



Arouca UGGp, Portugal



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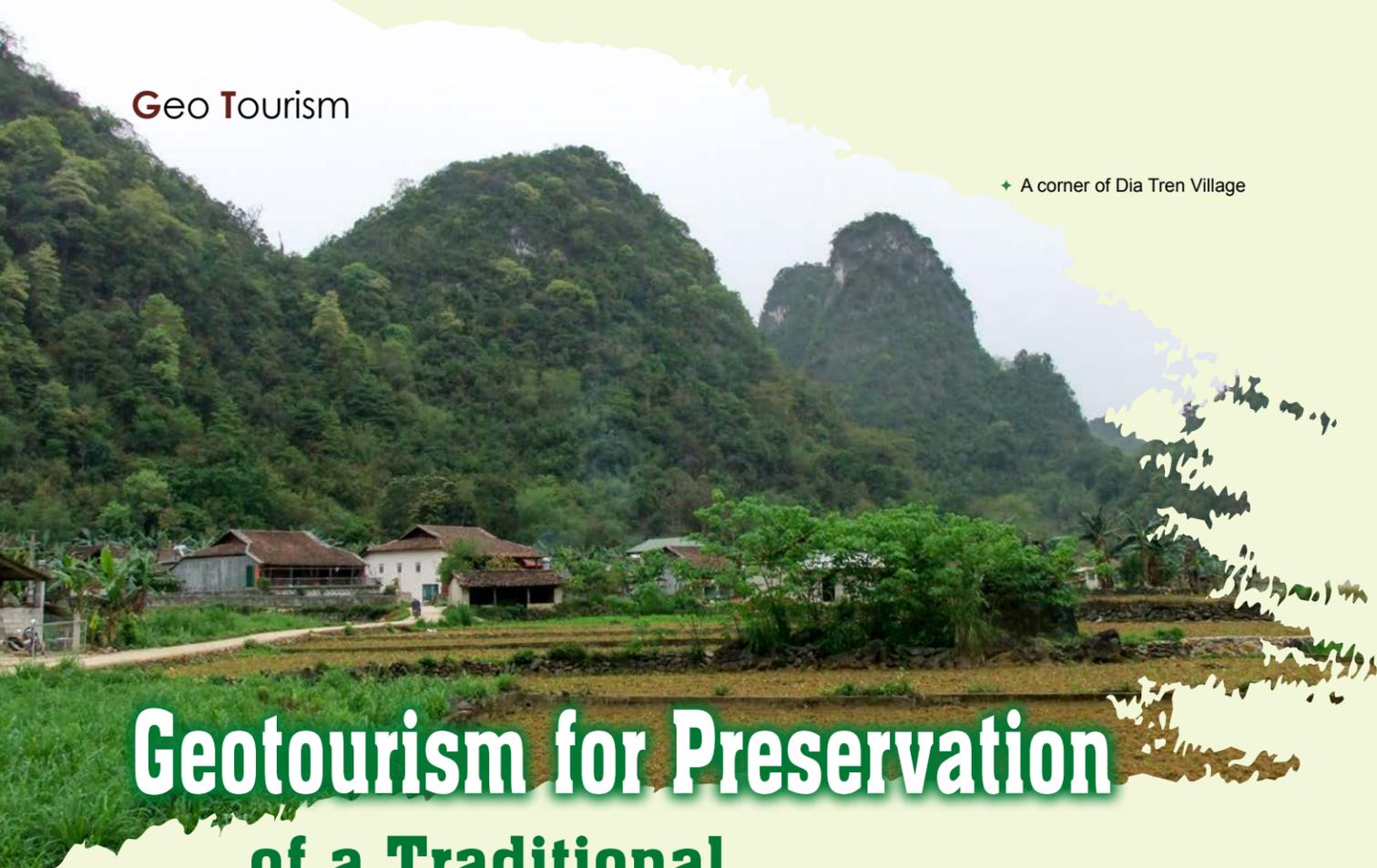
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◆ A corner of Dia Tren Village

# Geotourism for Preservation of a Traditional Paper-making Village

Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Viet Nam

Dia Tren traditional paper-making village is home to more than 268 Nung ethnic people, in Phuc Sen commune, Quang Hoa district which is a newly-established partner of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp. Nestling in a mountain range, Dia Tren

Village still have been preserving tradition passed down for generations. The village consists of 65 households practicing the traditional paper-making craft and their income mainly comes from agricultural production and traditional paper-making.

However, with the industrialization and modernization of paper production, their handy craft products are losing their market. Accordingly, their income from this traditional paper making is gradually being decreased.

For the purpose of preservation of this traditional village and improvement of their income, Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp has decided to establish this village as a partner and to be included in the Eastern route of the Geopark. The Geopark has been working

with related department and local authorities to train the people on diversifying their products from their traditional papers, and supporting some infrastructure schemes for tourism development such as: car park, directional panels, information panels, local tour guides, information promotion on website, leaflets, guidebook, etc.

To support geotourism activities in Dia Tren Village, in 2020, the Management board of Non nuoc Cao Bang geopark conducted baseline surveys to evaluate the potential of the village, current status of socio-economic

development, current situation of paper making and training need assessment. The Management board also conducted training courses to raise people awareness on geotourism associated with traditional conservation.

Currently, the traditional paper of Nung ethnic group is mainly used for the spiritual purposes of the ethnic minorities in Cao Bang. Because of decreasing income from their paper production, people here are not really interesting in this kind of paper production. Some of households are now looking for alternative

livelihood, especially young people are now going to work outside of their village. Hence the preservation of this tradition is now being at risk.

Since this kind of paper production is associated with the tradition and cultures of Nung ethnic people which plays a very important role in their spiritual life, the preservation of traditional production is important not only for the purpose of tourism development but for future generation and help them to be aware and proud of their tradition, particularly then make traditional paper production become decent livelihood.



◆ Different steps in the process of making traditional paper



◆ Traditional paper of Nung ethnic people



◆ The Management board of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp inquired information of the traditional craft from Mr. Nong Van Phoong, a villager of Dia Tren



◆ Training on geo-tourism and traditional conservation



◆ Introducing sample products made of traditional paper to Dia Tren villagers

# Valorization of Resources for Territorial Dynamics



Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

The Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) has adopted a development strategy that has brought a great recognition and, at the same time, a great responsibility towards the promotion and enhancement of its heritage. The 41 geosites, three of which with international relevance, were the basis of the territorial strategy.

Many of these geosites have been the target of enhancement and requalification, as is the case of the Giant Trilobites of Canelas, which through private initiative saw the birth of the Trilobite Museum to lodge them, the Birthing Stones, with the

construction of the interpretative centre, the Castanheira folds, the Mizarela Waterfall, the S. Pedro Velho viewpoint, the Maize Bread Rocks, the Detrelo da Malhada viewpoint and the Ichnofossils from Cabanas Longas, which were enriched with signs and interpretative panels, making accessibility easier. These improvements gave rise to a new tourist product, in 2015, the Arouca Geopark Geosites Route.

Also, in this year, were inaugurated the famous Paiva Walkways, which has about 8 km of length along the left bank of the Paiva river, provide us a unique tour, by geology, biology,

and archaeology, which extends between the recreational and leisure areas of Areinho and Espiunca. To date, about one and a half million visitors have already walked through this infrastructure, forcing the territory to reinvent itself and adapt to the new reality of tourism demand.

Meanwhile, in May 2021, the Paiva Walkways gained a new partner as a tourist attraction - the 516 Arouca. Located 175 meters high above the Paiva river, with a span of 516 meters, 1.2 meters wide and made up of 127 metal grid decks suspended by steel cables, the "516 Arouca" is the world's longest suspension



➤ Birthing Stones House



➤ Maize Bread Rocks



➤ Paiva walkways



➤ 516 Arouca

pedestrian bridge. A new and exciting way to look at the Paiva region, its walkways and all the natural beauty of this territory, with a privileged and fascinating view over two of the 41 geosites that integrate the Arouca UGGp - the Agueiras Waterfall and the Paiva Gorge. About 76 thousand visitors have already visited this bridge, which connects the two banks of the Paiva river and allows the crossing between the parishes of Alvarenga and Canelas.

