I. GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE

1.1 TERRITORY

1 TERRITORY

1.1 Geosites list

There are **65 geosites** in proposed Geopark area. List of geosites in application, section B.2. (table).

2 Geodiversity

2.1 Geological periods represented in the proposed area

http://www.stratigraphy.org/ICSchart/ChronostratChart2017-02.jpg

- Paleoproterozoic bedrock
- Orosirian (2050-1800 Ma)
- Statherian (1800-1600 Ma)
- Quaternary deposits
  - Upper Pleistocene (0.126-0.0117 Ma)
  - Holocene (0.0117 Ma-present)

2.2 Roc types represented in the proposed area

- Mica schists
- Mica gneisses
- Volcanic rocks
- Carbonate rocks
- Granodiorite
- Quartz diorite
- Tonalite
- Gabbro
- Granite
- Rapakivi granites

2.3 Geological or geomorphological features represented in proposed area

- Esker
- De Geer moraine
- End moraine
- Ice marginal formations
- Delta
- Kettle hole
- Drumlin
- Erratic
- Pothole
- Raised beach and other shore formations
- Outlet river/channel

3 Public interpretation of the Geopark`s sites of interest

3.1 Number of sites with public interpretation (trails, interpretation panels or leaflets) List

Public interpretation list is in application, section C.2. (table). There are some kind of interpretation in almost every geosite, below are listed **52 sites**.

- Geosite no. 1. Imatranksoski and Kruununpuisto
- Geosite no. 2. Lammassaari
- Geosite no. 3. Vuoksenniska and Saimaan luusua
- Geosite no. 6. Muukonsaari
Geosite no. 7. Lappeenranta fortress
Geosite no. 8. Pappilanniemi
Geosite no. 10. Saimaa canal with its surroundings
Geosite no. 11. Satamosaari
Geosite no. 12. Sormuskivi
Geosite no. 13. Ruokolahti church hill
Geosite no. 14. Huuhanranta
Geosite no. 15. Kolmiköytinen rock painting
Geosite no. 16. Kummakivi
Geosite no. 17. Syyspohja
Geosite no. 18. Kärnäkoski fortress
Geosite no. 19. Lepänkanto
Geosite no. 20. Luotolahdenvuori
Geosite no. 21. Savitaipale church
Geosite no. 22. Suomensalo
Geosite no. 24. Ilkonsaari
Geosite no. 25. Kuivaketvele hillfort
Geosite no. 26. Kyläniemi
Geosite no. 28. Rastinniemi
Geosite no. 29. Ruuhonsaaret
Geosite no. 30. Sarviniemi
Geosite no. 31. Satamahiekka-Pähäniemi
Geosite no. 32. Enkelinpesä
Geosite no. 33. Karihiekka
Geosite no. 35. Raintsaari
Geosite no. 36. Sarkaslampi
Geosite no. 37. Astuvansalmi
Geosite no. 39. Kaipunharju
Geosite no. 41. Matinmäki
Geosite no. 43. Naisvuori
Geosite no. 44. Neitvuori
Geosite no. 45. Pursiala pothole
Geosite no. 46. Rakokallio
Geosite no. 48. Kukonharju canal
Geosite no. 49. Liehtalanniemi
Geosite no. 50. Lietvesi
Geosite no. 51. Loketononkalo
Geosite no. 52. Norppapolku
Geosite no. 54. Puumalansalmi
Geosite no. 55. Rakokivet
Geosite no. 56. Rokansaari
Geosite no. 57. Sahanlahti and Tupavuori
Geosite no. 59. Syrjäsalmi
Geosite no. 61. Lohilahti
Geosite no. 62. Sulkava center
Geosite no. 63. Pismalahti hillfort
Geosite no. 64. Telataipale canal
Geosite no. 65. Vilkaharju

3.2 Geosites of scientific importance. List
Every geosite is valued through its geological, biological, archeological and/or
historical aspects. See application: section B.3. (table). Here are 30 geosites which are scientifically important in development history of Lake Saimaa or geosites include rapakivi granites.

Geosite no. 1. Imatrankski and Kruununpuisto
Geosite no. 2. Lammassaari
Geosite no. 3. Vuoksenniska and Saimaan luusua
Geosite no. 5. Myllylampi
Geosite no. 9. Rakuunamäki
Geosite no. 11. Satamosaari
Geosite no. 14. Huuhanranta
Geosite no. 15. Kolmiköytinen
Geosite no. 19. Lepänkanto
Geosite no. 22. Suomalansaari-Ketvelniemi
Geosite no. 23. Suomensalo
Geosite no. 24. Ilkonsaari
Geosite no. 26. Kylänimi
Geosite no. 28. Rastinniemi
Geosite no. 29. Ruuhonsaaret
Geosite no. 30. Sarviniemi
Geosite no. 31. Satamahiekka-Päihäniemi
Geosite no. 35. Raintsaari
Geosite no. 37. Astuvansalmi
Geosite no. 38. Kaarnavuori
Geosite no. 39. Kauhunharju
Geosite no. 52. Norppapolku
Geosite no. 53. Pistohiekka
Geosite no. 56. Rokansaari
Geosite no. 61. Lohilahti
Geosite no. 65. Vilkaharju
Geosite no. 12. Sormuskivi
Geosite no. 25. Kuivaketvele hillfort
Geosite no. 21. Savitaipale rapakivi granite church
Geosite no. 42. Morruuvuori

3.3 Geosites used for education. List
All the geosites are used for education, so 65 geosites. List and educational values of geosites are marked on table (section B.3. in application).

3.4 Geosites for geotourism. List
All the geosites are used for geotourism, so 65 geosites. List and possibilities for geotourism (activities etc.) are marked on application (table in section C.2.).

3.5. Non-geological sites used by the Geopark (intergraded in Geopark`s activities.)
Saimaa Geopark`s nature and cultural heritage sites are listed on table in application (section B.4.), 54 sites.

4 Comparisons to UNESCO Global Geoparks
There is no comparison with any other UNESCO Global Geopark. The main themes in proposed Saimaa Geopark are:

Lake landscape: unique development history of Lake Saimaa, uneven land uplift and tilting of the lake basins, isolation of the lakes, shoreline displacement, bursting of Vuoksi channel, Imatra rapids and river bed potholes

Bedrock very old, up to 2.0 Ga; mica schists and mica gneisses, volcanic
rocks, carbonate rocks, granite, granodiorite, tonalite, gabbro and rapakivi granites. Rapakivi granites have international geological value. Also caves, gorges, erratics, potholes, cliffs etc.

**Quaternary**: Salpausselkä ice marginal formations, eskers and deltas, end moraines, clay deposits, drumlins etc (Pieksämäki drumlin field hold international importance.). In the aspiring Saimaa Geopark area is possible to learn about all the key types of formations appearing on the Finnish lake distric ice lobe. Geological developmet was followed by vegetation and fauna, Saimaa ringed seal (*Pusa hispida saimensis*), man, pre historic dwelling sites, rock paintings.

