

Langkawi UNESCO Global

2024

# GEO PARK

## GAZETTE



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DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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## FOREWORD

**Dato' Haslina Binti Abdul Hamid**

Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) CEO



Greetings to our cherished readers,

As I reflect on my first year as Chief Executive Officer of the Langkawi Development Authority, I am filled with immense gratitude. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the various government agencies, geopark partners, tourism stakeholders, Langkawi Development Authority personnel, and, most importantly, the incredible Langkawi community. Your unwavering support and warm welcome have made this journey truly special.

Your dedication to preserving Langkawi's breathtaking natural wonders and championing sustainable tourism has elevated our island's standing as a world-class experiential tourism destination. Thanks to your collective efforts, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark continues to shine as a model of conservation, education, and responsible tourism.

The year 2024 has been nothing short of extraordinary. Under the leadership of Dr. Azmil Munif, our exceptional Langkawi Geopark team has spearheaded numerous impactful initiatives. From environmental sustainability programs and insightful seminars to geopark exhibitions and international exchanges, we have strengthened our bonds both locally and across the Asian region. The continued expansion of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network, marked by new Memorandums of Understanding between geoparks, further underscores our shared commitment to safeguarding our planet's geological and cultural heritage.

We are also incredibly honored that Langkawi has been chosen to host the 9th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium in 2026. This prestigious opportunity allows us to bring the global geopark community together, exchange best practices, foster new collaborations, and inspire future generations to uphold our collective mission of conservation and sustainability.

As we move forward, I invite you to continue this remarkable journey with us. Thank you for your unwavering support in making Langkawi an enchanting island paradise, and we look forward to welcoming all of you back to our shores!





## FOREWORD

**Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo**

Advisor of Langkawi UGPP

As we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network in 2024, I am immensely proud to witness how far Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark has come. From its early days to becoming a global leader in geopark management, sustainable development, and geotourism innovation, Langkawi continues to set the benchmark for excellence.

Once again, the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark team has demonstrated outstanding leadership in driving environmental sustainability initiatives and raising the bar for responsible tourism practices in the region. Their relentless commitment ensures that Langkawi remains a beacon of conservation, education, and eco-tourism.

It has also been truly inspiring to see the growing emphasis on environmental awareness among the younger generation through the Geopark to School programs. Instilling a deep appreciation for geoparks and their significance among students is key to nurturing future stewards of our planet. These efforts are shaping a generation that values preservation, sustainability, and environmental responsibility—a vital investment in Langkawi's future.

A huge congratulations to Langkawi for being selected as the host of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium in 2026! Having been the proud host of the inaugural APGN Symposium in 2007, this upcoming event will showcase just how much Langkawi has grown and flourished as a Global Geopark over the years. It will be a golden opportunity to share our progress, inspire new collaborations, and reinforce Langkawi's position as a leading force in the Asia-Pacific geopark community.

Well done, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark!



## PREFACE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

As we celebrate the achievements of 2024, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark stands proud of its unwavering dedication to conservation, sustainable development, and community empowerment. This year has been a testament to our commitment, marked by transformative initiatives that have strengthened local communities, showcased our geological heritage, and expanded global collaborations.

Our dedicated team has played a pivotal role in advancing our mission through key programs. The Geopark Visit to Langkawi reinforced international cooperation, while the Zero KM Geogastronomy Initiative promoted local culinary heritage and sustainable economic growth. The Geopark School Program fostered valuable knowledge exchange, including a cross-cultural learning experience with Japan, and the Geopark Icon Program continued to honor individuals and organizations driving sustainability and creative economic initiatives. Additionally, our ongoing support for local schools has inspired environmental stewardship among Langkawi's youth.

Langkawi Geopark's presence on regional and international platforms grew stronger with active participation in national geopark events, including Lenggong Geopark and Sarawak Delta Geopark, solidifying our leadership in sustainable tourism. Hosting the 7th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks further amplified our role as a hub for knowledge sharing and best practices.

