

## GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

### 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Philippines, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2023



*Hand-over Ceremony of the UNESCO Global Geopark Designation to Bohol Province, Philippines last 22 June 2023.*



*First Geoscience Training for Primary and Secondary Schools Science Teachers in Candijay, Bohol on 04-06 August 2023.*

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staff:** 32 staff including 1 geoscientist

**Number of visitors:**

<b>Sites / Facilities</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Foreign</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark</b>	<b>686,875*</b>	<b>325,979</b>	<b>1,012,854</b>
Bohol Tourism and Geopark Information Center	1,271	6	1,277
National Museum of the Philippines – Bohol Area Museum (Geopark Partner Museum)	54,139	6,866	61,005
Chocolate Hills Complex (Carmen)	774,560	175,215	949,775
Hinagdanan Cave (Dauis)	208,234	68,855	277,089
Can-umantad Falls (Candijay)	53,827	7,558	61,385
Canawa Cold Spring (Candijay)	30,249	1,367	31,616
Maribojoc Uplifted Marine Terrace & Punta Cruz Watchtower (Maribojoc)	15,071	275	15,346
Cabagnow Cave Pool (Anda)	12,166	2,729	14,895
Alicia Panoramic Park (Alicia)	7,937	520	8,457
Batungay Cave (Trinidad)	5,510	6	5,516
Lamanok Point (Anda)	786	696	1,482
Combento Cave Pool (Anda)	330	305	635
Princess Manan-aw Cave (Alicia)	100	17	117

*Note: Some geosites have not yet been opened to tourists; they can only be visited upon request.*

*While others have no record of visitors as they are not yet established tourism destinations.*

*\*Computation for the number of domestic visitors of Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark does not include locals within the Geopark, which explains the difference between the number of domestic visitors of the Chocolate Hills Complex and that of the entire Geopark.*

**Number of Geopark events:**

Events organised by Bohol Island Geopark Management Body: 14

Events organised by Cooperative Organisation: 27

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 13**

**Number of Geopark press releases: 26**

### 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

#### Major achievements in 2023

- The Bohol Island Geopark Project is one of the initiatives of the Provincial Government of Bohol that officially started in 2015 with support and assistance from academic professionals from the University of the Philippines and the University of Hamburg, Germany. This project aimed to establish the first UNESCO Global Geopark in the Philippines in the island province of Bohol. On 24th May 2023, this long-awaited designation was realised when the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization officially recognised Bohol Island as one of the 18 new UNESCO Global Geoparks. A handover ceremony was organised at the iconic Chocolate Hills Complex on 22nd June 2023 to celebrate this significant achievement for the island province.
- The Provincial Government of Bohol, through the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office, has completed the construction of the Bohol Island Geopark Information Centre in Talibon, Bohol. Although the Centre was officially turned over on 3rd February 2023, it is temporarily housed at the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Local Government Unit of Talibon. The ultimate goal is to permanently merge the information centre with the Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef Interpretive Centre. This co-management approach would maximise available human resources and space for both facilities, ultimately creating a unified centre that encompasses all information about the Geopark and the Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef, which is a geosite. This Centre in Talibon is just one of the three pilot centres targeted by Geopark Management. The first Geopark Information Centre was established at the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office, strategically positioned next to the National Museum of the Philippines – Bohol. The third centre is expected to be completed by February 2024 and will be situated at the Chocolate Hills Complex, Carmen. This location is strategic, as both local and foreign visitors make it a point not to miss the unique conical karst landscape overlooking the Complex.
- The Provincial Government of Bohol and the Holy Name University's Center for Religious Education and Mission collaborated in organising the first university-wide symposium on the then-aspiring Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark on 3rd March 2023. Over 800 students participated in the symposium, with some prizes being given to students who answered trivia questions correctly during the open forum.
- In celebration of the 2nd International Geodiversity Day, the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO, the Centre for Neighbourhood Studies Philippines, and the Provincial Government of Bohol organised a gathering of key stakeholders and technical working group members, sharing the journey and experiences towards the successful designation of Bohol Island as a UNESCO Global Geopark. Parallel to this celebration, the Provincial Government

of Bohol, through the Center for Culture and Arts Development (CCAD), and the Bohol Arts and Cultural Heritage (BACH) Council - Culture and Education Committee, hosted the Bohol Culture and Education Summit 2023 on 6th October at the Bohol Cultural Center in Tagbilaran City.

