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PROTECTION OF GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IN THE ITALIAN LANDSCAPE

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The Italian Environment Protection and Technical Services Agency (APAT) is the Italian body responsible for the protection of the environment and for the collection and management of environmental data, and it develops activities on Geosites, Geoparks and Geominerary parks.

APAT is setting up a working group within Italian administrations to validate geosites and to insert them in the *National Geosites Atlas*, and is developing up «Guidelines for protection, management and valorisation of mines and geominerary parks in a cultural, didactic and tourism key». As for international activities APAT, as a government agency, supports Italian geoparks within EGN (European geoparks Network) through activities designed to sustain the European geoparks network.

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