

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

" Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark "

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran, Asia Pacific Geopark Network

Year of inscription: 2017



The First International Meeting and Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: *21 staffs including 5 geoscientists + 20 part time and 12 volunteers*

Number of Visitors: *180,000 (three geosites + museum)*

Number of Geopark events:

- *The first International meeting and workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks*
- *Qeshm Island Geopark Trail-Running (338 participants, 30Km and 60Km)*
- *2nd Geopark annual gathering: rural governors, council and local communities*
- *Commemoration of the World Earth day*
- *Commemoration of the World photography day*
- *Commemoration of the World Deaf Day 2017 at Armaghan Qeshm Exceptional children school*
- *International White Cane Safety Day 2017 at Glohay-e-Behest training and disability rehabilitation center*
- *Celebrating international Children's Day*

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programs

- *18 schools (45 school classes)*

Number of Geopark press release: 35 press releases

- *Qeshm Island UGGp photo series (postal card)*
- *Introducing the Geopark in the hi-ranked tourism magazines*
- *Fisherman new year: a day for nature: Qeshm Island UGGp Culture in the GGN Newsletter (2017 ISSUE 2)*
- *Qeshm Island Geofoods and Geoproducts: japan Geoparks magazine*
- *Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark in GILGAMAESH No3. Winter 2018*

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016

Establishing Geopark hotel

Naming a main square in the city center and a Street in the Qeshm city as Geopark Square and Geopark blvd.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- *Hosting the first UNESCO Global Geoparks international meeting and workshops in the central and west Asia*
- *Promoting the geoparks programs in the country, cooperation with the Aspiring Geoparks in the area, preparing the Geopark country report for Iran.*
- *Active participation in the 14th European Geoparks Conference, Azores - Portugal*
- *Attendance in the 7th APGN Conference, Zhijingdong Cave Geopark, China*
- *Attending the ITB Berlin 2018 as a member of GGN, a stand in the GGN both*

Management and Financial status

- *Evaluate the status of the Geopark organization structure (directly under authority of the CEO of Qeshm Island Free Area*
- *Improvement the organizational chart of Qeshm Island UGGp.*
- *Facilitate the process of allocating national funds to the Geopark*
- *Total budget 650,000 US dollar (550,000 USD for infrastructure) were provided by QFA Organization*
- *Part of the Geopark budget was provided from the incomes of the Geopark Hotel.*

Geoconservation

- *Research and Geological Study on potentials inside Geopark territories to have preservation and conservation plans and some maybe nominated and introduced as new geosites in the future.*
- *Zoning and protection planning of some new Geosites (Chakavir and Basira).*
- *Encourage the locals for their active partnerships in conservation of nature.*
- *Creation trail in Chahkooh Geosite*
- *Enhancement the communicative and networking project for Geopark partners*
- *Inviting and supporting the scholars and top universities students to have their studies on geoscientific and cultural aspects of the Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark.*
- *Increasing the knowledge and the new methods of conservation through different training courses, Workshops and educational programs in the island*
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Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- *By Geopark promoting activities through social media, national media, brochures and ..., the priority of Qeshm Island tourists were shifted to ecotourism and geotourism from urban shopping tourism. This is led to improve the local economies and livelihoods.*
- *Rural festivals to introduce the capacities and potentials of local communities in Geopark territories.*
- *Promoting rural cooperative companies, rural restaurants and guest-houses as geopark partners.*

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

- *Collaborating with KASHEF project under the theme of entrepreneurship (by focusing on primary school's students)*
- *Educational programs on geoscience for teachers and students (familiarity with Geopark concepts)*
- *Disaster risk reduction programs for Geo-guides with collaborating Qeshm Red Crescent society*
- *Rescue training course for Geo-guides and partners.*
- *Rescue Maneuvers in Namakdan Salt Cave Geosite.*
- *Meeting with village Councils about rural construction and disaster risks reduction.*

Strategic Partnership

- *Agreement with Geological Survey & Mineral Explorations of Iran*
- *Collaboration with Iranian Aspiring Geopark (Aras and Tabas)*
- *Collaboration with the project of Qeshm, Island for children*
- *Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Qeshm Office)*
- *Agreement with Education department of Qeshm (Shahab and Markazi Region)*

Promotional activities

- *Festivals and celebrating occasions with aims of Maintaining interconnection with the local community in order to development the geopark plan.*
- *Promoting the Geofoods and Geoproducts along with the Geopark concept.*
- *Development the Geopark Museum, reconstruction facilities of gosites and natural site for public exhibition.*
- *Development information and educational center Hara Mangrove Scene (in Soheili Village) as a new educational and information center of Geopark in the west side of the territory.*
- *Inserting the texts about the Geopark philosophy and concepts in high school*

students book.

- *Geopark stamp (unveiling during first international meeting and workshop on UNESCO Global Geopark)*
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- **Visibility:** *Geosites interpretation panels, uniform road boards, introducing village board inspired by indigenous architecture (Wind tower)*

4. Contacts:

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