

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

### Geopark name, country, regional Network:

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia Pacific Geopark Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2017



The opening the children playground section of the Geopark Museum in cooperation with the Educational Institutions of Qeshm Island

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

### Number of Geopark staffs:

34 fulltime staff including 2 geologists

### Number of visitors:

200,000 visitors (Stars valley Geosite, Chahkooh Geosite, Namakdan Geosite Statues Valley and Geopark Museum)

### Number of Geopark events:

- Holding seminar entitled "Study of the historical and geographical situation of Keshm (Qeshm) at the beginning of the twentieth century" on the occasion of the Persian Gulf National Day (3 May 2021)

- Cleaning program in Laft village (historical port and eco-museum) on the occasion of world museums and cultural heritage day (18 May 2021)
- Holding an online workshop on the occasion of world desertification and drought day (17 Jun 2021)
- Holding a reading course on the occasion of the national day of children and adolescent literature in the west part of the island, Doulab educational center (10 July 2021)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sustainable Disposables Contest, Artwork with Plastic Waste (July 2021)
- Tourism week event in Qeshm Island (festivals, book unveiling), 9-15 October 2021
- Opening representative office of Iranian Ecotourism Scientific Association in Qeshm Island
- Holding a general online workshop on geopark concepts (1 Nov 2021)
- Holding the second facilitation workshop with the aim of empowering local communities and forming facilitator groups in cooperation with SGP/UNDP (Jan. 2021)
- Holding a series of meetings on Qeshmology topics on the subject of Qeshm names in historical travelogues (3 Nov. 2021)
- Workshop on occasion of the international Earth Day (22 April. 2021)
- Workshop on photography in the nature with mobile phone for students (17 Jun. 2021)

#### **Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs:**

- Qeshm Geopark has a memorandum of understanding with three regional educational centers (Markazi & Shahab and Hara Districts) covering 33 schools and 90 classes participate in Geopark training programs
- Cooperation with many local institutions
- Collaboration with Public Libraries in the field of education (including village libraries)
- Cooperation with Qeshm Island educational centers to visit the geopark museum for free and use the educational capacities of this museum

#### **Number of Geopark press release:**

- The most of geopark news, programs and activities have been reported in the local, regional and national media according to their importance an impact level
- Publishing the updated zoning system of Qeshm Island UGGp map
- UNESCO Global Geopark and Iran's outlook (Book, Second edition)
- An Introduction to Geoconservation, Principles and Concept with Emphasis on Iran (Book)

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2021**

Establishment of Qeshm Island Geopark Cooperative Company. This company consists of the staff of Qeshm Island Geopark, geopark partners and some villages authorities. This cooperative company

was established to support and implementation of Geopark programs. This is a part of geopark strategy to turn its states to be independent from the governmental system, gradually.

### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participating in Regional Meeting on UNESCO Global Geoparks Development in Central Asia, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Nov. 2021)
- Delivering a lecture during the session “UNESCO Geoparks, territories of culture and nature” titled: Involvement of Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark in marine environment (Iran), in the International Course on Geoparks 2021 entitled "UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability" (10<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- Opening GGN Corner at the Geopark Museum
- Attending the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of UNESCO Global Geopark, Jeju, Republic of Korea (12-16 Dec. 2021)
- Active participating in GeoFood Program, Magma UGGp
- Supporting and collaborating with to two Aspiring Geoparks (Aras & Tabas) among several advisory expeditions

### **Management and Financial Status**

Total annual budget was 654,000 US Dollar (Development of infrastructure and current expenses)

### **Geoconservation**

- Field investigation and studies of 5 new geosite in Hengam Island to add to the list of geosites
- Developing Plan and Design of infrastructures for 5 geosites to add to the visiting sites (Nakhkonar, Chakavir, Kalingi, Dokalan and Korkorah kooh Geosites)
- Registration of 9 geosites in the National Natural Monuments List (Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts)
- Designing new interpretive panels and guide boards for introducing geological phenomena and upgrading geopark visibility
- Electricity supply to Chahkooh geosite 3km route to support protection and management programs
- Improving access route to 3 Geosites (Chahkooh, Namakddan, and Korkorah Kooh Geosites)
- Implementation of Guran Mangrove Forest protection program with the participation of local community (rehabilitation a part of the forest and prevention of destruction of endangered areas)

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Training course for the local guides
- Improvement and promotion of local products and their packaging

- Introducing new geosites to the public and facilitating visits to this sites
- Promotion and development of maritime tourism activities in the villages adjacent to the mangrove forest (Kavarzin, Dekhoda, Gourn, and Doorbani villages)

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

- Cooperation with Qeshm Island public libraries and promotion of geopark goals and programs
- Development of educational programs in the Geopark Western Educational Center for women, children and students.
- Educational program in the children section of geopark museum through cooperation with the educational centers of the island

### **Strategic partnership**

Utilizing the capacity of the local community and their active participation in implementation of the geopark programs

### **Promotional activities**

- Design and preparation a poster to promote International Biodiversity day (May 2021)
- Online meeting with representatives of local women's organizations in the west of the island on the subject of waste paper recycling on the occasion of World Desertification Day (June 2021)
- Signing a cooperation agreement between Geopark and the Island Public Libraries Institute (Dec. 2021)
- Holding an exhibition of the craft products of women at the Geopark Museum with the aim of introducing the entrepreneurs of Qeshm Island Geopark
- New arrangements and organizing bio/geo samples in Geopark Museum

## **4. CONTACTS**

### **Director & Geologist:**

Alireza Amrikazemi,

Address: Qeshm Island Global Geopark Central office, next to Geopark museum, Pardis Junction, Valiasr Ave., Qeshm, Iran, Phone: +98 76 35242282-3