

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China, Asian Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription : 2023 for revalidation

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



Xiangxi Global Geopark had the honor to get the Best Practice Award 2023

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 960 staff including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: 4.92 million visitors

Number of Geopark events: 29 events, 15 held by management body, and 14 held by cooperative organizations.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 7 primary schools are geoscience schools of Xiangxi UGGp , including Aizhai Town Ethnic Primary School of Jishou Municipal, Heku Town Nine-year Education School of Fenghuang County, Paibi Nine-year Education School of Shuanglong Town of Huayuan County, Hangsha Nine-year Education School of Lvdong Town of Baojing County ,Luota Nine-year Education School of Longshan County, Hongshilin Town Central Primary School of Guzhang County and Furong Town Central Primary School of Yongshun County, and 14 classes have been carried on geopark educational programs regularly in the whole year.

Number of Geopark press release: Over 120 news released on the national, provincial and prefectural media.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- Hold the 2nd National Scientific Communication Seminar on "Biological Evolution and Environment" and unveiling the plaque of the "Science Popularization Education Base of the Chinese Society of Paleontology".
- Selected as one of Yangzi River Landform Tour Route by Culture and Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China.
- Established new sister parks with Tianzhu Mountain UGGp, Yandang Mountain UGGp, Xingyi Geopark, Alxa Desert UGGp, Morocco M'Goun UGGp and Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp.
- Participated in the National Conference on Empowering Rural Revitalization through Culture and Tourism to Promote Xiangxi UGGp.
- Published multiple high-level papers related to Xiangxi UGGp.
- Dr. Martina Paskova and Dr. Ohno Marekazu who are UNESCO Global Geopark Assessment Experts conducted a five-day on-site assessment in Xiangxi for revalidation
- Participated in the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and got the Best Practice Award 2023.
- Submitted application materials for the second 100 IUGS geological heritage sites to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) striving to enter the list.
- Organized jointly photo exhibition with 21 geoparks entitled "interaction among the sister geoparks" during the 4th APGN Week and held "World Earth Day" themed handicraft painting competition among students.
- Selected as an extracurricular practical education base for the Hunan Young Pioneers and a green camp for youth nature education in Hunan Province.
- The program "Traveling with Books" on CCTV Science and Education Channel recommends the Xiangxi UGGp through the Xiangxi Memory Series.
- Won the right to host the 8th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

Xiangxi UGGp recognizes the important role and function of networking and partnership in geopark networks. To facilitate knowledge exchange and experience sharing, we organized and participated in a series of networking and promotional activities, including the following:

- Organized jointly photo exhibition with 21 geoparks entitled "interaction among the sister geoparks" during the 4th APGN Week and held "World Earth Day" themed handicraft painting competition among students.
- Participated in the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and got the Best Practice Award 2023.
- Participated in the 7th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geopark Management and

Development and awarded the host right of next year.

- Participated in the 14th Annual Conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks of China held at the Yimengshan Global Geopark in Shandong Province.

Management and Financial Status

- Geoparks Administration of Xiangxi Autonomous Prefecture is the management body of the Xiangxi Global Geopark, in 2023, 2 staff were employed to the administration.

- The 2023 tourism revenue in Xiangxi UGGp is 29.3 billion yuan, 4.92 million tourists came to Xiangxi Global Geopark for visiting.

Geoconservation

- 12 regular inspections over geosites protection were carried out by Geoparks Administration of Xiangxi Autonomous Prefecture.

- Carried out the inspections over forest protection and fire prevention together with surrounding communities, assessed the effect of protecting the important geosites, such as Paibian GSSP, Guzhangian GSSP and Red Stone Forest, as well as ensuring the rights and interests of community residents.

- Held publicity campaigns over geosite conservation in rural area and schools of Xiangxi Global Geopark for 5 times.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Held an online promotion activity of local products with many domestic geoparks.

- Participate in the National Conference on Empowering Rural Revitalization through Culture and Tourism to Promote Xiangxi Global Geopark.

- Held promotional activity with geopark partners and provided suggestions for them to develop tourism products.

- Updated the promotional booklets and leaflets of Xiangxi UGGp.

- Boarding Xiangxi Memory Series of "Traveling with Books" on CCTV Science and Education Channel recommends the Xiangxi UGGp.

- Developed the geotourism routes with local tourism department.

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

- Organized "World Earth Day" themed handicraft painting competition.

- Organize the 2nd Junior Instructor of Geopark Museum Training Event.

- Held popular science education campaigns over geoconservation and disaster risk prevention in geoscience schools of Xiangxi UGGp.

- Held publicity campaigns over geoconservation in rural area and schools of Xiangxi Global Geopark for 5 times.

- Held the training course for the geopark partner for 3 times.

Strategic partnership

- Established the strategic partnership with China University of Geosciences(Beijing), Nanjing Institute of

Geology and Palaeontology of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Karst Geology of China Geological Survey, Central South University, Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Jishou University, Geoparker Company Xinhua News Agency, Rednet of Hunan Province, and 36 new local partners of Xiangxi Global Geopark.

- Establishing new sister parks with Tianzhu Mountain UGGp, Yandang Mountain UGGp, Xingyi Geopark, Alxa Desert UGGp, Morocco M'Goun UGGp and Ngorongoro Lengai UGGp.

Promotional activities

- Co-organized tour exhibition entitled “interaction among the sister geoparks” with 21 geoparks during the 4th APGN Week.

- As one of Yangzi River Landform Tour Route by Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China.

- Participate in the National Conference on Empowering Rural Revitalization through Culture and Tourism to Promote Xiangxi UGGp.

- Boarding Xiangxi Memory Series of "Traveling with Books" on CCTV Science and Education Channel recommends the Xiangxi UGGp.

- Participate in various meetings and activities of the GNN and promote Xiangxi UGGp.

4. CONTACTS

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