

FIELDWORK GOOD PRACTICE PROTOCOL

FOR THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Schools, universities and companies related to earth sciences have visited us for 100 years and we like them to come back and keep research alive. Since 2018 we are a UNESCO Global Geopark and promote safety and good behaviour in the sites of geological interest, by trying to minimize the visits impact and ensure that these sites keep their scientific, educational and/or tourist interest. Therefore, we kindly ask you to follow the rules and recommendations presented here.

1. COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

We invite you to fill out the [visitor's form](#) to ensure direct communication with the Geopark. The Geopark [Privacy Policy](#) protects the information provided.

2. GOOD PRACTICES

- Follow, when available, the indications provided in the visited site. When this indication involves some type risk, please, take the appropriate measures to avoid or minimize it.
- Stay on the signalled tracks. Avoid jumping over fences and deteriorating them by leaning on them. Avoid cross-country access or climbing over outcrops.
- Keep the visited sites tidy. Litter abandoned in the countryside can persist in it for many years!
- Do not paint or mark outcrops, signs or urban elements.
- During your stay in inhabited areas, respect the noise/silence rules and keep it tidy.
- Please, be aware of the [current legislation](#) on the protection of the Natural Environment.

3. SAMPLE COLLECTION

- In general, **the hammer should not be used** in the Orígens Geopark sites of geological interest.
- In order to avoid repetitive sampling with the risk of depleting the outcrops, it is recommended to **bring samples from previous years or the use of replicas**.
- In the circumstance, that for scientific or educational reasons only, it is necessary to take samples, please, fill out the [sample collection form](#) and try to keep the impact on the outcrop to the minimum.
- Drilled samples should be taken in places with low visual impact, at points of low educational value and trying to avoid a high concentration of them in the same area.
- Regarding the marking of outcrops for sampling. Please, use non-invasive techniques to prevent degradation, such as photographic collection of the sampling point.



Please note that The Cultural Heritage **Act 9/93** includes the **prohibition of prospecting and sampling paleontological remains**.

PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF PEOPLE

4. PREPARATION OF ACTIVITY

The Geopark is not liable for accident in its territory. It is therefore requested to own an **insurance** that covers possible incidents affecting the group and third parties. For groups from abroad, it is recommended to carry a health insurance with coverage in the [hospital in the Geopark area](#).

- Please, learn about the conditions and difficulties of the planned route before your field work/trip, considering the general safety tips. Bring water or soft drinks with you to hydrate adequately.
- Please, check the forecasted **meteorological conditions** prior to the planned field work/trip, paying special attention to possible warnings on fire, flooding, snow, avalanches, wind... Reschedule or suspend the activity if necessary. Potential weather hazards can be checked in [Meteocat](#), [Aemet](#), and [Meteoalarm](#), fire risk in [Plan Alfa against fire](#), risk flooding events in [civil protection](#) and risk for snow avalanches in [Neucat](#).
- Avoid carrying fieldwork or fieldtrips in the summer in the afternoon between 12 to 17 hours.
- It is recommended to appoint a field manager to look after the following tasks:
 - Inform participants of their responsibilities during fieldwork.
 - Inform about the materials to be used and the instructions to follow during fieldwork to carry out the activity in a safely manner.
 - Designate one supervisor per group in the case of work in small teams.
 - Stop the activity when a dangerous situation arises.
 - Have the necessary contacts at hand to be able to solve emergency situations.
 - Communicate incidents and send suggestions, once the activity is completed, to xmir@geoparcorigens.cat.

5. MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

- As pedestrians, make sure, whenever possible, to walk carefully on the left side of the road, without hindering the traffic and as far away as possible from the vehicles. In groups, walk by the roadside in single file, and when possible, with two supervisors located at the ends, particularly in low visibility or high traffic conditions.
- It is mandatory to wear the reflective vest when on a road. It also recommended using it while in the field, as it improves visibility in the event of an accident or if any of the participants is lost during the activity.
- Once in the field site, you must use the required health and safety equipment, e.g. helmet and adequate footwear in areas with risk of falling blocks or objects.
- Please, avoid prompting that stones fall from outcrops located along public roads, and in any case remove them safely when these have fallen.
- Please, do not enter or approach abandoned mine infrastructures, as these present serious risks. Remember that the **access to mines is prohibited** unless specific permit is granted.

6. VEHICLES IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Use as much as possible the enabled parking areas, park in areas that do not obstruct the traffic and facing the direction of departure. Remember that it is forbidden to park along the edge of the road. Do not park in areas signalled with danger for rock falls or landslides.
- It is forbidden to drive along fields, by trails or forest firewalls. Generally, cars can only drive on paved tracks or on gravel tracks more than 4 meters wide.
- When driving in a group through areas of special conservation, remember that the group should not exceed 4 vehicles; In all other areas, a maximum of 15 vehicles is permitted. The maximum speed of circulation on forest tracks is 30 km/h.

7. FOREST FIRE RISK

The territory has a high forest density. Periods of drought in summer often involve a high risk of fire. Bear in mind that this risk can also occur during dry periods during all year round.

- Please, avoid smoking in forested areas and be sure to put off cigarette butts. Do not throw cigarette butts or matches on the ground.
- Litter and debris are a possible source of fire, please, take them with you!
- When you park your vehicle, check that the exhaust system does not come into contact with vegetation; Its high temperature can cause fire.
- If you detect smoke or a possible fire, alert the fire brigade and leave the area.
- If you are surprised by a fire in the open, run opposite to the wind direction, and if you can, enter an already burned area. Cover your face with a damp cloth to prevent inhaling smoke. Do not take refuge in wells or caves. If you are near a lake or a river, get close to it and get into the water if necessary. When driving a car, stop in a safe place, turn off the engine, close the doors and windows and the ventilation system.

8. HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODS

- In case of heavy rain, go to a high point far from the banks of rivers, streams or ravines. Do not park your vehicle in flooding areas. Do not stay on bridges, as they may collapse.
- Do not cross rivers, streams or flooded areas. Although it is not obvious, cars can float on shallow water depth and be easily dragged away.

9. AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK ACTIVITY. HUNTING ACTIVITY

Some of the Geopark geological sites coexist with agricultural farmland and livestock activity. Please be aware that entering private land with restricted access may result in official complaints and penalties.

- Avoid accessing outcrops by bordering or cutting across fields where livestock can be disturbed.
- Respect farm fencing, as well as signs and specific prohibitions to enter private properties.
- Please, contact the authorities to check that the sites of interest are outside hunting grounds. If these are, contact the rural agents of the area and follow their advice.

EMERGENCY PHONES

General

General emergencies	112
Medical Emergencies (TREMPE)	973 652 828
Hospital (Trempe)	973 652 255
Red Cross	901 222 222
Police/Mossos d'esquadra	112
Local Police (Trempe)	973 658 800

Rural Agents (Pallars Jussà)	973 65 47 16
Rural Agents (Noguera)	973 44 36 03
Rural Agents (Alt Urgell)	973 35 52 35
Rural Agents (Pallars Sobirà)	973 62 08 04
Fire Brigade (TREMPE)	973 650 880
Civil protection	112

Environmental

Catalan Waste Agency (ARC)	93 567 33 00
Department of Territory and Sustainability	93 444 50 00

Catalan Water Agency (ACA)	93 567 28 00
-----------------------------------	--------------

Acknowledgements

This document has been possible thanks to an exhaustive original document developed by Col·legi de Geòlegs de Catalunya - [COLGEOCAT](http://www.colgeocat.cat)