As it happened with the Paiva Walkways, this bridge will strengthen the economic and tourism competitiveness of this territory, enabling the creation of new experiences, as well as the creation of new jobs and businesses, particularly in the local tourism sector.

Since 2015, the Arouca UGGp has seen the number of tourist entertainment companies increase sevenfold (from three to twenty), accommodation has

seen a significant growth in its capacity, from 202 to 697 beds, and the restaurants has had to reinvent itself to cope with the demand that has arisen.

Attending the growing of significant national and international demand, the Arouca UGGp organized training sessions for tour guides, taxi drivers, controllers, and workers in the surroundings of the Paiva Walkways, to provide them with a deeper knowledge about our

territory and its heritage.

There is no doubt that the investments made in recent years in this geopark have contributed to the revival of the economy and tourism at local and regional level, without ever forgetting the enhancement of heritage and the integration of the community.

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Arouca UGGp, Portugal



➤ Paiva walkways & 516 Arouca

# Theme Activities to Spread Huangshan Natural Value and **Eco-Civilization Concept**

Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

To celebrate the 52nd World Earth Day and World Book and Copyright Day, our volunteers were organized to museums, libraries and schools to carry out education activities on campus.

On Apr.22, with the theme of "Cherish the Earth, Harmonious Coexistence between Man and Nature", volunteers gave lectures on different contents such as the origin of Huangshan grotesque rocks, the Huangshan birds, the earth and the magic rock etc. for more than 500 students in five schools, including Tunxi Bainiaoting primary school, Changgan primary school, Jiangnan experimental primary school, Hehuangchi primary school and Yucai

school.

On the 23rd, the World Book and Copyright Day, 9 research books and 41 science education books in geology and tourism of Huangshan to Huangshan Municipal Library donated by Huangshan UGGp, in order to more people can access them from the library.

On the 24th, Huangshan staff went to Anhui Provincial Geological Museum to carry out the activity of "I appreciate famous mountains in the museum". The activity mainly includes two parts: theme lecture and exhibition. The director of Huangshan Geopark Museum gave a lecture titled "Introduction and protection of rare wild animals in Huangshan", raising the

public awareness of wildlife protection in Huangshan. Also, 15 display boards were arranged to show the geological, ecological and cultural landscape and values of Huangshan UGGp to the public.

The students and the public further understood the natural phenomena around them, enriched the knowledge of natural science, as well as realized the value of Huangshan's unique geological and ecological environment through the activities, which further inspired people's love for Huangshan, the motherland and nature, and further enhanced the concept of "harmonious coexistence between man and nature".

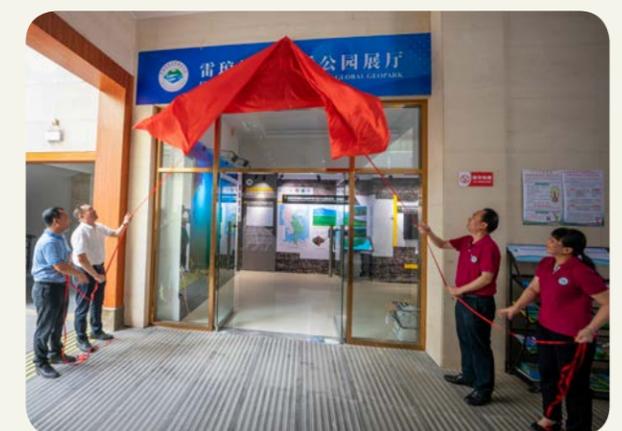


## Exhibition Hall of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark in Leizhou Museum Officially Opened

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

On the morning of April 23, the opening ceremony of the Exhibition Hall of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark was held in Leizhou Museum. Lu Mingxian, Office Director of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark Administration Committee, and Zhu Rui, Vice Mayor of Leizhou City attended the ceremony and delivered a speech.

Zhu Rui congratulated on the completion and opening of the exhibition hall of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark and affirmed the deep cooperation between Huguangyan Scenic Spot Administration



◆ Launch of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark Exhibition Hall



◆ Commentator explains and demonstrates to the attendees

and Leizhou Museum at the opening ceremony. He believed that Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, located in the Qiongzhou strait and its two wings, is the unite intersection of "Earth Mark" and "Human Footprint". The setting up of exhibition hall in Leizhou Museum is of great significance to the research on Leizhou Peninsula's history and culture and the promotion of Leiqiong's resources protection, scientific research and popular science education.

Lu Mingxian, Office Director of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark Administration Committee, said in his speech that the official opening of the Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark Exhibition Hall would be a positive step for Leiqiong to better fulfill the mission of "Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities" of the UNESCO Global Geopark. Leizhou Museum will also play an increasingly important role in the promotion and publicity of the geopark concept.

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark located in the tropical-subtropical area has abundant volcanic geological heritages, excellent ecology, beautiful scenery and unique cultural heritage. In 2017, the ancient city of Leizhou was approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO to be included in Leiqiong by means of extension. It is the most representative area of the geopark



◆ Attendees visit the exhibition hall

that can highlight the local cultural characteristics and profound cultural deposits. In recent years, the administrations of Leiqiong and the Leizhou Museum have continuously strengthened cooperation through resource sharing and platform construction. The exhibition hall of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark has been set up in the museum, so that the general public and tourists can better understand the connection between "Human Footprint" and "Earth Mark". The opening of the exhibition hall is another gratifying achievement of Leiqiong in promoting the geoscience education and the inheritance and development of local culture, which will play a positive role in the ecological civilization construction of the park area.

The exhibition hall of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark consists of four exhibition areas: volcanic geology and landscape, volcano and Leiqiong culture, volcano and Leiqiong ecology, and natural disaster reduction education. It is designed with rigorous scientific nature and multivariate interest. It presents to the public from multiple perspectives, including rocks, landscapes and geological movements, enhancing the connection between geological heritage and natural and cultural heritage.

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## Protection of Mining Heritage in Miné-Akiyoshidai Aspiring Global Geopark

Miné-Akiyoshidai aUGGp, Japan

The Miné-Akiyoshidai Karst Plateau aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark in Japan faces the same problems as many rural areas: an ageing and shrinking population. In order to preserve the history of the area, the Geopark has been working with local groups to preserve the area's geological and human heritage for future generations.

Mining of minerals, including copper, silver, cobalt and iron, was carried out in this territory for over one thousand years, and the oldest mines date back to the 6th century. The copper mines here are famous in Japan for producing copper used in the construction of the Great Buddha statue in the capital city of Nara in the 8th century.

Mining for anthracite coal was carried out here until the 1960s. In the mines' heyday more than 60,000 people lived in Miné City; now the city's population is less than 25,000, and there are only a handful of people left who remember the city at its zenith. Recently the aUGGp has been engaged in various activities to protect the heritage and record the stories of the area.

In 2018, the aUGGp negotiated with a local mining company for the donation of former mines to the city. Since then, the Geopark has been working with local small businesses and conservation groups to prepare the area for tours and educational visits such as by creating a path for visitors and developing tour routes. The geopark also organises 'treasure hunts' for local people in the area, to find and record items and artefacts from the mines to be used in exhibitions of the history of the area, and as a fun event for local people to help in cleaning up the area whilst learning about its history.

The aUGGp also works with the mining company to find and preserve records of the mining activity that took place in the Geopark in the past. This

includes finding and digitising old records from the company's archives.

At the end of last year, members of the Geopark office conducted a series of interviews of people who used to work in the mines here in order to learn about the mines and the city in the past. Now the aUGGp is planning to compile these people's stories into a handbook so that the geopark guides can include this history in their tours.