As we step into the future, we remain committed to preserving Langkawi's natural and cultural treasures while fostering innovation and sustainability. With the highly anticipated Geofest 2025 (July 2025) and The 9th APGN Symposium (September 2026) on the horizon, we look forward to shaping a future where nature, culture, and community thrive together. Let's continue making Langkawi a global model of sustainable geotourism and empowerment.



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## SEGMENT [1] : NETWORKING AND OUTREACH

### INTERNATIONAL

5 <sup>TH</sup> ASIA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK (APGN) WEEK	
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## INTERNATIONAL 5<sup>th</sup> ASIA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK (APGN) WEEK

### GEOMANGROVE PROGRAMME COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

On April 20, 2024, a group of 33 dedicated students, led by Nurul Asyikin Abu Bakar and accompanied by Principal Encik Muhammad Noor Fitri Ahmad and Fellow En. Mohd Fadzli Suhaimi, took part in the Community Touch: Caring for Nature Program.

This initiative, involving students from Inasis Petronas UUM, aimed to empower the younger generation in environmental and coastal conservation. Their mission is to nurture and plant mangrove seedlings, playing a vital role in restoring and protecting the delicate ecosystem of Kilim Geoforest Park, Langkawi.

Beyond just planting trees, participants gained valuable knowledge about the significance of mangroves—a crucial barrier against coastal erosion and a sanctuary for marine life. They also embarked on an eye-opening journey through Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark at the Geopark Discovery Centre, deepening their appreciation for Malaysia's natural heritage.







## INTERNATIONAL 5<sup>th</sup> ASIA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK (APGN) WEEK

### CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2024 WITH A MEANINGFUL 'NATURE WALK'

A total of 30 participants – including students, homemakers, LADA staff, and nature enthusiasts—joined the 'Nature Walk' program in conjunction with Earth Day 2024.

Led by the experienced nature guide, Mr. Zoher Mustan, participants explored Taman Legenda while gaining fascinating insights into the rich biodiversity of Langkawi. As they hiked to a scenic viewpoint near the pavilion, they were treated to a breathtaking sight—Pulau Dayang Bunting in the distance, framed by the golden glow of sunflowers in full bloom, as if nature itself was joyfully welcoming them.

Following a group photo session, the participants proceeded to a tree-planting activity. Under the guidance of Puan Sarahanas binti Mohd Amirul Rashid, Chairperson of Puspanita LADA, they planted three *Eugenia oleiana* (kelat paya) saplings, contributing to the preservation of Langkawi's natural heritage.

This program not only provided valuable environmental knowledge but also served as a reminder that the responsibility of protecting nature belongs to everyone, regardless of background. May initiatives like these continue to inspire and educate, fostering a deeper appreciation for the world we share.







## INTERNATIONAL STRENGTHENING INDONESIA – LANGKAWI RELATIONS



On January 23, 2024, Bapak Wanton Saragih, the newly appointed Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Penang (since December 2023), paid a courtesy visit to the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), accompanied by several senior consular officials.

During the meeting, discussions centered on the next steps following the Geopark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in November 2023 between Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark, and Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark. The dialogue also explored exciting opportunities for collaboration in promoting Indonesia and Langkawi in the tourism industry, as well as strengthening geopark development initiatives.

This visit marks a significant step toward fostering stronger bilateral cooperation and advancing sustainable tourism and conservation efforts between Malaysia and Indonesia.







## INTERNATIONAL EXTRA : UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK (UGGp) 2024

### APGN DEVELOPMENT FORUM

HONG KONG UGGp, CHINA

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 ~ 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024



### INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

LESVOS UGGp, GREEK

27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 ~ 03<sup>rd</sup> June 2024



### THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GEOTOURISM FESTIVAL & INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

RINJANI-LOMBOK UGGp, INDONESIA

04<sup>th</sup> July 2024 ~ 06<sup>th</sup> July 2024



### APGN SYMPOSIUM 2024

CAO BANG UGGp, VIETNAM

11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 ~ 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024





## A VISIT FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS ASO UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

From April 24th to 27th, 2024, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark had the honor of hosting a delegation from Aso UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, led by Mr. Koki Nagata (Director), Mr. Yusuke Watanabe (Vice Director), Mr. Yoshiki Izawa (Partnership Designer), and Ms. Koharu Soejima (International Coordinator).

