

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network:

Aras UNESCO Global Geopark, Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia Pacific Geopark Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2023/-



Improvement and widening of 65 % of Jolfa-Kalaleh Road, which connects most of the geopark geosites

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff:

13

Number of visitors:

13 million

Number of Geopark events:

- 7 Geopark public workshops on the topics of UNESCO global geoparks, and an introduction to geosites
- 13 Geopark workshops and field visits on geosites for the selected groups
- 1 Geopark Gastronomy event
- 1 Geopark geoproducts event
- 3 Geopark workshops on the topics UNESCO global geoparks, geopark partners network, geoproducts, and local community engagement
- 2nd Fig Annual Festival in Aras UNESCO Global Geopark
- 8th Annual Pomegranate Festival in Aras UNESCO Global Geopark

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs:

Number of Geopark press releases:

- Most of the geopark news, programs, and activities have been reported in the local, regional, and national media according to their importance and impact level.
- The geopark news is released on Aras UGGp's official website (www.arasgeopark.com), official Instagram page (@aras.geopark), and also the official website and Instagram page of Aras Free Zone Organization.
- Besides, more than ten documentaries on the geopark issues have aired on national TV channels. In addition, many local geopark partners acting in the media share clips and photos of our geopark.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2024

- Improvement and widening of 65 % of Jolfa-Kalaleh Road, which connects most of the geopark geosites, with a total length of 107 kilometers and a budget of 87000 US dollars
- Participation in Tehran Tourism EXPO
- Conduct a meeting with Gapan Mayer (Armenia's neighboring city) to talk about the possibility of developing a Transnational Geopark

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in GGN online workshops for SDGs
- Participation in the GGN Gastronomy working group activities
- Signing MoU with the Langkawi UGGp to mutual exchange tourists and experiences, August 2024
- Signing MoU with the Huangshan UGGp for development of tourism relations to encourage investment in this sector, February 2024
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Management and Financial Status

The total annual budget was 184,000 US dollars for infrastructure development, maintenance, and current expenses.

Geoconservation

- Renovation and restoration of the walking trail paths inside the geosites.
- Installation of the new interpretive, warning, and signboards in geosites.
- Construction of the new geopark visitor center building (35% development).

- Establishment of the late Baharak Vahdati Geoeducation Library

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Construction and installation of the Ammonite fossil Symbol in Khajeh Nazar Geosite
- Finishing the development of Geopark Square with an Ammonite fossil monument
- Installation of different geosites advertising posters in Julfa City and Choopan Geosite
- Refurbishing furniture and trash cans in geosites

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

- Field visit of Industrial Management Organization tour guide trainees from Aras Geopark
- Virtual training workshop on Facilitation of Rural Tourism with the presence of Aras Geopark Rural Councils and Local Guest houses Investors
- Educational local community empowerment workshop on traditional design in Julfa Historical Bath
- Workshop on an introduction to Aras UGGp Fossils Hosted by Geopark in cooperation with Tabriz University
- Field workshop on introduction of Aras UGGp for kids and Parents.
- Holding workshops on Disaster Risk Reduction for 2 schools

Strategic partnership

- Cooperation with some departments of Aras Free Zone Organization, such as tourism, cultural, environment, education, social, health, sports, urban design, engineering, and budget departments.
- Collaboration with Tabriz University in the field of geotourism development
- Cooperation with the Iranian Sports and Youth Organization to attract sports investors and event planners to Aras UGGp
- Signing and an MOU between Aras Free Zone and East Azerbaijan Communication Department to develop innovative communication tools and strengthen the internet and cell phone antenna in the border strip of Aras UGGp.

Promotional activities

- Participation in the Tehran Tourism Expo in Tehran together with the Aras Free Zone.
- Participation in the HORTEX Expo in Kish Island together with the Aras Tourism Department. HORTEX Expo is dedicated to national and international tourism, handicrafts, and free zones

- Publication of Aras UGGp Animal Species Atlas, 343 Pages, information and pictures of 120 bird species.
- Unveiling the Tourism Off-Road Bus built by Aras Brilliance Company

4. CONTACTS

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