



GEOPARK

DET SYDFYNSKE ØHAV



2024-2027

GEOPARK THE SOUTH FYN ARCHIPELAGO

PLAN



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DET SYDFYNSKE ØHAV

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This brochure presents a brief outline of the Geopark's development plan, intended to establish a framework for Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago's development process until 2027 and forming the basis for several sub-strategies and specific action plans.

The development plan is the result of an inclusive process from 2018 to 2023, during which the stakeholders of the area have contributed ideas and perspectives on the development of Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago through meetings, workshops, and collaboration with the Geopark's secretariat.



“ The Geopark
must help
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rooted sustainable
development

*Liquorice striped sediment layers at Smørmosen, Thuro
Photo: Mikkel Jézéquel*

INTRODUCTION

In 2018, Svendborg, Faaborg-Midtfyn, Lange-land and Ærø municipalities established Geopark the South Fyn Archipelago with the ambition of obtaining designation as UNE-SCO Global Geopark. The aim is to create a strong common identity as a starting point for local development with respect for both landscapes, cultural heritage, and wild nature.

A UNESCO Global Geopark presents an ar-ea's geology, nature and cultural history and

conveys a message that humans are part of life on Earth. That we are all dependent on the Earth's resources, aff ected by climate change and responsible for sustainable de-velopment.

The Geopark must help ensure the best pos-sible framework for locally rooted sustainable development and a shared understanding of how we continue to look after our unique ge-ological, biological, and cultural heritage.

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Nakkebølle
Photo: Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago

A SPECIAL PLACE

Since before the Viking Age, South Fyn and the South Fyn Archipelago were known as a special, lovely corner of the kingdom. Here, kings and nobility, as well as artists went for a space of freedom. All the way through history, the area has been known for its beautiful landscapes, idyllic nature, and some of the best water in the world for sailors.

There are no less than 45 sites of special geological interest in the geo-park. Three of them have been designated as international geosites which means that they are relevant for international geological research: Klintholm Limestone Quarry, Ristinge Cliff

and the entire South Fyn Archipelago. 55 islands and islets jut up from the inundated landscape, and under water there are still numerous traces of forests and stone age villages from before the sea rose.

Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago tells the story of a dramatic sea rise at the end of the last glaciation, and how the ice created a unique landscape that has defined the area's nature and culture for more than 10,000 years. In addition to the 45 geological sites, 43 cultural-historical and 19 natural sites of special interest and importance have been designated.