- The first-ever Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark International Forum, themed “Sustainable Management of Geoparks: Raising Awareness, Empowering Partners,” was organised on 5th December 2023, in celebration of World Soil Day. This forum aimed to bring together geopark experts, stakeholders, and partners from both local and international domains. The primary objective was to foster discussions and innovative exchanges on sustainability, addressing the unique challenges faced by Global Geoparks. Crucially, the forum sought not only to promote Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark globally but also to instil a sense of responsibility among the local authorities and communities, encouraging Boholanos to actively embrace and protect the Geopark for future generations. There were over 150 participants registered in the forum and participated virtually and in person.
- The Provincial Government of Bohol has also initiated and launched the "Bohol: The First Regenerative Island Project," which was approved through Provincial Executive Order No. 35. This project aligns with the honour and distinction conferred by UNESCO, underscoring the responsibility to sustain and protect the geosites that earned Bohol its Geopark status. The goal of "Bohol: The First Regenerative Island Project" is to adopt a holistic and integrated environmental approach. It transcends mere sustainability, which focuses on preventing nature from being depleted faster than it can regenerate, and restoration, which involves returning ecosystems or habitats to their original state or as close as possible. Instead, the project aims for regeneration—a comprehensive effort not only to rectify damage but also to foster the creation of systems that surpass their previous state in terms of resilience and vitality.
- Provincial Ordinance No. 2023-018 was also enacted, declaring Bohol as an environmentally friendly and clean energy province, with a primary focus on advancing innovative renewable energy development. This declaration is geared towards embracing nature-based solutions for sustainable and efficient power generation, alongside stringent regulations aimed at regulating the utilization of fossil fuels. Moreover, it explicitly prohibits the establishment of coal-fired power plants within the island geopark.

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

- The Officer-in-charge of the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office, Ms. Joanne Pinat, along with Mr. Rommel Gonzales, a representative of the Provincial Tourism Council, attended the 6th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2023 held in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. The three-day course focused on the Challenges and Opportunities in Managing

Island Geoparks, and Bohol was given the opportunity to present and share its journey and challenges as a newly-designated UNESCO Global Geopark during the activity, which was attended by members of other geoparks in the region as well.

- Two youth volunteers from the Bohol Island Geopark, namely, Mr. Jairus Ismael Chiu and Ms. Kate Cuyno, participated and represented the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) in the UGGp Youth Marine Camp 2023. The camp was held in Belitong UGGp, Indonesia, from 2nd July to 5th July 2023, featuring camping events and an international seminar. This camp was a side event of the ASEAN Blue Economy Forum and served as a precursor to the 4th Geotourism Festival and International Conference organized by Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark.
- The Bohol Island Geopark Secretariat actively participated in the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network Let's Do It Zoom Meetings, addressing topics such as How to Deal with Overtourism and Networking and Collaboration.
- Mr. Karl Michael Din, Geopark Geologist, delivered an oral presentation on Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark in one of the sessions during the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and also had an opportunity to give a short speech during the pre-conference Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network Meeting. Atty. Lucas Nunag, the chairperson of the Provincial Tourism Council, and his wife, Atty. Ludichi Nunag, also participated in the Conference.
- The Geopark Geologist also took part in the 4th Ordinary General Assembly, exercising his voting right as the representative of Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark. The agenda included the Status report on the GGN Association 2022-2023, the 2024-2025 GGN Action Plan, and the GGN 2024 Membership fees, which retained the current fee. Most concerns raised were resolved, with representatives reaching a majority and unanimous decisions on most agenda items.
- The Bucketlist Bohol Team, a staunch supporter of the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark, collaborated with the Bohol Provincial Government and local government units in the production of a short promotional video for submission to the 2nd Global Geoparks Network Film Festival.