We hope to use this mining heritage more and more in our activities in the future, and to cooperate with UGGps which are using their mining heritage in their Geoparks.

**Tristan Gray**

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◆ Interviewing former miners



◆ Local people take part in clean-up activities

# Geosite Conservation Publicity into Rural Area



Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China



◆ Site of the campaign

For purpose of enhancing the geosite conservation in rural area of Xiangxi Global Geopark, a publicity campaign, jointly organized by Administration of Xiangxi Geopark, Xiangxi Prefectural Geopark Museum and local authority on geopark management, was launched in Longxi Village, Yongshun County on June 29, 2021.

The local people attended the campaign, which advocate significant meaning of the geosites conservation and legal

liability about destroying the geosites and stealing trilobite fossils, displaying and distributing related brochures/leaflets to local people.

90 crucial geosites in Xiangxi Global Geopark, which include 3 world-class geosites and 52



◆ Indigenous people read promotional leaflets

national-class geosites, are distributed respectively in 7 counties of Xiangxi Autonomous Prefecture, including Jishou City, Fenghuang County, Yongshun County, etc.

The Trilobite Fossil Group in

the Ordovician Period in Liexi, a national-level geosite in Xiangxi Global Geopark, sits in Longxi Village, Furong Town, Yongshun County, in which one of the largest trilobite fossils in China has been unearthed and provides evidence for paleontology research.

**Ye Qingzi**

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◆ Indigenous people visit displaying panels



# One of the Largest Ammonites' Collections in the World is Now in the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark

Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Last May the Basque Coast Geopark opened the new Nautilus Research and Teaching Classroom, a room where a collection of 150 giant ammonites extracted from the cliffs of the Flysch Negro of Mutriku is kept.

The ammonites, which until now were spread in several locations in Gipuzkoa, have been grouped into the Nautilus Research and Teaching Classroom, which has been conditioned and renovated with the aim of preserving and showcasing this spectacular palaeontological heritage.

The classroom keeps the exceptional collection of over 150 giant ammonites extracted from the cliffs of the Black Flysch of Mutriku (Gipuzkoa, Spain) by the

collector Jesús María Narváez and his wife and collaborator, Esperanza Azkarraga. The couple have been collecting fossils for 40 years, and it is thanks to their work that today we can admire the largest collection of giant ammonites described to date.

This classroom aims to become

an important infrastructure for scientific research and for the education program "Geoeskolak", a program that aims to transmit the natural values of Geopark especially among students from the three municipalities that make it up: Deba, Mutriku and Zumaia.

This is a collaborative project



◆ Asier Hilario, Scientific Director of the Geopark and Mikel López-Horgue, paleontologist of the University of the Basque Country, explaining the research they have developed



◆ Research and Didactic Classroom, Nautilus

between Geopark, the Mutriku City Council, the Basque Government Department of Natural Environment, the University of the Basque Country and Narvaez that brings together science, geoconservation, education and citizen recognition. Asier Hilario, Scientific Coordinator of the Geopark, has described the project as an example of public-private collaboration “that brings together very interesting results in the scientific field, the conservation of geological heritage, the education for sustainability and the recognition of the work of a private citizen who has managed to save one of the largest collections of giant ammonites described internationally”. Thanks to the transfer of the collection, we will be able to preserve our



◆ Narvaez and Azkarraga with one of the ammonites from their collection

natural heritage and continue to work on research, environmental education and sustainable

tourism.

In addition, thanks to this collaboration, an investigation was launched in 2016 that has led to the development of a first working hypothesis on the gigantism of ammonites. Its large size may be related to chimneys and hydrothermal emanations rich in minerals that fed the sea floor during the opening of the Bay of Biscay. Unifying the collection in a classroom will serve to promote future research projects and continue to showcase the geological heritage around us.

**Leire Barriuso**

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◆ Schoolchildren doing the didactic unit within Geoeskolak program

# Shilin

## UNESCO Global Geopark Conducted Research on Fossils

Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark, China



◆ Fossils in the Shilin UGGp



Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark is located in Shilin Yi Autonomous County, Yunnan Province, southwest China. The Geopark, famous for its imposing and distinctive Stone Forest (Pinnacle - Karst) landform, is one of the three representative karst landforms in South China and was designated as a Global Geopark in 2004.

The limestone that develops the Stone Forest is rich in diversified fossils including Corals, Brachiopods, Cephalopods, Fusulinidas, Gastropoda, Bryozoa, Stromatoporoidea, etc. Some rocks are composed almost wholly of biological debris.

The Bryozoan fossils in the clints of the Bushao Hill, the Major Stone Forest Area of Shilin Geopark, are the most well-preserved and morphologically abundant fossils of those found

in the Karst landform in South China. Due to slight weathering and water erosion on the surface, a large amount of fossils in the Naigu Stone Forest Area of Shilin Geopark are well preserved, which have high scientific significance and ornamental value.

Shilin Global Geopark Administrative Bureau and its strategic partner, Yunnan University, carried out joint research on the fossils within the Geopark and published a book *Fossils in the Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark of Yunnan Province* in April 2021. The book, including overview of biological fossils, classification and description of fossils in the Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark, etc., conveyed geoscience knowledge to the general public.

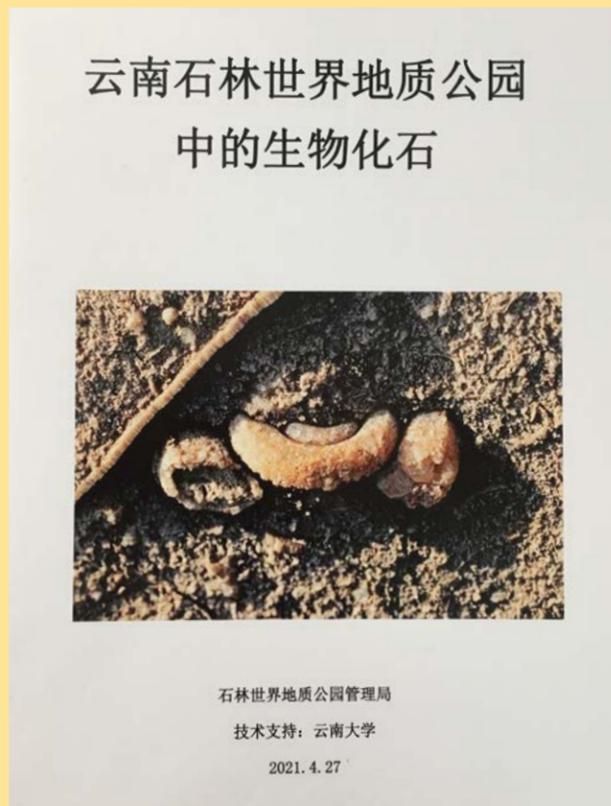
The fossils, considered as excellent evidence of Shilin's geological evolution, play a key role in helping the general public better understand the "past" of Shilin. Not everyone can fully understand and believe that Shilin area was once the bottom of the ocean long long ago. But most people know that corals live in the sea; with so many coral fossils in the clints of the Geopark, visitors are likely to better know that Shilin area was once an exuberant and busy marine world 270 million years ago. These

fossils are records of life on earth and also bear testimony to the vicissitudes experienced by Shilin.

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◆ Professor of Yunnan University carried out research on fossils in Shilin UGGp



◆ The book *Fossils in the Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark of Yunnan Province*

# Museum Education: Approach to MPPCN Educational Agents

Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil

## PRESENTATION

Museu de Paleontologia Plácido Cidade Nuvens - MPPCN, located in the city of Santana do Cariri, southern Ceará, is one of the facilities of Araripe Geopark. It was conceived with the objective of protecting the fossiliferous heritage of the Araripe Basin, which is often smuggled. Today, the institution plays an important role in contributing to the permanence of the fossiliferous heritage in the region (Fig. 1).



