



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND MINING
MINISTRY OF TOURISM
MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LAND USE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Montevideo, October 17, 2016

IN VIEW OF: The “International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme” (IGGP) under the scope of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)----

WHEREAS: **I)** The said Organization has created “UNESCO Global Geoparks” within the IGGP as a mechanism of international cooperation to promote, together with local communities and through a bottom-up approach, sites with geological heritage of international value for the purposes of encouraging conservation and promoting the geological significance of a given area to science, education, and culture, as well as sustainable development. -----

II) UNESCO recommends the creation of a National Geoparks Committee. -----

III) For the above purposes, it is necessary to appoint a qualified team of technicians nationwide in order to support the representation of the State in the said Committee.-----

CONSIDERING: That it is hereby deemed appropriate and convenient to create a National Geoparks Committee, as well as to define its tasks.-----

PURSUANT TO the hereinabove stated -----

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HEREBY DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1. A UNESCO National Geoparks Committee is hereby created under the scope of the Ministry of Education and Culture, which shall be composed of a representative and an alternate representative of the following Ministries: Ministry of Education and Culture, acting as chairperson; Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining; Ministry of Tourism; and Ministry of Housing, Land Use Planning and Environment; as well as the National Commission for UNESCO, and a representative of the government of each Department where there is a UNESCO Global Geopark. -----

Article 2. The Congress of Mayors (*Congreso de Intendentes*) and the University of the Republic (*Universidad de la República*) are hereby exhorted to appoint a delegate and an alternate delegate to represent them in the hereinabove Committee being created. -----

Article 3. The National Geoparks Committee shall be in charge of the following tasks:-----

a. Promote identification of geological heritage in Uruguay, raise awareness of its importance, and implement actions aimed at conservation thereof.-----

- b. Identify, agree upon, propose, and implement actions for management and conservation of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Uruguay. -----
- c. Promote the creation and development of new UNESCO Global Geoparks in the country, assessing and endorsing applications, revalidations, and extensions. -----
- d. Promote international cooperation among UNESCO Global Geoparks. -----
- e. Initiate and support strategies and actions intended to promote local participation in favor of sustainable development at and among UNESCO Global Geoparks.-----
- f. Promote tourism as a sustainable development strategy at UNESCO Global Geoparks in Uruguay. -----
- g. Submit before the National Commission for UNESCO an annual report on its work and all the applications for aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks. -----

Article 4. The National Geoparks Committee shall establish its own rules of organization and procedure, and shall include the appointment of an Executive Secretariat. -----

Article 5. Let the above be communicated, published, etc.-----

Electr. 1526/016

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Cf/lsd

RAÚL SENDIC

Vice-president of the Republic
serving as acting President