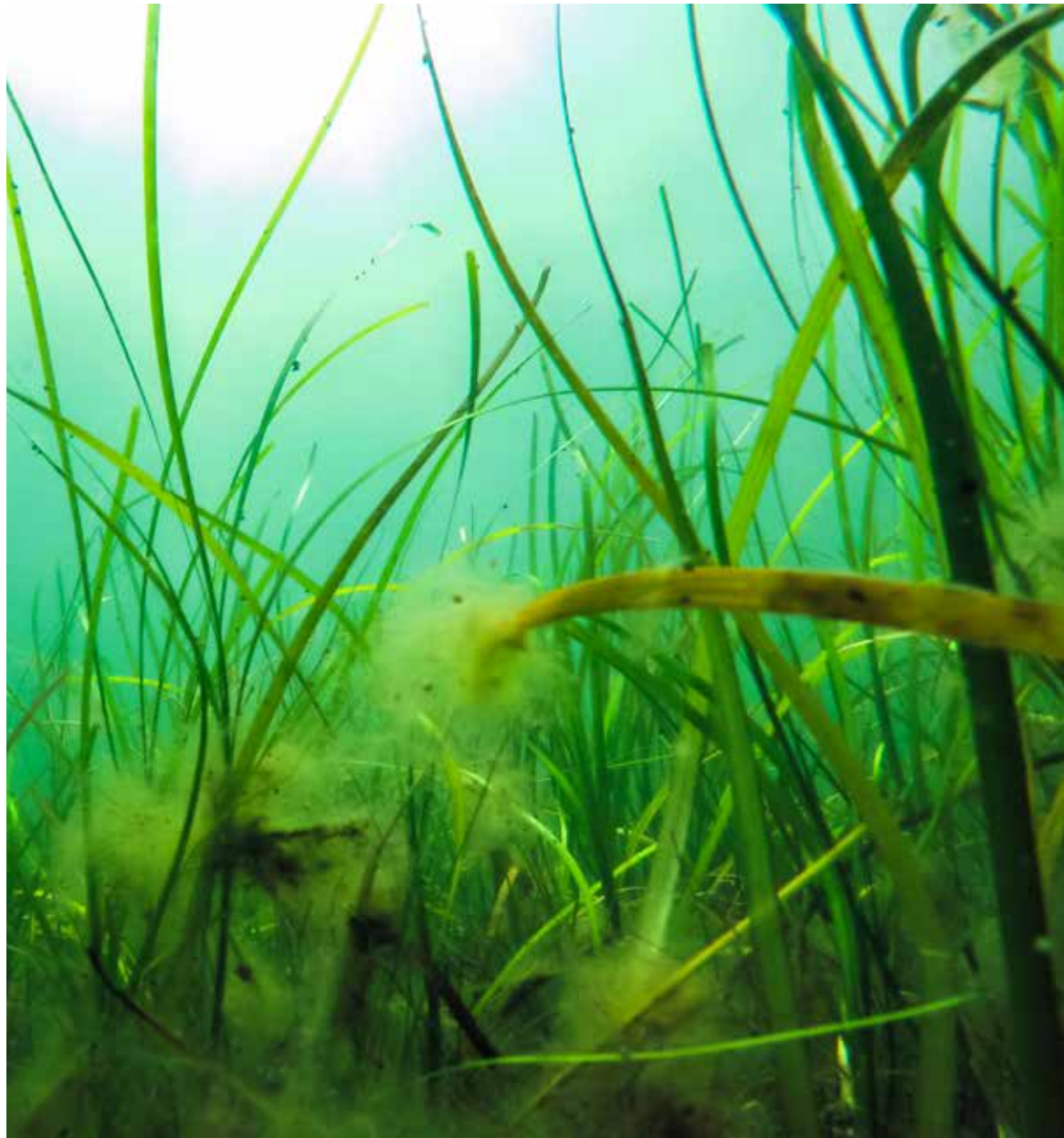
ASPIRING UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Since its establishment in 2018, Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago has been aspiring to become a UNESCO Global Geopark. The Geopark continues its 15 years of goal-oriented collaboration on the development of nature tourism in the area. Throughout 20 years, more than 75 projects of all sizes have been carried out, and more than 125 million Danish kroner have been raised through external funding.

Projects such as the Archipelago Trail, Riding Route South Fyn, Archipelago Shelters, Vilde Heste (Wild Horses), Diving Spot M/F Ærø Sund, Mountain bike routes, SHORES-Langeland, Egebjerg Mill, and Øhavets Natur- og Smakkecenter (The Archipelago's Nature and Smack Centre) are among the best known initiatives.

Since 2018, ensuring that the Geopark is developed to meet UNESCO's criteria has required an extensive establishment project. In the fall of 2022, the application for designation was submitted to UNESCO. A total of 37 contributors from the secretariat, participating municipalities, museums, and external experts collaborated on the application.

In June 2023, Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago will be evaluated by a UNESCO mission during a five-day visit. A response to the application is expected to be received by the end of the year. And hopefully, the Geopark will receive its official designation by UNESCO's Executive Board in the spring of 2024. A UNESCO Global Geopark is designated for a period of four years, after which it is reevaluated based on its development plan.



Eelgrass by Strynø
Photo: Andreas Mørck Nielsen

UNESCO

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Under the headline Building peace in the hearts and minds of men and women, UNESCO works to ensure that core values such as education for all, democracy and the protection of natural and cultural heritage shape the everyday life of all people.

In 2015, UNESCO created the concept of UNESCO Global Geoparks to strengthen the work of managing the earth's wonderful geology and landscapes in a holistic and sustainable way. Today (2023) there are 177 geoparks in 46 countries. Among them are Geopark Odsherred and Geopark Vestjylland in Denmark.