◆ Figure 1. Forefront of Museu de Paleontologia Plácido Cidade Nuvens - MPPCN

MPPCN was directly responsible for the title granted through Law No. 13.674, DE 27.09.05, which recognizes Santana do Cariri as Ceará Capital of Paleontology. The recognition thus inserts

the peaceful municipality into an indispensable regional itinerary for tourists. In this way, the institution becomes a driver of a new tourism-oriented economy, thus generating new jobs, in addition to being a center for researchers and research institutions in Brazil and the world.

The reception of the public that visits the museum is in charge of the educational agents, who are children and young people from public schools who have good academic performance. These young people are trained to transmit in a simple way all the knowledge acquired during the learning period, impressing both local residents and visitors from all regions with the content they pass on. Thus, they become multipliers of the idea and of protection and awareness of fossiliferous heritage.

## EDUCATIONAL AGENTS

The educational body of MPPCN is a group formed by young people from Santana aged between 12 and 17 years old, who are responsible for the reception of the Museum of Paleontology, these educational agents are students from the municipal education network and scholarship holders of a junior extension program at Universidade Regional do Cariri - URCA.

The educators' project was conceived by the



◆ Figure 2. Educational agents from the class of 2019 visited the geosites, accompanied by members of the Geopark Araripe team.

- A - Visit to Colina do Horto geosite;
- B - Visit to Riacho do Meio geosite;
- C - Visit to Missão Velha Waterfall geosite.

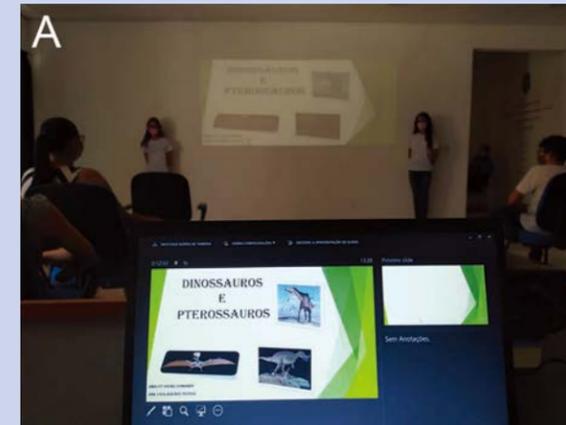
museum's founder, professor Dr. Plácido Cidade Nuvens, who understood that the function of propagating paleontological knowledge should come from the children of the municipality, and in this way would be contributing to the development of ecological awareness, making a connection through environmental education with the understanding of the importance of the collection of the Museum of Paleontology and the environment in which we are inserted, as well as enriching mediation in the museum (Fig. 2).

Currently, the MPPCN has 10 young people linked to the public notice Pibex/Junior/URCA. Concepts of environmental education focused on the importance of conservation and preservation of fossil deposits in the region are worked on. Not only the fossils, but also the entire biotic and abiotic system of the Araripe Plateau, in order to understand the dynamics of these organisms.

The training is developed through workshops, lectures, visits to ecological trails in Santana do Cariri, Geosites of Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark and natural and cultural tourist spots in the municipality (Fig. 3).

### FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

As a result of all this training, we have a considerable number of admissions to various courses at universities in the region. Most of them in the URCA Geography and Biology courses (Fig. 4). There are also some scholars who have followed promising careers in the social and political environment. The founder of the paleontology museum, Prof. Dr. Plácido Cidade Nuvens, has been considered a visionary within the institution, as he developed a program to educate children and young people, thus improving their personal and social development.



◆ Figure 3. Image showing activities carried out with educational agents: A - Content presentation of MPPCN activities; B - Training lecture for educational agents; C - Presentation of the geological time frame; D - Replica preparation workshop.



◆ Figure 4. Former educational agent and current coordinator of MPPCN's new educational courses in the graduation course in Geography (Licentiate) at Universidade Regional do Cariri - URCA.

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**JOSÉ LUCIO E SILVA**

**ERICK LIMA DE MELO EUGÊNIO**

Museu de Paleontologia Plácido Cidade Nuvens, Brasil



# Exchanges between students of different Geoparks

Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

This past school year 2020-2021 was full of difficulties due to the restrictions provoked by the pandemic situation and many students could not do any special activities such as field trips, exchanges, workshops with external experts, etc. Nevertheless, thanks to the networking between geoparks and the active participation in the Working Group of Education, we could spot some opportunities as we share experiences that can be replied in other territories.

During one of the meetings

of the Working Group, an experience of virtual exchanges between students from different geoparks was mentioned by one of the representatives of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network. We considered a great idea that could be replied in our territory. Therefore, we started to work to make it real.

The first step was to contact one of the high schools of the Orígens Geopark and talk with the teachers who were very excited about the proposal and immediately accepted to join the project. The second step was to

find other geoparks that would like to be involved in the virtual exchanges. We contacted

them by using the list of the Working Group and very quickly some geoparks answered with interest. At that moment, we started to coordinate between the schools and the three Geoparks involved: Hateg UGGp, Adamello Brenta UGGp and Lesvos Island UGGp.

The virtual exchanges took place during the European Geoparks Week at the end of May. Each virtual exchange had the participation of the presidents of the different Geoparks, either on previous recorded video or live virtual presentation.

About 100 students from the high school of Tremp in Orígens UGGp between 14 and 16

years old explain their territory in terms of geography and location, geological heritage, cultural and natural heritage and sustainable development (touristic activities and gastronomy). At the same time, they got to know an overview of other UNESCO Global Geoparks of Italy, Romania and Greece.

A total of 6 groups participated in the exchange, 5 of them in English and one in French. They worked in small groups and each group oversaw one of the issues mentioned above. However, at the end, all of them knew about their own geopark and the geopark to whom they did the exchange with.

Students found it exciting, and it was something very positive for them as they were tackling such a difficult school year. The experience was valued very positively by teachers, students and coordinators of the geoparks involved, so the different bodies agreed on consolidating it for the future by trying to reply it in other high schools in the Orígens Geopark, involving more teachers from other disciplines and make exchanges not only virtual but also face-to-face.

**Núria Verdeny**

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◆ Presentation of the virtual exchange by the President of Lesvos Island UGGp to a group of students in Orígens UGGp



◆ Small group of students explaining the paleontological heritage to students of Adamello Brenta UGGp



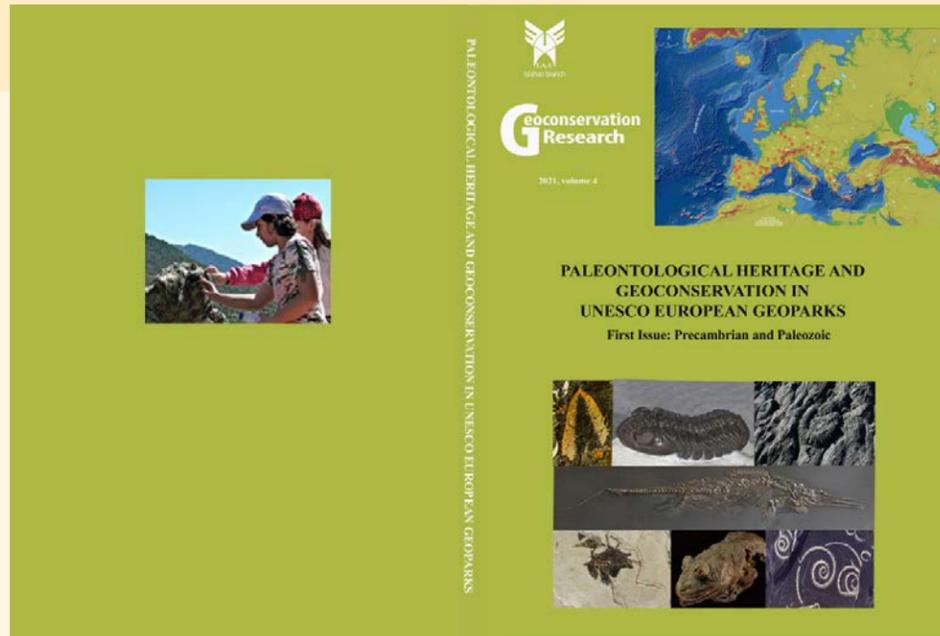
◆ Volunteers of Hateg UGGp explaining their geopark to the students of Orígens UGGp

# Paleontological Heritage and Geoconservation in the UGGps in Europe

The first issue of the special volume *Paleontological Heritage and Geoconservation in the UNESCO European Geoparks* was recently published on line by *Geoconservation Research* Journal. It can be accessed at <http://gcr.khuisf.ac.ir/> Volume 4 Issue 1.

