

Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network:

Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, P. R. China, APGN

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2004/2018

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



Group photo of 2023 International Workshop on Theory and Modelling of River Systems and Zhangjiajie Landscape organized by Zhangjiajie UGGp during Nov. 13-15, 2023.

2. GEOPARK DATA

Number of Geopark staffs: 897

Number of Geopark geologists: 2

Number of visitors: 15.917 million person times

Number of Geopark events: Science research and popularization: 21;

Promotion activities: 33

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Science research and popularization:

1. In February, 650 students and teachers from Jiankun High School in Yuxian County of Zhuzhou City conducted research and tour in our geopark.

2. In February, more than 50 athletes from Madagascar and Myanmar visited our geopark aiming at promoting the “One-belt and one road” international cultural exchange and investigation.

3. In March, our geopark conducted activities for launching 2023 research-study-tour season and publicizing the research-study-tour products of Zhangjiajie Landscape.

4. In March, our geopark organized the 7th Primary and High Schools Football Match aiming at promoting our geopark.

5. In April, more 80 students from Hunan College of Engineering conducted picture drawings in our geopark.

6. In April, students from San Xin High School in Zhongshan City, Guangdong province conducted research and tour in our geopark organized by the company of Youth Tour and Study of Hunan.

7. In April, our geopark organized geological science-popularization and research-study-tour activities at our geopark museum for 92 students from Huangjiaping Primary School, aiming at providing support for developing Zhangjiajie City as one of the Science-popularization, Research and Study Trial Cities of China.

8. In May, high school students conducted labor practice in the Yellow Dragon Cave of our geopark;

9. In May, our geopark organized 60 students from high schools in Xiehe Town to participate in research and study with loving heart activities.

10. In May, our geopark organized the conference on making science-popularization of Hunan province enter tour sites and standardizing science-popularization-research-study courses in Zhangjiajie City.

11. In June, 374 students and teachers conducted science-popularization-research-study activities in our geopark.

12. In November, our geopark organized 2023 International Workshop on Theory and Modelling of River Systems and Zhangjiajie Landscape, with attendees from universities, research organizations and 7 sister geoparks of Zhangjiajie UGGp.

13. In November, our geopark organized university and local government cooperation conference, conducting science-popularization activities on Zhangjiajie Landscape and offering awards of Wu Guanzhong for tour writings on Zhangjiajie.

Networking:

14. In April, attended the 2nd Chinese Yandangshan Forum on Volcanic Rocks organized by Yangdangshan UGGp, a sister geopark of Zhangjiajie UGGp.

15. In April, launched, jointly with 29 Chinese Geoparks and Yifu Museum of China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), the mutual exhibitions among sister geoparks on the 54th Earth Day and the 4th APGN week.

16. In May, organized, jointly with Xiangxi UGGp, Wulong world natural heritage of Karst site and the other 7 Karst global geoparks and world natural heritage sites, a series of science-popularization activities during the national science and technology week.

17. In July, signed agreement with Yimengshan UGGp for establishing sister geoparks.

18. In Sept., attended the 10th International Conference of Global Geoparks held at Marrakech of Morocco, visited NGORONGORO LENGAIUGGp of Tanzania and signed sister geopark agreement with the geopark.

19. In Sept., participated in the Culture and Tourism Festival organized by Ningde UGGp;

20. In Nov., attended the 14th Annual Meeting of Chinese UGGps held at Yimengshan UGGp.

21. In Nov., organized 2023 International Workshop on Theory and Modelling of River Systems and Zhangjiajie Landscape, with attendees from universities, research organizations and 7 sister geoparks.

Number of school classes realizing Geopark educational programs:

Our geopark provided 20 indoor classes in the environmental education and science popularization bases set up respectively at the Ethnic Middle School and Suoxiyu Complete Primary School; 6 geological science popularization classes for middle school students and an educational excursion by the School of Geosciences and Info-physics of Central South University were organized by our geopark.

Number of Geopark press release: 11 in Chinese

4. GEOPARK ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS GGN

Major achievements:

1. In March, our geopark launched 2023 research-study-tour season and publicized the research-study-tour products of Zhangjiajie Landscape and many policies for reducing the costs in participating the relevant activities. These have simulated significantly research-study-tours and the base development in our geopark in the coming seasons.

2. In April, our geopark conducted many activities both online and at real sites to celebrate the 54th Earth Day and the 4th APGN Geopark Week, significantly strengthening the communications with sister geoparks. Typically, special programs were made on April 21 (Earth Day), including photo exhibition of beautiful sceneries of our geopark, introduction of sister geoparks in cooperation with more than 20 domestic UGGps, signing on the wall for reducing the use of plastic materials, obtaining suggestions by issuing questionnaires on the satisfaction of our geopark, providing lectures on geological science popularization, and more. These have significantly strengthened the links with sister geoparks, enhanced the influences of geoparks, publicized geological and geomorphologic sciences, and promoted sustainable development of geoparks and natural conservation areas.