I. Geology and landscape

1.2 GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION

1 Inventory and significance of the geosites that can be found in your area

1.1. At least one geosite of international geological significance
International geological significance is marked and justified in the application section B.3. (text and table). List below:

- **Geosite no. 1.** River Vuoksi, old passage of the Imatrankoski rapids and Kruununpuisto-park river bed potholes (development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 2.** Lammassaari ice marginal delta and raised beaches (First Salpausselkä ice marginal formation and development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 12.** Sormuskivi viborgite erratic (Rapakivi granite)
- **Geosite no. 14.** Huuhanranta beach on the margin of the ice marginal delta and raised beaches (Second Salpausselkä ice marginal formation and development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 19.** Lepänkanto esker system connected with ice marginal delta and raised beaches (Second Salpausselkä ice marginal formation and development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 21.** Savitaipale porphyritic rapakivi granite church (Rapakivi granite)
- **Geosite no. 26.** Kyläniemi ice marginal formation: deltas, end moraines, raised beaches (Second Salpausselkä ice marginal formation and development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 25.** Kuivaketvele porphyritic rapakivi granite hillfort (Rapakivi granite)
- **Geosite no. 28.** Rastinniemi ice marginal delta and raised beaches (Second Salpausselkä ice marginal formation and development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 30.** Sarviniemi end moraine ridges in ice marginal formation and raised beaches (Second Salpausselkä ice marginal formation and development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 37.** Astuvansalmi rock paintings (development of Lake Saimaa)
- **Geosite no. 42.** Morruuvuori rapakivi granite hill

1.2. At least five geosite of national geological significance (100 for each) Give a list and justification.
National geological significance is marked and justified in the application section B.3. (text and table). List below:

- **Geosite no. 16.** Kummakivi erratic (nationally valuable oddity, is protected
by Nature Conservation Act (Natural monument))
Geosite no. 20. Luotolahdenvuori cliffs (nationally valuable bedrock area)
Geosite no. 31. Satamahiekka-Päihäniemi ice marginal formation (development of Lake Saimaa, nationally valuable shore formation)
Geosite no. 32. Enkelinpesä erratic and caves (nationally valuable bedrock area)
Geosite no. 33. Karihiekka beach and cliffs (nationally valuable bedrock area)
Geosite no. 36. Sarkaslampi bedrock topography (nationally valuable bedrock area)
Geosite no. 38. Kaarnavuori cliff (nationally valuable overhanging cliff)
Geosite no. 41. Matinmäki drumlin shield (nationally valuable moraine formation)
Geosite no. 44. Neitvuori hill (nationally valuable bedrock area)
Geosite no. 45. Pursiala pothole (nationally valuable geological feature, is protected by decision of road management authority)
Geosite no. 47. Haukkovuori cliffs (nationally valuable bedrock area)
Geosite no. 53. Pistohiekka beach (development of Lake Saimaa, nationally valuable shore formation)
Geosite no. 60. Tollonvuori bedrock wall (nationally valuable bedrock area)
Geosite no. 63. Pisamalahi hillfort (nationally valuable bedrock area)

1.3. At least 20 geosites of educational interest and used by schools and universities
All the 65 geosites are used by schools and/or universities. Inside the proposed geopark area are 75 schools and every one of them is using nature and geological features in their education programs. In Finland pedagogy is based to phenomenon-based learning, which enlarges schools studying to nature too. Couple of examples: Finnish National Board of Antiquities is searching and investigating by diving historical wrecks of Lake Saimaa and University of Helsinki has research project Lost Inland Landscapes dealing with under water and wetlands Mesolithic and Early Neolithic sites in Southern Saimaa area.

1.4. Do you have geosites database for the geopark?
Yes. Geological Survey of Finland researched the proposed geopark area 2014-2015 and that material plus new material after 2015 is used and managed by geopark staff and association. Some of the material is available to the public through geopark’s web pages.

1.5. Do you have geosites map for the geopark?
Yes. Regional Council of South Karelia made geosites maps for geopark.

2. Strategy and legislation to protect against damage of geological sites and features
2.1. The entire territory has legal protection because of its geological values
The entire territory has not legal protection because of its geological values.
2.2. Part of the area is protected by law for its geological interest
In general Saimaa Geopark areas geology is protected by EU acts and Finnish acts. In Finland is land extraction act, which protects geology as well as land and nature.
Land extraction act (in Finlex 555/1981) and Finnish government councils Government Decree on the Adoption of Substances (in Finlex 926/2005) main purposes are to control:
“Land use so that the protection of nature and landscape and other environmental values can be safeguarded in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.” (Ympäristö)

The regulation of land acquisition has a strong link with land use planning, civil engineering, groundwater protection and environmental and nature conservation. In addition to the Land Act, the following key laws must be taken into account in land-filling projects:

- Environmental Protection Act 527/2014 (Finlex)
- Water Act 587/2011 (Finlex)
- Land Use and Building Act 132/1999 (Finlex)
- Nature Conservation Act 1096/1996 (Finlex)
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure Act 468/1994 (Finlex)

Land acquisition can also impact:
- Forrest act 1093/1996 (Finlex)
- Law on Water Management and Maritime Administration 1299/2004 (Finlex)
- Road Act 503/2005 (Finlex)
- Railroad act 110/2007 (Finlex)
- The Museum of Ancient Art 295/1963 (Finlex)

More information about protecting geological sites and features in application (Geoconservation, text and table).

More information about protecting the area also in Annex 7 (Conservation map). These areas and sites are protected by law for their geological interest:

Geosite no. 1. Kruununpuisto potholes (Nature Conservation Act)
Geosite no. 12. Sormusskivi erratic (Antiquities Act)
Geosite no. 16. Kummakivi erratic (Natural monument, Nature Conservation Act)
Geosite no. 19 Lepänkanto esker system (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 20. Luotolahdenvuori cliffs (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 23. Suomensalo esker system (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 26. Kyläniemi ice marginal formation (Natura 2000, National Esker Conservation Programme, National Shore Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 28. Rastinniemi ice marginal delta (Natura 2000, National Esker Conservation Programme, National Shore Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 29. Ruuhonsaaret esker islands (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 30. Sarviniemi ice marginal formation (National Esker Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 31. Satamahiekka-Päihäniemi (National Esker Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 33. Karihiekka beach and cliffs (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 35. Raintsaari island (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Decree on Saimaa Conservation Area)
Geosite no. 36. Sarkaslampi bedrock area (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Decree on Saimaa Conservation Area)
Geosite no. 42. Morruuvuori rapakivi granite hill (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 44. Neitvuori hill (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Degree on Saimaa Conservation Area, Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 45. Pursiala pothole (Protected by a decision by the road management authority)
Geosite no. 46 Rakokallio bedrock crack (Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 47. Haukkovuori cliffs (Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 49. Liehtalanniemi shores (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 50. Lietvesi area (Natura 2000, National Shore Conservation Programme, Degree on Saimaa Conservation Area)
Geosite no. 52. Norppapolku esker (Natura 2000, Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 56. Rokansaari esker island (Natura 2000, National Esker Conservation Programme, National Shore Conservation Programme, Private Nature Reserve, Degree on Saimaa Conservation Area)
Geosite no. 58. Suurisuo bog (Natura 2000, National Mire Conservation Programme)
Geosite no. 63. Pisamalahti hill (National Shore Conservation Programme, Private Nature Reserve)
Geosite no. 65 Vilkaharju esker (Natura 2000, Private Nature Reserve)

2.3. Prohibition of destroying and removing parts of the geological heritage
Same answer than 2.2. , 3.1. , 3.2. , 3.4.

3. How are the geosites protected against misuse and damage?

3.1. General announcement of regulations to prevent misuse and damage in the entire Geopark area

In Finland exists Everyman’s rights and it gives protection to nature. Everyman’s rights are “public access rights refer to the right of everyone in Finland to enjoy outdoor pursuits regardless of who owns or occupies an area. The landowner’s permission is not needed and there is no charge. However it’s not allowed to destroy the environments or to disturb others while exercising public access rights.

The large areas of forests and fells and sparse population in Finland provide an excellent setting for exercising public access rights. Public access rights are granted, guided or restricted by various laws.”

In everyman's rights is allowed to:
- Walk, ski or cycle in areas outside private gardens and land that is in a specific use (for example cultivated fields and plantations)
- Stay for a short period in any area where access is otherwise allowed (for example put up a tent, but not too close to people's homes)
- Pick wild berries, mushrooms and flowers
- Fish with a rod and line, and through a hole in the ice in wintertime
- Walk on the ice or boat

Is not allowed to:
- Disturb other people or damage the environment
- Disturb nesting birds or game
- Cut down or damage trees
- Collect moss, lichen, soil or wood
- Disturb the privacy of homes
- Litter
- Drive a motor vehicle off the road without the landowner's permission
- Fish and hunt without the appropriate permits. (Ympäristö)

3.2. Announcement of regulation to prevent misuse and damage at individual sites of Geopark
Every recreation area of South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas and Saimaa’s Recreation association has signposts and announcements in their website about what is allowed to do and what is not.