The issue includes 24 articles dedicated to palaeontological geosites of Precambrian and Palaeozoic ages, preceded by an introductory article which presents the content of the entire volume. The aim of the publication is to document the best of the geology and palaeontology as depicted in the European UGGps and to share with other Global Geoparks ideas and initiatives that describe practical geoconservation measures in context of education and tourism.

The articles which are grouped by geological ages, from the Precambrian to the Palaeolithic, provide glimpses



→ Cover Special volume

on the evolution of life forms in Europe. They present a series of phenomena and events that have accompanied the evolution of life, well-illustrated in European geoparks. All articles include specific geoconservation aspects and initiatives in supporting geoeducation and geotourism based on paleontological geosites and their interpretation. The book represents the result of the activity of the Thematic group Fossils of the European Geoparks Network.

By the end of 2021 the second issue of this Special volume, including articles on Mesozoic and Cenozoic paleontological geosites in European UGGps will be published.

**Prof. Dan Grigorescu**  
Catalyst of the EGN Thematic group Fossils  
Guest editor of the Special volume of Geoconservation Research  
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HAȚEG COUNTRY  
UNESCO  
GLOBAL GEOPARK

# Hațeg - Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Online Exchange

Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark (Romania) and Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (China)

A collaborative effort was launched in May 2021 by Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (China) and Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark (Romania), to arrange online international exchange activities for young people in the two areas. The participants included 12 senior secondary students from CCC Mong Man Wai College, which is a member of the “Geopark Schools Programme” of Hong Kong Geopark, and 14 members of the Hațeg Country Geopark Youth Volunteer Program.

During the first online exchange on 7 May, geopark representatives from both sides



gave an overview of their home cities and geoparks, touching on characteristic features. The

participants were then divided into three international groups for discussions. Following a

round of self introductions, the group members presented their environmental protection-related study topic for the project. The study results were to be delivered in the second online exchange.

Participants from both sides maintained contact for three weeks after the first online exchange to learn more about each other. They worked together closely during the period to gather and sort information for their study topics. They presented their projects at the second online exchange on 27 May.

Unlike one-off online exchange activities, this project was a novel idea. During three weeks of exchanges, the participants had sufficient time to gain a thorough understanding of their peers' home city, geopark, lifestyle and culture. The study topics provided a focus and cooperation opportunities.

Survey questionnaires completed by participants after the project show that they enjoyed the experience very much. In particular, they were delighted to use the social media of their choice for detailed communication about each other's geoparks, city, lifestyle, culture, history and language for three weeks. To these two groups of young people, who

live five time zones apart, it was really a new and extraordinary experience. Many participants said that they were pleased to meet new friends overseas through this project and that they would keep in touch with their new international friends in the future. Others expressed a wish to visit their peers' home country or city to meet them face to face.

This collaboration has provided the two geoparks with valuable experience. We will continue to work with other GGN members in

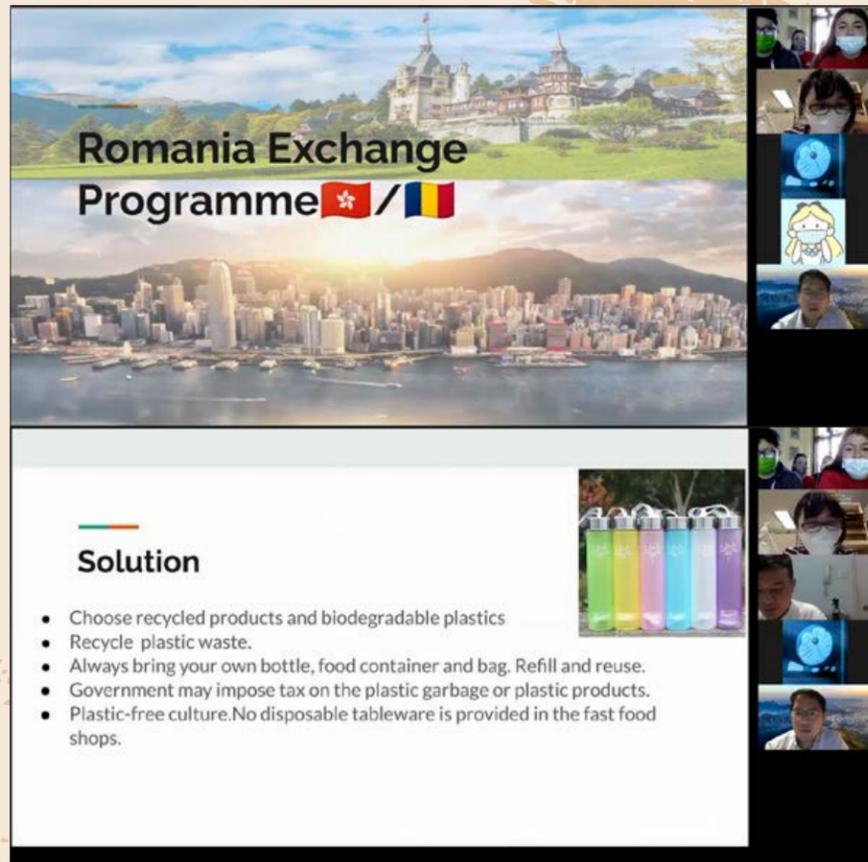
the future to improve and promote this model of cross-regional youth online exchange. It is a great way to broaden our students' knowledge, perspectives and vision, and is good training for communicating and collaborating with people from different cultures.

**Alvin Ng**

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**Cristian Ciobanu**

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# Beigua's Geosites in Sketches

Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

Teaching environmental issues to children is not easy but it's necessary to develop awareness: they're responsible of the sustainable development of their own future. To remain effective, environmental education must keep up with new languages, interests and media and Geopark Guides continuously update their didactic tools. The new born is the notebook "A Geopark to discover" for young explorers who want to learn the wonders of Beigua's geosites.

Thanks to an easy language that does not neglect scientific accuracy, many colourful sketches and funny games, the notebook helps to live the experience of the Geopark in a sustainable way. It's useful for the whole family, because

gives also suggestions to plan adventures in the park. It is distributed free of charge in the Geopark's Visitor Centres and

Information Points.

**Giulia Castello**

Beigua UGGp, Italy



◆ The new notebook "A Geopark to discover"



◆ Beigua's geosites in sketches



◆ The site of the competition

# The 2021 Youth Astronomy Science Competition of Hunan Province was held in Xiangxi UGGp



Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China

On May 23rd, the 2021 Youth Astronomy Science Competition of Hunan Province was held in Qianyuan Primary School of Jishou City. The competition, which was held successively for past four years, is guided by Provincial

Science and Technology Activity Week Organizing Committee, sponsored by Hunan Provincial Geology Museum and Hunan Provincial Association on Astronomy, organized by Xiangxi Prefectural Natural Resources

and Planning Bureau, Xiangxi Prefectural Geoparks Administration, Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum, etc. Peng Hua, Deputy Director-General of Xiangxi Prefectural Natural Resources and Planning Bureau, Director of

Xiangxi Prefectural Geoparks Administration attended the activity.