ORGANIZATION

The four municipalities of South Fyn collectively own Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago. The Geopark is organized as a cross-municipal development organization with a board, a program management, a secretariat, and several thematic project groups. The secretariat focuses on local collaboration and project development, local presence, storytelling, and communication as well as national and international collaboration.

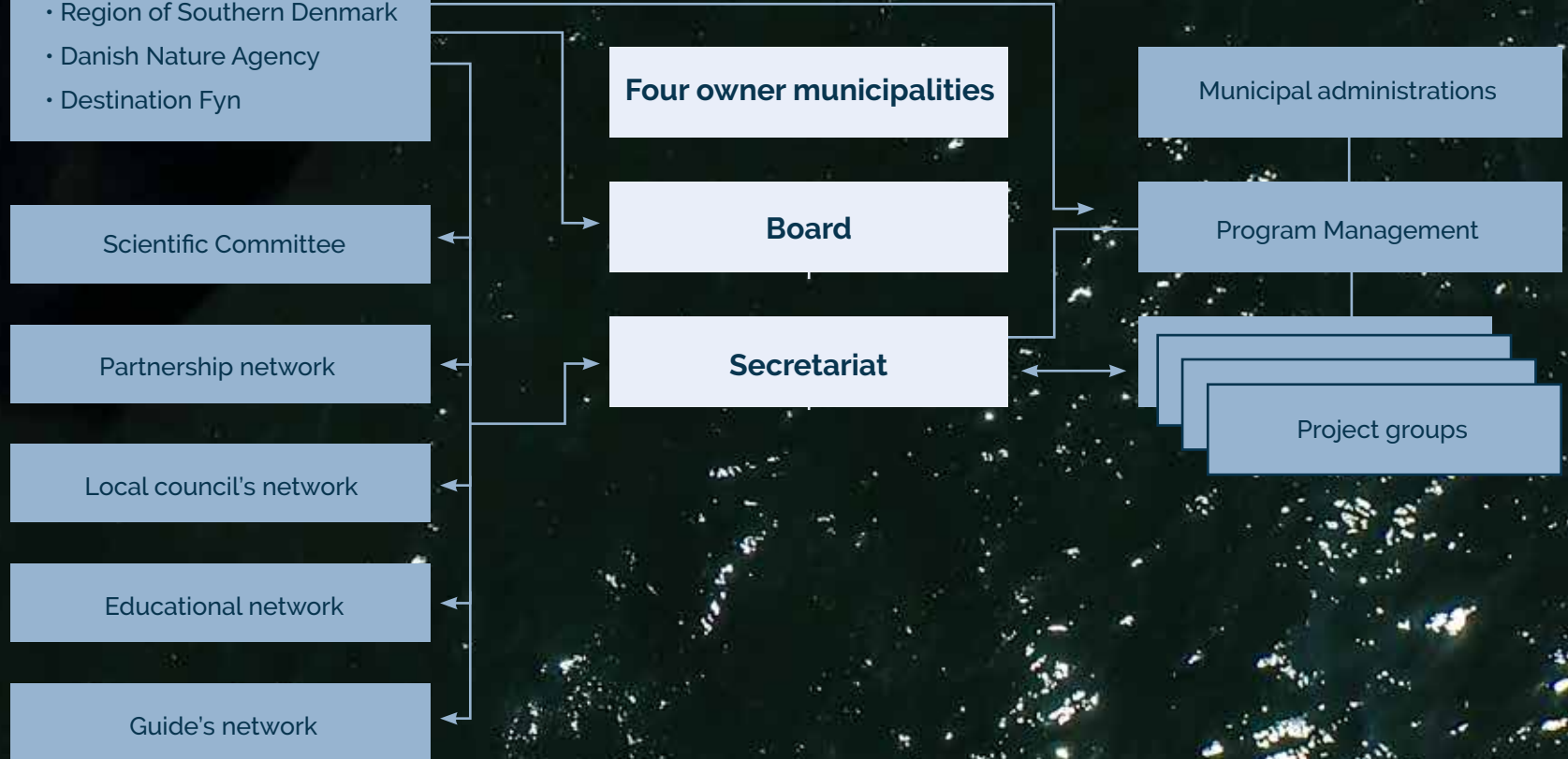
The board consists of four incumbent mayors as well as four municipal board members, with two members from each participating municipality. Eight stakeholder organizations are affiliated and have consultation rights.

