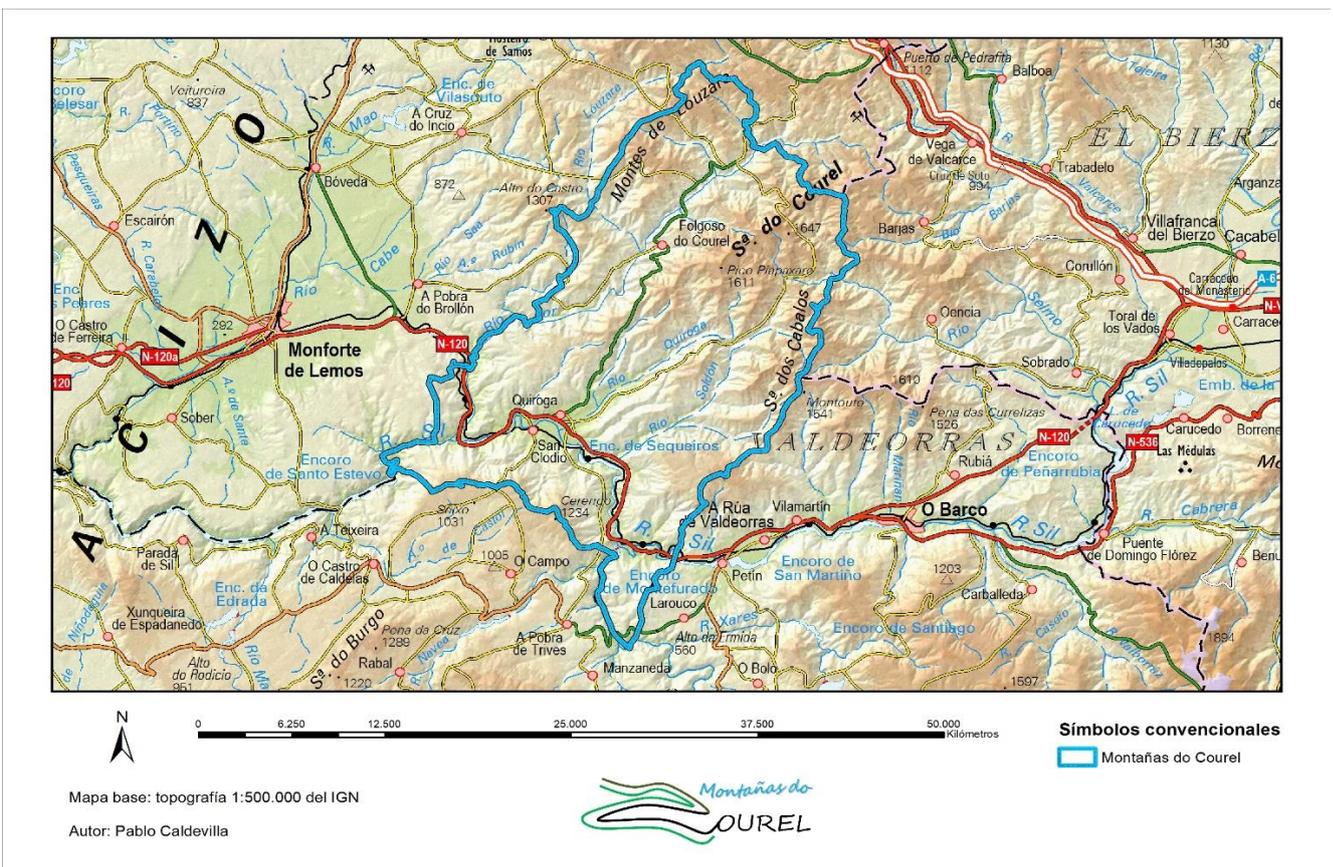


 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>  <p>UNESCO Global Geoparks</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">COUREL MOUNTAINS GEOPARK, SPAIN</h3> <h3 style="text-align: center;">geographical and geological summary</h3>
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Please replace the map below with a map of your region, using a [standard UN map](#) showing the location of the aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark as shown in this example.



Please replace the map below with a map of the aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark indicating the boundary, cities, general geographic points, as shown in this example.



1. Physical and human geography- 1500 characters

The proposed Geopark area is located between the geographic coordinates 42 ° 42 'N - 42 ° 19' N and 7 ° 24 'W - 7 ° 1' W. Located in the SW of Europe, NW of Spain, within the Autonomous Community of Galicia in the southern end of the province of Lugo. Its limits are administratively assigned to the Quiroga region, integrated by the municipalities of Folgoso do Courel, Quiroga and Ribas de Sil. The distances to the nearest cities are: Lugo 84 km, Santiago de Compostela 154 km, Ourense 78 km, Monforte de Lemos 33 km. It occupies an area of 577.85 km², where 5,406 inhabitants live. The north of the territory is characterized by the Courel mountains, with deep valleys and canyons carved by erosion. Its maximum height is the height of Formigueiros, with 1,639 meters of height. The south of it is furrowed by the river Sil, which forms an embedded valley that expands in its central part due to the depression of Quiroga. Here the minimum height of 230 meters is reached. Climatically, the north zone is part of an Atlantic mountain domain, while the south is in an oceanic-Mediterranean domain. The average annual temperature of the highest areas barely exceeds 8.5 ° C, while in the valley in summer there is an average of 22 ° C. The pluviometric regime is of 1434'5 mm of rain in the north and the 1000 mm annual in the south. Demographically, it corresponds to a region immersed in a strong regression. The population dropped by 23% since 2001. The average age is 55 years - more than a third exceeds 65 years, showing signs of a clear aging. Its population density is 9'7 inhabitants / km², the second lowest in the province of Lugo. The activity rate of the region is close to 40% and the occupation rate is around 30%. The sector that offers the most employment is the tertiary sector.

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

The territory "Courel Mountains" is the perfect showcase to observe a part of the geological history of the Earth, specifically the Lower and Middle Paleozoic and, to a lesser extent, also the Neogene and the Quaternary. Located on the Iberian Massif, it is made up of rocks that go from the Neoproterozoic to the Carboniferous, it conserves numerous singular elements referred to both the stratigraphy and the tectonics, produced by the Varisca Orogeny, with the Sinclinal Tumbado de O Courel as the macro structure of kilometric dimensions of world reference in this part of the Earth.

Also highlight the numerous paleontological, mineralogical, metamorphism, glacialism, karstic cavities, mining heritage, landscape, cultural heritage, etc; elements that contribute a lot to increase the overall value of it, making it, in short, one of the most varied and rich areas, at the geological level, of the NO of the Iberian Peninsula.

The set of geological features, concentrated in a geographical space that is not too large, gives distinction to the proposed territory and places it in value in relation to the rest of the network. In addition to all the characteristics synthesized, the most outstanding value of the territory of the "Courel Mountains" is the relationship of Humanity with the Paleozoic. The guiding thread of this Geopark proposal allows us to enter the remote Paleozoic world following the footsteps of human beings; Indissolubly, in a really little altered way, we can follow the intimate relationship maintained by humans with the geological environment. In the proposed territory, the union of the Natural Environment in general and the Human Being continue to be valid and are felt in all their greatness.