

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark / China / Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:2018/



The representative activity of the year: Participating in the 8th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium at Non Nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark in Cao Bang Province, Vietnam.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs:54 staff members, including three geologists.

Number of visitors:5.674 million.

Number of Geopark events:18.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 15.

Number of Geopark press release: 35.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024:

First, Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark (the Geopark) has initiated planning and deployment as early as possible to prepare for the 2025 evaluation. To prepare for the revalidation of the Geopark by UNESCO in July 2025, the Administration Center of Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark (the Center) made early planning and organized a technical team to carry out on-the-spot surveys and investigations on the construction and management of the Geopark at the beginning of this year. The goal was to identify issues as quickly as possible and propose rectification plans. In mid-March, we requested the deputy mayor in charge of the Geopark to organize a mobilization and deployment meeting to prepare for the Geopark's evaluation and make mobilization arrangements. The *Preparation Work Plan for the Evaluation of Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark* was issued. On November 18, Gao Pengling, Deputy

Secretary of the CPC Bazhong Municipal Committee and Mayor of Bazhong Municipal People's Government, presided over a special meeting for preparing for the Geopark evaluation and made important arrangements. We requested the deputy mayor in charge of the Geopark to print and distribute the *Implementation Plan for the 2025 Evaluation of Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark* on behalf of the Office of the Bazhong Municipal People's Government to ensure that the Geopark revalidation meets all standards.

Second, the Geopark has enhanced the supervision of the Geopark and strictly protected its ecological environment. We supervised and inspected the implementation of the *Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark Plan (2021-2035)* that has been issued by the Geopark and have proposed strict protection and construction plans. According to the plan, the Regional Geological Survey Brigade of Sichuan Bureau of Geology and Bazhong Forestry Bureau have jointly issued the *Letter on Further Strengthening the Construction and Management of Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark*, which clarified the requirements for strictly implementing the planning and control of the Geopark and continuously advancing geological heritage conservation.

Third, the Geopark has continued to engage in in-depth exchanges and cooperation, learning, and mutual visits with other global geoparks and actively participated in Global Geoparks Network (GGN) activities and conferences, enhancing the visibility of the Geopark.

Fourth, the Geopark has consolidated and improved the foundational work related to the Geopark and conducted regular geological hazard investigation, geological heritage conservation, and study tours in accordance with the revalidation requirements for the Geopark.

Fifth, the Geopark has carried out a series of special science popularization activities combined with festivals such as World Earth Day (4.22), International Day for Biological Diversity (5.22), World Environment Day (6.5), National Land Day (6.25), and National Science Popularization Day. It has received the Annual Contribution Award and Outstanding Work Award in the 8th "Most Beautiful Earth Mark" theme science popularization activity and the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of GGN.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation:

The Geopark has enhanced exchanges and cooperation and actively publicized the valuable geological heritage resources in Bazhong. In terms of international activities, the Geopark was invited to participate in the 8th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium held in Cao Bang Province, Vietnam. During the symposium, the staff from the Center presented a special report at the academic seminar to publicize and promote the Geopark and the 22nd Sichuan Guangwu Mountain International Red Leaf Festival. The Geopark's world-class geological heritages such as the Taoyuan Houhe Group-Complex, with a history of 3.3 billion years, the Jiaguo Mountain ridge-shaped peak cluster stretching over 10 kilometers, and the Longhu Cave Soda Straw Cluster covering an area of 800 square meters, were showcased to the public, highlighting the stunning allure of Bazhong in beautiful China. During the symposium, the Geopark established a sister geopark relationship with the Khorat UNESCO Global Geopark in Thailand. Zheng Yuan, China's representative of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network and the head of the Thailand Geoparks Network Center witnessed the event and put forward valuable suggestions for the future development of their geoparks. This collaboration has laid a solid foundation for interregional cultural exchanges between the geoparks and strengthened mutual visits and friendly cooperation between both sides. In October 2024, the staff from the Center participated in the online forum jointly organized by Khorat UNESCO Global Geopark in Thailand and presented a report on geological heritages and gender equality.

In China, the Geopark has strengthened interaction and exchanges with other global geoparks, particularly with sister geoparks. It has conducted visits to Shennongjia to attend the International Congress on an Eco-Security System for All People along the Belt and Road. Additionally, it attended the opening ceremony and symposium at the Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark and Changbaishan Global Geopark and participated in the "Geoscience Popularization Seminar of the Tourism Geology and Geopark Research Branch of the Geological Society of China" at Qinling Zhongnanshan UNESCO Global Geopark and make reports. The Geopark took part in the 2024 Annual Conference of China UNESCO Global Geoparks in Xingyi, Guizhou, and visited Beijing to attend the 20th Anniversary Symposium of the Global Geoparks Network. It also visited Longyan UNESCO Global Geoparks for the science popularization exchange camp activities of the sister geopark, made a

keynote report, and participated in the sustainable development salon activities. It visited the Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark for investigations and exchanges, leading to the signing of a sister geopark agreement and sending staff to Danxiashan for a month-long study and exchange. Moreover, the Geopark participated in the final of the Sichuan Province Science Popularization Explanation Contest in Zigong, inspected the construction of the Zigong Dinosaur Museum and other sites, and visited the Changshan Geopark to investigate and exchange the geopark construction. The Geopark also received a delegation from Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark for the "Friendly Sister Geopark Trip Activity". Chishui Danxia National Geopark in Guizhou Province visited the Geopark for investigation and exchange, established a sister geopark relationship, and engaged in activities to learn from each other's strengths and foster friendship.

