

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, P.R.China (Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network)

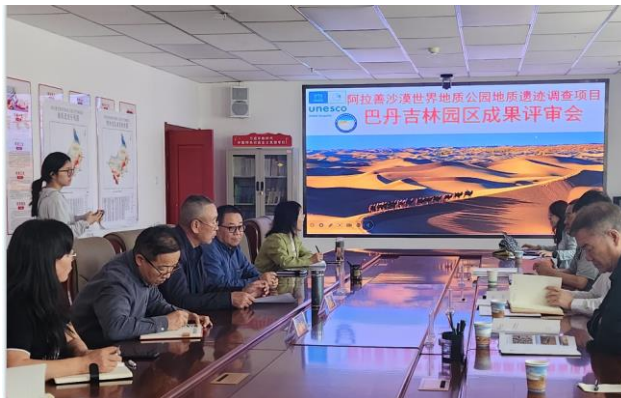
Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2009 / 2025



Attend the 8th APGN Symposium hosted in Non nước Cao Bang UGGp.



Attend the 8th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development hosted in Xiangxi UGGp.



Badain Jaran Geological Heritage Investigation Project was completed.



Hold an online promotion campaign for the Geopark science popularization and research route "Let's Explore the Geopark".



Jointly celebrating Earth Day and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Global Geoparks Network with 45 UGGps in China

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 47, and 11 geological expert consultants are hired

- **Number of visitors:** 2.79 million
- **Number of Geopark events:** 30
- **Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 13
- **Number of Geopark press release:** 57

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- The management team of the Geopark and China University of Geosciences(Beijing),the scientific research and technical support unit, completed the Badain Jaran Geological Heritage Investigation Project and obtained the relevant investigation reports.During this period, two new important types of geoheritage, namely volcanic craters and basalt columnar joint zones, were discovered.
- Jointly hold a series of promotional activities to celebrate Earth Day and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Global Geoparks Network with 45 UGGps of China.
- Hold the “Seminar on the High-quality Development of Research and Study Tours in Alxa Desert UGGp”,and invite Alxa’s research and study tourism partners, universities,primary and secondary schools, research and study travel camps, research and study education institutions, cultural and tourism enterprises, and news media units to jointly exchange and share.
- Successfully held the online promotion meeting of “Visiting the Global Geopark Led by the Director of the Geopark”.Representatives from 45 Geoparks, research institutions, Geological Society of China, Geoscience Tourism Branch of China Tourism Association, National Silk Road Cultural Research and Travel Industry and Education Integration Community and other relevant institutions have participated in the promotion of domestic research and tourism market cooperation and expansion.
- 15 wild animals were successfully rescued, including the goitered gazelle and the great bustard, a first class national protected animals.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

International Exchange and Communication Activities:

- The Geopark submitted 17 documents, photos, videos and other materials related to the SDGs to the GGN.
- The Geopark regularly participates in APGN LET’S DO IT online seminars.

- May 27-29, Shennongjia “Belt and Road” ecological protection of the community of human destiny International Symposium, and was invited to give a keynote report, introducing Alxa Desert UGGp related areas of experience and practice.
- From July 20 to 30, evaluator Sarina was sent to Indonesia by UNESCO to carry out the evaluation of Kebumen (Kebumen) newly declared Geopark and the re-evaluation of Batur UGGp.
- From September 11 to September 15, the delegation participated in the 8th APGN Symposium hosted by NON NUOC CAO BANG UNESCO Global Geopark, and carried out exhibition and publicity activities.
- From October 9 to 15, the delegation participated in the 8th International Training Course on Management and Development of UNESCO Global Geoparks hosted in Xiangxi UGGp.

Domestic Exchange and Communication:

- Organized photography enthusiasts from Alxa League participated in the 8th "Most Beautiful Marks of the Earth" photography competition, submitting 51 works that showcased the geological and ecological beauty of Alxa Desert UGGp from different angles. They were honored with several awards, including "Most Beautiful Geopark Award," "Gold Photographer Award," "Finalist Award," and "Annual Contribution Award."
- Visited and exchanged with Hexigten, Arxan, Shennongjia, Qinling Zhongnanshan, Huangshan and Danxiashan UGGps.
- June 19-21, participated in the Geopark Science Popularization Seminar organized by Tourism Geology and Geopark Research Branch of China Geological Society and made a keynote report to share the experience of geoscience popularization work.
- September 22-25, participated in the 2024 Annual Meeting of China Global Geoparks and the 20th Anniversary Seminar of Global Geoparks Network hosted by Xingyi UGGp.
- December 18-21, participated in the Fifth National Conference on Earth Science Tourism co-hosted by Geological Tourism Branch of China Tourism Association and sister Geopark, Danxiashan UGGp, was invited to host the sub-forum on evaluation mission and sustainable development of Global Geoparks, and gave a keynote report to share the experience of Korea evaluation mission.

Management and Financial Status

The Administration of Alxa Desert UGGp is the management authority of the Geopark, and its main function is to be responsible for all aspects of the geopark construction, including protection, planning, development, scientific research, daily management and visitor services.

Under the office, geopark section, nature reserve section, scientific research and popularization of science and technology of four functional departments.

After that, Alxa Left Zuoqi Branch, Alxa Youqi Branch and Ejin Branch were established

respectively for localized management.

