

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, MALAYSIA

Member of Asia Pacific Geopark Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:

2021 / 2023

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 52 staff (including 12 rangers)

Several visitors:

The total number of tourist/visitor arrivals for 2021 recorded a decrease compared to 2020 by 39.3% to 1,093,937 people compared to 1,802,602 in 2020 due to partial lockdown COVID-19.

Several Geopark events:

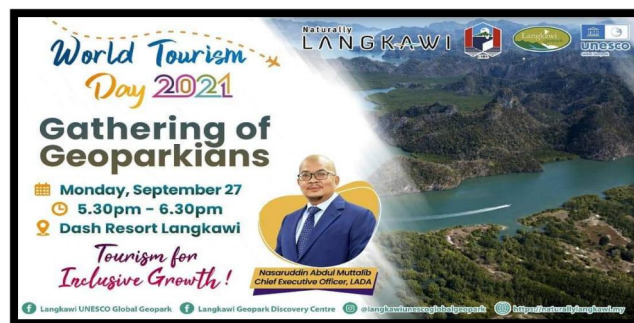
1. GeoTalk : Geopark Expert Talk with Langkawi Youth
No. of Participant: 200 Geoparkian



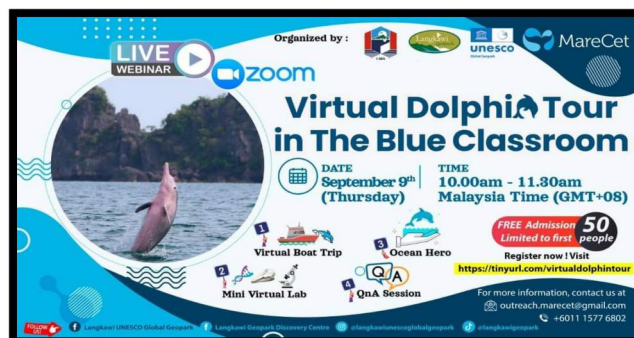
- Webinar: The Voice of Indigenous People
No. of Participant: 300 Geoparkian (Indonesia, Malaysia)



- Celebrating World Tourism Day 2021: Gathering of Geoparkians
No. of Participant: 190 Geoparkian



- Virtual Dolphin Tour in The Blue Classroom (public)
No. of Participant: 300 Geoparkian



5. GeoTalk: The Earth Formation from Science and Religion Perspective
No. of Participant: 150 Geoparkian



6. Geopark Sustainable Forum 2021
No. of Participant: 120 Geoparkian



Several school classes realize Geopark educational programs:

1. GeoTalk: Virtual International School Exchange Program
No. of Participant: 70 students (primary school regionally – Langkawi UGGp, Malaysia and Jara UGGp, Villuercas Ibores)



2. GeoSchool: Virtual Dolphin Tour In The Blue Classroom

No. of Participant: 300 students (primary school regionally –Malaysia)



Number of Geopark press releases: 20 press releases

GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

1. Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark has won PATA GOLD AWARDS 2021's 'Heritage Article' category through a feature entitled 'The Diverse Heritage of Kubang Badak Biogeotrail'. This ceremonious event was held virtually on 8th September 2021, witnessed by an audience from all over the globe.

2. Langkawi UGGp also won six awards at the Malaysia Tourism Council Gold Award 2021. Here are the six (6) awards and recipients from Langkawi:

- i. Special Awards On Travel Bubble Initiatives - Langkawi Development Authority (LADA);
- ii. Best Cable Car in Malaysia - Langkawi Skycab (Panorama Langkawi Sdn. Bhd);
- iii. The Best Malay Cuisine And Heritage Restaurant - Langsura Geopark Sdn. Bhd;
- iv. The Best Eco Friendly Destination - Langsura Geopark Sdn.Bhd;
- v. Best 3 Star Hotel (Sea View) - Nadius Hotel Langkawi; and
- vi. Best Islamic Compliance Hotel - Adya Hotel Langkawi.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- i. Participate in International Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021 on 7-20 June 2021 (UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability) (Greece)
- ii. Sustainable Earth 2021 Sustainable Earth 2021: Climate Emergency - The Race to Net Zero Carbon, 24-25 June.
- iii. 5th Summer University on Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles (WEBINAR EDITION) on 19-21 July 2021
- iv. attending the UNESCO side event at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2021 *on Coping with environmental challenges: Climate and biodiversity action in UNESCO designated sites.*
- v. Geotourism Fest & International Conference 2021 on 7 August 2021 (Indonesia)
- vi. Geoheritage and Geopark Forum: Linking Geology and Culture in Geopark: Case from the Asia Pacific Region on 26 August 2021 (Malaysia)
- vii. Capacity Building Webinar on Fire Management in UNESCO Site on 8-29 September 2021.
- viii. The 9th Cyber Environment Forum - Online Thematic Seminar: Management Challenges of Internationally Designated Areas on 29 September- 1 October 2021. (Korea)
- ix. "Satun UNESCO Global Geopark Virtual Tourism Festival in the New Normal Year 2021" on the 23rd to 24th September 2021
- x. YES Network Webinar: UNESCO Global Geopark: Achieving sustainable development through geotourism on 4 October 2021. (YES Argentina & UNESCO's regional office Of Sciences in Latin Amerika and the Caribbean)
- xi. UNESCO Global Geoparks Case Conference - The Main Directions of Work on the Preservation and Popularization of the Geological Heritage of Geoparks (reservation of natural heritage, involvement of local communities in environmental education and development of territories) on 20 October 2021. (Ulyanovsk, Russi)
- xii. 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark in 12-16 December 2021 (Jeju Island)

