

# 韶关市丹霞山管理委员会

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## GGN - Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark Annual Report 2021

### 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China, CGN

**Year of inscription:** 2004

**Year of the last revalidation:** 2016

On the Earth Day in April 2021, Danxiashan UGGp organized “the 2<sup>nd</sup> APGN Geoparks Week” Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction with Yandangshan UGGp. 25 UGGps and inspiring geoparks in China, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam had held a series of activities including Geopark Photography Exhibition, Science Knowledge Award Q&A, Science Popularization Lectures on campus, etc. Millions of people had participated in the events online or offline. The event has significantly improved the brand awareness of UGGps.



“the 2<sup>nd</sup> APGN Geoparks Week” Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and  
Interaction - Exhibition in Danxiashan

The Opening Ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature Education Season of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, Danxiashan Science Popularization Volunteers Training Camp, Danxiashan Nature Observation Contest, the 3<sup>rd</sup> “Danxiashan Cup” National Photography Exhibition, the 2021 Danxiashan Wild Plant Identification Competition, etc. had been held in Danxiashan, attracting more than then thousand people especially teenagers to attend.



Various public education activities in Danxiashan UGGp

Three major outdoor events were held in 2021 attracting thousands of enthusiasts: 2021 Danxia 100 Mountain Running Race, the 14<sup>th</sup> Hiking through Danxiashan (50km) and Danxiashan Bicycle Race.





Three major sports events in Danxiashan UGGp

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 372 staff members including 20 geoscientists

**Number of visitors:** 1,222,056 (with an increase of 35% compared with 2020, decreased by 25% compared with 2019 due to the epidemic of COVID-19)

**Number of Geopark events:** 355 science popularization events, 3 tourism and cultural events had been held by Danxiashan UGGp. 20 theme activities (eg. rural revitalization, etc.) had been organized jointly with other organizations or partners.

**Number of schools / classes involving Geopark educational programmes:** "China Danxia on Campus": *Danxiashan: Spectacular Nature in the World* Book Crossing and science lectures had been held in 177 colleges and schools in 2021. 13,000 teachers and students had participated. 93 groups with 50,000 (person time) students from China had carried out field study in Danxiashan UGGp.





2021 Danxiashan Training (Advanced) for Tutors of Field Study (Nature Education)

**Number of press release:** 10 pieces of news had been released and adopted by CGN, 2 pieces of news had been released and adopted by GGN. 177 pieces of news had been released and adopted by news media, 798 pieces of information had been released on official website and WeChat official account platform.

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2021**

- Named as “Excellent Nature Education Base of Guangdong Province” by Forestry Administration of Guangdong Province.
- Selected as “Guangzhou Field Study Base of Primary and Middle School Students” by Bureau of Education of Guangzhou City.
- Selected as “National Forestry and Grassland Long-term Scientific Research Base” on May 7, 2020.

- “Spectacular Nature in the World”-Geology Field Study Course was rated as an excellent course by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Forestry Administration of Guangdong Province.
- The development of famous scientific mountain and public education of Danxiashan has been widely recognized and has become a model for nature education, field study trip and science popularization in nature reserves of China.
- In the 44th Session of World Heritage Committee, *Innovative Exploration and Practice of World Heritage Education of Danxiashan (China)* was selected as a highly commended case in the Global Call for Innovative Case Studies on Heritage Education.

#### **Contributions toward GGN**

- On the Earth Day in April 2021, Danxiashan UGGp organized “the 2nd APGN Geoparks Week” Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction with 24 UGGps and inspiring geoparks in Japan, Thailand and Vietnam. Millions of people had participated in the events online or offline.
- Attended 2nd GGN Digital Forum and the APGN Online Meeting, etc.
- In December, 2021, attended DIGITAL 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Virtual Geofair, gave a presentation on the topic of Innovative Practice of Science Popularization in Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Received the representatives from Taining UGGp in Fujian Province, Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UGGp of Sichuan Province, Tian’e Dong Geopark in Ninghua of Fujian Province, Shiniuzhai Geopark in Pingjiang of Hunan Province, etc. The experiences of geological relic protection and geoscience tourism in Danxiashan were shared, and the exchanges and cooperation among Geoparks were

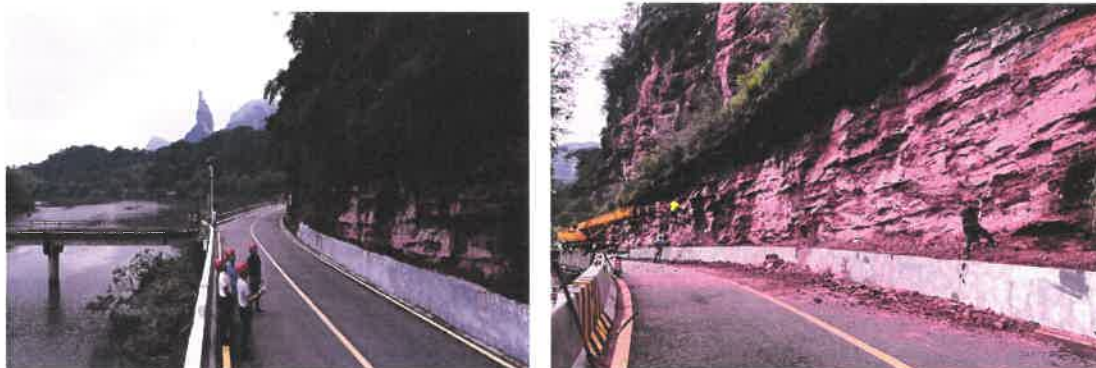
strengthened.

