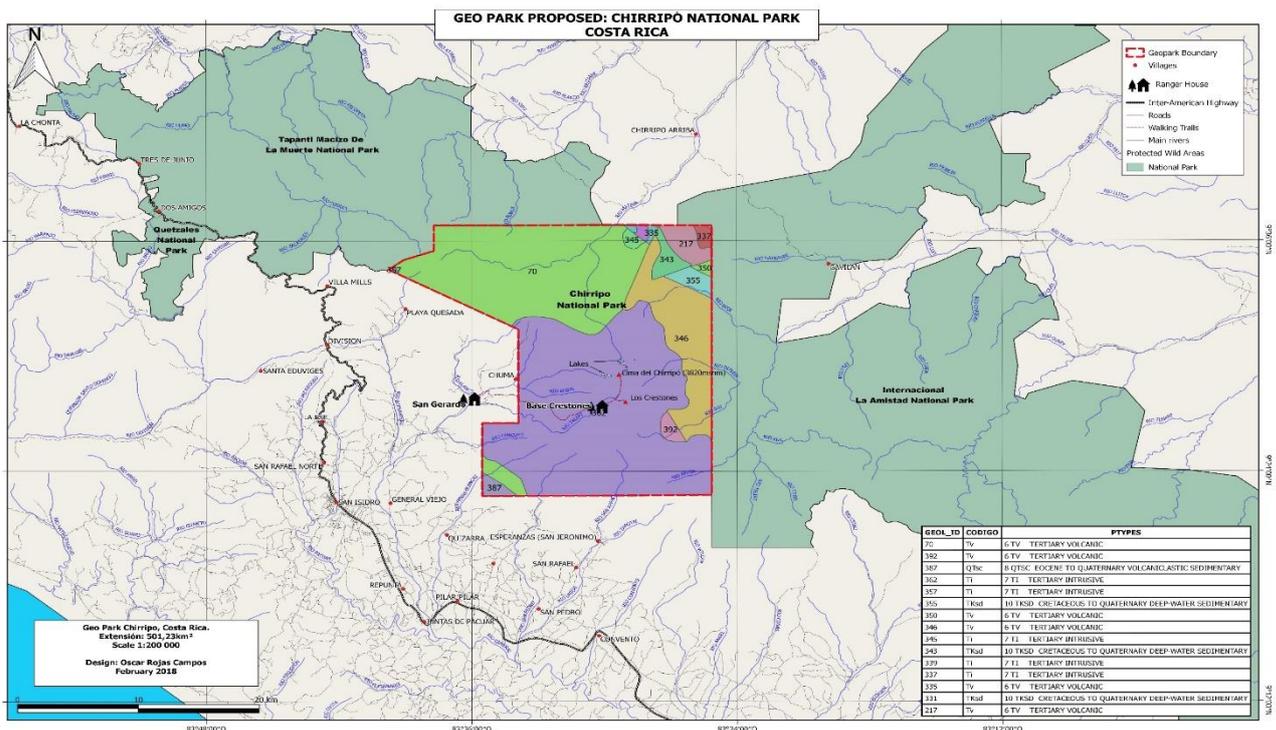


 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 UNESCO Global Geoparks	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Chirripo National Park, Costa Rica</h3> <h2 style="margin: 0;">geographical and geological summary</h2>
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Figure1: Location of the Proposed Geopark in relation to the Region.



Figure N° 2: Location of the Chirripó National Park, Site proposed as a World Geopark



1. Physical and human geography- 1500 characters

The Chirripó National Park is located at the North margin junctions: 9° 36' 49, 86 ", South margin: 9° 22' 43,50' ', East margin: -83° 25' 7,92 ", West margin: - 83° 39' 44, 82 ", between the provinces of San José, Cartago and Limón, in the central section of the Cordillera de Talamanca, a mountainous system with northwest-southeast direction, where the highest elevations of the country are located that divide the Caribbean plains of the lowlands of the Pacific slope.

It was established by Law No. 5773, on July 29, 1975, under the category of National Park, with an extension of 43,700 hectares (ha) and during the year 1982 by Executive Decree No. 13496-A of March 31, The Cuericí and Chirripocito Hills are annexed in the northeast sector, in order to protect the water sources, the cloud forests, and the páramo ecosystem present in that site. Currently the Chirripó National Park covers 50,150 hectares.

The altitudes oscillate between 1180 and 3820 m. elevation, these characteristics added to the geographical location the PNCh presents a variety of particular ecosystems, some of which are found in the mountains where this park is located (peat bogs, páramos, high altitude savannahs and lagoons of glacial origin). This diversity of ecosystems allows a considerable variety of flora and fauna.

With regard to economic activities, the main activity within the protected area is those generated by tourism activity, from which the communities that are in the buffer zone receive significant benefits. The tourist activity is concentrated in the Crestones Base Shelter and the area of public use around this shelter.

By the legislation in Costa Rica within a National Park settlements and human activities are not allowed, only those managed through the tourist activity. However, all the management programs that are developed have their main impact in the buffer zone.

2. Geological features and geology of international significance – 1500 characters

From primitive basalts to granitic intrusives that resemble continental crust composition elsewhere, Chirripo National Park offers a unique opportunity to study the processes that lead to the generation of the Continental Crust of the Earth. Understanding the formation of silicic magmas with juvenile continental crust characteristics remains a central frontier for deciphering the mechanism of continental lithosphere generation. More than 90% of the continental lithosphere on Earth was over 1.2 Billion years ago. Finding 5 million-year-old (and younger) rocks with continental crust chemical characteristics in Chirripo National park is paramount, understanding the generation of the new continental crust would have enormous implications for the emergence of the first continents during the Archean Eon.

Chirripo National Park has another geological attraction. Evidence of a glaciated past in this now tropical area is commonly found in the park where preserved glacial striations and glacial lakes indicate recent activity. Also present in the park are arêtes, which are knife-like ridges connecting sharp peaks jutting out atop the cirques (u-shaped valleys); these landforms are produced when two large glacial masses erode parallel valleys, as the glaciers grow they erode toward one another, weathering and sharpening the landscape. When three or more glacial masses erode the sides of a mountain, it forms a sharp positive landform called horn. One of the most famous expressions of this landform in the world is the Matterhorn in Switzerland. However, the iconic Crestones peaks located inside the Chirripo National Park are also beautiful, striking expressions of this landform and attest to a very active glacial past. These glacial landforms are unique in Central America and are rarely observed in the tropical environments of historically low-latitude regions like Costa Rica.