The visit provided an immersive exchange of knowledge and best practices, strengthening ties between the two globally recognized geoparks. The delegation actively participated in Earth Day Celebration 2024 at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kedawang, where they engaged with local students and witnessed community-driven conservation efforts.



As part of their visit, the delegation explored some of Langkawi's most iconic geosites, including:

### **MACHINCHANG CAMBRIAN GEOFOREST PARK**

Home to some of the oldest exposed rock formations in Southeast Asia.

### **KILIM KARST GEOFOREST PARK**

A breathtaking landscape of limestone formations, mangroves, and unique biodiversity.

### **LANGKAWI GEOPARK DISCOVERY CENTRE**

A hub of geological education and conservation initiatives.

The delegation was deeply inspired by Langkawi UGGp's innovative programs and projects, recognizing opportunities to adapt similar initiatives for the Aso UNESCO Global Geopark.

This visit marks an important step in fostering stronger international collaboration, with the hope of establishing a long-term partnership that will drive sustainable development and knowledge-sharing among global geoparks.





## A VISIT FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS

### JEONBUK WEST COAST UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark proudly welcomed a distinguished delegation from Jeonbuk West Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, South Korea, to formalize a historic sistership agreement aimed at strengthening cooperation in geopark development, research, education, and community engagement.

The 13-member delegation, led by Mr. Kang Haewon (Director General of Environment and Greenspace Bureau, Jeonbuk State), Mr. Kwon Ig Hyeon (Mayor of Buan County), and Mr. Kim Cheol Tae (Deputy Governor of Gochang County), embarked on an immersive exploration of Langkawi's iconic geosites at Kilim Karst Geoforest Park and Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park.



This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) represents a milestone collaboration, reinforcing both geoparks' commitment to:

- Advancing scientific research in geological heritage
- Enhancing educational initiatives to foster awareness and appreciation
- Promoting sustainable tourism for environmental conservation
- Empowering local communities through engagement and economic opportunities

By forging this strategic alliance, Langkawi UGGp and Jeonbuk West Coast UGGp pave the way for a future of shared growth, knowledge exchange, and global recognition in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.





## A VISIT FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS XIANGXI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark had the honor of welcoming a delegation from Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China, led by Mr. Liu Dongsheng, as they made their journey home from the APGN Symposium in Cao Bang UGp.



During their visit, the delegation embarked on a breathtaking boat tour through the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, immersing themselves in the stunning landscapes and rich biodiversity of Langkawi's geopark. They were scheduled to experience the Langkawi SkyCab at Oriental Village, but unfortunately, unfavorable weather conditions prevented the cable car from operating.

Despite this setback, the delegates expressed great enthusiasm for Langkawi's geological wonders and cultural heritage—making it clear that their visit was only the beginning. With Langkawi set to host the APGN Symposium in 2026, they are eager to return and fully experience the wonders of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.







## A VISIT FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS FUNIUSHAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Wu Zixian and officers from Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark during their official visit from September 18–19, 2024. This marks their first visit to Langkawi since the signing of the MoU in June 2007, further strengthening the long-standing relationship between the two geoparks.

During their visit, the delegation experienced some of Langkawi's most iconic geosites, including the Langkawi SkyCab at Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park, a scenic boat tour through Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, and an insightful visit to the Langkawi Research Centre. They were accompanied by Mr. Jack Khoo, an esteemed Langkawi nature guide, who provided expert insights into the island's unique geological and ecological heritage.

We look forward to welcoming the Funiushan UGGp delegation once again in 2026 for the 9th APGN Symposium in Langkawi, where we can continue fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the global geopark community.