The Geopark implements strict protection measures to ensure that no major geologic disasters will occur in 2024, and prevent any damage to geologic remains, ecosystems and environmental pollution.

The funds invested in the Geopark include government input and investment by tourism development enterprises, totaling RMB 26.5 million for the year.

Geoconservation

- Completed the Badanjiin Geosite Investigation Project and obtained the relevant investigation report.
- The “Badain Jaran Desert- Sand Mountain and Lake Group” was successfully inscribed on the “World Heritage List”, and we actively carried out the publicity work for the success of the inscription of “Badain Jaran Desert-Sand Mountain and Lake Group”, and assisted in the preparation and completion of the “Measures for the Protection and Management of the Badain Jaran Desert-Sand Mountain and Lake Group”.
- Through the way of “foot inspection + drone inspection + video monitoring”, seriously carry out the geosites inspection and care, up to now, a total of 150 patrol vehicles, more than 450 patrol personnel, did not occur in the destruction of geoheritages and other illegal phenomena.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Promote the development of study tour programs in cooperation with the League Culture and Tourism Investment Company.
- Produced study tour manuals for the Aolunbulage, Taosigou and Moon Lake of Alxa Desert UGGp.
- Completed the survey and design of 6 science routes.
- Updated and maintained 50 Geopark interpretation and signboards.

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

- It constructed an ecological protection science popularization corridor on the campus of the Mongolian experimental elementary school of Alxa Zuoqi, and an ecological protection science popularization publicity and education base on the campus of the Mongolian elementary school directly under the Banner of Alxa Zuoqi; built a new science popularization themed cultural garden; and optimized, upgraded and reconstructed the layout and content of the exhibition of the Geopark Museum.
- Nearly 1,000 teachers and students from primary and secondary schools were organized to carry out science popularization and study activities in Helan Mt., Badan Jaran Desert, Tengger Desert, Huyang Forest, Juyan Sea and other important geosites.

- In the community, we carried out popularization activities covering geoheritage protection, sustainable development, disaster prevention and mitigation, distributed more than 6,000 publicity leaflets and 1,500 cultural and creative publicity materials, made 30 mobile publicity panels and hung banners more than 15 times, involving more than 460 teachers and students, and replied to more than 3,200 consultations with the residents and the public.
- Strengthened wetland protection and management work, and continuously increased the frequency of wetland monitoring patrols; carried out the “2024 Alxa League Waterbird Synchronized Survey Project”, “Alxa League Autonomous Region Nature Reserve Goose-throat Antelope Survey Project”, and “Alxa League Autonomous Region Nature Reserve Survey and Science Popularization Publicity and Education Base Construction Project”.
- More than 200 copies of various popular science books, such as “Desert Historical Sculptures”, “Desert Boat”, “100 Questions on Popular Science” and “Collection of Scientific Research Papers on Alxa Desert UGGp”, were presented to two schools and libraries.

Strategic partnership

- Strengthened cooperation and training with China University of Geosciences (Beijing), a research and technical support unit. During the year, Prof. Tian Mingzhong and vice Prof. Sun Hongyan of China University of Geosciences (Beijing) were invited several times to carry out on-site guidance and online training on revalidation and personnel capacity building.
- In cooperation with Lanzhou University, Inner Mongolia University and other universities, more than 3,000 university students carried out practical teaching activities in the Geopark during the year.
- Organized a seminar on the high-quality development of study tours in Alxa Desert Global Geopark, inviting Alxa study tour partners, colleges and universities, primary and secondary schools, study tour camps, study education institutions, cultural and tourism enterprises, and news media units to exchange and share their views.
- Established long-term cooperation in science education with Alxa Mongolian Middle School, Alxa Middle School attached to Inner Mongolia Normal University, and the First Experimental Primary School of Mongols in Alxa Zuogi, and presented more than 2,000 copies of “The history of desert rock painting” and other popular science books.
- With Alxa League Camel Rodeo Association and Alxa Left Banner Bacirian Camel Association, a new partnership has been established and joint scientific and cultural activities have been carried out

Promotional activities

- Sub-utilizing various festivals and theme days, the Geopark has been publicizing the science knowledge and the special cultural activities of Alxa by videos, promotional exhibition boards, and Geopark sports competitions.
- The Geopark has published Geopark news in domestic media for a long time, and submitted 57 press releases in Chinese and English to GGN and CGN, of which 14 were adopted by CGN.
- Jointly organized the “The Second Sketching Activity of Hundred Painters of China Entering Alxa Desert Global Geopark - Art of Writing Ejin Poplar tree” with Ejin Banner Sketching Base and Ejin Banner Black city Poplar Scenic Area to promote Alxa Desert UGGp to painters and tourists from all over the country. The event publicized and promoted the brand of Alxa Desert UGGp to painters and tourists from all over the country.
- Provided relevant materials to China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) for the production of electronic teaching materials to publicize Alxa Desert UGGp and Badanjaran Desert World Natural Heritage.
- Geopark website was updated and maintained in Chinese, English and Mongolian. So far, we have updated 57 news and uploaded more than 150 photos.
- The video production and live streaming training was organized and conducted, successfully completing the recording of six live streaming sessions.

4. CONTACTS

Manager of Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark Administration: Mr. HUANG Tianbing

Geopark Email: smgy2005@163.com

Geopark geologist: Prof. TIAN Mingzhong

Email: 1085250594@qq.com