3.3. Use of observation posts, guarding and patrolling by wardens
South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas and Saimaa’s Recreation association signposts in their destinations gives information what is prohibit in Lake Saimaa area. Every second week patrol will check trashes and conditions of the recreation areas.

3.4. Provision for enforcement of regulations (no digging and collecting) on the websites, in flyers, etc.
On Saimaa Geopark, South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas and Saimaa’s Recreation association has on their own websites mentioned not to dig or collect anything in Saimaa Geopark area.

4. What measures are taken to protect geosites and infrastructure from damage and natural degradation?
4.1. Regular maintenance and cleaning
On Saimaa Geopark area, South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas and Saimaa’s Recreation association have maintenance and cleaning contract with Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association. Association cleans and collects litter every second week from recreation areas.

4.2. Conservation measures
Table in application (section C.2.) presents protection statuses in geopark sites. More information about conservation areas in annex 7.

4.3. Protective measures (preparation, sealing to avoid natural degradation)
Measures and data on the management and maintenance of sites are explained in application (section C.3.).

I. Geology and landscape

1.3 NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

1. Natural Rank
1.1. International designation in part of the Geopark territory
International designations are listed in application section B.3. and B.4. (text and table).
Also international designations are River Vuoksi and nature of Lake Saimaa in general. Lake Saimaa’s relict spieces: Saimaa ringed seal (Pusa hispida saimensis), Härkäsimppu (Myoxocephalus quadricornis), Saimaannierä (Salvelinus alpinus), Valkokatka (Pontoporeia affinis), Okakatka (Pallasea quadrispinosa), Jätkatka (Gammaraganthus lacustris), Halkoisjalkaäyriäinen (Mysis relicta), Saimaa järvilohi (Salmo salar m. Sebago).
Lakes inside the lake Saimaa: Kuolimo, Lietvesi and Luonteri.

1.2. National designation in part of the Geopark territory
National designations are listed in application section B.3. and B.4. (text and table).
Few examples about national designations are:
1. Kaskiin kylä (Juva)
2. Kuhakoski-Kammola-Väättälänmäki – Sulkavan village
3. Ristiina-Hurissalo scenic road
4. Muuramäen village view

1.3. Regional designation in part of the Geopark territory
Regional designations are listed in application section B.3. and B.4. (text and table).

1.4. Local designation in part of the Geopark territory
Local designations are listed in application section B.3. and B.4. (text and table).

2. Cultural Rank

2.1. International designation in part of the Geopark territory
Many of the aspiring Saimaa Geopark’s geosites are also listed by its natural and cultural designations. International designations are listed in application sections B.3. (text and table) and B.4. (text and table).
Here are few examples:
1. Imatra rapids
2. Imatra Crown park – Finland’s first nature reserve
3. Alvar Aalto’s Vuoksenniska church – The Church of Three Crosses
4. Kuurmanpohja-Saarenoja stone age dwelling site
5. Astuvansalmi rock paintings

2.2. National designation in part of the Geopark territory
National Board of Antiquities has ranked all nationally significant built cultural environments. Here are listed few examples from the area:
1. Emolan esikaupunkialue
2. Mikkeli hallitustori ympäristöineen
3. Kenkäveronniemen pappila
4. Mikkeli maaseurakunnan kirkko
5. Mikkeli tarkka-ampujakasarmi
6. Mikkeli vankila
7. Mikkeli rautatieasema
8. Porrassalmen historiallinen maisema
9. Ristiinan vanha kuntakeskus
10. Suomenkylä
11. Lyytikkälän talonpoikaistila
12. Toijolan kylän historialliset kohteet
13. Himalansaaren kylä
14. Anttolan kirkonmäki
15. Koikkalan kylä (Juva)
16. Puumalan kirkko
17. Salpalinva
18. Suworovin kanavat (Telataipale, Kukonharju)
19. Sulkavan kirkonkylä
20. Imatran Voiman ja Kuparin asuinalueet
21. Imatrankosken kulttuuriympäristö
22. Immolan kasarmialue
23. Kaukopään tehtaan asuinalueet
24. Niskapietilän tiet
25. Tornanssaaren teollisuusalue, Neitsytniemen kartano ja Niskalammen asuntoalue

2.3. Regional designation in part of the Geopark territory
National Board of Antiquities has ranked all regionally significant built cultural
environments. Here are listed few examples from the area:
1. Heinniemi-Mahkola-Kaivannonharju
2. Lietvedentien maisema
3. Luukkola
4. Puuskansaari-Laitiala
5. Hamula
6. Karjulanmäenkylä
7. Vilkaharju ja maantie
8. Summala-Kiiskilänniemi
9. Vuorilahti
10. Niinisaaren kylän saariasutus
11. Pirttimäen taistelupaikka
12. Lohilahti
13. Anttolan satama
14. Puumalan kirkonkylä

2.4. Local designation in part of the Geopark territory
Local designations can be considered for example island villages and scenic roads. Example of island villages: Himala island, Niinisaari and Karjulanmäki village. By the waterways are situated villages for example: Lohikoski and Ristiina paris village. There are various vantage points and scenic roads: view in Lietvesi, Heinniemi-Mahkola-Kaivannonharju
War history sites: Salpalinja, Suvrov`s channel, Pirttimäki, Porrassalmi and Mikkeli`s barracks.

3 Promotion and maintenance of Natural and Cultural Heritage
3.1. Promotion of the links between Geological Heritage sites and the existing Natural and Cultural sites within the Geopark
Promotion of the links between Geological Heritage sites and the Natural and Cultural sites are explained in the application section B.4. More information about the matter below.
Former Saimaa Geopark associations Project Manager Minna Kähtävä-Marttinen have written two reports about nature´s relic destinations, which are now part of the Saimaa Geopark area. Reports target is to explore possibilities to connect tourism and relic destinations. Rock paintings in municipality Ruokolahti and Astuvansalmi rock paintings in Mikkeli are already very popular tourism destinations. Kolmiköytinen hill is one of the national geosites in Saimaa Geopark area.
In Saimaa canal geology and culture are combined together. Canal was dug through sandy parts of the first Salpausselkä ice marginal formation. The area includes also a place called "Pit of the Pontus", an excavation where digging of the canal was unsuccessful in the 17th century because of the hard till and large rocks that are common in First Salpausselkä proximal side. There is a monument stone in the site presenting "Pit of the Pontus". Also Salpalinja defense line includes trenches which were dug through Salpausselkä sand and gravel deposits. There is lots of literature about World War II in Finland and about Salpalinja and its sites to visit. The stone structures of Valtionhotelli, the old jugend-style hotel next to old passage of Imatrankoski rapids, are local rocks containing e.g. red garnet crystals. The guide book of Imatra`s geological trail tells more about the stone structures
and the history of Valtionhotelli.

In municipality Sulkava is situated Telataipale canal. Telataipale is one of the four canals which were built by Russian war general Aleksander Suvorov. Canals helped to reach the waterway to Lake Saimaa. Other three canals are situated in Puumala and Ruokolahti. They were built 1781 – 1798 and canals are the oldest waterway channels in Finland. Telataipale canal is one Saimaa Geopark geosites and has both strong cultural and geological heritage.

In member municipalities Ruokolahti, Sulkava and Puumala is counted several caves. Caves were hiding and worship places in many times in the history. The knowledge about caves and their history is passed from one generation to other by oral tradition. The stories are also written nowadays.

3.2. Interpretation
Same answer than 3.1.

3.3. Communication
Same answer than 3.1.

3.4. Education programmers
Education will be explained in page 37 (III Information and Education, 3.)

II. Management Structure

1 How is the Geopark`s management structure organized?
1.1. Does the Geopark have a clear and well-defined boundary?
The Saimaa Geopark has a clear and well-defined boundary. Surface area is 6,063 km2. Water area is 2,031 km2 and land area 4,032 km2. Justification for boundary in application section A.2.

Map from the area in annex 4.

1.2. Does the geopark have a well-defined and effective management structure able to take and implement decisions to enhance protection of Geological Heritage and promote sustainable regionals development for the Geopark area?
Read from in application sections A.4., B, C.3.