## ARTICLES ON NEIGHBOURING UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

## YUNYANG GEOPARK

## A GATEWAY TO GEOLOGICAL WONDERS &amp; CULTURAL RICHES

Located at the core of Yunyang County, Chongqing, Yunyang Geopark is a treasure trove of geological marvels, natural beauty, and rich cultural heritage. Proudly bearing the slogan, "Grand Yangtze, Natural Yunyang," the geopark spans an expansive 1,124.05 km<sup>2</sup>, strategically located at the junction between the hilly terrain and the mountains of the Sichuan Basin's eastern edge.



This extraordinary geopark is best known for its Middle Jurassic dinosaur fossils, a remarkable assemblage that dates back over 170 million years, offering a glimpse into ancient Earth's mysterious past. Complementing this ancient history is the awe-inspiring Longgang Karst Landform, a breathtaking natural sculpture carved over millennia. Beyond its geological wonders, Yunyang Geopark thrives in biodiversity, sheltering rare wildlife and endemic plant species within the pristine upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

But Yunyang is more than just a geological haven. It is a living tapestry of culture and history. The park is a sanctuary for the Tujia ethnic minority, whose vibrant traditions infuse the area with a rich cultural depth. As visitors wander through Yunyang, they experience a seamless blend of scientific discovery, cultural exploration, eco-tourism, and leisure.





Among its cultural landmarks, the thousand-year-old Zhangfei Temple stands as a testament to ancient history and spiritual significance. Often called "an outstanding destination for both scenic beauty and cultural heritage," it draws travelers from far and wide. Other historical gems include the ancient military ruins of Panshi City from the Southern Song Dynasty and the iconic Cloud Ladder, also known as the "first ladder of the Yangtze River." The 33-kilometer-long Yunyang Greenway also invites exploration, connecting nature with history in an unforgettable journey.



Yunyang Geopark also plays a crucial role as an ecological barrier in the upper Yangtze River region. Several protected nature reserves and forest parks thrive here, providing safe habitats for an array of wildlife and plant species that make this region so unique.

With its stunning geological features, historical depth, cultural richness, and diverse ecosystems, Yunyang Geopark is more than just a destination – it's a transformative journey through time. It's an unparalleled opportunity to uncover ancient dinosaur fossils, immerse yourself in nature's wonders, and embrace a peaceful escape, all while experiencing the heart and soul of China's Tujia culture. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a history buff, or a cultural explorer, Yunyang Geopark promises an adventure that's as enriching as it is unforgettable.





## ARTICLES ON NEIGHBOURING UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

### MUDEUNGSAK UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

#### TRACE FOSSILS OF LIFE PRESERVED

Located in the southwestern corner of the Korean Peninsula, Mudeungsan UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) is a time capsule of Earth's history. From the ancient Precambrian era to today, this land has witnessed dramatic geological transformations—colossal volcanic eruptions, the rise and fall of landscapes, and the footsteps of dinosaurs frozen in stone. Yet, beyond these remarkable natural wonders, Mudeungsan's true magic lies in the enduring connection between its land and its people.

#### THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT TOMBS FROM VOLCANIC ASH : THE MEGALITHIC BURIAL CULTURE (3,000 YEARS AGO)

Long before written history, powerful volcanic eruptions blanketed this region in layers of thick ash. Over millennia, this ash hardened into immense rock formations that later fractured into smaller slabs. To the people who lived here 3,000 years ago, these rocks were more than just remnants of past eruptions—they became protectors of the deceased.

Believing that massive stones could shield their ancestors' spirits from harm, they carefully arranged these rocks into tombs known as dolmens. Some were buried beneath them, while others constructed stone chambers and placed massive slabs on top, creating some of the most striking megalithic burial sites in the world.

Even today, over 600 dolmens stand proudly within a 4-kilometer valley, a solemn tribute to an ancient civilization's enduring reverence for the land. Recognized for their historical significance, these dolmens were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000, linking them forever to the global heritage of humanity.