Management and Financial Status:

Since its establishment, the Geopark has been under the unified management of the Center. The Center holds regular working meetings to study and address major issues concerning the Geopark. The Geopark's major financial sources come from funds allocated by national, provincial, and local governments. The funds are primarily allocated to infrastructure construction, scientific research and science popularization, geological heritage conservation, publicity & promotion, and personnel management. The funds for geotourism development, infrastructure construction, and other projects in the Geopark mainly come from the Bazhong Cultural Tourism Development Group Co., Ltd., local finance, and ticket income. The use of the funds is independent of the management body of the Geopark.

Geoconservation:

Since the beginning of this year, in accordance with the requirements of the *Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark Plan (2021-2035)*, the Geopark has strictly protected the designated 14 geological heritage conservation areas and eight geological heritage conservation sites. It has prohibited tourists from entering special-grade protected zones, strictly controlled the number of tourists allowed into first-grade protection areas, and banned the entry of motor vehicles. It has regularly inspected other protection areas to enhance the inspection and management of geological heritages. Systems have been established regarding law enforcement guidance, site responsibility, and key monitoring to prevent man-made damage to the geological heritages.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):

Yanziling cableway, Dalangou and Xiaolangou Valleys, Lion Cave, and Longhu Cave have been developed and maintained. Several karst caves have been opened in succession to allow for natural restoration. Enhanced management has been implemented for the karst caves under development. Each entry point is staffed with long-term personnel to minimize cross-ventilation between the karst caves and the external environment. The Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark Museum has undergone a comprehensive upgrade, including the renovation and replacement of logos and signboards. The Geopark has also invited experts to conduct field investigations and propose a protection plan for Nuoshuihe karst caves.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:

The Geopark has created a robust atmosphere of science popularization and education in combination with publicity themes. Geological science popularization is an important task of the Geopark. In this year's Science popularization activities such as Science Popularization Month in March, World Earth Day (4.22), and National Land Day (6.25), the Center collaborated with 12 departments (units), including Bazhong Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, Publicity Department of the CPC Bazhong Municipal Committee, Bazhong Municipal Political and Legal Affairs Committee, Bazhong Municipal Bureau of Education, Bazhong Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment, and Bazhong Federation of Trade Unions, to draft and issue the *Notice on Holding 2024 Bazhong National Science Popularization Day and Publicity Month Activity for Prevention of Cults*. Combining with the themes, the Center created a profound atmosphere for science popularization publicity and education with a focus on online publicity. During the publicity activities, electronic display screens at bureau authorities were used to continuously showcase science popularization knowledge, publicity slogans, and publicity videos. Additionally, the Center leveraged social media platforms such as self-media, portal websites, Weibo, and WeChat official accounts to carry out publicity, thus enhancing

the influence of the publicity activities. An information desk was set up to facilitate on-site consultations, enabling direct communication between professionals and the public, and 3,200 on-site consultations were conducted to publicize and explain the risk prevention of six common geological hazards, namely collapse, landslide, debris flow, ground collapse, ground subsidence, and ground fissure. Furthermore, over 16,000 copies of science popularization publicity materials regarding how to identify the tricks and main threats of the Eastern Lightning cult and its difference from superstition have been distributed to the public, bolstering their ability to trust science, stay away from cults, and protect themselves. The Geopark has remained committed to promoting "science popularization in schools, communities, and enterprises" and carried out knowledge publicity around laws and regulations on mine safety production, geological hazard and control, geological heritage conservation, and ecological progress. This initiative has fostered a robust atmosphere among teachers, students, community residents, and enterprise employees, encouraging them to love, learn about, and apply science.

Strategic partnership:

The Geopark has collaborated with travel agencies such as Sichuan Bazhong Yizhiyuan Travel Agency Co., Ltd., Bazhong Lumanman Study Tour Travel Agency Co., Ltd., and Sichuan Aikesen Study Tour Travel Agency Co., Ltd. in terms of study tours. The Geopark has cooperated with a number of enterprises in areas such as scenic area development and operations, scientific research, geotourism brand building, and hotel accommodation. The enterprises include Sichuan Tourism Investment Group Co., Ltd., Sichuan Rongda Jiuzhou Tourism Technology Co., Ltd., Bazhong Natural Resources Investment Group Limited, Bazhong Felton Hotel Management Co., Ltd., and Nuoshuihe Jingyue Hotel in Tongjiang County.

Promotional activities:

The 12th Sichuan Guangwushan Azalea Festival, the 11th Sichuan Guangwushan Summer Resort Festival, the 3rd Sichuan Nuoshuihe International Karst Cave Festival, the 22nd Sichuan Guangwu Mountain International Red Leaf Festival, and the 10th Sichuan Guangwushan International Ice and Snow Festival were held in the Geopark. These activities attracted tourists from around the world and significantly boosted local tourism revenue. Additionally, they were publicized in various mainstream media outlets. Through activities such as the International Red Leaf Festival, Guangwu Mountain Scenic Area and Nuoshui Dongtian Scenic Area received 5.674 million tourists in 2024, with a comprehensive tourism revenue of RMB 4.49 billion, up 18.6% and 17.2% year on year. Additionally, the geotourism brand "Guests Come from Afar" of the Geopark was specially exhibited at the Bazhong Planning Exhibition Hall to further publicize the gold-lettered signboard of the Geopark. During meetings such as the "Geoscience Popularization Seminar of the Tourism Geology and Geopark Research Branch of the Geological Society of China", the Geopark promoted and introduced its geotourism brand "Guests Come from Afar", the music video for "Guests Come from Afar", and 7-episode geoscience science popularization promotion videos.

4. CONTACTS

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