### **Management and Financial Status**

- The efficient management was determined to impose strict protection measures in the Geopark and had achieved targets of “zero tourists complaints”, “zero safety accidents”, “zero geological disaster” “zero geosites damage” and “zero environmental pollution” in 2021.
- Danxiashan UGGp had a well-balanced financial status and sound budget. Revenue were derived from ticket sale and profitable returns from investment by the Government of Shaoguan City and Guangdong Province.

### **Geoconservation and Bioconservation**

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and wild-land firefighting aircraft were used to monitor and conserve the geopark; continued to improve the real-time monitoring and its network system.



Daily geological safety inspection and clean-up

- Carried out projects on the protection of geological relics, prevention and control of geological disasters, monitoring and research on biodiversity, study and restoration of cultural heritage; completed *A Mineralogical Study of Red Origin of Cretaceous Strata in Danxiashan and the Definition of Danxia Landscape*; cleaned up hidden danger of geological hazard of Niubi Qiaotou and investigated the dangerous rocks

along the Jinjiang River; completed the investigation on the diversity of terrestrial vertebrates in Danxiashan, a total of 384 species of terrestrial vertebrates were recorded, belonging to 4 classes, 27 orders, 103 families and 256 genera; completed the investigation of macrofungi in Danxiashan, collected more than 2000 fungus samples, identified 305 species, published new reports on 5 new species, 11 new record species in China, and 6 suspected new species to be published; started the construction of wildlife monitoring platform, 100 infrared cameras and 2 AI cameras have been installed, and about 3,000 pictures and videos of 33 species of wild animals have been taken in 2021.

- Installed forest fire prevention facilities including water source, water pipes and fire extinguishers, etc. All the staff had patrolled the forests to ensure biodiversity security of the Geopark.
- Improved the facilities of forest fire prevention, safety protection and warning. All the staff had patrolled the forests to ensure biodiversity security of the geopark and the safety of tourists.



New forest fire prevention and safety warning signs



### **Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism)**

- Renovated 4.8 km of geological relics trails in Zhanglaofeng Peak and Yangyuanshan area; built 1.5 km of new trails around the museum to achieve the diversion of people and cars; built 3.5 km of trails along the river and increased the trip routes for visiting landscapes; updated 650 pieces of geological and ecological science interpretation and instructions.
- Completed *Archaeological Survey of Cultural Heritage in Danxiashan (the first Issue)*. 80 cultural relics and historical sites have been investigated. The ancient Ximeizhai Fortress, Longwangquan ancient water diversion project and two cliff inscriptions have been restored.
- Strengthened comprehensive monitoring of communities, cultural relics, environment, meteorology and hydrology; conserved the resources and environment of the Geopark, and promoted the sustainable development of the Geopark and communities.







- Continuously developed the Danxiashan Science Popularization Community. Many professional science popularization tutors had been cultivated and 30 science popularization lectures had been designed and delivered in various places including Nanling Ecological Center and Meteorological Science Museum, etc. 8 science popularization activities and 1 training course on rural horticulture have been held in Danxiashan, guiding villagers to share the achievements of the protection and development of the Geopark and attracting more tourists to come into the countryside.



A series of Danxiashan science popularization activities held in communities

### **Strategic Partnership**

- Continuously promoted the cooperation with universities and research institutes including China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), Sun Yat-sen University, South China Normal University, Guangzhou University, South China Agricultural University, East China University of Technology, Jiaying University, Shaoguan University, South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, etc.

Carried out scientific research and teaching internship with them. In 2021, more than 2,300 teachers and students of 60 groups from colleges came to Danxiashan for internship, carrying out scientific research projects in geology, tourism, culture, ecology, etc. Supported more than 10 students from Sun Yat-sen University, South China Normal University, Jinan University, etc. in writing doctoral, master's or undergraduate thesis in Danxiashan.

- Cooperated to develop Danxiashan National Park in order to promote the protection and sustainable development of Danxiashan UGGp. Established a cooperative relationship with Kunming National Park Planning Institute and Beijing Zhongsen International Consulting Co. Ltd. to demonstrate the scope of "Danxiashan National Park". Sun Yat-sen University and Guangdong Geological Survey were commissioned to carry out "Danxiashan Biodiversity Scientific Research Project" and "Danxiashan Geology and Geomorphology Scientific Research Project", which comprehensively study, summarize and evaluate the scientific value of Danxiashan and provide scientific support for the establishment of Danxiashan National Park.

### **Promotional Activities**

- Published news about Danxiashan in more than 20 media including *China Daily*, China.org.cn, Sohu.com South+, www.ycwb.com, Shaoguan Release, and *Shaoguan Daily*, etc. throughout the year.
- Jointly organized all kinds of tourism promotions with Culture, Radio, Television, Tourism and Sports Bureau of Shaoguan Municipality; organized groups to participate in China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair, Dongguan Expo, Carnival, etc. for promoting Danxiashan.

- Jointly held “Danxiashan Cup” the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Photography Exhibition with Popular Photography and Guangdong photographers Association.
- Provided 50% discount on tickets for the whole year, and a 70% discount for research teams to Danxiashan.
- Cooperated with Shaoguan Danxia Airport to provide visitors who have bought air tickets to Shaoguan with a 50% discount on Danxiashan tickets. Held promotions in Beijing, Shanghai, Sanya where the air traffic connects to Shaoguan.

#### **4. CONTACTS**

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