sustainable Development:** By focusing on sustainable food production, GEOfood aligns with the broader goals of UNESCO Global Geoparks to promote sustainable development. This includes protecting biodiversity, reducing carbon footprints, and fostering a sense of community.

**Economic Boost:** GEOfood branding helps promote local food products, which can increase sales and support local farmers and producers

Tourism Enhancement: GEOfood attracts tourists interested in unique, locally-sourced foods, enhancing their experience and increasing visitor numbers

Educational Value: GEOfood initiatives often include educational programs that raise awareness about the connections between geology, biodiversity, and food production.

Sustainable Development: By promoting sustainable food production, GEOfood aligns with broader goals of sustainable development, including protecting biodiversity and reducing carbon footprints.

Community Engagement: GEOfood projects involve local communities, ensuring that benefits are widely shared and that local knowledge and traditions are respected<sup>12</sup>.

Global Recognition: Being part of the GEOfood initiative provides international recognition and can enhance the reputation of the geopark.