### **Management and Financial Status**

- The Provincial Government of Bohol has established the annual allocation of budgetary resources to fund the execution of the operation and management activities of the Bohol Island Geopark Project. This allocation is specifically aimed at addressing the recommendations of UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Council, such as promotion, geo-education, and geotourism, among others. The Geopark Project has been lodged at the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office of the Provincial Government under the

Special Projects Division since its inception. It has observed a gradual increase in budgetary allocation each year. For the year 2023, the budget for the Bohol Island Geopark Project is PHP 2,630,700 (46,900 USD), with an additional PHP 633,000 (11,300 USD) or a 24% increase provided through a supplementary budget.

- The Sangguniang Panlalawigan, the provincial legislative body of Bohol, approved the proposed 2024 Work and Financial Plan of the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark, amounting to PHP 5,990,000, reflecting a significant 82% increase from the allocation in 2023.
- Several other projects and programs of the Geopark have been sustained due to the support and contribution of various members of the Bohol Island Geopark Technical Working Group. These members, aside from the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office (Geopark Secretariat), include the Office of the Governor, the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office, the Center for Culture and Arts Development, and other relevant offices under the Provincial Government. Additionally, support has been provided by the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO, the Department of Tourism Region VII, the National Museum of the Philippines, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations such as the Centre for Neighbourhood Studies Philippines for several major activities and projects
- Most importantly, the sustainability of the Geopark program relies heavily on its local partners, including municipal and barangay (village) local government units, the tourism sector, universities, schools, youth organizations, and numerous volunteers. These partners continuously advocate for and promote the geopark concept, ensuring the program's long-term success.

## **Geoconservation**

- Monitoring of geosites and community interaction are almost regularly conducted to observe the status of the geosites and identify possible interventions.
- Research is also a crucial component for managing and sustaining the Geopark, enabling discoveries to enhance the understanding and management of geosites. This year, the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office collaborated with researchers and students from the University of the Philippines Diliman and Brown University. They conducted studies on "Radiological Risk Assessment of Radon Concentration in Selected Caves of Bohol Island, Philippines" and "Multiproxy Monitoring and Speleothem Records from Multiple Cave Systems and Model Simulations to Constrain Western Pacific Hydroclimate Responses to Abrupt Climate Change", respectively.
- The UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and experts from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), successfully concluded a four-day workshop on Geoheritage Management in the Azores Archipelago, Portugal, from 02-06 November 2023. The

workshop focused on addressing challenges related to the effective conservation of geoheritage, emphasising the need for updated management plans to mitigate risks posed by climate change and tourism. Participants included staff and managers from World Heritage Properties, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks, and national parks. Notably, Mr. Karl Michael Din, the Geopark Geologist, was selected and received full sponsorship from UNESCO to contribute to the discussions.

- Bohol Province leads Central Visayas, an administrative region in the Philippines, in conserving and restoring coastal resources with 186 established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). These MPAs conserve diverse habitats and enhance fish populations. To strengthen MPA management, the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office, in collaboration with national government agencies and non-government organisations, has organized seminars and training sessions for coastal municipalities, focusing on MPA management and its role in holistic Geopark management.
- The Provincial Government of Bohol organized two environmental initiatives, the *Scubasurero* and mangrove seedling planting, at the Loon Uplifted Marine Terrace in Basdacu, Loon, a geosite of the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark. Led by the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office (BPEMO), various stakeholders, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Bohol Island State University - Clarin and Candijay Campuses, Holy Name University, Basdacu People's Associations, Pentagon Drum and Bugle Corporation, and the Provincial Information and Media Office (PIMO), came together to plant 800 Pagatpat (*Sonneratia* Sp) and Bungalon (*Avicennia* Sp) mangrove seedlings. Simultaneously, BPEMO's Coastal Resources Management team, along with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, Tagbilaran City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, and the Local Government Unit of Loon, conducted a reef cleanup in Mocpoc Sur. The cleanup aimed to remove marine debris and garbage from the sea floor, enhancing the safety of the marine ecosystem. Participants collected 8 kilograms of garbage, including fish nets, bottles, food wrappers, and diapers, along with 42 Crown of Thorns Starfish, which are considered invasive species in the area. Mocpoc Sur, situated between Cabilao Island and Sandingan, is part of the Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef.
- The Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office (Geopark Secretariat), Metrobank Tagbilaran, and the Provincial Information and Media Office planted 200 Pagatpat and Bungalon seedlings at the Loon Uplifted Marine Terrace in Basdacu, Loon. These seedlings were grown by the Basdacu Coastal Development Association (BACODA), with Jetty Petroleum Inc. Philippines, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, providing financial assistance worth PHP 100,000 to the people's organization in raising the mangrove seedlings.