1.3. Is the Geopark staff employed directly or indirectly by Geopark partners?
Saimaa Geopark has two permanent workers which are employed directly. Aspiring Saimaa Geopark is the only geopark organization in Finland, which has professional and full-time geologist. Geologist Kaisa-Maria Remes was employed in June 2017.

Executive Manager is full-time possession and in 2017 Mrs. Minna Kähtävä-Martinen worked in that position until June 2017. Her replacer was Mrs. Heli Rautanen. 1.1. 2018 permanent Executive Manager will be Mrs. Heli Rautanen.

1.4. Does the Geopark have an independently administered budget?
Saimaa Geopark has own budget and Imatra`s YH- Rakennuttajat Ltd runs its accountancy. Read more about budgeting in application section A4.

2 Does a management or Master Plan exist?
2.1. Management or Master Plan exists?
Management Plan will be written in January 2018.

3 The Master Plan- What components does it include?
Same answer than 2.1. Topics will be:
- Introduction
- Vision, mission, values
- Objectives of the Geopark
- UNESCO Global Geopark -network
Management structure
- Stakeholders
- Funding
- Business and project plans
- Risks: SWOT-analysis
- Personnel
- Budgeting
- Geological heritage
- Natural and cultural heritage
- Activities: educational, local activities, cooperation with companies, networking, cultural and natural heritage, geotourism

4 Does your Geopark have a Marketing Strategy?
Main ideas in marketing strategy will be completed in January 2018. Topics:
- Current situation
- Geotourism in area
- Market Segments
- Products and Services
- Advertising and Promoting the Geopark
- Domestic promotion
- International promotion
- Business promotion
- Events
- Communications
- Products, attractions and sales
- Products
- Attractions
- Memberships
- Targets for Advanced Membership
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Targets for Funding
- Financing
- Sales projections/targets

5 A Geopark should protect its geological heritage and create sustainable geotourism, what has been done to fulfil this duty?
5.1. Defined areas which will be the focus of tourism development
The Geological sites and Natural and Cultural sites of the proposed geopark are the focus areas in the tourism development. The sites are explained in this document and in the application.
According to the Finnish Law of Regional Development, regional council acts as a regional development authority. (In Saimaa Geopark area Regional Council of South Karelia and Regional Counsil of South Savo. Ecological aspects are observed in all acts that council make.
Councils maintain land using plan. Task is relevant according to the Finnish Law of Regional Development. Spatial planning in Finland is prescribed by the Land Use and Building Act. Regional planning carried out by regional councils represents the highest level of planning.
It defines reserved areas for development, designated green areas, and vital infrastructures including transport routes and municipal services. In land using plan also tourism development is taken to notice. It defines build tourism areas
and recruiting areas. By regional tourism strategies councils are very involved in areas tourism development. (Regional Council of South Karelia.)

5.2. Defined areas where no tourism is not allowed (with focus on protection and research)
There are none.

5.3. Measures taken to regulate and reduce traffic (restricted access, central parking lots, traffic guiding system, signposting etc.)
Driving in Saimaa Geoparks geo or nature sites or in recreational areas sites is forbidden. In general Off-Road Traffic Act forbids driving by motor vehicle in nature.

For example in Päihänniemi recreational area have just build a new parking area to minimize driving in shore area. In Huuharanta beach it is not allowed to drive in by official input road.

By the geosites, parking areas are signed clearly.

5.4. Environmental friendly hiking path system
Hiking paths are signed and tourists will walk by the path. Hiking paths are environmental friendly. Hiking paths are not made from tarmac or other built structures.
Examples of hiking paths in Saimaa Geopark- area:
- Elsa Heporaauta’s trail (24 km)
- Kukkeisten trail (10 km)
- Koskenselkä nature trail
- Traces of the Ice Age – stone age man (15,3 km)
- Orrai path (9,3 km)
- Säänjärvi hiking path (3,7 km)
- Kuolimo circuit (40-60 km)

5.5. Clearly defined cycle or other trails such as bridleways or river trails
Cycle trails are always clearly defined. Tourists can have information about trails from internet, Saimaa Geopark – internet site and from outdoor booklets.
Examples of cycle and other trails in Saimaa Geopark- area:
- Saimaa Cyclists Route (150 km)
- Daytrip to Imatra from Lappeenranta or vise verse (37 km)
- Daytrip to Saimaa Channel (70 km)
- Cycle trip around river Vuoksi (20 km)
- Cycle trail to Ruokolahti church hill (40 km)
- West Saimaa’s cycle trail (200 km)
- Lietvesi tour (70 km)
- Elsa Heporauda’s trail (24 km)
- From the harbour to Sahanlahti (8 km)
- Kyliönjärvi round trip on Viljakansaari island (13,5 km)
- The Linninmäki stretch (19 km)
- Tour of the village in Puumala (5 km)
- Cable ferry trip to the largest islands in Lake Saimaa (40 km)

6 Are there any initiatives or working groups that discuss promotion of natural and cultural heritage?

6.1. Regular “Working Group” meetings on specific topics
By the years 2014-2016 Saimaa Geopark projects executive team had regular meetings to develop and create geopark idea to Lake Saimaa region.
By years 2016-2017 aspiring Saimaa Geopark have organized few workshops for entrepreneurs and partners.

6.2. Individual cooperation and contracts between the Geopark,
tourism organizations and other interest groups
Saimaa Geopark has continuous cooperation and contacts with interest groups like Imatra Region Development Company LTD, Mikkeli’s Development Company Miksei LTD, and Lappeenranta City Wirma LTD, GoSaimaa, Imatra Base Camp, South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas and Saimaa’s Recreation association. Educational cooperation and development: Saimaa University of Applied Sciences.
Quality GTK training for entrepreneurs on geology and quality criteria via the Dive project (SGP) 7.11. 2017. Also members from other interest groups (listed above) participate in quality training.

6.3. Other regular activities, not described by the answers above
In Finland it is part of our cultural heritage to respect nature and our culture. Every member municipality has tens of associations and clubs which interest is taking care of nature and Finnish unique cultural heritage. For example in municipality Ruokolahti, Ruokolahti association is very active and they maintain local cultural heritage by fairs, events, published material etc. Also in Ruokolahti is over 20 village - and residents association and their aim is to maintain hiking paths and cultural heritage destinations.
Finnish love nature and they want to keep it clean. For example in municipality Puumala exists two nature associations which aim is to respect nature and educate children and young people to understand our natural heritage. Cooperation with different interests groups gives enormous possibilities to aspiring Saimaa Geopark.
Here are listed only few examples about associations in small member municipalities:
Municipality Puumala:
- Theater: Hurissalon Harrastajateatteri and Jalkapuuteatteri
- Music and dance: Puumalan Pelimannit and Puumalan Polskaajat
- Waterway heritages: Puumala`s boats association (S/S Wenno)
- Culture: Puumala association – publisher of Puumala-newspaper, Puumala`s Kalevala women
Municipality Juva:
- Heritage: Juvan kotiseutu – ja museoyhdistys
- Culture: Juvan Kulttuuri ry, Juvan kamerakerho
Municipality Mikkeli:
- Nature: Suur-Savon wildlife wound, Saimaa`s recreational area

