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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM

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Involvement of Qeshm UGGp in marine environment

Stand Up Paddle Boarding in Hara Mangrove Forest

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran



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Introduction / Main targets

Introduction:

- Hara Mangrove Forest is the largest mangrove forest habitats in the Persian Gulf (240 sq/km)
- Dozens of endemic and migratory birds and sea animals are living in Hara
- 13 villages in geopark (about 50.000 people) have a very close connection to the mangroves.
- Hara has the labels: Biosphere Reserve, Protected Area and Geosite
- 6 tourism jetty ports are offering services to the tourists, using 200 fiberglass boats with oil engine motors
- **Noise & Pollution**

Main Targets:

- To protect the mangroves and its environment
- To encourage people to use calm/silent visits
- To develop sport and health
- To help and support local economy
- To teach people about the geopark/mangroves



Implementation Stand Up Paddle Board in Mangroves

- Geopark strated supporting locals to use paddle boards: loans, permissions, workshops,...
- Promoting this activity for tourists
- Adding paddle boarding in the tours itineraries
- To held the festivals and events (garbage collecting)



Results achieved / Impact

- Locals welcome this activity and paddle boarding is one the permanent programs in the Eco lodges
- Many young people are learning the technics and join the official teams and clubs
- Monitoring results shows the area with less boating and more paddle boarding hosts more birds
- The total income for the local people increased significantly
- Tourists are more satisfied



Lessons learnt / Future steps

The First National Paddle Board Competition
May 2021, Qeshm Island
UGGp



Replacing Fiber Glass/ Motor Boats with Traditional paddeling boats, Huri