3. In Sept., our geopark hosted the 1st China (Zhangjiajie) Culture and Travel Coupling Development Conference and Tourism Development Conference of Zhangjiajie City, which significantly stimulated the tourism development of our geopark. In addition, our geopark organized 20th Forest Protection Festival of Zhangjiajie, and photo exhibition of mountains and rivers of China (Zhangjiajie). These have highlighted the importance of geoheritage conservation and geopark development.

4. In Nov., our geopark organized 2023 International Workshop on Theory and Modelling of River Systems and Zhangjiajie Landscape in collaboration with the working group of IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists) on advancing theory and modelling of river systems. More than 40 geomorphologists from China, Australia and more countries attended the meeting, together with 20 delegates from sister geoparks. With the landforms in our geopark as a specific case, the diversity of river landscapes and forming conditions, and their responding modes to human activities and climate change were discussed in detail. The achievements of this meeting provided support on scientific research results for reevaluating our geopark in the near future and also strengthened further the links with sister geoparks.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

5. In April, our geopark attended the 2nd Chinese Yangdangshan Forum on Volcanic Rocks organized by Yangdangshan UGGp, strengthening the communications with our sister geopark and other geoparks.

6. In April, our geopark launched, jointly with 29 Chinese Geoparks and Yifu Museum of China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), the mutual exhibitions among sister geoparks on the 54th Earth Day and the 4th APGN week. These have promoted significantly the development of geoparks.

7. In May, our geopark organized, jointly with Xiangxi UGGp, Wulong world natural heritage of Karst site and the other 7 Karst global geoparks and world natural heritage sites, a series of science-popularization activities during the national science and technology week.

8. In Sept., our geopark attended the 10th International Conference of Global Geoparks held at Marrakech of Morocco, and introduced the development of our geopark. Following the conference, our geopark visited NGORONGORO LENGAI UGGp of Tanzania and signed sister geopark agreement with the geopark.

9. In Nov., our geopark attended the 14th Annual Meeting of Chinese UGGps held at Yimengshan UGGp.

10. Our geopark submitted a special report entitled “On the road to deep integration between ecological preservation and green development in Zhangjiajie Geopark” to “Geopark Going Green” and was adopted.

11. Our geopark submitted a news report entitled “Zhangjiajie UGGp Launched 2023 Study Travel Season and Unveiled "Zhangjiajie Landscape" Study Travel Products” to <GGN Newsletter> and was published.

5. Management and Financial Status

Zhangjiajie Wulingyuan Scenic Area and National Forest Park Administration (ZWA) is the daily management agencies of Zhangjiajie UGGp, Zhangjiajie UGGp Administrative Committee (ZUAC) is the decision-making organization of the geopark.

Financial Status: ZWA is a public welfare institution fully funded by the government, the financial status is well-balanced and the budget is sound.

6. Geoconservation

1. For protecting geoheritage in our geopark in a more reasonable and scientific manner, our geopark has complied “Plan for geoconservation in Zhangjiajie UGGp (2011-2020)”, “Plan of Zhangjiajie National Geopark”, and “Geological Hazard Assessment and Prevention Planning”.

2. The geological heritage protection areas in our geopark were divided into four protection levels, and all geoheritages have been conserved according to the level of conservation in the different areas of the geopark.

3. Themed science popularization and propaganda activities for promoting geoconservation in Zhangjiajie UGGp were conducted to the public on Earth Day, APGN Geopark Week, Geodiversity Day and other events.

4. For preventing from geological hazards in our geopark so as to protect people’s life and wealth, our geopark checked the potential sites 250 times, and provided help for dealing with emerged situations. Importantly, our geopark adopted a mode of human prevention + technical prevention with success.

5. Our geopark made “Regulations for fire use in the field of Wuling District” to the public and constructed many fire-protection zones, carried out monitoring and patrol, and conducted practice and training for six times.

6. Our geopark complete 2023 Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Restoration Project of Northwestern Hunan, continued to carry out special actions such as quarantine law enforcement of infected trees, investigation and punishment of illegal outdoor fires, protection of migratory birds, and the action for wildlife and plant protection, and the protection rate of ecological public welfare forests, wetlands, ancient trees, rare and endangered species reaching 100%.

7. Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

In 2023, Wulingyuan District received a total of 15.917 million person×times of Chinese and foreign tourists, an increase of 109.69% compared with last year, a total tourism revenue of 21.937 billion yuan. A year-on-year increase of 173.85%, 7.3307 million domestic overnight tourists, a year-on-year increase of 93.35%; 311,300 foreign tourists, a year-on-year increase of 13,723.40%. Among them, 7.0119 million people entered the core scenic area, a year-on-year increase of 245.45%, and 4.8715 million people entered the mountain with a single ticket, a year-on-year increase of 233.36%, and a year-on-year increase of 13.41% compared with 4.2954 million in 2019, setting a new historical reception record.

8. New education programs on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

In 2023, our geopark organized specialized science popularization and environmental education activities with primary and middle schools around our geopark during school breaks, such as summer camping, and internationally important days, typically on “World Earth Day”, and Science Popularization Week. Furthermore, our geopark provided lecture notes on geoscience popularization for primary and middle school students for schools with science popularization bases to teach in their science classes. Moreover, our geopark helped many universities to provide practical classes, such as Central South University of China. Importantly, we also provided help for Wulingyuan Tourism Vacation School to offer geosciences classes, 20 hours in the school term.