7 Have your Geopark area reserved any awards or other formal recognition for its activities in the field of geodiversity, conservation or sustainable geo-tourism during the last five years?
The biggest city in Lake Saimaa region is Lappeenranta. Lappeenranta have profiled as green city. In below is listed some justification why Lappeenranta can be called as green energy town.
The city of Lappeenranta is reducing the environmental impacts of its operations. The city was the first municipality in Finland to participate in the WWF Earth Hour City Challenge 2016, in which the candidate cities are assessed on the basis of their contributions to climate protection. Lappeenranta was among the 14 best cities in the world.
Lappeenranta has the most advanced green university in Finland. Green Campus has also been awarded internationally. Green Campus encourages the city to invest in improving the state of the environment.
The city of Lappeenranta has joined the HINKU network of carbon neutral municipalities.
The aim is to reduce GHG emissions by 80% from the 2007 level, by 2030. Finland’s first inland wind farm has been constructed in Muukko in Lappeenranta by TuuliMuukko Oy. The Port of Lappeenranta is developing a green harbour for Lappeenranta – Green Marina Lappeenranta. Lappeenrannan Energia Oy generates low-carbon district heating energy and electricity in partnership with Kaukaan Voima Oy. Kaukaan Voima Oy is helping Lappeenrannan Energia Oy generate environmentally friendly district heating energy and electricity. Lappeenrannan Energia Oy is also constructing a 50 kW solar power plant on its site in Simolantie. The ENNE project provides impartial advice on energy saving solutions, in the South Karelia region. Through the Green Energy Showroom, companies showcase their own solutions for cleaner energy generation. Etelä-Karjalan Jättehuolto Oy uses environmentally friendly waste treatment methods and contributes to the development of waste recycling. Its recycling rate is one of the highest in Finland, at around 90% in Lappeenranta. The Lappeenranta Region Environmental Office is constructing wetlands for the treatment of storm water run-off in order to reduce the load on the waters of Pien-Saimaa. Constructions aim is to improve water quality in Pien-Saimaa. The City of Lappeenranta Educational Services has three schools and one daycare centre, which have received the Eco-Schools Green Flag certificate, and one school certified by the OKKA Foundation (Sammonlahti School). Green Flag schools incorporate environmental issues and sustainable development as part of the school’s everyday activities.

The city has arranged its public transport services and routes through competitive tendering, and organises free events. The number of users has been increasing. The city of Lappeenranta has joined the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment’s Energy Efficiency Agreements. The practical implementation of the agreements has already exceeded the objectives. Cycling and walking is promoted through the national Pykälä-project, by improving the bicycle routes, in terms of traffic flow and signage. Lappeenranta is Cycling City of the Year 2015.

The city of Lappeenranta is investing more than € 2 million on making its street lighting more energy efficient (11,000 lamps). Many other projects and activities are also ongoing in the city that promote energy-efficiency, combat climate change and improve the state of the environment.” (Greenreality)

Mikkeli city is also awarded by its efforts to become more and more environmental friendly city. Mikkeli has awarded in Green Leaf competition 2016. The city aims to promote a healthy and ecologically sustainable urban environment by focusing on four key dimensions: preservation of pure water; promotion of renewable energy sources, namely bioenergy; integration of clean technology in waste management; and systematic implementation of digital solutions.

8 Are competent geological and scientific experts available to promote further scientific research?
8.1. At least one person with a degree in geosciences or other related discipline in the permanent staff (employed directly)
Saimaa Geopark has a permanent geologist Kaisa-Maria Remes.

8.2. At least five people with a degree in geosciences or other related discipline on the staff of the Geopark
- Topiantti Äikä Master of Social Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)
- Minna Kähtävä-Marttinen Master of Arts in Archeology
- Hanna Ollikainen Master of Science in Agriculture and Forestry, the qualification of a Teacher in Forestry
- Arto Hämäläinen Master of Science in Biology
- Riina Kaikkonen Master of Science in Geology
- Sanna Poutamo Master of Science in Agriculture and Forestry
- Susanna Mäntykoski Bachelor of Engineering, Information Technology
- Juha Sorjonen: Economics, Statistics, Business Administration

8.3. Additional experts exist in the permanent staff
Heli Rautanen Bachelor of Hospitality Management

8.4. Regular and formal joint activity with at least one scientific institution
Saimaa Geopark has regular and formal activity with Geological Survey of Finland.
Cooperation with National Board of Antiquities and Lappeenranta University of Technology.

8.6. How many different scientific disciplines are represented in the expert network?
Nine different scientific disciplines.

8.7. Does a marketing expert exist?
Saimaa Geoparks marketing expert is Mr. Juha Sorjonen/GoSaimaa.

8.8. Does a press officer exist?
Saimaa Geoparks press officer is Mrs. Heli Rautanen

8.9. Are staff members available to run field trips/guided walks?
Geologist Mrs. Kaisa-Maria Remes can work as a field/guided walk guide. Mrs. Minna Kähtävä-Marttinen has a wilderness and nature guide education. Imatra official city tour guide is Mrs. Hanna Ollikainen. Mrs. Heli Rautanen is able to run guided walks.

9 Does your Geopark area have the following infrastructure?
9.1. Museum within the area of the Geopark managed by yourself or a partner in your organization?
Here is listed only part of the museums in Saimaa Geopark area, which are managed by partner organization:
- Juva museum, Karelian Museum and Gallery of Kings Manor
- Pattoi heritage house
- Gottlund’s cottage
- Ruokolahti home museum
- Ruokolahti house heritage area
- Liehtalanniemi agricultural museum
- Salpalinja’s bunkers
- Sahanlahti museum
- D.E.D. Europaeus museum
- Church Builders museum
- Hakamäki museum area
- The Imatra Art Museum
- Imatra Town Museum
- Industrial Workers’ Housing Museum
- Veteran’s Home Museum
- The Border Museum
- South Karelia Museum
- South Karelia Art Museum
- South Karelian Lotta Svärd Museum
- Karelia Aviation Museum
- Cavalry Museum
- Saimaa Canal Museum
- The Wolkoff House Museum
- Joutseno Local History Museum
- South Karelian Motor Museum
- Forest Cottage Museum – "Virkin Salotupa"
- Nuijamaa Parish Museum
- Pätäri House Museum
- Ylämäa Gem Museum
- The Suur-Savo Museum
- The Headquarters Museum, Communications Centre Lokki and Mannerheim’s salon car
- The Stone Sacristy
- Mikkeli Art Museum/South Savo Regional Art Museum
- The Infantry Museum
- The Moisio Hospital Museum
- The Harjukoski Water Mill
- The Haukivuori Museum
- The Suomenniemi Museum
- The Lyytikkälä Farm

9.2. Information center within the area of the Geopark
Here is listed only part of the information centers in Saimaa Geopark area, which are organized by member municipalities:
- Puumala’s municipality house
- Ruokolahti’s library
- Ruokolahti’s municipality house
- Travelling info center at ABC Juva
- Info point at Juva municipality
- Info point in Sulkava municipality

9.3. Info-kiosks or other local information points within the area that provide information about the geopark, its aims and work
Here is listed only part of the info-kiosks or other information points in Saimaa Geopark area:
- Puumala’s municipality house, tourism information
- Puumala’s harbor tourism information
- Rokansalo island
- Ruokolahti’s library tourism information
- Punaisen piipun kievari – coffee house at Juva
- Juva centrum
- Juva municipality

9.4. Information panels within the area
In Imatra city tourism information is in touchable information panels around the town. Around the Saimaa Geopark region is information panels among geosites especially in recreational foundations areas. Also geosites situated in municipalities, cities etc. have signposts and information panels.
Geoparks own signposts are made by project “Saimaa opasteet” and main point of the project is presented in application and Annex 10.

