

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, China, APGN

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation 2009/2017

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)



(photo of Alxa students speech competition -telling the story of the Geopark)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 49 staffs including 5 geoscientists

Number of Visitors: Total number of the visitors to the geopark is 800 ten thousands by the end of 2019.

Number of Geopark events: 10

1. The documentary of Alxa Desert Global Geopark appeared on Aerial photo of China Program of CCTV.
2. Successful bidding of the research project on the formation mechanism and safety guarantee system of the fragile environment in the Badain Jaran Desert.
3. The 8th Asia-Pacific business school desert challenge opened in the Tengger Desert of Alxa Desert Global Geopark.
4. Adding Two New rock painting as new geosites in Geopark.
5. Holding low-carbon trekking activities to enhance the awareness of low-carbon environmental protection for local people.
6. Carrying out science tourism camping and field class for primary and secondary Mongolian school students.
7. Organizing students to plant *poplar* trees in the "Hope Forest" planting area with the hope of green.
8. Holding the students speech competition named cherishing the beautiful earth, protecting natural resources - telling the story of the Geopark.

9. Alxa Desert Global Geopark and the official delegation of Saudi Arabia reached cooperation intentions about sharing experience and technical Support.

10. We held geological science popularization activities all the year, sharing science stories and books or leaflets to tourists and local people.

School classes covering Geopark education plan: 40

Numbers of news issued by Geopark: 38

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

Alxa Desert Geopark actively participated in the activities organized by GGN, developing the sustainable geotourism and completing the work of transferring organization from the Administrative Office of Alxa League to the Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Alxa League.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

Take part in the 6th UNESCO Asia Pacific Global Geoparks International Conference in Linjani Longmu Island, Indonesia .

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

Actively participating in the Geopark conferences including China Geopark Network Annual Conference, the 5th UNESCO International Global Geopark Network Training Course, 2019 China Forest Tourism Festival, the publicity activity themed China Geopark by the Conservation land Department of National Forestry and Grassland Administration in Beijing and attending in the opening ceremony conferences of Global Geopark and related development seminar respectively holding in ALSHAN, Dabieshan Mt. and Dunhuang Global Geopark.

Management and Financial status

In January 2019, the institutional reform has adjusted the subordinate relationship of Alxa Desert Geopark from Administrative Office of Alxa League to the Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Alxa League. The Geopark is mainly invested by local government. Administration for ALxa UNESCO Global Geopark has 5 departments and 37 staffs, with well financial situation. The tourism revenue in 2019 is 2.2705 million RMB and the total expenditure is 2.2972 million RMB.

Geoconservation

- 1.To complete and issue the General Plan of Alxa Desert National Geopark and also report to the superior administration.

2. To complete the 14th five year major programme plan of the Geopark including upgrading and reconstruction of science popularization museum, revalidation preparation work with a total capital budget of 64.9 million RMB.
3. To report the fund allocation and implementation plan for geoheritage consevation projects in 2020-2022 to the superior administration.
4. To filled the application form and relevant data to the Forestry and Grassland Bureau of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region to recommend Badain Jaran desert as the first batch of national important geoheritage according to the most representative of Badain Jaran desert in all geosites of the Geopark.
5. Strengthen patrolling in important geosites and improving the sign system of our geopark such as billboard, geological monument, scientific interpretation panel and warning board. 27 times to dynamic inspection of the key geoheritage spots and also established the standing book for geoheritage conservation .
6. Updating and improving the sign and information panels in Geopark, such as the road entrance of Yinchuan city and Bayahot town, Left Banner, the entrance of G7 express way in Ejina Banner and Alxa Desert Racing Park. Repairing and replacing 18 sand dune shaped information pannels of scenic spots, 10 science popularization boards at science galleries, 24 stainless steel instruction boards of geosites and 4 introduction boards of scenic spots.

7.Updating and repairing the science popularization plank road and remote monitoring system of Badain Jara desert to ensure geoheritage conservation and the safety operation of geopark.

8. Cooperation with Left Banner deserticulture industry hall, our geopark rebuilt the exhibition hall of Alxa Desert Global Geopark at the first floor of Alxa Left Banner deserticulture industry exhibition hall to help young people to learn geological knowledge and facility the public to understand the Geopark .

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

There are 487 restaurants and hotels, among which 15 star-rated hotels and 22 travel agencies. Over 3 thousand people were directly or indirectly working for the tourism industry.

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

Make plans for the geoheritage protection and science popularization of 2019;

Carry out science publicity at school, community and geoheritage spots.

Strategic Partnership

12 staffs of our geopark visited the Yunnan Dali UGG, Xinjiang Keketuohai

UGG, to study and communication experience, promoting the cooperation with sister geoparks. Meanwhile ,Hubei Shennongjia, Huanggang Dabieshan, Hunan Zhangjiajie and Beijing Yanqing UGGs visited our geopark , strengthening the geopark understanding and cooperation each other. We built the sister geopark with Shennongjia UGG through the field trip and indoor meeting communication.We still keep good cooperation with our geopark partners for the further development, such as local hotels,local tourism commodity company,camel research institute and TV station, etc.

Promotional activities

1. Our geopark shared geoscience knowledge and local history to more than 300 managers and front-line staffs of scenic area.
2. Our geopark held the students speech competition named cherishing the beautiful earth, protecting natural resources - telling the story of the Geopark in the golden Populus hall, awarding the plaque of "youth science popularization education cooperation unit"to eight middle schools.
3. Our geopark held 4 science popularization activities in Badain Jara desert, more than 300 teachers and students from primary and secondary schools in Alxa and 400 teachers and students from Jinchang City, Gansu Province participated in the education activities.

4. Our geopark carried out science tourism camping for primary and secondary Mongolian school students by nature classes and hand-painted Populus's scientific research routes.
5. We distributed 600 geoscience books ,1.3 thousand scientific publicity leaflet and making 21 promotion banner ,18 publicity racks and 1,500 promotional color banner, more 8,000 persons participating during 5 public promotional activities.

4. Contacts:

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