It is reported that Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum was included on the list of 105 Hunan Youth Educational Bases on April 9th, after becoming the popular science educational base of China University of Geosciences (Beijing), Central South University, Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Jishou University, etc. The designation will promote the development of Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum over popular science education, grand tour, cooperation and communication.

Before the competition, all the teachers, students and staff mourned for Yuan Longping, the famous scientist and father of hybrid rice who passed away on May 22nd. Huang Yuanfeng, Curator of Provincial Geology Museum gave a speech, and the supervisor declared the rules of the competition. Then, the students were set to answer the questions in group on the stage when the competition officially began.

24 competitors from various cities and prefectures of Hunan Province participated in the competition. During the contest, He Xiangtao, Professor of Astronomy College of Beijing Normal University and staff

from the organizing committee also made comments on performance of the competitors.

At the end, the students from Qianyuan Primary School of Jishou City won the first prize in group competition, while the students from No.1 Primary School, No.2 Primary School and Qiancheng Primary School of Jishou City won the second prize. Tian Dongxu, a competitor from Qianyuan Primary School of Jishou City won the first place in individual competition.

**Ye Qingzi**  
Geopark Administration of Xiangxi Autonomous Prefecture, China  
xxzsjdzy@163.com



◆ The Award Ceremony

# Shilin and Muduengsan UNESCO Global Geoparks Signed Cooperation Agreement



Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Shilin UGGp in Yunnan Province of China and Mudeungsan UGGp in Gwangju City of Korea signed cooperation agreement and established sister geopark relationship on April 2021. Representatives of the two geoparks could not conduct face-to-face signing ceremony and exchanges due to the pandemic of COVID-19, therefore one side signed at the agreement and sent the official document to the other. The main contents of the agreement are

exchanges of technical know-how and networking between the two geoparks through mutual visits and staff exchanges. The areas of cooperation include geopark management, science popularization, local community engagement, geotourism development, geological and nature conservation, personnel exchanges and mutual publicity of both geoparks, etc.

Shilin and Mudeungsan have established friendship and maintained close contact with

each other in recent years. In October 2019, representative of Shilin was invited to participate in the 1st International Workshop on Metropolitan Global Geopark & the 3rd International Comprehensive Field Workshop on Geopark in Korea. In December 2019, representatives of Mudeungsan visited Shilin and carried out exchanges on geopark building. Our normal life was seriously affected with the outbreak of the pandemic of COVID-19 in early 2020. It also



◆ The Director of Shilin Global Geopark Administrative Bureau



◆ The Director of Mudeungsan UGGp



◆ Representative of Shilin Attended the 3rd International Comprehensive Field Workshop on Geopark in Korea

had a negative effect on geoparks operation worldwide. Shilin and Mudeungsan sent greetings by email, bringing warmth and support to each other. Mudeungsan is the 14th sister geopark of Shilin UGGp. With the signing of the agreement, the friendship between the two geoparks has been greatly promoted. The two geoparks will continue to reinforce cooperation, learn from each other, share successful experience and best practice in geoparks.

**Bao Jihong**  
Shilin UGGp, China  
bjh723@163.com



◆ Representative of Shilin Attended the 1st International Workshop on Metropolitan Global Geopark in Korea

◆ Representatives of Mudeungsan UGGp Visited Shilin



# The First Partner Delicious Festival in Longyan all66p

Longyan Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, China

In order to further enhance the visibility and influence of Longyan Geopark and build an exhibition platform for partners' products. From April 30 to May 2, the First Longyan Geopark Partner Delicious Festival —Exhibition and Sales of high-quality and characteristic products, organized by Longyan Geopark Management Committee and undertaken by Longyan Geopark Conservation and Development Center, was held in Longyan Convention and Exhibition Center.

A number of Longyan Geopark

partners such as Fujian Beautis Mineral Water Co., LTD., Longyan Agricultural Development Co., Ltd., Fujian Liantianfu Biotech Co., LTD., etc. participated in this event, covering the fields of humanities, catering, accommodation, tourism, cultural creation, agricultural and sideline product processing, etc. The packaging bags of exhibition products were all printed with Longyan Geopark Logo to show high quality and honor.

On the event site, exhibitors were very enthusiastic to show and promote their own high-

quality featured products for citizens coming, at the same time, the staff carried out the activity of "scanning QR code to get gifts", guiding citizens coming to follow the Wechat official account of Longyan Geopark so as to know and support the creation of Longyan Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark.

In recent years, Longyan Geopark has been actively creating conditions and building platforms for the development of its partners, guiding them to implement advantageous projects, develop new industry types and featured products, improve service quality, so as to realize a common progress and win-win situation for Longyan Geopark and its partners. Up to now, Longyan Geopark has signed a partnership agreement with 44 units and issued the plaque of Longyan Geopark Partner for them, its partners progressively increasing.

**Lin Wensheng**  
Longyan aUGGp, China



◆ Distribution of GEOfood members (currently 27 UGGps in 19 countries)



scan the QR code and visit our website [geofood.no](http://geofood.no).

● GEOfood partners worldwide.

## IGCP<sup>726</sup> GEO food for sustainable development in UNESCO Global Geoparks



Magma UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway

The UNESCO International Geosciences Programme (IGCP) approved the research project "GEOfood for the Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks", to be held between 2021 and 2026, coordinated by Magma UGGp.

GEOfood is an international brand for traditional food in UGGps that aims to promote the connection between the geodiversity of UGGps and local communities, encouraging local, quality and sustainable food ([www.geofood.no/](http://www.geofood.no/)). In the last 20 years,

the concept of UNESCO Global Geoparks has changed the way geology and geoheritage are seen by the public. Geoheritage is no longer restricted to specific geosites and has become the driving force behind local sustainable development, along with other natural and cultural values.

The brand emerged as a response to the current global challenges that agriculture faces (from the earliest stages of creating and/or growing a food product until the distribution and

consumption), pointed through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030, as expressed in the GEOfood Manifesto.

It is urgent to improve food education and to foster the responsible use of resources. GEOfood is a registered copyrighted brand lead by Magma UGGp and currently it is being applied in 27 UGGps, in 19 countries, working with more than 110 local small and medium-sized enterprises (around 50 restaurants and 60 producers)



- ① The GEOfood brand aims to become an international reference in the promotion of food sustainability. The logo is included in all the products and partners, like in Livet på Fidsel, in Magma UGGp (© Mudeungsan UGGp).
- ② The connection between the product and the geodiversity must be provided to the consumers. Rice Wine (Dongdongju), from Mudeungsan UGGp (© Mudeungsan UGGp)
- ③ Food education fosters more sustainable food choices, consumption and habits and a better understanding of the geodiversity of the territories. Educational Programme in Arouca UGGp (© Arouca UGGp)
- ④ Potato trial fields in a project of innovative ecological cultivation in Las Loras UGGp (© Las Loras UGGp)



# A year of classification: 1 Mountain, 9 Municipalities, 1 Geopark

Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

and other local partners. All members work under the common mission of influencing local, regional and national policies towards innovative food systems and territorial planning which can strengthen urban-rural linkages and foster local economies in UGGps.

The main goal of the IGCP 726 project, under the theme 'Geological Heritage for Sustainable Development' is to study the link between geological heritage, geodiversity, ecosystem services, food production, and sustainable development, allowing for the establishment of methodologies, procedures, guidelines and resources for the extended implementation of GEOfood. The analysis of these relationships in depth is essential to understand the local identity of UGGps in all their cultural, social

and economic aspects (use of natural-geological resources). This research will be used as a basis for developing strategies to fulfill the IGCP broad objective: to increasing the understanding of geological processes and concepts of global importance, including lay emphasis on socially relevant issues.