## **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- The Bohol Provincial Tourism Office, serving as the promotional and marketing arm of Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark, developed new tourism circuits using the geopark theme. This initiative was launched during the First Bohol Island Geopark International Forum organized by the Provincial Government of Bohol.
- The Bohol Provincial Tourism Office conducted an orientation on Bohol as the first UNESCO Global Geopark for the local community tour guides at the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office. This was in preparation for the launch of the new circuits named "Geotrails."
- Another Geopark Orientation seminar and customer handling update was conducted by the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office for all accredited Tourist Drivers as Tourism Frontliners on August 15-17, 2023, in partnership with the Department of Tourism.
- The Department of Tourism conducted a two-day seminar entitled "Continuing Education for Bohol Tour Guides on Global Geopark" at Belian Hotel, Tagbilaran City. The event was graced by three speakers representing the Bohol Provincial Environmental Management Office, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office. The seminar provided tour guides with comprehensive knowledge about Bohol's recent designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark. Its primary objective was to establish a benchmark for the level of service provided to tourists, aiming to elevate Bohol into a model of responsible tourism.
- The Bohol Provincial Tourism Office also organised the first Bohol Alliance of Travel and Tour Operators (BATTO) composed of 29 accredited Travel Agencies and Operators. During the conduct of meetings BATTO, an orientation on UNESCO Global Geoparks and Bohol Island Geopark was conducted for its members and staff.
- On November 15, 2023, during the Board Meeting and Strategic Planning of the Bohol Association of Hotels, Resorts, and Restaurants (BAHRR), the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office conducted an orientation and lecture on the Framework of Geopark and Geotourism. During this planning session, BAHRR committed its support to promoting and implementing sustainable programs in support of Geopark development.

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

- To bridge the gap in geoscience education and raise awareness of the geopark in Bohol's schools, the Provincial Government of Bohol collaborated with the Centre for Neighbourhood Studies Philippines, the Department of Education - Bohol Division, and the Local Government Unit of Candijay, conducting a pilot Geoscience Training for Science Teachers in the town of Candijay. 50 primary and secondary school teachers were trained to effectively teach basic geoscience concepts and create engaging geo-educational programs for students, both in



the classroom and outdoors. After two days of lectures and workshops held within the school premises, Science teachers in Candijay had the opportunity to visit geosites through a special geotour, one of the most effective ways to understand and appreciate geoscience by exposing them to tangible examples of what they read in textbooks.

- Anchored on the 4GEON Project, the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office (Geopark Secretariat) organised geo-educational tours for its On-the-Job trainees and a series of lectures in various schools and universities to raise awareness on the importance of the Geoconservation and Geopark concept as a tool for sustainability.
- The Bohol Provincial Tourism Office, in partnership with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, conducted a Workshop on Risk Reduction and Vulnerability Assessment in four batches for resiliency and preparedness of geosites and other tourism sites. The workshops were conducted in the 4th Quarter of 2023 from October- December 2023 with a target of 60 participants per batch composed of site managers, LGU partners, and tourism frontliners in the accommodation, transport, and dive sectors.
- The Bohol Arts and Cultural Heritage Council – Literary Arts Committee organised the Environmental Journalism in Climate Crisis Training and Workshop on November 24-25, 2023. The Bohol Island Geopark as well as other environmental programs of the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office, such as forest resources management and coastal resources management were presented during the training.

