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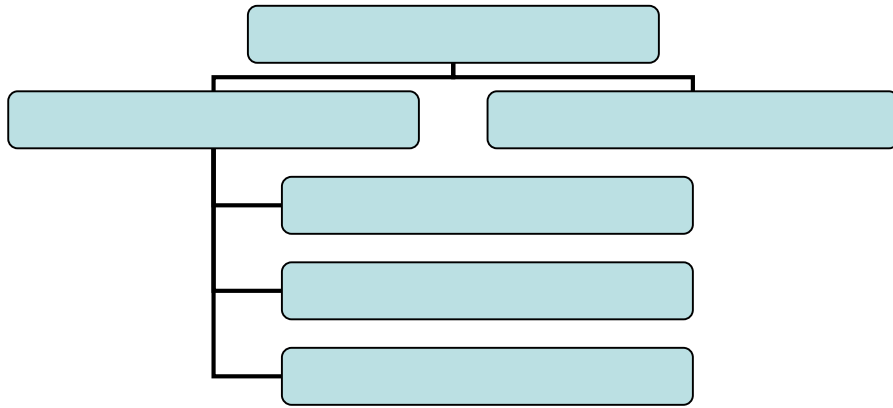
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	1	Araripe Geopark
	7	Marble Arch Caves European Geopark (–), North Pennines AONB, Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark, North West Highlands (), Fforest Fawr Geopark (), Lochaber Geopark (), English Riviera Geopark ()
	2	Petrified Forest of Lesvos, Psiloritis Natural Park
	2	Coper Coast, Marble Arch Caves European Geopark (–)
	1	Qeshm Island
	4	Maestrazgo Cultural Park, Subeticas Geopark, Sobrarbe Geopark, Cabo de Gata
	4	Madonie Natural Park, Parco del Beigua, Geological Mining Park of Sardinia, Adamello Brenda Geopark
	20	Mount Lushan Geopark, Geopark Wudalianchi, Songshan Geopark, Yuntaishan Geopark, Danxiashan Geopark, Stone Forest Geopark – Shilin Geopark, Zhangjiajie Sandstone Peak Forest Geopark, Huangshan Geopark, Xingwen National geopark, Yandangshan National geopark, Taining National geopark, Fangshan Geopark (Hebei Province), Leiqiong Geopark (Heinan Province), Funiushan Geopark (Henan Province), Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark an Province, Jingpohu Geopark (Heilongjiang province), Taishan Geopark (Shandong province, North east), Longhushan Geopark, Zizong Geopark
	1	Langkawi Geopark
	7	Vulkaneifel European Geopark, Nature park Terra Vita European Geopark, European Geopark Bergstrasse–Odenwald, Geopark Swabian Albs, Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen, Mecklenburg Ice age Park, Hexigten National geopark
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	1	Naturtejo Geopark
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GEOPARKS AS A FORM OF CONSERVATION GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE, DEVELOPMENT GEOEDUCATION AND GEOTOURISM

O. Shevchuk

*Ivan Franko National University of Lviv,
Doroshenko St., 41, UA – 79000 Lviv, Ukraine,
e-mail: o_shevchuk@franko.lviv.ua*

The paper analyses the world practice of establishing and operating geoparks; it describes the major trends of geoparks activity; namely, the preservation of geological heritage and other components of natural, historical and cultural heritage of certain territories, education in the field of Earth sciences, promotion of geological heritage objects, and the provision of sustainable development of the regions. The paper also considers the history of the establishment and operation of European and global geopark networks, their role in the protection and promotion of geological heritage as well as in the sustainable development of nature protected territories.

Key words: geopark, geological heritage, sustainable development, geotourism, geoeducation, European Geopark Network, Global Geopark Network.

... , 41, . . . , 79000,
e-mail: o_shevchuk@franko.lviv.ua

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