

# 韶关市丹霞山管理委员会



## ANNUAL REPORT OF

## DANXIASHAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK 2018

### 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China, CGN

Year of inscription: 2004

Year of the last revalidation: 2016

#### Representative works :

1.1.2018 Guangdong Provincial ‘Cultural and Natural Heritage Day • Beautiful Danxia’ was held by Danxiashan UGGp on June 9, 2018. Representatives from 36 sister parks were invited to attend the event for promoting the co-operation, sharing experiences and knowledge of the development of the sister parks. The ‘*Danxiashan Declaration -- Conserve the Natural Heritage, Conserve the Earth*’ and a ‘*5-Year-Action Outline for Sister Parks (2018-2023)*’ were jointly signed.

1.2 Danxiashan UGGp applied for hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2020. The application had received supports from more than 50 organizations. Mr. Yin Huanming, the Mayor of Shaoguan City led a delegation to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Italy, presenting the application and introducing Danxiashan.



### 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

2.1 Number of geopark staffs: 430 staffs including 7 geoscientists

2.2 Number of visitors (2018): 2,644,598

2.3 Number of geopark events: 111 science popularization events, 10 cultural tourism events were organized by the management authority. 10 events were organized jointly with local, provincial and national partners (e.g. CGN, sister-parks, universities, local tourism operators and cultural associations).

2.4 Number of school/classes involving Geopark educational program:

In 2018, 300 teachers from more than 100 schools in Shaoguan or other cities from Guangdong Province carried out science popularization training in Danxiashan UGGp. In November, book crossings and science popularization lectures on the theme of '*Danxiashan: Spectacular Nature in the World*' were initiated, covering 200 schools in China. More than 1,000 science popularization teachers attended the online science popularization training program.

2.5 Number of press release: 14 news scripts were released and adopted by CGN; 2 posters on disaster reduction were sent to GGN Geohazard Working Group for sharing.

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

3.1 Major achievements in 2018

3.1.1 In the 2018 Changbaishan International Ecological Conference of China & Summit of New Opportunities for World Heritage Conservation and Development held in September, the *IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2: A conservation assessment of all natural World Heritage sites* was released by the IUCN. 'China Danxia' was listed as one of the 47 sites to have a "good" conservation outlook.

3.1.2 The three science popularization programs of Danxiashan were promoted. They included the programs of Danxiashan Science Popularizing Volunteers, China Danxia Science Popularization Lectures and Danxiashan Nature Academy.

3.1.3 In December 2018, Danxiashan was named as 'Science Popularization Town of Shaoguan City' by Shaoguan Association for Science and Technology. It was named as 'Science Popularization Town of Guangdong Province' as well, recommended by Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province, Department of Cultural and Tourism of Guangdong Province, and Guangdong Association for Science and Technology.

3.1.4 In 2018, Danxiashan was re-recognized as a 'National Civilization Unit' by the Office of Central Guidance Commission on Building Spiritual Civilization

3.2 Contributions toward GGN - networking and participation

3.2.1 Danxiashan UGGp joined the Global Geopark Network Geohazard Working Group and carried out two promotion activities of geohazard reduction.

3.2.2 Chen Fang, the deputy director of Danxiashan UGGp was chosen by GGN as an assessor and carried revalidation mission in Carnic Alps UGGp of Austria.

3.2.3 Danxiashan UGGp established the sister park relationship with Gansu Dunhuang UGGp in June 2018 and extended the Agreement of Sister Park Relationship with Jeju Island of Korea.

Danxiashan was also invited by Jingpohu UGGp and Leye-Fengshan UGGp, Danxiashan Administrative Committee sent staff to give advice on their coming revalidation. Arranged for the exchange and visits from different parks including Guizhou Zhijindong, Jiangxi Sanqingshan, Shanxi Huashan, Jiangxi Shicheng, Yunnan Gaoligongshan, Wudalianchi, Anshan Qianshan, Hunan Zhangjiajie, Sichuan Jiuzhaigou, Hunan Wulongshan, etc. Staff were sent to attend the Science Popularization Volunteers Training Camps organized by Huangshan, Guizhou Chishui, and Beijing Fangshan Parks.

3.2.4 In June 2018, Danxiashan attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinese Volcanic Geoparks Forum in Leiqiong. In July, attended ASEAN Conference on World Natural Heritage Protection and Management and was invited to share the experience of Danxiashan. In October, Danxiashan science research team attended the 18<sup>th</sup> National Academic Symposium of Red Beds and Danxia Landform held in Xinlong County, Ganzi, Sichuan Province. Two papers were published in this symposium.

3.2.5 In August 2018, Danxiashan attended the CGN Assessors and Coordinators Conference in Beijing. In September, it also attended the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Italy. During the conference, the geopark competed with Jeju Island of Korea for hosting the 2020 Conference. It set up one booth, carried out an oral presentation and did four poster presentations. It also hosted one workshop, and attended GGN and APGN Coordinators and Assessors Meetings. In November, Danxiashan attended 2018 China UNESCO Global Geoparks Annual Conference in Yandangshan.