### **Strategic Partnership**

- The Provincial Government of Bohol has established a strong partnership with the Department of Education – Bohol Division, signifying the commitment of Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark to promoting geoscience education and geoh heritage conservation in elementary and secondary schools. This partnership was formalised through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on 23 February 2023 by Governor Erico Aristotle Aumentado and former Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Bianito Dagatan.
- The Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark partnered with a group of scientists from the University of Hradec Kralove and the Czech Academy of Sciences, together with four other geoparks namely Barrandien National Geopark (Czech Republic), Rio Coco Geopark (Nicaragua), Andagua Geopark (Peru) and Ngorongoro Geopark (Tanzania), for the implementation of an International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) project. The project entitled “4GEON: Four Continents Connected Through Playful Education” aims to enhance societal acceptance of the sustainable development of Earth’s geological resources via the involvement and activation of youths through a novel, immersive, and playful geo-education such as Geoportal, Geocourse, Geocontest, and Geobus.
- In collaboration with the Provincial Government of Bohol and support from Kasing Sining, a

community theatre group, the Alliance Française de Manille (AFM) launched the AFM's Oceans Program 2023-2025 with the 'PISTA SA KADAGATAN' in the island province of Bohol on September 27-30, 2023. The alignment of AFM's Oceans Program with Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark status highlighted the island's importance and emphasised collective efforts for promoting responsible environmental practices and community-led programs synergising science, arts, culture, and sustainable development.

- The Philippine National Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with the Provincial Government of Bohol (PGBh) and the Centre for Neighbourhood Studies organised a forum on the role of women in the promotion and management of the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark on October 4, 2023, at the Bohol Bee Farm Resort. Attended by a diverse array of stakeholders, including representatives from PGBh departments, national government agencies, local government units, women-focused people's organizations, female-led MSMEs, and academia, the forum highlighted the significant community contributions made by women. It also emphasised the various opportunities available to them through the Geopark designation, spanning from the development of geoproducts to the implementation of sustainable environmental management practices.
- The Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark coordinated with the Chinese Consulate of Cebu to establish a potential partnership with Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark in China.
- Although the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark Management has not yet established a formal partnership with the National Museum of the Philippines – Bohol Area Museum, the process is currently underway. However, the latter has been a member of the Geopark Management Council since the program's inception and has been highly active in promoting and educating its visitors about Bohol as a UNESCO Global Geopark, even during its earlier stages as an aspiring Geopark. The inclusion of Bohol's Natural History and Cultural Heritage in the Museum further solidifies its role as a "Geopark Partner Museum".
- The Project Protect Danajon was officially launched in July 2023 to enhance governance and stakeholders' participation in conserving the Danajon Double Barrier Reef, a marine geosite of the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark. This project is a multi-sectoral collaborative effort led by the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc. (CCEF), in partnership with the Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF) and the United States Agency for International Development-Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth Regenerative Ecosystem (USAID INSPIRE). CCEF tapped the Provincial Government of Bohol, Cebu, Leyte, Southern Leyte, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 7, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 7 in creating a strategic plan, combining projects and initiatives to conserve the double barrier reef. The Project will help enhance seascape governance by sharing best practices on marine conservation, strengthening local ordinances on environmental protection, tackling damaging human

activities such as illegal fishing, and providing livelihoods that complement the initiative and economic opportunities for local coastal communities that reside near the double barrier reef.