## THE PEOPLE WHO CARVED BUDDHAS INTO VOLCANIC STONE : THE BUDDHIST CULTURE OF THE 13TH CENTURY

During the 13th century, as foreign invasions swept across the Korean Peninsula, people sought refuge in the quiet, mountainous embrace of Mudeungsan. In their search for solace, they turned to their faith, leaving behind some of the most unique Buddhist relics in Korea.



Here, among the thin layers of volcanic ash fused with stone, Buddhist monks and artisans carved serene images of the Buddha, transforming the landscape into a sacred space of peace and meditation. Two immense Buddha figures were etched onto a massive stone slab atop a hill—yet instead of standing, they lie in repose, embodying a deep sense of tranquility and spiritual reflection.

Today, the legacy of these stone Buddhas and unique pagodas lives on in Unjusa Temple, a place where history, devotion, and mystery intertwine.

## THE PEOPLE WHO TRANSFORMED VOLCANIC EARTH INTO ART : THE BUNCHEONG CERAMICS CULTURE OF THE 14TH CENTURY

The eruptions that once sculpted Mudeungsan's striking basalt columns also left behind fertile yet coarse soil, a hidden gift for potters who would settle here.

These artisans found themselves in a land rich with pure water, dense forests for fuel, and naturally abundant clay. But there was a challenge—the soil was too rough, producing a dull, unrefined ceramic surface. Instead of giving up, they adapted. They began coating their pottery in a thin layer of white Goryeo clay, then carving intricate designs before glazing the pieces.

This innovative technique gave birth to Buncheong ware, a distinctive style of Korean pottery that flourished across the country. Today, centuries later, this artistic tradition is still very much alive, proudly carried on by local artisans who continue to shape clay in the shadows of Mudeungsan's towering cliffs.





## MUDEUNGSAN UGGP WHERE CULTURE AND GEOLOGY MERGE

Three volcanoes erupted, but each era left behind something far greater than lava and stone—they left behind stories, traditions, and a deep human connection to the land. Like trace fossils imprinted in rock, these cultural legacies remain embedded within Mudeungsan's breathtaking landscapes.



Mudeungsan UNESCO Global Geopark is dedicated to preserving these "intangible trace fossils"—the echoes of past civilizations—and sharing their stories with the world. Visitors won't just see rocks, but bear witness to a landscape brimming with history, spirituality, and creativity, shaped by both nature and humankind.





ARTICLES ON NEIGHBOURING UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

## LUSHAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

### A TIMELESS SANCTUARY OF NATURE AND CULTURE

Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark, nestled in Jiangxi Province, China, is where mountains rise, rivers weave, and lakes stretch endlessly. Spanning 548 km<sup>2</sup>, it is crowned by the majestic Mount Lushan (1,474m), standing sentinel between the mighty Yangtze River and the vast Poyang Lake. Recognized for both its natural splendor and cultural depth, Lushan became China's first UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape in 1996 and was designated a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2004.



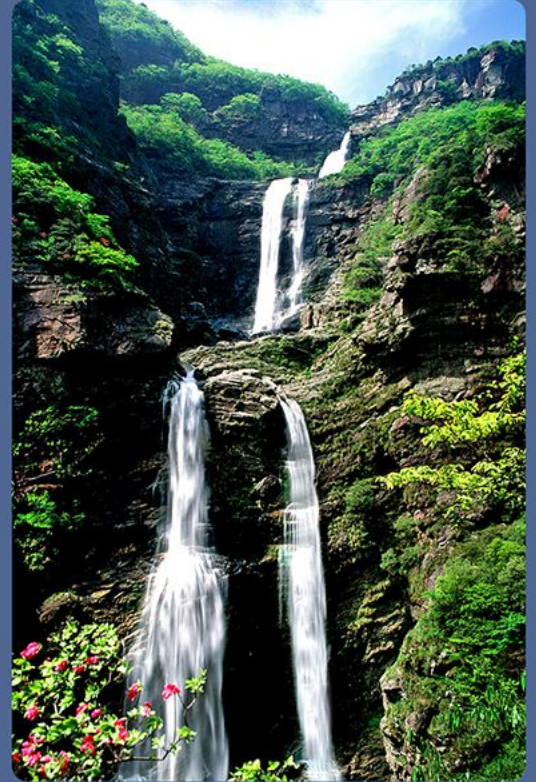
This mountain is a geological masterpiece, shaped by Quaternary glaciation, fault-block formations, and metamorphic structures. It played a pivotal role in the development of China's Quaternary Glaciation Theory, pioneered by geologist Li Siguang. With over 100 geo-relics preserving traces of ancient ice ages, Lushan is a cornerstone of global paleoclimate research, its glacial history mirroring that of the European Alps and North America.