The activities in the geopark are, however, driven by a number of committees and networks among companies, associations, and educational and cultural institutions. You can say that the geopark is the sum of all the good initiatives and projects that exist and are realized across the entire area - primarily within six fields of action:

- GEOLOGY AND NATURE
- EDUCATION
- ACTIVE LIVING
- GEOTOURISM
- CULTURE
- SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

STAKEHOLDERS

- NGO's
- Landowners
- Local councils
- Businesses
- Educational and research institutions
- Museums
- Region of Southern Denmark
- Danish Nature Agency
- Destination Fyn



” *The geopark is the sum of all the good initiatives and projects that exist and are realized across the entire area*

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago is an innovative UNESCO Global Geopark with a strong community presence, acting as an international role model for local sustainable development based on people, geology, nature, and culture.

Mission

Through collaboration and strong community presence, Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago promotes innovative sustainable development, generating value for the entire South Fyn Archipelago based on UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago communicates the geological, natural, and cultural heritage of the area by sharing knowledge and narratives based on lived experiences and historical awareness, emphasizing our current obligation to protect and promote the area's geology, wild nature, and cultural heritage.

The Geopark handles the administration, operation, and development of Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

THE GEOPARK'S FIELDS OF ACTION

The Geopark's mission is realized realized through six fields of action and four interdisciplinary working areas. These fields of action and working areas should not be considered as separate entities. The project development of the Geopark aims to simultaneously combine multiple fields of action and will, as a primary objective, involve a broad group of stakeholders.

This text outlines both ongoing projects that extend into the planning period as well as long-term goals that impact project development during this period. Additional projects will be initiated in accordance with the objectives of the fields of action.

The text will specify whether the Geopark organization serves as the project owner (lead) or is actively partnering with and supporting another project owner (partner).



Field of action 1

GEOLOGY AND NATURE

The purpose of the field of action

is to strengthen the values and diversity of the geological, biological, and cultural landscape within the Geopark, aiming to ensure that the designated sites are effectively monitored and maintained.

As a primary objective, the organizing of the Geopark will constitute a platform enabling dialogue across different concepts of nature. The aim is to encourage innovative, local, and sustainable solutions and approaches that address the current challenges related to resources, environment, and climate.

Specific projects will promote local appreciation and enthusiasm for the natural and cultural landscapes. The initiatives are implemented in close collaboration with landowners, associations, NGOs, municipalities, regional bodies, and government authorities.



Ongoing projects:

Fundraising for marine nature conservation in The South Fyn Archipelago, including re-establishing stone reefs, planting sea-grass, and creating fish nurseries (partner).

Action plan for protecting, maintaining, and disseminating information about the geologic sites of the Geopark (partner).

Long-term goals:

The South Fyn Archipelago becoming a national marine nature park along with Lillebælt and Øresund, including prohibition of trawling and dredging (partner).

Enhanced biodiversity on land, including the expansion of protected natural areas, afforestation, wild grazing, and incorporating wild nature in public and private green spaces (partner).

Thuro Rev
Photo: Mikkel Jézéquel

Field of action 2

EDUCATION

The purpose of the field of action is to transform the Geopark into a unified teaching space, offering accessible educational programs for all ages and levels – from kindergarten to adult education, from preschools to university programs.

The immersive and experiential teaching programs of the Geopark should aim to instil knowledge, curiosity, and a sense of pride and responsibility for our landscape, nature, and culture among children, youths, and adults. The aim is to cultivate sustainable education rooted in local identity.

The education will be engaging and meaningful, taking place beyond traditional classrooms and creating value based on the local context. To achieve this, the Geopark will develop the initiative in close collaboration with the numerous competent stakeholders within the field of education.



Ongoing projects:

Ship-based teaching for local middle school students with a focus on exploring ecology, natural heritage, and cultural history of The South Fyn Archipelago through sailing trips with Skoleskibet Fylla (partner).

Outdoor teaching for students through youth education programs focusing on geology and climate change based at the Geo & Bio Science Center (partner).

Educating Archipelago guides in collaboration with Øhavsmuseet and Trente Mølle Naturskole (partner).