### **Promotional activities**

- The Bohol Provincial Tourism Office, acting as the promotional and marketing arm of the Geopark, produced 10,000 copies of the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark brochure. This informative brochure includes details on all geosites in the province along with a comprehensive map covering the city, Panglao Island, and the entire Bohol Island. Additionally, flyers highlighting the 4 geotrails and sub-trails were also produced. These materials are readily available at the Bohol-Panglao International Airport and the Bohol Tourism and Geopark Information Center.
- The Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office (Geopark Secretariat) further complemented promotional efforts by producing souvenirs such as tote bags, mugs, ref magnets, pins, key chains, geopark maps, leaflets, and brochures.
- The Bohol Provincial Tourism Office actively participated in the 34th Philippine Travel Mart at SMX Convention Center to raise awareness of Bohol Island as the first UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) in the country. Ms. Leonila Bron-Sikat, Bohol Island UGGp Advisor, delivered a brief orientation on the UNESCO Global Geopark concept and highlighted Bohol's designation. The Philippine Travel Mart is the biggest annual fair focused on promoting tourist destinations in the country with over 300 exhibitors from all 17 regions. This also served as a venue inviting other tourism destinations to adopt and support the Geopark Development.
- The Geopark Geologist was invited as a resource speaker in various local and international seminars and conferences, including the National Training on Bio-Cultural Governance: Strategy, Responsibility, and Sustainability held at the Best Western Plus Ivywall Hotel in Palawan on November 13, and benchmarking activities of Local Government Units of Batangas and Opol, Misamis Oriental.
- Utilising social media platforms and assistance from the Office of the Governor – Creatives Studio, the Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark disseminated publication materials online and showcased roll-up standees in various events to increase visibility.
- The Geopark Geologist engaged with student leaders and advisers from the University of Bohol (UB) during its annual UB Leadership Enhancement and Development Seminar. The event was held on July 26-28, 2023, under the theme "Connecting, Leading, Innovating." With the topic "#ActWithImpact: Building A Better Community Together," he shared his knowledge and insights on how the youth can champion environmental and social causes to create a better future for Bohol, aligning with the UNESCO Global Geopark concept and the Sustainable Development Goals. One key message was the significance of forming a stronger network of youth organisations and leaders advocating for nature conservation,

sustainable development, and geoscience popularisation.

- An awareness campaign was also organised in Barangays Cadapdapan and Canawa in Candijay, given that these barangays host two of the primary geosites of Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark. Local communities and leaders were also encouraged to conserve these natural resources while leveraging them for tourism. Equally important was the need to provide information and updates to municipal mayors who have recently been elected to ensure the continuity and progress of the program. Therefore, the Geopark staff conducted a courtesy visit to the newly elected mayors of Baclayon, Alicia, and Dausi.
- In celebration of World Tourism Day on September 27, 2023, the Provincial Government of Bohol, through the Bohol Provincial Tourism Office and the Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office, organised a mini-symposium centered on the Bohol Island Geopark. This informative event was hosted at five distinguished academic institutions within the main city of Bohol: University of Bohol (UB), Holy Name University (HNU), BIT International College (BIT-IC), Tagbilaran City College (TCC), and Bohol Island State University (BISU). On September 26, 2023, the Geopark Geologist was also invited as one of the speakers in a similar event in celebration of World Tourism Day in Mater Dei College.
- The Geopark Geologist was also invited as a resource speaker to several seminars and events initiated by Geopark-supporting organizations and academic institutions, such as the University of Bohol Loon Institute for their Science and Math Fair, Holy Name University Hospitality Department for their regular seminar, and De La Salle University for their cultural immersion.
- Mr. Teofredo Janiola, Geosite Manager of Candijay, shared insights on the Geopark Initiative with students of Lapu-Lapu City College of Hospitality and Tourism Management during their Bohol Eco Tour on 03 May 2023.
- The Geopark Secretariat submitted a media package to UNESCO in February 2023 for a press release regarding the endorsement of Bohol's nomination as a UNESCO Global Geopark.
- The Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark received media coverage in magazines, local radio programs, national news, and Capitol Reports.
- Continuous updates have been made to the official website of Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark to enhance functionality and services, alongside active engagement on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to broaden reach and interaction.

#### **4. CONTACTS**

**Manager:** Jovencia B. Ganub, atzganub@gmail.com

**Geologist:** Karl Michael B. Din, din.krlmchl@gmail.com