The project team includes 45 partners from 26 countries:

- Sara Gentilini**, Magma UGGp, GEOfood Project Manager, Norway, sara@magmageopark.com
- Joana Rodrigues**, Naturtejo UGGp, Portugal
- Alexandra Paz**, Arouca UGGp, Portugal
- Helga Chulepin**, Gruta de Palacio UGGp, Uruguay
- Amy Proulx**, Niagara Aspiring Geopark, Canada
- Carol Gleeson**, Burren and Cliffs of Moher UGGp, Ireland
- Cristian Ciobanu**, Hateg UGGp, Romania
- Kirstin Lemon**, Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
- Leticia Chiglino Regional University Center of the East - University of the Republic, Uruguay
- Soma Sayedyounesi**, Geoscience Institute of New Age, Iran
- Sophie Justice**, Chablais UGGp, France

researchers from several UNESCO Global Geoparks, Universities, Museums, Geological Surveys, Aspiring Geoparks and projects and, involving involves all GEOfood members and partners.

Of the 18 applications approved by UNESCO in 2021, GEOfood received the IGCP Council's "Special Award" due to its recognized relevance.

When the will to apply the territory of Serra da Estrela to UNESCO Global Geopark status was formalized, in May 2016, we were at the beginning of a long road, whose end is impossible to determine due to the very nature of this classification. Four years later, on July 10th of 2020, UNESCO ratifies the Council's decision and distinguishes the territory of Estrela as a Global Geopark, making it the fifth Portuguese Geopark and, at the date, one of 169 classified territories worldwide.

This year marked the first anniversary of this classification, in a year inevitably marked by the constraints imposed by the pandemic. However, this first anniversary had to be celebrated by showcasing some of the initiatives that have guided our recent past, which have reinforced, unquestionably, the bottom-up strategy and the holistic vision of the territory, with firm work in the areas of Geoconservation, Education, Science,

Sustainable Development and Communication. In fact, the last 365 days have shown that the achievement of this classification was not the end of something, but the beginning of a work of generations which will inevitably mark the sustainable and integrated development and the networking within the Great Mountain of our country.

The Estrela Geopark is thus a key asset for implementing valorisation and territorial development policies, contributing to a greater knowledge and valorisation of endogenous resources, especially the geological heritage, as well as the secularly deepened relationship between these and human occupation. Therefore, numerous projects have been implemented that aim to achieve the most relevant goal of a Geopark: the promotion of a participatory and integrative territorial development. Ongoing, are projects such as the promotion of Heritage and traditions, the implementation of

the Great Route of the Estrela Geopark, the development of integrated touristic information systems, the participation in international initiatives to share good practices with other Geoparks, the development of an educational strategy that reinforces the Estrela mountain range as the most relevant living laboratory of the country, or the implementation of an international Science and Education network that attracts researchers, students and other publics with interest in these areas to the Estrela mountain range.

In fact, the first year has been promising, demonstrating the great potential that this territory has and how important its international distinction by UNESCO is. In this context, we highlight the Geoconservation award given by ProGEO Portugal, the nomination as one of the finalists of the National Tourism Award 2020, the third place in the Entrepreneurship Awards of Tourism of Centre of Portugal, among many others that have highlighted the work and relevance of this Geopark. Our recent past is also marked by the deepening of the work done in partnership with the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, with Tourism of Portugal and with the other Portuguese UNESCO

Global Geoparks. These have been some of the numerous initiatives that took place in the last year, almost always seeking to establish a clear relationship between the Geological Heritage, the landscape of Serra da Estrela and the empowerment of its agents and communities. On this subject, we highlight the training with Tourism of Portugal in the Geotourism area or the approval, in partnership with the Polytechnic Institute of Guarda, of the Nature Guides Course for higher education students.

Regarding the anniversary itself, this event was celebrated the way a UNESCO Geopark should; with the communities. Thus, 9 interpreted routes in the 9 municipalities of the territory were promoted, inviting people to know their territory and their heritage, to better preserve and valorise it. This was an initiative that also aimed at fostering the sense of pride and belonging of the inhabitants of this Geopark, making them agents of management and change.

The future for the Estrela Geopark will be one of affirmation and continuation of the work developed, with emphasis on the enlargement of the list of geosites, the improvement of its visitation and the conclusion of the Great Route project

(scheduled for autumn 2022). The production of the documentary series “Estrela”: a changing territory, the deepening of our network of partners, which is constantly growing, and the promotion of local products, through the GEOfood brand.

As we have seen, this first year has been the corollary of the work started in 2016, where the nine municipalities, the higher education institutions, the local schools, the local associations and the community in general have been called to participate, to deepen and build a new development paradigm for Serra da Estrela. This will inevitably include prioritizing the value of its heritage and identity and the affirmation of its internationalization, in a future where the local communities will inevitably have to take the lead in their own development process, participating actively in the construction and development of this territory. The Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark is above all a territory made by and for its people, where the geological history has built a landscape and a culture inseparable from the geography of this mountain that unites these 9 municipalities.



# Delegation from Linxia Autonomous Prefecture visits Xiangxi Global Geopark for exchange

Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China

To learn experience of applying for and building a global geopark, a delegation from Linxia Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province went to Xiangxi Global Geopark for a three-day visit during June 9-12, 2021. The event was attended by Tu Bibo, head of Propaganda Department of Xiangxi Prefectural Committee of CPC; Li Ping, vice governor of Xiangxi Prefectural People's Government.

The delegation visited the area within Xiangxi Global Geopark, including Shibadong Village, Aizhai Village, Furong Town. A seminar was chaired by Li Ping in Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum.

At the seminar, the officials from Linxia Autonomous Prefecture briefed general situation over the application and establishment of Linxia Geopark. Leaders of Xiangxi Global Geopark also answered questions raised by the delegation and conveyed

best wishes for Linxia to have a successful on-site evaluation. Members from the delegation of Linxia said that they found out the gap, learned the experience and updated the concept through the visit to Xiangxi Global Geopark. It is agreed that they should continue to strengthen the connection with relevant aspects of Xiangxi Autonomous Prefecture, fill in the shortcomings in the application and

establishment of global geopark, and enhance the infrastructure construction, recruiting more English majors and experts to join in the team. Linxia Geopark consists of 6 counties/cities, including Yongjing County, Dongxiang County, Linxia City, Guanghe County and Linxia County with total area of 2120 square kilometers. Represented by the Cretaceous dinosaur footprint and the



◆ Site of the seminar

late Cenozoic mammalian faunas, supplemented by the late Cenozoic strata, Danxia Landform in northern Linxia and the Three Gorges of the Yellow River, integrating distinctive local culture, Linxia Geopark is a comprehensive geopark combining geology, ecology and culture. At present, Linxia Geopark is applying for the global geopark and waiting for the on-site evaluation.



**Ye Qingzi**  
Geopark Administration of Xiangxi  
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# Series Activities of Lushan UGGp

Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

## International Bird Loving Day and Bird Loving Week Themed Science Popularization

From April 1 to 7, 2021, in order to make popularization on bird and other wildlife protection and promote public awareness and participation, focusing on the theme of "Love birds, Protect birds, Nature harmony", Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark nature reserve took active actions of International Bird Loving Day and Bird Loving Week themed Science Popularization.

Stepping into communities, scenic spots and schools, Lushan UGGp distributes posters, banners, and panels to make popularization of knowledge, laws and regulations on bird and other wildlife protection.

Cooperating with volunteers

from Jiujiang University, Lushan UGGp holds popularization class on birds' protection in Weijia Number Two Primary School and leads primary

students to have outdoor bird-observing. Taking multimedia promotions, Lushan UGGp plays popularization video of



## Activities and Events

Bird Loving Week in the big LED screens of 4 important communities and tourism service centers, releases news of Bird Loving Week in new medias, such as WeChat official accounts, Weibo, and personal WeChat moments, and makes follow-up reports in Jiangxi Provincial TV Station. With effective publicity activities, Lushan UGGp promote the public awareness of Love Bird, Protect Bird, Ecological Priority and Green sustainable development.