Long-term goals:

A primary school network emphasizing outdoor teaching, including the development of a shared platform for educational programs in nature, at museums, businesses etc. (lead).

Network-based development of a Geopark school concept with emphasis on outdoor teaching, outdoors living, nature education and UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Further development of the Geopark's nature-educational family activity concepts such as 'Kiss The Frog' with special emphasis on facilities and activities for day-cares and nurseries (lead).

Outdoor teaching by the coast
Photo: Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago

Field of action 3

ACTIVE LIVING

The purpose of the field of action is to enable active and versatile outdoors living in the Geopark, contributing to an increased quality of life as well as mental and psychical health. Active outdoors living should be a source of nature experiences leading to an increased understanding and appreciation of nature. Additionally, active outdoors living should support the local economy.

Through the projects, easy and sustainable access to the Geopark's landscape, nature, and sea should be ensured. This includes development of facilities, communication and initiatives focusing on the broader user group as well as a respectful perspective on the landscape and the biological and cultural values.

The initiatives should contribute to the communities involved and engage local citizens and associations. Landowners, municipalities, and authorities are key collaborators.



Ongoing projects:

Trailcenter Svendborg by Hallindskoven, which is established in close collaboration with Svendborg Trailcenter association, Svendborg Efterskole and Svendborg Municipality (lead).

Outdoor FUN – Flere Unge i Naturen (Youth in Nature) in Faaborg Municipality which is developing and testing new approaches for activating and engaging younger user groups (partner).

SHORES Langeland, Langeland Municipality, developing new activities and facilities for coastal outdoor activities, geo-tourism, and education (partner).

Long-term goals:

Establishing Center for Natur og Bæredygtighed (Centre for Nature and Sustainability) in Svendborg in close collaboration with Vand & Affald, Svendborg Natur- og Miljøskole, and Svendborg Municipality (partner).

Further development of the Geopark's activity app, strengthening the presentation of the activities and delivering high-quality user experiences (lead).

Flowtrail in Gåsebjerg Sand Bikepark
Foto: Johnny Wichmann

Field of action 4

GEOTOURISM

The purpose of the field of action is to develop geo-tourism as a catalyst for regenerative tourism in the Geopark. Geo-tourism is sustainable tourism which maintains and improves the values, heritage, aesthetics, and culture of the area, while contributing to and engaging the community.

Regenerative tourism involves a commitment to strengthen the natural environment, the landscape, and the cultural and historical heritage. The field of action aims to develop high-quality tourism products, enriching and engaging for guests and the community alike.

The effort will strengthen the local identity and distinctiveness, ensuring the balance between usage and preservation of the landscape and nature. The communities, Destination Fyn, associations, and landowners will all be actively included in the effort.



Ongoing projects

Business development within the Geopark's partnership network, emphasizing sustainability in an environmental, climate-related, and community-based context, including a certification scheme for local products (partner).

Svendborg Harbour Geopark as an innovative local attraction. Developed in close cooperation with Svendborg Municipality and Svendborg Museum (partner).

Interregional project with North-German partners focusing on regenerative tourism development, featuring activity-based tourism products contributing to marine nature restoration (lead).

Long-term goals:

Developing and promoting the Geopark as a culinary destination, emphasizing local produce and sustainability (partner).

Creating new products and business-models for the development of activities and tourism on privately-owned land/nature in close collaboration with landowners (partner).

Positioning the Archipelago Trail as a flagship destination and a signature project within the Geopark, including marketing effort and, potentially, international certifications (partner).

Boys on a SUP board along the coast of Langeland
Photo: Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago

Field of action 5

CULTURE

The purpose of the field of action

is to convey, explore, and strengthen the connection between the cultural history that has unfolded since the end of the last ice age, and the shared identity and cultural development in the region today.

The Geopark's efforts should aim to facilitate new activities, collaborations, and physical, communicative initiatives in support of a vibrant cultural scene. This applies to virtually all forms of art and culture, whether they embrace the area's unique traditions and cultural heritage or respectfully evolve, challenge, and innovate.

Cultural projects and activities are developed in close collaboration with the area's cultural actors, including cultural history museums.



