

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network:

- Tabas UNESCO Global Geopark (Tabas UGGp), Iran, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network.

Year of inscription/Year of the last revalidation: 2023/2022



Representative photos: Tabas UGGp Celebration for join to GGN and educational programs.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs

- 27 staffs (20 permanent and 7 part time) including 2 Geoscientist.
- Also, the management team of Tabas UGGp tries to participation all the voluntaries and partners of the Geopark in its activities.

Number of visitors

- 4900 visitors for Tabas UGGp visitor center and museum.
- Almost 150000 visitors for geosites of East Tabas UGGp (Kharv tourism zone), include: Kal-e-Sardar, Morteza Ali Hot Spring, Shah Abbasi Ancient Arch, Gabr Houses, Meander and Shotori Mountains.
- Almost 30000 visitors for Kal-e-Jenni geosites.
- Almost 160000 visitors for geosites of Khanic Paddy Fields in Ezmighan village (according to the statistics of Ezmighan rural government).
- Accommodation for about 200,000 visitors in hotels, eco-residences and ect (according to the statistics of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts office of Tabas county).

Number of Geopark events

- Participation in the 3th national photo and documentary film festival "Desert and Life".
- Holding a festival of native and local foods on the occasion of World Food Day.
- Holding the 1th palm and paddy festival in Ezmighan village.
- Holding the Yalda night Festival (the celebration of the ancient rituals of Iran).
- Participation in the 16th conference of Iranian Paleontological Society.
- Participation in 8th conference of Iranian Sedimentological Society.
- Participation in 5th festival of Tabas rock climbing.
- Cleaning the geosites of Tabas UGGp ark with the participation of mountaineers and other local communities (in several stages).
- Holding an educational workshop on the occasion of the international day of the world's indigenous peoples.
- The presence of Tabas UGGp in the story of progress exhibition, Tabas County.
- Gathering of Tabas UGGp Partners Network members.
- Holding a conference and people festival on the global registration of Tabas Geopark.

In addition to the various events mentioned, other programs in the form of scientific visits and educational workshops have been organized as follows:

- Scientific And Educational Visit of geography and geology Teachers of Khorasan Razavi province form Tabas UGGp.
- The art of basket weaving (Pakhal-Bafi) training course.
- Holding a practical workshop to learn about the attractions of Kal-e-Jenni and Kal-e-Sardar geosites (specially for local guides).
- Holding a scientific and educational workshop for Tabas county mountaineers.
- Holding an educational workshop on the structure and activities of geoparks for geography students

(South Khorasan Farhangian University).

- Tabas UGGp hosts the geology professors and students of Isfahan University and Gonabad University.
- Holding workshop on Foundation, concepts and goals of UNESCO Global Geoparks and their role in geoheritage conservation with introducing Tabas UGGp, (place: University of Hormozgan).

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs

- 16 educational programs for schools in the Tabas UGGp territory (441 students from 7 - 12 years old).

Number of Geopark press release

- 11 international news agency and 15 National news agency published global registration of Tabas UGGp.
- Introduction of 12 geosites in domestic publications.
- Publication of 381 news by the Tabas UGGp website.
- Publication of the message of the global registration of Tabas UGGp by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- Joining to GGN as the 3th UGGp of Iran.
- 2 papers published in international geological journals (Geological Magazine and Geoheritage Journal) and 1 Publication of the Tabas UGGp paper in the national magazine of the Iranian Mining Engineering Organization.
- Get the first rank of Tabas UGGp Museum visitors at the level of private museums in South Khorasan province.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Webinar Held on the occasion of International Geodiversity Day, 6 October (Tabas UGGp organized this webinar in partnership with Qeshm Island UGGp, Aras UGGp, Geological Survey of Iran, Lut Desert World Heritage Site and member of UGGp council).
- Participation in 7th International Summer University of Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles.
- Holding an educational workshop on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (cooperation between the Tabas UGGp and the people of Esfahk village).
- Participation in the training course of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.
- Tabas UGGp registered and presented an article at the 10th International Conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Morocco. Unfortunately, we could not attend the conference due to the lack of visa

issuance.

Management and Financial Status

- Tabas Global Geopark joined GGN in 2023 and there has been no change in the management and staff structure in the past year. Therefore, according to the policies and programs of the Tabas UGGp management, on assigning the operation of geosites to the local community, the proposed plans of the Geopark management have been communicated to the officials of the geosites and its implementation has been done.

Geoconservation

- National registration of Tabas territory natural and geological heritage in the Iran's national heritage list (1 fossil site and 2 geosites).
- Running of training courses for local mountaineers in geovalues (workshops on: local rescuer and guide, medicine training, meteorology and also geosites).
- Cooperation of local communities in the conservation of geosites.
- Setting up a Geosite proposal registration form on the website: www.tabasgeopark.com
- Inquiries by government offices from Tabas Global Geopark in order to hand over national lands and not to interfere with the conservation zone of geosites (response to 14 inquiries in 2023).
- Implementation of geopark programs by partners in environmental activities.
- Development and revival of the green space by Geopark partner, around the Kal-e-Jenni Geosite by planting native trees in order to reduce soil erosion (running from 2023), towards Geopark Going Green.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Creating the Earth Heritage documentary, a new look at the Tabas UGGp in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Iran.
- Training of Tabas UGGp local guides in the field of geotourism attractions.
- Supporting and attracting investors in order to implement infrastructures required by tourism such as hotels, eco-residences, etc.
- Preparation of the ecotourism and geotourism development plan of Kal-e-Jenni Geosite in cooperation with the Natural Resources and Watershed Management office and, Environment office.

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

- Production of 3 geoproducts (taken from the fossils of the geopark territory).
- Cooperating with schools in order to implement educational programs such as conducting earthquake

drills, installing posters of natural hazards (earthquakes, storms, etc.).

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation and support of 2 PhD theses in geology (Birjand University and Ferdowsi University) and 1 PhD thesis in geomorphology (Hakim Sabzevari University) in the territory of Geopark.
- Cooperation and support for 7 Master's theses in Geopark territory (2 theses from Isfahan University and 5 theses from Ferdowsi University).
- Holding meetings with professors and experts of different national universities regarding the formation of the Geopark Scientific Committee in different scientific trends.
- Tabas UGGp support in order to carry out specialized studies and geological research proposal of Isfahan University.
- Memorandum of collaborations between Tabas UGGp and Golestan University.

Promotional activities

- Participation of geopark partners in national exhibitions and local events.
- Geopark participation in national conferences, national and provincial radio-television interviews.
- Urban advertising of geosites.
- Holding public celebrations on various occasions.
- Printing of different brochures and posters of geosites.
- Naming and standardization of one of the best Rock-climbing routes, called Tabas UGGp in Kal-e-Sardar geosite, by Mountaineering and Sport Climbing department of Tabas County.

4. CONTACTS

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