

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, and regional network** : Yandangshan UNESCO

Global Geopark (China, APGN)

Year of joining/Year of last reassessment: 2005/2017.

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)



The 2nd China (Yandangshan) Volcanics Forum

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 1,265, including 3 geoscientists

Number of Visitors: 2.26 million

Number of Geopark events: 11 major activities

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:: 20 classes

Number of Geopark press releases issued by the : 102

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

**3.1 Planning and guidance:** Completed conceptual planning and project site selection plans. These included the development of the Feiquan Temple Scenic Spot, the subway at the east entrance of Feiquan Temple, the reconstruction of the Fengdong Cableway, and the setup of green tourism public transportation in Yandangshan (the east-west entrance connection line). It also obtained the approval of project site selection proposal from the Zhejiang Provincial Forestry Bureau. Completed the preliminary conceptual plans for the Yandangshan Conference Center, the Volcanic Geology and Science Popularization Research Center, and the Lion Rock Tunnel. Invested RMB (CNY) 53.88 million to upgrade the power supply and transmission in the Yandangshan Scenic District. Started the construction of 20 km of mountain and sea greenways with 12 km already completed, with the remaining 8 km still under construction. Expedited the 'micro-renovation and intensive improvement' of core scenic spots, and promote projects such as Pingxiakuan, Wolong Valley, Lingyan Elevator, and Lingfeng night view holographic imaging in Lingyan Scenic Area.

#### **3.2 Major projects**

The first phase of the 'Yanshan Poetry and Painting-Cultural Tourism Revitalization' Belt Demonstration Project had completed. The cumulative investment in 2023 was RMB 130 million, with the completion of 16 sub-projects. The water conservation protection and ecological restoration, and the tap water project of the scenic village were also completed. The water policy for residents in the scenic spot had been introduced with the signing of scenic spot water agreement with four villages including Lingyan, Songyang, Nengren and Xianglingtou. Roads were also upgraded with the completion of a series of livelihood projects such as Nengren Temple Road, flood control embankment repair, and the reconstruction of Baifu Line. The business facilities of the scenic area were also improved with the completion of over 30 acres of Xingxiu Flower Sea at Xiangyanmen. RMB 3 million was invested to install and maintain the monitoring and lighting systems in Changyu Dongtian Scenic District. The damaged sightseeing trails in Shuangmendong Scenic District was also carried out. In addition, the drainage renovation at the entrance to the Guanyin Wall and Shuangmendong Visitor Center, the leakage repairs on the roof and exterior walls of the Baxian Rock Visitor Center, the construction of the curtain wall of the Shuangmendong Visitor Center and the monitoring facilities upstream section were all completed. Besides, the lighting projects such as Lion Rock, Cangpo, and greenways, the upgrade of viewing platforms, and implementation of control, renovation, and improvement for houses along the streets were also finished. Added to these were the upgrading project of Shiweiyan Visitor Center, the signage system, the establishment of smart tourism, ecological greenway, and special tourist pass were all completed.

Last but not least was the completion of 'China's most beautiful highway of Yunnan Highway.

### **3.3. Multi-level science popularization activities**

The geopark organized the 4th Asia-Pacific Geopark Week and the 54th World Earth Day's science popularization week with the theme of 'Cherish the Earth and Harmony between Man and Nature'. Yandangshan joined Danxiashan, Huangshan, Taishan and 29 other geoparks to organize 'World Earth Day - Interactive Exhibition of Sister Parks' to publicize each geopark with online science knowledge contests, and photography exhibitions. 200,000 people had participated in both virtual and onsite activities joined by the science popularization enthusiasts from 28 provinces and cities. Another important series of activities on National Science Popularization Day were organized specially for students. Addition to these, Yandangshan conducted series of activities on campus branded as 'Yandang Mountain Nature Lecture Hall', involving No. 1 and No. 5 Primary Schools of Yandang Town. A Zhejiang Youth Geoscience Summer Camp was also organized under the theme of 'Entering the Different Geological Beauty of Yandangshan- the World's Volcanic Wonder'. The activity was jointly run by the Yueqing Municipal Natural Resources and Planning Bureau. To facilitate more effective science popularization, 530 signages, guide boards, notice boards and signs within the geopark were replaced. The official geopark website in both Chinese and English were also rebuilt to look more appealing to the public and tourists.

### **3.4 Research and visibility enhancement**

The Geopark had co-operated with a number of research institute to conduct research in various areas. These included the Institute of Geology of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, the Nanjing Geological Survey Center of the China Geological Survey, Nanjing University, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China Earthquake Administration. The Nanjing Geological Survey of the China Geological Survey launched the project of 'East China Region Important Geological Resources Investigation, Protection and Utilization Research', 'Restrains of Volatiles on the Change of Rhyolitic Volcanic Eruption Mode: Research on Melt Inclusions Based on the Yandangshan Caldera'. The Institute of Geology of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences had worked on project entitled 'Constraints on the evolution of magma chambers by crystal-rich inclusions in high-silica volcanic rocks in the Yandangshan' and was supported and approved by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

## **4. Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation**

4.1. Yandangshan participated in the 10th International Geopark Conference held in Mgoun Global Geopark, Morocco. It also joined the Asia-Pacific Global Geopark Network Conference by attending the opening ceremony, thematic academic

exchange meeting, the World Geopark Exhibition, and the closing ceremony. It supported the voting of the 2nd Global Geoparks Film Festival and the 4th Global Geoparks Network General Assembly by reviewing a series of agenda activities such as membership fees of the Global Geoparks Network and honorary membership of the Global Geoparks Network. At the thematic academic exchange meeting, the Geopark representatives gave a presentation (English) on the topic of 'Science Education and Sustainable Tourism Development in Yandangshan Global Geopark'.