9.5. Geological trails within the area of the Geopark
The Geological Trail of Imatra
Saimaa Seal Trail in Puumala
Mobile trail for Sailers in South Saimaa (Dive – project 2017)

III. Information and Environmental Education

1 Research, information and education scientific activity in Earth sciences within the territory

1.1. At least one scientific/academic institution working in Geopark area
Lappeenranta University of Technology
Saimaa (LUT)
Saimaa University of Applied Sciences (Saimia)
South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (XAMK)
University of Helsinki (by historical and archaeological projects in Lake Saimaa area)

1.2. At least one student final report (mapping etc.) on Geopark`s area per year
University of Turku: Arturo Villar, Thermal and hydrothermal influence of rapakivi igneous activity on late-Svecofennian granites in southeastern Finland. 2017
Saimia: Heidi Laine, Germans in Finland as a nature tourism destination. 2015
Mikkeli UAS: Tuija Turunen, Images of Finland and Switzerland areas of Lac Lèman and Lake Saimaa. 2015
Saimia: Ramona Hirvonen, Ecotourism Prospects in Imatra. 2013
Mikkeli UAS: Meija Eskelinen-Kangas, Copyright Viewpoints in 3D Modeling: Case Astuvansalmi Rock and Area. 2011
Mikkeli UAS: Henna Mölsä, Ontologisation of the Astuvansalmi cliff: process description. 2011
University of Oulu: Anne Portaankorva, Geologisten kohteiden luokittelu ja hyödyntäminen luontomatkailussa. 2009
University of Oulu: Kaisa-Maria Remes, Suursaimaan transgressio ja sen vaikutus Pyhäselän alueen soiden kehitykseen. 2008

1.3. At least one PhD thesis on the Geopark`s area within the past three years
University of Eastern Finland, Mia Valtonen: Conservation genetics of the Saimaa ringed seal – insight into the history of a critically endangered population. 2014
University of Helsinki, Faculty of Arts, Institute for Cultural Research: Antti Lahelma, A Touch of Red : Archaeological and Ethnographic Approaches to Interpreting
1.4. At least five scientific or tourism focused papers from work within the Geopark`s area during the last 5 years


Komppula, R. (2014), The role of individual entrepreneurs in the development of competitiveness for a rural tourism destination - a case study


2 Do you operate programmers of environmental education in your Geopark area?

Aspiring Saimaa Geopark’s educations contacts in every member municipality are listed in application in section D.3. and in self-evaluation document section 3.

In Finland is established a new curriculum by producing models for multidisciplinary phenomenon-based learning. Phenomenon-based learning is implemented in the project via two themes; studying the local environment, and a low-carbon future. Based on phenomenon-based learning, Aspiring Saimaa Geopark is operating environmental education with schools in municipalities.

3 What kind of education materials exist?

Geologist Mrs. Kaisa-Maria Remes has made printed educational material to upper level students.

In Lappeenranta city is situated Sammonlahti primary school (upper level students aged between 13-16). Sammonlahti primary school has a very long tradition to use nature in their education.

Here are some listed examples how Saimaa Geoparks educational aspects are going to be shown in student’s education:
1. Saimaa ringed seal:
- Saimaa`s conservation centers ready on learning material about Saimaa ringed seal
- World Wildlife Found`s Saimaa ringed seal photogallery is offering a service to give coordinates where people can send photos and information where seal is seen, Saimaa ringed seal ambassadors
- Video and literature about Saimaa ringed seal
- Films Tale of a Lake and Saimaa ringed seal by Juha Taskinen

2. Lake Saimaa area:
- Film Tale of a Forest is photographed in South Karelia region
- Learning material from Lake Saimaa and fishing
- Stone age fishing equipment – presentations by experts
- Students studying a fish- learning materials and workshop package´
- Saimaa`s multidisciplinary research package for students
- Home study materials about Lake Saimaa

3. Cooperation projects between schools
- Comparative student reports and studies of the nature of the lake area and the marine area

5. The signs of an Ice age in nature
- Student excursions to Geopark destinations
- Cruises to lake resorts combined with camp school material
- Drone video shooting from objects
- Instruction packages from the Ice Age (pre-assignments, travel-day material, lab material
- Ice Age Ice Age Trails - Hiking Trail

5. Learning material from stones
- Stones and chemistry
- Definitions of stones and minerals
- Stones crystal structure
- Exploration of ore
- Stone grinding and jewelry
- The Rocks and Mineral Collection of the University (LUT)
- Learning material Intricate stones (cooperation with LUT)

6. Regions exhibitions which are related to geopark theme
- Ylämaa`s gem museum and spectrolite gems visitor package
- Museums

7. Geopark School Capabilities
- Guided tours
- Co-operation projects
- Camp school projects
- Student exchange
- Geopark study line at school

4 What kind of published information is available in your Geopark area?

4.1. Protection of geological heritage
Husa, J., & Teeriaho, J. 2007. Luonnon- ja maisemansuojelun kannalta arvokkaat kallioalueet Etelä-Savossa ja Päijät-Hämeen itäosassa. Suomen ympäristökeskus,
4.2. Geology of the area

Read more in annex 8. Here are listed some of the published information.

Guide books/leaflets: Vuoksi geological trail, Puumala naturally beautiful.


4.3. Publication linking geology, nature and culture of the area


4.4. Environmental behavior in the area

Act responsibly in Finnish nature – Environmental Guide for Tourists and Recreational User of Nature. Guide has been implemented in 2014 by the project
for The Outdoor Recreational Culture of Southeastern Finland. In Finnish, English and Russian

4.5. Other aspects of natural history which can be found within the area

4.6. Historical elements
Here are few examples:

5 Geology provision for school groups (for example, organized visits, etc.)
Educational work is going to be started in autumn 2017 and at winter 2018. Geologist Kaisa-Maria Remes has already done educational lessons in Taipalsaari municipality’s with upper level students (October 2017). This is a starting point.

5.2. Guided tours through a member organisation
South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas.

6 Education- Guides
6.2. Do you have at least one qualified expert in a partner organization providing guided visits that your organization has a role in developing?
South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas Hanna Ollikainen.
In Ruokolahti company Kulttuuripalvelu Kaiku.
In Puumala Tuula Luukkonen is municipality’s official guide. Also in Puumala Helena Rossi and Airi Pajari will held dramatized guided tours.
In Imatra city Saimaa Geopark has cooperation with Imatra’s tourism guides association.
Juva municipality Samuli Tuikkainen – supervisor of physical education. He will research all Juva’s geological sites by summer 2017.

6.3. Personal guides as part of Geopark’s permanent staff
Geologist Kaisa-Maria Remes and Executive Manager Heli Rautanen.

6.4. Personal guides by partner organization?
South Karelian Foundation for Recreation Areas Hanna Ollikainen and Mari Matikainen. Riina Kaikkonen from Imatran city.

6.5. Freelance guides whose training and/or programmer your organization supports?
None.

6.6. Training courses for guides
None.

7 What kind of information do you provide to educational groups to encourage them to visit your area?

7.1. Letters to schools and universities
Yes, by letters and personal contacts with teachers. Being a partner in different courses and projects (Saimia and LUT).
7.2. Brochure
All aspiring Saimaa Geopark projects brochures and posters are going to be changed to look like new brand guidelines are designed.

7.3. Press announcements (Newspapers, Radio, TV)
Saimaa Geopark project have made press releases to local people via local newspaper, local radio and news-TV. Also national newspapers have written articles about Saimaa Geopark and the Finnish Broadcasting company YLE have made few interviews and news about association. Read more in application in section D.6.

7.4. Newspaper or newsletter
Newsletter Geopost from Lake Saimaa is in use and can be read in aspiring Saimaa Geopark’s website www.saimaageopark.fi

8 Do you use internet for school programs? What kind of services do you provide?
8.1. Own website with general information about environmental education within the area
In aspiring Saimaa Geopark’s new websites is going to have own block to education.

8.2. Those responsible for the education programme may be reached by email
Yes. All responsible people: teachers, principals, geologists have emails and keep in touch by email.

8.3. Regular electronic newsletter
Geopost from Lake Saimaa is sent regular.

8.4. Up-to-date calendar or activities
None.

IV Geotourism

1 What kind of promotional material of the area is available?
1.1. Printed material
Saimaa Geopark`s municipalities has different kind of promotional material about attractions in Lake Saimaa area. Material will be introduced for evaluators.

1.2. Popular literature for public
From Lake Saimaa exists several books:
Mikko Nikkinen: Great Lake Saimaa, 2014
Arto Hämäläinen: Saimaa, 1999
Arttu Käyhkö: Saimaa and boats (Saimaa ja laivat), 2015
Saimaa Lake in Finland Journal: 150 Page Lined Notebook/Diary, 2016
Sari Kanala, The Saimaa ringed seal
List of Lights: the Saimaa Lake District and the Saimaa Canal, 2006
Tastes from Lake Saimaa, 2008
Tuomo-Juhani Vuorenmaa: Saimaan värit, 2016
Matti Vainikkala: Puumala, 2015
Esko Kuusisto (ed.): Elävä Saimaa, 1999
Books for children about Saimaa ringed seal, protection the nature and Lake Saimaa:
Kanala Sari, Ulv Daga ja Taskinen Juha: Saippa saimaannorppa, the Saimaa Ringed Seal
1.3. CD or video material
Tale of the Lake tells story of lake Saimaa and Vuoksi-river. Saimaa Geopark can use films trailer. State Forest Enterprise is planning a project to Lake Saimaa region. Projects aim is to make videos about Lake Saimaa. Video about Lake Saimaa’s steamships sail to St. Petersburg.