### The Fifth Lushan Botanical Garden Rhododendron Festival

On April 10, 2021, The Fifth Lushan UGGp Lushan Botanical Garden Rhododendron Festival, and 100 Years of Chinese Communists Party Anniversary opened. Numerous flower enjoying and spring outing trails attracted many visitors, students and photographers.

Rhododendron is one of the top ten traditional flowers in China, the provincial flower of Jiangxi Province and the symbol of the red culture of Jiangxi Province. There are 1000 species of wild Rhododendron in the world, 572 species Rhododendron in China, which mostly distributed in the alpine area 1000 meters above the sea level. There are more than 330 species Rhododendron collected and conserved in Lushan Botanical Garden in Lushan UGGp. Lushan UGGp Lushan Botanical Garden Rhododendron Festival shows the close relationship between geology, soil, flora and culture in Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark.



## Activities and Events



# The First Popular Science *Play-Back to Life*

Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

On 19th March, 2021 the First Popular Science *Play-Back to Life* on Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark was performed in Yingshang county where the geopark is located.

The *Play-Back to Life* focus on human beings who sunk and lived in the bottom of the sea after an earthquake, after which, the human beings recognize that environmental pollution has been a greatly serious problem in the world after. Under the help of a China sturgeon, human beings finally return to land and build their home. Combing lot of music and dance with scientific knowledge, focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic, garbage classification, first-aid, earthquake principle, rocket jet and etc.,

this play brings the audience a sense of space-time interweaving and has a series of sort of up and down plots, making it very popular among the audience and has attracted continuous applause.

It is well-known that Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark will have its first revalidation this year. The play aims to promote the integration

of science with culture and art, so as to create a social atmosphere of learning science, using science and loving science in Huanggang City, and will greatly promote its cultural and scientific quality all around.

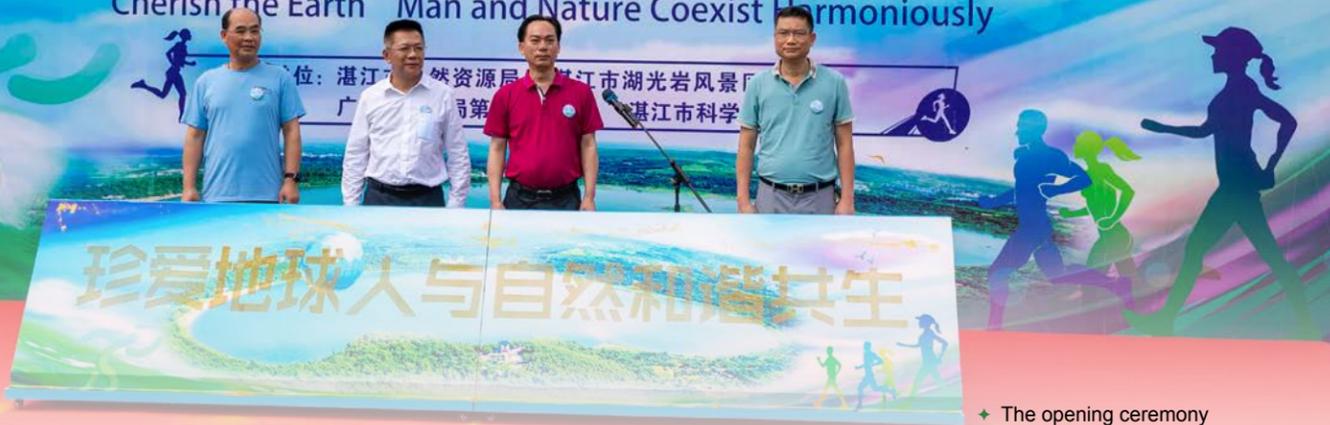
**Li Feng,**  
Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp, China  
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# 珍爱地球 人与自然和谐共生

Cherish the Earth Man and Nature Coexist Harmoniously



◆ The opening ceremony

## Leiqiong UGGp

Launched Publicity Activities of the 52<sup>nd</sup> "World Earth Day" and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Geoparks Week



Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

April 22 is the World Earth Day, the first day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Geoparks Week, under the theme of "Cherish the Earth, Harmony between Man and Nature". Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark Management Committee held publicity activities simultaneously in Zhanjiang and Haikou for better popularizing geoscience to the general public, guiding the public to respect and protect nature.



◆ Popular science lectures in campus

In order to celebrate the World Earth Day and strengthen the communication and tourism promotion among sister geoparks, Leiqiong UGGp held mutual exhibition and interaction activities on resource sharing and win-win cooperation together with 18 Chinese Geoparks of Yandangshan, Danxiashan, Lushan, Taishan, Zhangjiajie, Leye-Fengshan, Sanqingshan, Jiuhuashan, Xiangxi, Shilin, Wudalianchi, Dunhuang, Hexigten, Zhijindong, Shennongjia, Qinling Zhongnanshan, Huanggang Dabieshan, Longyan, and 6 Global Geoparks of Muroto and Izu Peninsula in Japan, Satun in Thailand, Dak Nong, Dong Van Karst Plateau and Non nuoc Cao Bang in Vietnam in the Asia-Pacific region. The activities include online and offline photography exhibition, earth science e quiz, science lecture in campus, the 5th Most Beautiful Earth Mark photography competition, etc.

During the World Earth Day, Leiqiong UGGp also hosted the hiking tour with the theme of "Caring Earth, Green Commuting", opened the Earthquake Museum to the public for free, distributed popular science printing

## Activities and Events

materials and videos to school and opened the new Exhibition Hall of Leiqiong UGGp in Leizhou Museum, etc.

Under the theme of "Cherish the Earth, Harmony between Man and Nature", people have expressed their commitment to

practicing green, low-carbon, energy-saving and environment-friendly ways of living and production, and contributing to ecological civilization.

Leiqiong UGGp, China  
leiqiong2006@163.com



◆ Leiqiong UGGp presents popular science books to Changbin Primary School in Haikou



◆ Hiking tour with the theme of "Caring Earth, Green Commuting"



◆ The Landscape of the Fanore Beach Geosite Heritage Week Talk 2021



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

# Getting out there for Heritage Week

Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, Ireland

Heritage Week is a national annual event that celebrates all aspects of Irish culture and heritage. The Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark was bustling with activity; from heritage walks to traditional Irish music and storytelling, the depths of Irish heritage and traditions truly came to the fore. The Geopark

management team jumped in on the action and ran three of their own unique educational events. On day one, Dr. Eamon Doyle, met up with a group of geology enthusiasts to provide an insightful talk on the geology and landscape of the Fanore Beach Geosite. Attendees were inspired with the tales of their 330 million years old

surroundings and were given an informative overview of how the area developed and how it has evolved over time. On day two, the Geopark team were joined by Dr. Tiernan Henry of the Earth and Ocean Sciences Department of National University Galway who was kind enough to give an interesting talk on the research

that he and several local volunteers are doing with river measurements in the Geopark and its significance with regards to climate change predictions.

Day three, saw Dr. Eamon Doyle running the ever-popular Antiques Rock Show where he showcased some of his unique collection of fossils and rocks. Attendees also brought along their own rocks for identification and they were able to get some valuable information on their own findings.

Getting involved in local events and developing their unique events is something that The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark holds close to its heart. It is a core function to portray the Geopark's cultural, educational and sustainable contribution in a way that resonates with the local people. These are just three of several events that the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark have contributed to in 2021.

**Seán O'Farrell**  
Media and Communications  
Officer  
Burren and Cliffs of Moher  
UGGp, Ireland

## Activities and Events



◆ Dr. Tiernan Henry (NUI Galway) - Aille and Gowlaun River research



◆ Dr. Eamon Doyle with attendees of The Antiques Rockshow



◆ Analysing the Aille and Gowlaun rivers for Heritage Week 2021