9. Strategic partnerships

Our geopark has developed and maintained partnerships with many universities, research organizations and local enterprises in 2023, including Beijing University, Tongji University, Central South University, China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), Jishou University, Wulingyuan Tourism Vacation School, Ethnic Middle School of Zhangjiajie, Geological Environment Monitoring Master Station of Hunan Province, Geological Museum of Hunan Province, Zhangjiajie City Museum, Hunan Academy of Geological Sciences, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Research Center for Zhangjiajie Geomorphology established jointly with our geopark).

10. Promotional activities

1. In January, the main venue activities of "China Sports Lottery" 2023 National New Year Climbing Fitness Conference held in our geopark.

2. In January, a new spring fair of the 1st “Wulingyuan Origins” was held in our geopark.

3. In January, promotion and exchange activities of original music development named “Making Tea around Hot Pot” was held in our geopark.
4. In Feb., a pre-match of so-called ecological Marathon was held in our geopark;
5. In March, the 4th group weddings of Hunan province were held in our geopark, with about 100 couples from 14 cities of the province participated in the activity.
6. In April, an opening ceremony of a beer and music street was held in our geopark.
7. In April, an ecological Marathon match was held in our geopark, with more than 7000 participants.
8. In April, the 2nd exhibition of photos on world heritage was held in our geopark.
9. In May, the 1st Culture, Travel and Art Festival of Chongqing-Zhangjiajie and 2023 “Huanglong Cup” Talent Match of Middle and Old Ages were held in our geopark.
10. In May, the 3rd “Labor Union” Bastet Ball March of the workers in the district of our geopark was held in our geopark.
11. In May, a 520 climbing activity special for lovers was organized in our geopark.
12. In May, 2023 National Elite Square Dance Invitational Competition by Wulingyuan was held in the geopark, with 3008 participants from 90 teams from many places of China.
13. In May, the 5th Yicheng Tianxia Cup – Changsha to Zhangjiajie Wulingyuan 300km Bicycle Riding Competition was organized, with 352 riders from all over China.
14. In May, the 1st Xunfeng Culture and Art season was held in our geopark.
15. In June, the famous French rock-climber Jean-Michel Casanova climbed with hands over to the top of the Bailong Lift in our geopark.
16. During July to Sept., the 6th Guanlitai Chinese Cloth and Culture season of “Global Network of Chinese Cloths” was organized in our geopark.
17. During July to Sept., 2023 Wulingyuan Diger Music Festival was held in our geopark every Saturday.
18. In July, 2023 Bicycle Fast Falling Competition was organized in our geopark, with 50 specialized cyclists from many places across China.
19. In July, a camping activity in hot summer was organized in our geopark.
20. In July, a delegation from the Republic of Seychelles visited our geopark, impressed with the beautiful landscapes of thousands of stone peaks and streams in our geopark.
21. In August, the launching ceremony of 2023 All People Fitness Week of Wulingyuan District and Taiji performance were made in our geopark.
22. In August, the National Slack Line Elite Challenge was held in the Huangshizhai Scenic Area of the geopark, with 12 athletes from China, France, Spain and other countries.
23. In Sept., the 6th Cycling Match was organized in our geopark, with more than 600 rides from home and abroad.
24. In Sept., the 4th Autumn Harvesting Festival of Huanglongdong was organized.
25. In Sept., the 1st China (Zhangjiajie) Culture and Travel Coupling Development Conference, the 20th Zhangjiajie Forest Park Protection Day, and China (Zhangjiajie) exhibition of photos on rivers and mountains were held in our geopark.
26. In Oct., an international exchange base for overseas Chinese was officially presented to our geopark.
27. In Oct., An agreement on developing tourism city union was signed by Wulingyuan District of Zhangjiajie City and Yupu County of Huaihua City, aiming at sharing tourism resources, information, mutual introduction of tourists and mutual recommendations on touring routes.

28. In Nov., 2023 Zhangjiajie Marathon competition was organized in our geopark.

29. In Nov., 2023 Jogging competition through Wulingyuan on national beautiful country-side roads was organized in our geopark, with 500 participants.

30. In Dec., a regional exchange cooperation framework agreement was signed by our geopark with Anci District of Langfang City.

31. In Dec., the 1st natural beauty and fitness competition of Zhangjiajie Wulingyuan was held in our geopark, with more than 200 specialized participants.

32. In Dec., the 1st Rural Culture Festival of "Agriculture Bank Cup" of Zhangjiajie City was held.

33. In Dec., the main venue activities of "China Sports Lottery" 2024 National New Year Climbing Fitness Conference held in our geopark.

11. CONTACTS

Administrative Officers of Zhangjiajie UGGp:

Mr Li Wei & Ms. Zhang Ximeng, Email: zhangjiajieuggp@163.com

Scientific Responsible (Geosciences) of Zhangjiajie UGGp:

Prof. Huang He-qing, Email: huanghq@igsnrr.ac.cn

Dr. Tong Guanghui, Email: guanghui_tong@petalmail.com