Management and Financial Status

Geopark Management and Development costs and expenses have continuously been covered by Langkawi Development Authority. In 2021, the total cost we are spending for the Geopark agenda is RM 7.5 million. These costs are including:

- Langkawi Geopark advisory council
- Promotion & physical development committee
- Education & public engagement committee
- Conservation & scientific committee

Geoconservation

- Geosites Cleaning Weekly Programme involving various government agencies and Ngo's with selected geosites
- GeoMangrove - a weekly program, planting mangrove trees
- GeoCoral/GeoMarine - Quarterly programme of coral propagation at selected geosites
- Trash Hero - A weekly programme, cleanup at selected tourism popular spots

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

1. Introduced Drop Stone Trails at Bukit Kechil and Tanjung Tirai

2. Geologi & Geophysical Mapping Works for the Redevelopment of Hot Water Resources in Ayer Hangat

- The main objective of this program is to obtain information related to geological structures, especially the Kisap Fault alignment, geological boundaries and hot springs. The findings from this geological mapping will be used to carry out sampling and laboratory tests as well as drilling work before the redevelopment report of this area is released which is expected to be implemented in 2022.

3. Firefly Habitat Research Project in Sungai Kuala Melaka, Mukim Padang Matsirat,

- Langkawi for the purpose of Eco-Tourism Product Development This research project is the main basis in identifying the feasibility of the Kuala Melaka riverbank to be used as a firefly sanctuary before it is developed holistically as an eco-tourism product. This area is seen to have the potential to look at the riverbank which is filled with berembang plants which is one of the habitats inhabited by fireflies. This research can also help LADA identify potential new biotases as well as appropriate conservation measures.

4. Interpretive Pioneer of Wang Buloh Cave and Wang Lebah Pulau Tuba, Langkawi

- The main objective of this program is to expose participants to the diversity of flora and natural resources found along the Wang Buloh and Wang Lebah Cave trails in line with Geopark's aspirations in the aspects of nature conservation and development of

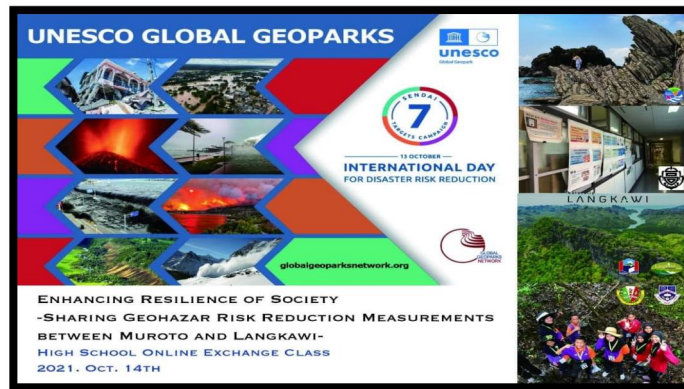
knowledge-based tourism, eco-tourism or geo-tourism.

New education programs on conservation, sustainable development, and disaster risk reduction

1. GeoTalk: Disaster Risk Reduction Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (Geoparkians Roles and Responsibilities “Focus on the Debris Flows incident at Geopark Jerai)



2. GeoSchool: Enhancing Resilience of Society – Sharing Geohazard Risk Reduction Measurement (Langkawi UGGp, Malaysia and Muroto, Japan)



3. Webinar: Sustainable Project (Langkawi Sustainability Project)



4. Virtual Conference: A Greener Sustainable Island



Strategic partnership



In 2021, Langkawi UGGp and Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada agreed to build a closer working relationship endorsed through a virtual signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of geopark management. This MoU marks a sign of cooperation between both parties in fulfilling their respective duties and functions through information exchange and sharing of mutually beneficial geopark initiatives.

With the signing of this MoU, both parties have therefore expressed their interest in engaging in collaborative activities about the sustainable development of the two geoparks involved. These include activities in areas such as tourism promotion, education, research, and community development in the respective geopark territories.

Promotional activities

1. Carried out promotional activities on social media
 1. **Website:** langkawigeopark.com.my
 2. **Facebook** : Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark
 3. **Instagram** : langkawiunescoglobalgeopark
2. Created a series of videos and documentary promoting the geopark sites and official social media.
3. Participated in Dubai World Expo from 26th Disember 2021 - 1 January 2022.

4. CONTACTS

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