Beyond its geological significance, Lushan thrives as an ecological haven. It shelters 2,092 native plant species and 342 vertebrate species, including rare and endemic wildlife. This rich biodiversity makes it a living laboratory for ecological and environmental research.





Lushan's cultural and intellectual legacy is equally profound. As early as 126 BC, historian Sima Qian chronicled its significance. Over centuries, the mountain has inspired poets, artists, and scholars—4,000 literary figures have left behind 16,000 poems, solidifying Lushan as the birthplace of Chinese landscape poetry and painting. The White Deer Cave Academy, founded in 940 AD, became a beacon of Neo-Confucian thought, shaping education in China and beyond.



Spiritual traditions thrive on Lushan, where five religions coexist in harmony. Donglin Temple, established in 386 AD, is revered as the birthplace of the Pure Land Sect of Buddhism. The mountain's ethereal mist has also given rise to the famed Lushan Cloud and Mist Tea, a prized gem in China's tea culture.

Adding to its timeless allure, Lushan is home to over 600 well-preserved villas showcasing 20 distinct Western architectural styles, earning it the title of a "museum of modern villa architecture."

A convergence of breathtaking landscapes, deep cultural roots, and scientific importance, Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark is not just a destination—it is a living testament to nature's artistry and humanity's enduring legacy.





## KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH NATIONAL GEOPARKS

### INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SARAWAK DELTA GEOPARK

The Sarawak Delta Geopark International Seminar, held in Kuching, Sarawak, brought together nearly 350 participants, uniting experts, geopark representatives, and local stakeholders in a dynamic exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The seminar featured two compelling keynote addresses by Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo and Mr. Guy Martini, alongside 10 impactful presentations from UNESCO Global Geoparks across Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as agencies involved in Sarawak Delta Geopark's development.

Dr. Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari, Manager of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark and Head of LADA's Tourism Division, delivered an inspiring presentation titled:

#### **"LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK: A JOURNEY OF CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS"**



Langkawi UGGp also set up an informative exhibition booth, engaging with participants—many from the Sarawak Delta Geopark community and related agencies.

The seminar extended beyond academic discussions with a one-day field visit to Bau Geotrail, where participants explored significant geosites of Sarawak Delta Geopark. A highlight of the visit was an immersive cultural experience at the Bung Jagoi Heritage Center, home to the Bidayuh indigenous community.

This seminar successfully advanced the mission of Sarawak Delta Geopark in meeting the criteria for UNESCO Global Geopark recognition. It also reinforced collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and community engagement, strengthening connections within the UNESCO Global Geopark network and local stakeholders.

With its blend of expert insights, field experiences, and cultural exchanges, the International Seminar on Sarawak Delta Geopark marked a significant step forward in sustainable geopark development and conservation efforts.





## KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH NATIONAL GEOPARKS

### LENGGONG GEOPARK NETWORKING SEMINAR & EXHIBITION : CELEBRATING THE PROCLAMATION OF LENGGONG GEOPARK



A three-day seminar held at Resort Tasik Raban, Lenggong, Perak, brought together 11 national geoparks from across Malaysia, including Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark and Kinabalu UNESCO Global Geopark.



Designed around the "Geosharing" concept, this seminar served as a vital platform for knowledge exchange, featuring presentations and field visits that highlighted geopark development across various regions. It also fostered stronger collaborations among Malaysian geoparks while emphasizing the importance of environmental sustainability and local economic empowerment.



