

# Model for Environmental Sustainability: A Case of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

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*Oki UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan*

## What is UNESCO Global Geopark?

Single and unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.



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*Unzen UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan*

## Characteristics of UNESCO Global Geoparks

- Uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society.
- Give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area.
- Creation of innovative local enterprise, new jobs and skills to stimulate new sources of revenue through geotourism.



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*Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China*

## Key Milestones of UNESCO Global Geoparks

- 2000: UNESCO Executive Board deliberated proposal on 'UNESCO Geoparks Program' and agree to support and effort by member states to establish their national geoparks.
- 2004: UNESCO Advisory Committee on Geoparks established Global Network of National Geoparks (or Global Geoparks Network- GGN) with 25 geoparks from Europe and China as members.



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*Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark, Slovenia*

## Key Milestones of UNESCO Global Geoparks

- 2013: the Association for Global Geoparks Network (GGN) as a legal entity was established to replace an Advisory Committee's GGN Bureau.
- 2015: UNESCO General Conference approved the UNESCO Global Geoparks under International Geosciences and Geoparks Program (IGGP)



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# Distribution of UNESCO Global Geoparks



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# Framework for Geopark Development

## HERITAGE CONSERVATION

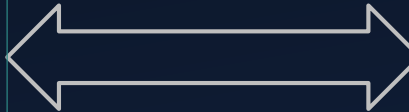
- Conservation of geological, biological and cultural heritage
- Integrated conservation of natural and cultural heritage
- Sustainable utilisation of heritage resources without destruction

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Balancing mass and specialised tourism
- Geotourism as a part of knowledge-based tourism
- Innovative tourism products

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Community as a key player
- Capacity building of local community
- Education on heritage
- Strengthening of 'shared values'





*Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia*

## Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

- 2006: Established as the National Geopark by Kedah State Government.
- 2007: Endorsed by Global Geoparks Network (GGN) as the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Geopark in Southeast Asia.
- 2011, 2015: Both revalidation missions endorsed Langkawi Global Geopark with Green Cards, active and fulfilled global geopark statute.
- 2015: Endorsed by GGN General Assembly as Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark under IGG Program.



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*Karawanks UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria-Slovenia*

## Langkawi UGG: the philosophy

- A management tool to balance between nature conservation, sustainable economic development and community well-being through protection of heritage, education and sustainable development.
- Co-management, lead by Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) with partners include university, public and private agencies and local communities.



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*Lanzarote UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain*

## Langkawi UGG: the components

- Heritage conservation and protection
- Local community empowerment
- Sustainable economic initiatives.



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## Langkawi UGG: the environmental sustainability

### local community empowerment

- Capacity building on heritage conservation and geotourism
- Develop the sense of place and shared values
- Custodian of geopark (geoparkian)
- Enhance participation (geopark ambassador, co-management)



*Qeshm Global Geopark, Iran*



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## Langkawi UGG: the environmental sustainability

### sustainable economic initiatives

- Geosites development (basic infrastructure)
- Enhanced tourism products (Kilim, Tanjung Rhu, Machinchang)
- New geotourism products (Kubang Badak, Tuba)
- Cooperation based tourism operators/ management
- Innovative geopark products (geocookies)



*Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark, China*



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*Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway*

## Concluding Remarks

- Geopark is about 'regional sustainable development in action'.
  - special attention on heritage conservation and protection
  - Enhanced community awareness on environmental value
  - New tourism direction: sustainable use (geotourism)



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*Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway*

## Concluding Remarks

- Geopark is an innovative Sustainable Development Solution for a region, particularly with regards to environmental sustainability



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thank you