1.4. Other promotional material or merchandise
Small gifts: scarfs, tube scarfs.

2 In how many languages is the marketing material produced?
2.7. Add 10 points from each other language
Other languages are:
- German
- Swedish

3 Are the information centers or exhibitions regarding the area in the Geopark’s area?
3.1. At least one information centre, managed directly by the Geopark or one of the partner organizations
Aspiring Saimaa Geopark’s first visitor center will be built to Imatra art museum before tourism season on May 2018. Read more in annex 10. Here are listed part of the information centers in around Saimaa Geopark area, which are managed by member municipalities.
- Puumala’s municipality house
- Ruokolahti’s library
- Ruokolahti’s municipality house
- Travelling info center at ABC Juva
- Info point at Juva municipality

3.2. Info points or similar facilities throughout the area managed directly by the Geopark or one of the partner organizations
Here is listed part of the info-kiosks or other information points in aspiring Saimaa Geopark area, which are managed by geoparks member municipalities, recreational areas or municipalities partners:
- Puumala’s municipality house, tourist information
- Puumala’s harbor tourist information
- Rokansalo island
- Ruokolahti’s library tourist information
- Punaisen piipun kievari – coffee house at Juva
- Juva centrum
- Juva ABC tourist information
- Juva municipality house

3.3. Information center “meeting and starting” point for excursions
Imatra’s visitor center will be meeting and starting point.
Others are in Puumala`s municipality house, tourist information. Ruokolahti`s library and in future also Jaakkima campus.

3.4. Is the information center accessible for wheelchair users and does it cater for individuals with other disabilities?
Some of the information centers have access for wheelchair and for individuals with other disabilities.

3.5. Personal and individual information offered to visitors about possible activities in the area
In tourism information places tourist will have individual information about activities in the area.

3.6. Centre open to the public at least 6 days a week, all year round
In Finland information centres are open in the summer time 7 day a week, but in winter time only 5 day a week.

4 How is information and interpretation about the area presented at info centers, information points etc.?

4.1. Statist display material
Most of the material is printed.

4.2. Films, videos, slideshows
To promote aspiring Saimaa Geopark`s idea staff uses slideshows, films and videos. Documentary film Tale of a Lake is in geoparks promotional use.

4.3. Interactive displays
Mobile trail for Sailers in South Saimaa (Dive –project 2017).

4.4. Different special exhibitions changing on a regular basis
None.

5 Public access and facilities

5.1. Is it possible to reach the Geopark area by public transport?
Aspiring Saimaa Geoparks area is very wide, but it is possible to reach by public transport and by boats and cruisers. Timetables are available in municipalities websites and also in Saimaa Geopark`s websites contains links to cities public transport timetables.

5.2. Do you provide your own tourist transport?
No, Saimaa Geopark does not provide own tourist transportation.

5.3. Is public transport integrated with walking, cycling areas
Saimaa Geopark area is very wide and large. It is not possible to reach every geosite or nature and culture heritage site by public transport.

5.4. Do you have car park facilities connected to the trails which your organization has developed?
No.

5.5. Are the toilets available in the parking areas?
Toilets are available in some of the geosites and their parking areas. For example in geosites which are situated near city centers and services (Geosites no 1,2, and 7.) Also recreations areas geosite have services (e.g. geosites no 1, 2 and 7.).

6 Are visitors informed about public transport in the area and encouraged to use it before their arrival?

6.1. Promotional material about the area (leaflets, brochures, internet) contains information about public transport
In application section A.2. are listed public transport in the area. Information about public transport are available for examples in municipalities tourism information

6.2. The website(s) of the Geopar and/or local tourism organizations are linked to web-based timetables and transport information held by others
Same answer than 6.1.

6.3. Special offers for tourists using public transport, bicycle or other forms of sustainable transport
None.

7 What kind of guided tours have been developed by your management body and/or partners?
7.1. Tours for groups with special interest in geology and geomorphology
Association’s own tours for special interest groups for example mining, Spanish tourism guides etc.

7.2. Tours take place regular during the season
In every member municipality are regular guiding tours available.

7.3. Tours for broad audience
Bus tours in member cities and for example Crown park tours in Imatra and tours around the city.

7.4. Flexible registration system
There are no registrations for most of the tours.

8 What else do you use to inform visitors about your area
8.1. Easy to read interpretation panels at entrance areas and/or tourist location
Read more about signpost project in annex 10.

8.2. There is at least one promoted trail dealing with geological subjects, developed by your team, alongside any developed by partners
In municipality Puumala is Saimaa Seal Trail. Mobile trail for boaters in South Saimaa (Dive –project 2017). Imatra georoute.

9 How is the information and are activity of different organizations coordinated?
9.1. Joint information and/or promotional material
In Lake Saimaa area are three development councils which are owned by municipalities and companies. With those three development councils (KEHY, WIRMA, MIKSEI) Saimaa Geopark keeps in touch almost weekly by discussions, giving information and changing ideas.

10 Do you use the internet and what kind of online service do you provide?
Saimaa Geopark projects new internet sites were launched in August 2017 with new brand image.

10.1. Own website with general information about the area
Yes.

10.2. Links to other websites of tourist board, communities, local government, which provide a broad range of information on the geopark’s area
Yes.

10.3. Geopark’s management body may be reached by email
Yes.

10.4. Regular electronic newsletter
Yes.
10.5. Facility to order publications online
  No.
10.6. Up-to-date calendar of activities
  No.
10.7. Guidance for visitors on potential excursions
  Guidance via partner organizations and permanent staff guides.

11 What kind of infrastructure is available for activities such as horse riding, canoeing and cycling?

11.1. Network of footpaths, which include the main touristic and scientific point of interest
  For footpaths, canoeing and cycling is made infrastructure and definition is based to South Karelia and South Savo Landscape Plan.

11.2. Uniform/standard signposts of paths
  There are always signposts where paths and trails start and ends. Read more about signpost project in Aspiring Saimaa Geopark area in annex 10.

11.3. Regular checks of infrastructure and immediate repair guaranteed
  In recreational areas geosites have regular maintenance and repair guaranteed. Other geosites maintenance is done by member municipalities.

11.4. Special maps and information sheets for hikers, cyclists, etc.
  Around Lake Saimaa area are several hiking, cycling, canoeing and rowing trails and paths which have own information sheets and maps.

11.5. At least one path concerning a special subject (mining, archaeology, architecture –not previously counted in your score under another heading)
  For example in Imatra is special tour for Treasures of Architecture. Duration is two hours. Tour will introduce different architectural building from Imatra. Also every Wednesday it is organized Imatra-tour, and one of the main themes is introduction to Imatra`s Valtionhotelli- part of the geosite.

11.6. Guided cycling-, walking tours, etc. provided or actively supported by a partner organization
  For example walking tours around Crownpark in Imatra every day at 17 o`clock from 26th of June to 26th of August. Crown park is geosite. On Sundays walking tour is dramatized.

11.7. All-inclusive offers (e.g. hotel, half or full board) of several days for tours (for example hiking- and/or cycling tours) offered or actively supported by partner organization
  None.

11.8. All-inclusive tour package with luggage transport of several days provided or actively supported by a partner organization
  None.

11.9. There is a network of hiking/biking friendly hotels/pensions, defined by a catalogue of criteria who work in partnership with your organization
  None.

12 How do you communicate the goals of geotourism, especially to those responsible for tourism?

12.1. Direct personal meetings and/or through their involvement in your organization
  Saimaa Geopark staff visits and meets members from tourism involved associations, entrepreneurs, colleges and third sector. For example meetings with fisheries, wildlife founds, sailing clubs etc. to give information about geoparks idea,
what are the possibilities and how application process is done.