The seminar culminated in the official proclamation of Lenggong Geopark by His Royal Highness, Paduka Seri Sultan Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah. On the final day, a vibrant exhibition featuring 20 booths took place at Dataran Kota Tampan, Lenggong, showcasing the unique geological and cultural heritage of the newly recognized geopark.

This landmark event marked a significant step forward in strengthening Malaysia's geopark network, fostering conservation efforts, and driving sustainable tourism development.







## LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK EXHIBITIONS PUTRAJAYA OPEN DAY 2024

01<sup>st</sup> February 2024 ~ 04<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) participated in a tourism product exhibition in conjunction with Putrajaya Open Day 2024. The event took place from February 1 to 4, 2024, at the Putrajaya Corporation Complex.

The Federal Territory Day 2024 and Putrajaya Open Day 2024 were officially launched by YB Dr. Zaliha binti Mustafa, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories). The opening ceremony featured a 2.5km healthy walk from Dataran Putra to Dataran Putrajaya, in which Dr. Azmil Munif bin Mohd Bukhari, Tourism Division Manager, represented LADA.

At the exhibition, LADA actively promoted the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, engaging visitors with interactive activities.

Approximately 500 visitors stopped by the LADA booth and took part in fun challenges such as crossword puzzles and rock name matching games. The exhibition also featured participation from LADA's subsidiaries, Panorama Langkawi Sdn. Bhd. and Langsura Geopark Sdn. Bhd.





# LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK EXHIBITIONS LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK EXHIBITIONS ACROSS MALAYSIA



**SEMINAR PLAN MALAYSIA**  
KOMPLEKS LADA  
07<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**27<sup>TH</sup> RAINFOREST WORLD  
MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024,  
SARAWAK**  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 ~ 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024



**MAHA SERDANG**  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 ~ 23<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**IRONMAN 2024**  
DEWAN MIEC

10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 ~ 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024



**JERAI GEOPARK**  
GUAR CHEMPEDAK

14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 ~ 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**FESTIVAL KRAF  
LANGKAWI 2024**  
23<sup>th</sup> December 2024







# SEGMENT [2] : GOVERNANCE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION

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## LAUNCH OF THE LANGKAWI GEOPARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024 – 2028

On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark officially launched the Langkawi Geopark Management Plan 2024–2028, a strategic action plan derived from the Langkawi Geopark Master Plan 2012–2030.

The launch ceremony was officiated by Dato' Haslina Abdul Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of LADA, alongside esteemed figures including Wan Kamarul Faisal Wan Kamardin, Deputy CEO (Planning & Development) of LADA, Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, Vice President of the Global Geopark Network, Prof. Dr. Norhayati Ahmad, Head of the Geopark Research Centre, and Dr. Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari, Head of Tourism & Manager of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.

This five-year management plan is meticulously designed to strengthen Langkawi's global competitiveness as a leading geopark development model in the Asia-Pacific region, while reinforcing its leadership role in education and sustainable management across Southeast Asia.

The event concluded with the official reappointment of Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo as Advisor to the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) until 2027. Additionally, appointment letters were presented to the newly designated Chairpersons of the Langkawi Geopark Working Committees for the 2024–2028 term:

Prof. Dr. Norhayati Ahmad

Chairperson of the  
Scientific &  
Conservation Committee

Wan Kamarul Faisal

Wan Kamardin

Chairperson of the Development  
& Promotion Committee

Ahmad Fuad Che Ani

Chairperson of the  
Community Engagement &  
Public Education Committee

With this strategic roadmap in place, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is poised to advance its mission of sustainable development, conservation, and education, solidifying its status as a world-class geopark.







## GEOPARK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMMES CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2024

In a powerful demonstration of environmental stewardship, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, in collaboration with the Langkawi District Education Office and all 32 schools across Langkawi, came together to celebrate Earth Day 2024 with a commitment to sustainability and conservation.

The program was officiated by Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, Vice President of the Global Geoparks Network and Advisor to Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, reinforcing the island's dedication to fostering environmental awareness among its younger generation.