Ongoing projects:

Development of a prominent recurring event and/or Geopark festival, starting in 2024, in close collaboration with municipalities, partner networks, and local councils (lead).

Cultural-historical communicative initiatives along the Archipelago Trail involving all four participating municipalities in collaboration with the five cultural-historical museums (partner).

Nautical sculpture park, wood sculpture installation and educational reef featuring water activities and learning at approximately 2 m of water in all four municipalities (lead).

Long-term goals:

Establishing a network of local Geopark councils to facilitate knowledge sharing, community engagement, and local communicative initiatives (lead).

Additional Kultur i Natur (Culture in Nature) products, such as audio-walks via the Geopark Sound platform, and events that combine local gastronomy, music, and communicative efforts (lead/partner).

Development of an art strategy supporting local craftsmanship within the Geopark projects (lead).

The wooden ship pier and Gule Pakhuse at Svendborg Harbour
Photo: Knud Mortensen, VisitSvendborg

Field of action 6

RESEARCH

The purpose of the field of action

is to support research initiatives in the Geopark and in relation to the Geopark's fields of action as well knowledge sharing with the citizens and guests of the Geopark.

Research is a key component of a UNESCO Global Geopark, supplying the basis for informed decision-making regarding sustainable development among the region's participants.

Through the Geopark's research council, the Geopark should aim to foster local collaborative research, to connect with local networks and resources, and to promote the development of new projects.

The Geopark should aim to attract scientific conferences, seminars, and excursions, and to inspire students to conduct field studies, research projects, PhD dissertations, etc..



Ongoing projects:

Partner in the national, research-based UBU network (Education for Sustainable Development) (partner).

Partner in the national, research-based maritime communication network: Det Maritime Netværk (The Maritime Network) (partner).

Long-term goals:

Outlining and communicating existing research projects within the Geopark area (partner/lead).

Baseline studies forming the basis for future evaluation of the Geopark's development and sustainability (partner/lead).

Interdisciplinary research projects with subjects such as the Geopark's geology, nature, cultural history, tourism, or teaching efforts (partner).

Voderup Klint, Årø
Photo: Mikkel Jézéquel

CROSS-CUTTING WORKING AREAS

Communication and Visibility

The Geopark's unique geology, nature, and cultural values as well as the priority areas and projects will be widely communicated and showcased through physical exhibitions, signage in the landscapes, and brochures as well as digitally through the Geopark's website, social media, film, and audio. Also the Geopark is present at various cultural events in the area.

Community presence

Community engagement and ownership is a cornerstone in the work of the Geopark as well as the foundation for sustainable initiatives, which will be safeguarded through participation in and/or facilitation of councils and networks. Additionally, the continued development of the Geopark will include collaborative platforms as well as ongoing dialogue with and engagement of local stakeholders.

National and international collaboration

Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago will remain nationally and internationally relevant while facilitating both local and global knowledge sharing. To achieve this, the Geopark will participate in several national and international networks. These will include the Danish Geopark Forum, the European and Global


Geopark Networks, the Danish UNESCO family, and the network of Danish nature parks, national parks, and geoparks.

Evaluation and monitoring


Geopark The South Fyn Archipelago will continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of its initiatives, ensuring progress and sustainability. The Geopark management ensures the continued development and that the Geopark activities are aligned with the goals and the requirements outlined in the UNESCO Global Geopark program.

GEOPARK APP


Download on the App Store

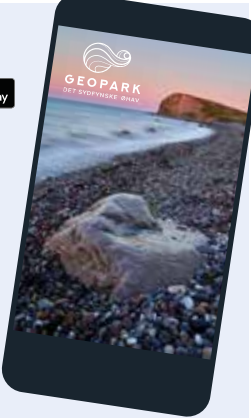


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GEOPARK WEBSITE





Audio walk by Skovsgaard on Langeland
Photo: Baggårdteatret

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The Geopark must help ensure the best possible framework for locally rooted sustainable development and a shared understanding of how we continue to look after our unique geological, biological, and cultural heritage.

*Cover: Two-smack dinghy in the Archipelago
Photo: Andreas Mørck Nielsen*

*This material was printed by students
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www.fgusydogmidtfyn.dk*



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