12.2. A regular award scheme to promote good practice
None.

12.3. The selection and nomination of official partners/mentors/sponsors
Geo godfathers Jarmo Kohonen (GTK) and senior geologist Olli Äijö. Read more from application section A.4.

13 Do you have the following sustainable (e.g. no car based) trails?

13.1. Geo-trails
For example in Puumala municipality is Saimaa Seal trail, which is going to be built as geo-trails.

13.2. Cultural trails
For example in Puumala municipality Liehtalannimi museum nature trail.

13.3. Forest trails
For example in Puumala municipality Elsa Heporauta trail (22 km) and Kukkeistenpolku 10 km.
And guided Metso-tours in Okkola cottages and Nestoriranta (1,5-2 km). Content is about culture, islands nature history and human history.

13.4. Other trails
For example Squirrel route canoeing route from Juva to Sulkava (57 km), Ruokolahti canoeing route (110 km) from small lakes and throw river and by the historical channel to Lake Saimaa’s back water to reach through Ruokolahti municipality’s center.
In municipality Mikkeli every Thursday guided walking tour for two hours called Women war.

13.5. Other outdoor activities not mentioned elsewhere
Few examples from municipality Puumala week program:
- Guided walking paths in nature
- Summer yoga in park
- Saaristo summer exercise class
- Track on field training for adults
- Metso exercise trail with signposts in Niinisaari
- Lively outdoor dancing
- Golf’s classes
Few examples from municipality Ruokolahti:
- Hukkavuoren camping trail in Marjamäki (3-5 km)
- Fishing guide Kari Porevirta
- Canoe renting Ruokolahden Raju
- Kuokkalammin bird wetland
- Lohelan Leijonapolku hiking path 1,5 km
- Lääväkorven walking and cycling trail 18 km
- Canoeing trail 110 km
- Olli’s path (2,5 – 3,6 km)
- Oritlampi health trail (2-10 km)
- Puntala’s cat circle (7 km)
- Retkeilyreitti Imatra-Ruokolahti-Rautjärvi, E10, 69 km
- Salosaari’s nature trail 1,1 km
- Torsa rivers nature trail in Pohjalankila (bird wetland, observing place and grill) 1 km

14 Visitor evaluations
14.1. Do you count visitors? By entrance tickets/trail counters, by field trip participants, by estimation, by visitor survey
Every municipality will collect their visitor analysis after tourism season. More details in excel table.

V Sustainable Regional Economy

1. What efforts are undertaken to promote regional food and craft products, integrating the catering trade?

1.1. Initiatives promoting food from regional and/or ecological production, which your organization develops or actively supports
Promoting regional food and crafts have been a trend and a point of special interest also in South Karelia. It is important to bear in mind, that the whole country has population of 5.4 million and people live mostly in small towns. Food stores are of two chains, these two factors make it challenging for small scale producers and manufactures in food and beverage.
Pro Agria Development Company concentrating in rural areas, has been active in this field. Many programs they have accomplished have utilized EU-funding. "Särvintä Pöytään, Makumatkalla Kaakkois-Suomessa, Kapustat Kaakkoon" have been the names of three projects.
Activities done under those have been:
- Promoting co-operation between local food companies, producers and farms and companies in the supply chain. This aimed for both promoting products of this precise area both also to create new products to the market. Co-operation involved the chain from food producer to food manufacturer and buyer distributors and also institutional buying and food suppliers
- Menu planning events which have concentrated in using local raw materials, new dishes and using local ingredients in existing dishes to upgrade and localize them. All have paid attention in marketing function also
- Guide book on print and internet has been made consisting of 100 local small food producers and shops. Russia having been the important home country of tourists here, Russian tour operators have been introduced to local food chain.
- Local food products have been promoted in trade shows and different events in Finland for several years.
- With these projects small-scale local producers and manufactures have arranged educational trips in order to learn best practices and find
- Local food producers and manufactures have received business consulting in sales, product-development and direct sales operation
+ Food meets art/
+ Saimaan Charmantit
+ Särvingtä Pöytään
+ Makumatkalla Kaakkois-Suomessa
+ Kapustat Kaakkoon
Future steps on this field are
- Add variety of dishes and enlarge the selection
- Develop direct sale from farms and by small manufacturers
- Further develop the value chain and joint-venture of the food related companies in the area.
1.2. Meals from regional and/or ecological production are available in restaurants
In Finland it is very usual, that restaurants serve dishes which ingredients are from local area. Fish, berries, mushrooms, eggs and meet are usually bought from local entrepreneur.

1.3. The Geopark organizes markets, where mainly regional agricultural products are sold
No.

1.4. A label for regional food products or local gastronomy exists
Designation of Origin (D.O) is an internationally renowned brand. The regional council of South Savo was the first in Finland who began to grant D.O labels. The label is called Designation of Origin Saimaa. Lake Saimaa belongs to Finland’s internationally best-known and the most respected brands. Designation of Origin Saimaa is Finland’s first proprietary label. The slogan of the label is: Designation of Origin Saimaa – 100% good from Lake Saimaa area. The word ‘good’ means taste and high quality. It has also a positive impact for the environment, for the food culture and the vitality of the region and society.

The Regional council of South Savo is also a member of Saimaa Geopark association, which target is to apply UNESCO Global Geopark Status to Lake Saimaa area. Aspiring Saimaa Geopark project and the D.O. Saimaa brand owners are in important role to grow and develop the nature tourism concept in Lake Saimaa region. Food producers, retailers and restaurants will have the opportunity to take advantage of marketing Finland’s first regional designation of origin label.

Product-specific the D.O. Saimaa label has been given to 12 producers. Labelled products are, for example, spices, wines, berries, different kinds of meat and fish products, sweets, carrots, sausages and cereal products. In Lake Saimaa region there are a large number of small producers and food processing companies. They have developed for years high-quality products. The D.O.Saimaa label adds value for the products and distinguishes them from competitors. D.O. Saimaa sign-labeled products are both gastronomically and ethically a very good choice. Restaurants may use the D.O. Saimaa label in individual portions or create menus around the D.O. Saimaa -menus theme. It is also to apply the D.O.Saimaa label for design and art crafts products.

The interest of food products and the manufacturing of food are growing constantly. Reliable information of the origin of food and the methods of manufacturing are increasingly important factors when making a purchasing decision.

D.O. Saimaa label tells to the consumer that the product is produced environmentally friendly in Lake Saimaa – the future Saimaa Geopark – area! The mark also tells us that the entire production chain is short and traceable.

1.5. Direct marketing of regional agricultural products
In Saimaa Geopark’s regions situates several agricultural direct marketing companies. Some of them are listed here:
South Karelia area:
- Karjalan portti (meat, organic eggs, flours)
- Kuorttisen luomukanala (organic eggs)
- Kotileipomo T. Papunen (bread)
- Panimoyhtiö Tuju (brewery)

South Savo area:
- Temolan viinitila (Finnish berry wine)
- Saimaan juomatehdas (brewery)
- Ollinmäen viinitila (Finnish berry wine)

2. Which efforts are undertaken to create and promote regional geotourism products?
More details in excel table annex 1a.

3. How are regional crafts promoted?
More details in excel table annex 1a.

4. What efforts are undertaken to promote links between the applicant and local businesses?
Aspiring Saimaa Geopark is seen as a way to develop the attractiveness of the area. In November Geological Survey of Finland and Saimaa Geopark project had workshop for companies and stockholders. New development project is raising with aspiring Saimaa Geopark and local companies. Idea is to develop cooperation, create sustainable tourism rules and educate tourism business to understand the geoparks idea.

5 What kind of contracts is regularly offered to businesses in your area?
More details in excel table annex 1a.

6 Networking

6.1. A network of cooperating enterprises exists, fostered by the geopark
Saimaa Geopark has been organizing information meetings with areas entrepreneurs during year 2016 and 2017.

6.2. There are jointly financed projects between the Geopark, private businesses and local authorities
Yes.

References:
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