

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

### Geopark name, country, regional Network:

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia Pacific Geopark Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2017 / 2022

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



The 4th Rural Festival (Rigo village, 18 Feb. 2022)

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

### Number of Geopark staff:

36 fulltime staff including 2 geologists. During the high seasons, geopark adds 24 part-times staff.

### Number of visitors:

330,000 visitors (Stars Valley Geosite, Chahkooh Geosite, Namakdan Geosite Statues Valley and Geopark Museum)

**Number of Geopark events:**

- Holding the 4th Rural Festival in Rigo Village (18 Feb. 2022).
- Cultural Heritage Festival in cooperation with Hara District educational center and Andisheh Doulab Girl's High School in Doulab Village educational center (9 March 2022).
- Educational Program on World Cleanup Day for students (17 Sep. 2022).
- The 2nd festival on local games and competitions for disabled students of Hara and Shahab Districts (2 Feb. 2022).
- Workshop on creative photography for students in the west of the island (Doulab village education center). (16 Feb. 2022)
- Cooperation in holding the 3rd National Conference of the Iranian Scientific Ecotourism Association on the topic of "Ecotourism, Geotourism, and Natural Heritage Conservation with a special focus on geotourism" in Qeshm Island UGGp (14-16 Dec. 2022).
- Participation in holding Sayad Nowruz Festival (Fishermen New Year) in Salakh Village (22 Aug. 2022)
- Children, Earth & Date "Educational workshop for Qeshm Island UGGp Students". Soheili village, (3 Aug. 2022).
- Special program for World Photography Day, photography in the geosites (6 Sep. 2022).
- Local Tourist Guide Training Course (30 Aug. 2022)
- Contributing to Sale Festival for women's local products (2 Sep. 2022).
- Workshop on fossils for students (15 Oct. 2022).
- Writers and researchers meeting at Geopark Museum on the occasion of the National Research Week (15 Dec. 2022).
- Celebrating the International Day of Elderly in the west of the Island (1 Oct. 2022).

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs:**

- According to the memorandum of understanding with three regional educational centers of the island (Markazi & Shahab and Hara districts), the educational programs of the Geopark in the school of these three regions were run (33 schools and 90 classes).
- In addition to the education at the school level, many other educational centers use Geopark's educational services and programs.

**Number of Geopark press releases:**

- Most of geopark news, programs, and activities have been reported in the local, regional and national media according to their importance and impact level.
- Publishing the book: "Qeshm, Land of Beauty" (photography book of Qeshm Island by Amin Ebrahimi, local photographer).

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2022**

- Listing Namakdan Salt Cave Geosite (one of the world's longest salt caves in the world with 6580 m in length) as one of Iran's Nominees in the first 100 IUGS geological heritage sites.

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Consultation and cooperation with Aras and Tabas Aspiring Geoparks in their preparation for the UNESCO Evaluation Missions.
- Miss. Atefeh Khangah from Nakhasheh Village participation in the GGN Youth Forum as the representative of our Geopark.
- Participating in the 7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium, Satun UGGp, Thailand.
- Countebuting in the 5th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark in Langkawi UGGp.

#### **Management and Financial Status**

The total annual budget was 700,000 US dollars for infrastructure development, maintenance, and current expenses.

- **Geoconservation**
- To support the opening of the Geological Survey of Iran Branch in Qeshm Island for more scientific collaboration in the field of geosite and geoheritage studies and improvement of the geoconservation using the technical information supplied.
- Conducting conservation plan for four new geosites: Nakhkonar, kurkorakooh, Kooh Kalingi, and Chakavir geosites.
- Renovation and restoration of the walking trail paths inside the geosites.
- Installation of the new interpretive, warning, and signboards in geosites.
- **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**
- Supporting the local community for the construction of local products showrooms and shops in stars valley and Chahkooh geosites.
- Developing the infrastructures (access roads, walking trails, parking, and signboards) in Ghazi Terrace, Kalingi, and Korkora Kooh Geosites.
- Development of Maritime Park-Museum in Guran Village (Guran wooden boat manufacturing and sailing open-air museum).

#### **New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction**

- Cooperation with the Red Crescent Community of Qeshm to hold a First Aid Training Course for volunteers from the villages of the western part of the island.
- Painting course on the topic of geological heritage and its protection for children in the Doulab

village educational center.

- Dedicating the Geopark Museum education hall as a place for holding meetings, workshops, and training courses on geology, geotourism, and natural heritage protection.
- **Strategic partnership**
- There are 3 cities and about 50 villages within the Qeshm UGGp, and during these years, there have been very good mutual relations between the geopark and the local authorities of these areas. Most of the geopark programs and activities are carried out through these relationships.
- Supporting the National Iranian Geoparks Network Establishment to raise the capacity-building activities in the country and to assist the new geoparks projects.
- Improving the Qeshm Island UGGp Partners Network (including local homestays, hotels, travel agencies, local tour guides and ...) as a strong community-based entity to support geotourism in the geopark.

#### **Promotional activities**

- Joining two local Restaurants (Badil and Raqban) to the GeoFood brand.
- Holding a cultural heritage exhibition and workshop on handicrafts (Dokhtoluk).
- Installation of the signboards in the workplaces of members of the Geopark Partners Network.
- Designing and installing geopark introduction billboards on the main roads and island entrances.
- Participating in the Mangrove Planting and Preservation Event (Mangrove forest Geosite, Goooran Village, Sarzurzuma 12 Jan 2022)

#### **4. CONTACTS**

##### **Manager:**

Sajjad Eshgarf, [Sajjadeshgarf@gmail.com](mailto:Sajjadeshgarf@gmail.com)

##### **Geologist and Scientific Coordinator:**

Alireza Amrikazemi, [aamrikazemi@gmail.com](mailto:aamrikazemi@gmail.com)

##### **Address:**

Qeshm Island Global Geopark Central office, next to Geopark museum, Pardis Junction, Valiasr Ave., Qeshm, Iran, Phone: +98 76 35242282-3