

GGN – Geopark Annual Report 2018

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name: Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp)

Country: China

Geopark networks: Global Geoparks Network (GGN), Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) and Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN)

Year of inscription: 2011

Last revalidation: 2017

Representative Photo



International Travel Expo 2018 Hong Kong co-organised with Global Geoparks Network

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

No. of geopark staff: 24 staff including 3 geoscientists

No. of visitors: stable at around 1.5 million per year

No. of geopark events: 16 events held by the management body and 24 events co-organised with cooperative organizations (Annex I)

No. of educational programmes: 74 geopark school activities covering classes in primary schools, high schools and universities

No. of geopark press releases: around 150

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

The major achievements in the reporting period were as follows:

Contribution to GGN – Networking and Participation

HKUGGp recognises the important role and function of networking and partnership in geopark networks. To facilitate knowledge exchange and experience sharing, we co-organised and participated in a series of networking and promotional activities, including the following:

- (i) the 4th Geoscience Capacity Building Workshop, co-organised with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in HKUGGp;
- (ii) an exchange programme with the European Geoparks Network (EGN), co-organised with the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN);
- (iii) the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp), held in Adamello Brenta UGGp, Italy; and
- (iv) the Tourism Working Group of the GGN.

Management and Financial Status

The management and financial status of HKUGGp remained stable, with an annual recurrent budget of US\$3.74 million. The provision covers key management areas, including (i) patrol and management; (ii) hardware and infrastructure; (iii) science popularization and promotion; (iv) staff training; and (v) local engagement and sustainable socio-economic development.

Geoconservation

Located in the eastern part of Hong Kong and extending from the northeast New Territories to the Sai Kung area, HKUGGp is a single entity, where sites and landscapes of international significance are holistically managed with the support of local communities and other geopark stakeholders. The most sensitive areas of ecological, historical and geological significance are protected and managed under the prevailing legal framework of Hong Kong.

Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism)

HKUGGp has received 1.4 to 1.5 million local and overseas visitors each year for the past five years, and the number is expected to increase. HKUGGp continued to work closely with the tourism industry and geopark communities to co-organize capacity training and the promotion of sustainable and responsible tourism activities. Currently, HKUGGp has 46 geopark guides.

To enrich the visitor experience, training opportunities on cultural heritage and site visits to Lai Chi Wo were offered to deepen and diversify the knowledge of the geopark guides. To further enhance accessibility of the HKUGGp, a new minibus service between Pak Tam Chung and the East Dam of the High Island Geo-trail in Sai Kung, and a new kaito ferry service between Ma Liu Shui, Kat O and Ap Chau in the northeast region were launched in July and September 2018, respectively.

New Education Programmes on Geoconservation

To promote earth science and enhance public awareness of the importance of nature conservation, in addition to the annual HKUGGp School Programme, we continued to host all-round science-popularisation activities, including (i) a student-exchange programme, co-organized with Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp and Itoigawa UGGp of Japan; (ii) an internship programme for full-time undergraduate students of local universities; and (iii) guided cultural tours to geo-sites and historical villages in HKUGGp.

Strategic Partnerships

We routinely reviewed and updated our guidelines on partnership arrangements with local stakeholders, taking into account the requirements and recommendations of the GGN, the natural and cultural environment of HKUGGp, and the socio-economic needs of the local communities. In collaboration with relevant geopark stakeholders, HKUGGp continued to support, promote and in some cases operate geo-education, geo-conservation, socio-economic and cultural development initiatives. The HKUGGp School Programme, the Recommended Geopark Guide system, and the capacity-building opportunities offered to the geopark communities in the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region were some of the highlights.

The trained villagers in Ap Chau and Sam Mun Tsai were actively engaged in geopark activities and continued to deliver guided tours in 2018. In addition, we continued to engage non-government organisations to promote nature conservation and manage rural areas with an innovative mindset. In addition to the “Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Project”, the Chief Executive’s Community Project, and the

Management Agreement Scheme in Lai Chi Wo, a new Ap Chau Story Room was established and opened to the public in April 2018.

Promotional Activities

We collaborated with geopark partners, local operators and communities in the following promotional activities in 2018:

- (i) staging a GGN-themed pavilion and two forums at International Travel Expo 2018 from 14 to 17 June 2018 to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations;
- (ii) organising media tours and an opening ceremony, and publicising new leaflets on the Ap Chau Story Room and the Ap Chau geo-site;
- (iii) unveiling the design of new banknotes and an educational mobile application featuring HKUGGp;
- (iv) participating in “Sai Kung Carnival 3.3” to promote HKUGGp in a fun fair;
- (v) publishing a brand-new *Great Outdoors Hong Kong* guidebook for 2018/19; and
- (vi) organising engagement visits with Hong Kong District Councils to promote the geopark concept and to solicit their support for the continued development of HKUGGp.

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Dr. K.M. YEUNG; kmycpa@afcd.gov.hk

Geologist: Mr. Alvin S.P. NG; alvin_sp_ng@afcd.gov.hk

Annex I - Geopark Events in 2018

Events held by management body

Month	Event
Jan	Yuen Long District Council visit
Jan	Wars Relics Training for Geopark staff and Geopark Hotel at Wong Nai Chung
Mar	Culture heritage training for Geopark Guides
Mar	Law Ting Pong Secondary School student exchange to JGN
Mar	Interpretation Training for Ap Chau villagers
Apr	Overseas exchange tour to EGN (HKUGGp & Lions Nature Education Fund)
Apr	Tourism Commission visit to High Island
Apr	Ap Chau press tour
Apr	Training for Geopark Guides at Ap Chau and Lai Chi Wo
Jun	International Travel Expo
Jun	Fung Yiu King Memorial Secondary School student exchange to JGN
Jul	True Light Middle School of HK student exchange to Arxan UGGp, China
Aug	Unzen UGGp student exchange to HKUGGp
Aug	Itoigawa UGGp student exchange to HKUGGp
Oct	Central and West District Council visit
Nov	Marymount Primary School student exchange to JGN

Events co-organised with cooperative organisations

Month	Event
Jan	Lecture for Vocational Training Council
Feb	Lai Chi Wo Spring Reception
Mar	Sai Kung Carnival 3.3
Apr	Opening ceremony of Ap Chau Story Room
Apr	Science popularisation capacity building workshop
Jun	Fukui Public Forum (JGN activity)
Jul	Promotion of HKUGGp in Hong Kong Tourism Board, Japan Office
Jul	Publicity for Geopark themed banknote
Jul	VIP visit to Kau Sai Chau (promotion of local community sustainable development)
Aug	Visit of Wakayama's Vice Governor to HKUGGp
Aug - Sep	Radio Television Hong Kong HKUGGp Programme (4 times)
Sep	Launch of Kat O / Ap Chau Ferry
Sep	Lecture for students of China University of Geosciences (Beijing)
Sep	JGN exchange tour to EGN
Sep - Oct	Typhoon Mangkhut volunteer recovery work (5 times)
Dec	Herbal Plant Training for Geopark Guides and Communities
Dec	Temple Culture Training for Geopark Guides