### 3.3 Management and financial status

3.3.1 In 2018, Danxiashan was recognized as the National Civilization Unit by the Central Civilization Office.

3.3.2 The efficient management was determined to impose strict protection measures in the geopark and had achieved outstanding targets of ‘zero tourists’ complaints’, ‘zero safety accidents’, ‘zero geosites damage’ and ‘zero environment pollution’ in 2018.

3.3.3 Danxiashan had a well-balanced financial status and sound budget. Revenue were derived from ticket sale and profitable returns from investment by the Government of Shaoguan City

and Guangdong Province.

### 3.4 Geoconservation

3.4.1 The geopark applied Used Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to monitor the 292 km<sup>2</sup> of Danxiashan UGGp. There were six monitoring teams staffed by 12 experienced members and equipped with six sets of the most advanced and latest DJI drones.

3.4.2 The geopark cooperated with Sun Yat-Sen University, East China University of Technology and Guangdong Institute of Microbiology and published a new species of *Diospyros* (named: *Diospyros Penghuae*) in May, a new rare bryophilous agaric (named: *Rickenella danxiashanensis*), and a new species of *Phyllostachys* (named: *Phyllostachys Danxia*).

3.4.3 It also added ten CCTVs at selected geosites and along the geotrails for monitoring and preventing potential geohazard.

### 3.5 Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

3.5.1 The concrete pavement in the scenic area was completed. The road from the outer gate to the park, the exit of the outer gate, 4 toilets, and 4 trails had been upgraded. Ninety-seven interpretive signs and 14 sets of direction signs along the road in the park had been changed and updated.

3.5.2 The management had dealt with 2 incidents of geological hazards disasters in Xianglonghu and Yaoshan Village which included cleaning up rocks and debris of a total size of 312.63 m<sup>3</sup> with potential danger to ensure the safety for tourists.

### 3.6 New education programs on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

3.6.1 Danxiashan Nature Academy promoted and educated the public particularly the young people, to respect, love and protect Nature as well as to recognize the connections between different subjects such as culture, geology and biology. Courses with different themes were hold to provide better understanding of the geology, ecology, culture and history of Danxiashan. They were in forms of lectures, field trips, experiments and making handicraft. In 2018, three major events including Nature Observation Writing Contest, Bird Observing Contest and Astronomical Stargazing Festival, were organized and were able to attract tens of thousands of young people and the public to participate.

3.6.2 A new book named '*Danxiashan: Spectacular Nature in the World*' by Prof. Su Dechen, the Geoscientist of Danxiashan was published. This was the first of the series book *Visiting UGGps: Guided by Geoscientists*. The book contained large number of beautiful nature and

geosite pictures, simple explanation to appeal the general public. Many schools all over China are using this book to promote geoscience, danxia landform and Danxiashan UGGp.

### 3.7 Strategic Partnership

3.7.1 In 2018, Danxiashan UGGp received over 60 teams, with a total of over 4,000 students and teachers from 20 universities including China University of Geoscience (Wuhan) to come to the geopark for internship and study. Five universities including South China Agricultural University accredited Danxiashan UGGp as their Teaching and Internship Bases.

3.7.2 Danxiashan continued to work closely with local governmental departments of tourism, education, land, meteorology, environmental protection, science and technology. It also established cooperative partnership with enterprises including Infinity Travel, Ltd., Aiqily, Ltd., Kuo Cang Optics, Ltd., Geoparker, Ltd. and many others. It co-operated with various organizations such as Associations for Photographers in China, Guangdong and Renhua, Guangdong Bicycle Association, Shaoguan Mountaineers Association, Renhua Guesthouses & Inns Association in organizing many different activities to promote the geopark.

### 3.8 Promotional activities

3.8.1 Prominent advertisements of Danxiashan UGGp and World Natural Heritage could be sighted at major railway stations at Shaoguan, Shenzhen North, Guangzhou South, Beijing West and Beijing International Airport. They were in form of large display boards with attractive scenery and were very effective to lure tourists and increase the visibility of Danxiashan UGGp.

3.8.2 Danxiashan co-operated with 10 leading travel agencies including Guangzhilv Ltd., China Traveller of Hong Kong Ltd, to advertise on newspapers, social media and buses.

3.8.3 It joined in all major tourism exhibitions together with the Shaoguan Tourism Administration.

3.8.4 It hosted 11 lectures through the ‘China Danxia Science Popularization Lectures’ Program in universities. More than 50 book crossings and science popularization lectures on the theme of ‘Danxiashan Spectacular Nature in the World’ were held in schools nationwide.

3.8.5 Thematic activities such as ‘Danxiashan Cup’ the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Photography Exhibition, Hiking through Danxiashan and Danxiashan Mountain Half Marathon were organised and were welcomed by the public.

## 4. CONTACTS

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