4.2 Participated in the 2023 China Global Geopark Annual Conference held in Yimengshan Global Geopark and the 7th Global Geopark Management and Development Training Course held in Zhangye Global Geopark. These meetings provided great learning opportunities for first-hand knowledge and experience exchanges with other global geoparks.

4.3 The Geopark strengthened communication and exchanges with domestic and foreign global geoparks, and carried out activities with geoparks such as Imbabura (Ecuador), Jingbohu, Alxa Desert, Yimengshan, Xiangxi, Enshi-Tenglong Cave. It had also established sister parks relationship with Xiangxi, Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglong Cave, and Changshan Geoparks. So far, Yandangshan Global Geopark has established a total of 21 sister parks at home and abroad.

4.4 The second China (Yandangshan) Volcanics Forum was held to build a platform for exchanges between scientific research institutions and global geoparks. Experts and scholars at home and abroad were engaged in areas such as magmatic petrology, volcanology and geopark related research. These research institutes and universities comprised Nanjing University, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, Zhejiang University, Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing Geological Survey Center of China Geological Survey, Institute of Geology of China Earthquake Administration, Yimengshan and Ningde Global Geoparks. More than 20 experts and scholars, including the Zhejiang Provincial Institute of Geology, brought cutting-edge research and results ranging from magma activities and systems, volcanic activities and mineralization, as well as volcanic disaster prevention, disaster reduction and reconstruction, to volcanic geological heritage. The research, protection, management and utilization of Yandangshan Global Geopark will further enhance the scientific research level and value of Yandangshan Global Geopark.

## **5. Management and Financial status**

5.1 Management organization: The Yandangshan Global Geopark Management Committee was established with an office to carry out daily management and geoheritage protection of the Geopark.

5.2 Financial status: The financial status was sound. The geopark has an independent budget and was responsible for preparing its own annual budget. Funding mainly comes from ticket revenue of the Geopark and special funding from both city and provincial governments. In 2023, the ticket revenue was CNY 59.0254 million, but 14.5651 million yuan will be invested in park management and construction.

## **6. Geological heritage protection**

In 2023, the geopark will invest a total of more than 8 million yuan in geological heritage protection, mainly for infrastructure such as road reconstruction, tourist trails, signage systems, and forest fire prevention engineering projects in the Geopark. It also signed a geological heritage patrol contract with the Yueqing Mountain Rescue Team, and arranged personnel to patrol the Geopark throughout the year.

## **7. Sustainable tourism (geotourism)**

The Geopark continued to promote the Yandangshan tourism brand, with 'Tourism +' as the main theme. It had successfully organized the 2023 Zhejiang Fitness Yoga Open-Yandangshan Station, the 2023 Yandangshan Four-Top Cross-Country Race, the Via Lada Competition, and the 2023 China Road Cycling Professional League (Wenzhou Yandangshan Nanxijiang River Station) and other competitions. These activities helped to promote the rich leisure tourism resources of Yandangshan and provided cooperation opportunities with relevant departments to launch preferential activities, and to formulate policies to meet people's travel demand, especially for travels during Chinese New Year travel, 'China Tourism Day' and promotion for Taiwanese travelers.

## **8. New education program on geological heritage conservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction**

During 'World Earth Day', 'National Science Popularization Day' and 'International Geological Diversity Day', local students were encouraged to join educational activities such as Yandangshan Nature Lecture, Prize-winning Quiz, Popular Science Lecture, Garbage Classification, and Waste-Free Scenic Spots. These activities provided students with real-time monitoring and management experiences of geological heritages of Yandangshan including regular geological monitoring and disaster forecasting, inspection and supervision of geological hazard points such as Shuiyundong, Guanxidong, Huajudong and Huaxuan. The Field Study Room of Shuangmendong Visitor Centre was used for rock display with interactive rock and geohazard learning and playing activities.

## **9. Strategic Partnership**

Yandangshan partnered with research organizations such as the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhejiang Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources, Key Laboratory of Deep Earth Dynamics of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Nanjing Geological Survey Center of the China Geological Survey, the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Zhejiang University. The cooperation involved geological heritage, geohazard research, structural geology, and geomorphology. The Nanjing Geological Survey Center of the China Geological Survey has established the 'East China Mesozoic Volcanic Geology Research Centre' in the Yandangshan.

## **10. Promotional Activities**

More than 180 reports and articles were published during this period. They were published in media such as China Natural Resources News, China Mining News, China Green Times, Jiangnan Travel News, Wenzhou Daily, Wenzhou Business News, Wenzhou Metropolis Daily, Yueqing Daily, and Yueqing Release. The Geopark also cooperate with relevant units to carry out the 2023 Wenzhou·Yandangshan Ouhai/Ruian Cultural Tourism (Hangzhou, Ningbo) Promotion Conference, 2023 Wenzhou Cultural Tourism (Shanghai) Benefiting Market Activities, and successively participate in a series of promotional activities of the Southeast Zhejiang Tourism Consortium, Wenzhou Culture Tourism Wenzhou, Shanghai, Nanchang, Xi'an station promotion activities, and the 31st Guangzhou International Tourism Exhibition. The Geopark fully made use of the existing platforms to consolidate its tourist market in the Yangtze River Delta. It also explored new tourist markets and enhanced the Yandangshan branding. Short videos were broadcasted on the China Self-Driving Travel Alliance Network and the 'China Self-Driving Travel' magazine, as well as new online media platforms such as Douyin, Kuaishou, and WeChat. It also made use of the opportunity of the Asian Games to promote the Geopark by releasing short videos on the arrival floor of Hangzhou East Railway Station, in the major business and residential buildings in the urban area of Hangzhou as well as Line 4 Train of its Metro.

## **11. Contact persons**

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