

GGN Annual Report 2022

1. About the Geopark

Geopark Name: Mt. Aoi Geopark, Japan (Asia Pacific Area)

Year of designation: 2015



Picking-up Marine Debris at Cape Enrumu

2. Internal Structure of the Geopark

- Geopark Staff: 2 full-time staff, 2 geological experts (including 1 botanical curator), 1 Coordinator for International Relations
- Number of Annual Visitors: 9,584 (recorded at the Geopark Visitor Center)
- Number of Geopark Events: 38 (including events organized by the administrative body and cooperative organizations)
- Number of Geopark Educational Programs: 24 (number of lessons conducted at local schools)
- Number of Geoparks Press Releases: 12 (town publications/geo-topics: 12)

3. Geopark Activities

Major Achievements in 2022

- Updated 11 signboards and 3 exhibit panels
- Held routine presentations for residents and training courses for town workers.
- Opened a temporary special “Disaster Prevention Exhibit”, and a “Memorable Flowers” photo

exhibit

- Implementation and planning of two new geotourism programs
- Began the creation of a Guide Association with associated support

Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation

- Participated in the following online courses:
 - Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2022: UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism (Lesvos Island, Greece – November 15-25)
 - 7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium, Satun on Sept 9, gave an oral presentation
 - 6th International Summer University on Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles, “Oceans, People, and Cooperation for Sustainable Development” hosted by the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal on July 14, presented on beach cleanup initiatives and tsunami disaster prevention measures.
- Participation in the following GGN shared publications:
 - 2022 July “Geoparks & Oceans.” Submitted an article that included underwater images and information on a red tide event
 - 2022 October “Geodiversity Social Media Campaign.” Submitted photos with captions.
 - 2023 February “Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks.” Submitted an article with photos to be included in the 2nd geodiversity publication.
- APGN’s “Let’s Do It” online meetings (5 meetings in 2022)
- Exchanged Geopark pamphlets with other GGN territories (Azores UGGp)
- Promoted APGN territories on Mt. Apoi Geopark’s Facebook page

Management and Financial Status

- Stabilized budget and undergoing business development as planned. The 2022 (FY is from April to March) budget: 6,105,000 JPY (geo-promotion budget)

Geo-conservation Efforts

- Scientific study of alpine plants preservation methods. Held and participated in regular study sessions
- Ongoing conservation initiatives to restore diminishing alpine flower field by removing the encroached Japanese dwarf pine.
- Testing methods to collect alpine plant seeds and effectively germinate to increase the number of alpine plants while cooperating with the seeding company.
- Removing ocean trash along coastlines

Sustainable Tourism

- Planning and implementing sustainable geo-tours, in cooperation with local retailers and restaurants.

New Education Programs on Geo-conservation, Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction

- Continued support of the Samani Junior High School's "Mt. Apoi Dream Project" (preserving and raising alpine plants) and other Geo-study related educational programs.
- Starting a Sustainable Development curriculum series for the Elementary School and Junior High School.
- Holding regular nature-walk events around the vicinity of the Mt. Apoi Geopark Visitor Center
- Establishment of a conservation network for the Mt. Apoi Alpine Flora Conservation Measures Project
- Implementing special conservation measures for rocks along the coastline

Strategic Partnerships

- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement with the local bank, Hidaka Shinkin Bank, for community development.
- Partnership between the Tourism Information Center and Visitor Center to provide discount coupons.
- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement with Hokkaido University Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere to jointly investigate the condition of the ocean and the effect it has on the area.

Promotional Activities

- Updated and reprinted the Geopark pamphlets and leaflets.
- Held several lectures promoting the Geopark during the previous year.
- TV and radio programs, newspaper and magazine articles used to promote the UNESCO status of the Geopark and the territory.
- Joint panel exhibition in cooperation with Apuan Alps UGGp (Italy), National Geopark and Hokkaido Government, Hokkaido Museum Geopark Festival, and lectures (Location: Sapporo, Japan)

4. Contacts

Manager: Hiroyuki Tamura apoi.geoprk@samani.jp

Geologist: Satomi Kato apoi.gvc@iris.ocn.ne.jp