As part of this initiative, each of the 32 participating schools received fruit tree seedlings to be planted within their school grounds—symbolizing a long-term commitment to nature and sustainability. The event also featured a ceremonial tree planting led by Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, alongside Tn. Haji Mohamad Kamal bin Hashim, Langkawi District Education Officer, and Cikgu Razalli Mohd Said, Headmaster of Sekolah Kebangsaan Kedawang, witnessed by school representatives from across the island.

This initiative not only fosters a deeper connection between students and their environment but also reinforces Langkawi's role as a global leader in sustainable education and conservation efforts.





## GEOPARK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

### LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK EXHIBITION AT SMK KELIBANG



On the 26th of September 2024, the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) was honored to participate in the Karnival Persada Jaya at SMK Kelibang, Langkawi, by hosting a Geopark exhibition as part of the Geopark to School initiative.

The exhibition featured interactive activities, including informative sessions and engaging quizzes about the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, which received overwhelming enthusiasm from both students and teachers.

This initiative plays a crucial role in raising awareness and educating future generations about the importance of Geoparks. Through Geopark to School, LADA aims to inspire and nurture a Geopark-literate generation that values sustainability, conservation, and local heritage.

The exhibition not only fostered curiosity but also strengthened the connection between young minds and Langkawi's geological wonders, ensuring a lasting impact on the community's understanding and appreciation of Geopark values.





## GEOPARK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMMES IGNITING YOUNG MINDS AT SK KUALA TERIANG

On December 18, 2024, the Geopark To School program at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Teriang brought together 170 eager students from Year 1 to Year 6 in an engaging and educational experience.

The event kicked off with an insightful sharing session by Ms. Nordiana Nordin, Head of the Geopark and Sustainability Section at LADA, who captivated students with the remarkable story of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.

Students then immersed themselves in hands-on activities, including:

- Geopark-themed crossword puzzles
- Creative coloring sessions
- Fascinating "Rainbow Rain" experiment
- Building models of Langkawi's rock formations



This initiative aimed to instill curiosity, appreciation, and a sense of pride in Langkawi's geological and natural heritage. By making learning fun and interactive, the program successfully sparked young imaginations and deepened their connection to their island's wonders.

The day concluded with prize presentations, met with cheers and excitement from the students. A heartfelt thank you to the school administration, teachers, and supporting staff for their enthusiastic collaboration in making this program a resounding success!







### SCHOOL TO GEOPARK PROGRAMMES

## SMK TUNKU PUTRA EXPLORES THE BREATHTAKING WONDERS OF KILIM KARST GEOFOREST PARK

A group of 33 enthusiastic students and teachers from SMK Tunku Putra embarked on an unforgettable adventure to the renowned Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, immersing themselves in the rich biodiversity and geological marvels of Langkawi's UNESCO Global Geopark.

Their journey began at the Kilim Mangrove Sanctuary, where they discovered the vital role of mangrove ecosystems in protecting coastal environments. At Gua Kelawar (Bat Cave), they explored the fascinating underground world, home to intricate limestone formations and diverse cave-dwelling species.

The expedition continued as the students stood in awe before the towering Kilim Pinnacle, a striking limestone formation shaped by time and nature. Witnessing the majestic Langkawi eagles soaring above the mangroves was a breathtaking highlight, offering a rare glimpse into the park's thriving wildlife.

The adventure concluded with a hands-on experience at the Fish Farm, where students engaged with marine life and learned about sustainable aquaculture. A delightful lunch at a floating restaurant, supporting local community-based tourism, provided the perfect ending to this immersive experience.







## SCHOOL TO GEOPARK PROGRAMMES EMPOWERING YOUNG AMBASSADORS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Young Sustainability Ambassadors Workshop for Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, organized by Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and LADA, successfully ran for three immersive days, equipping future leaders with essential skills and knowledge in environmental conservation.

Spearheaded by, Prof. Dr. Nor Lelawati Jamaludin, alongside key contributors including Langkawi Geopark Ambassador Cikgu Sufina Halim, Dr. Shahrul Niza Said, and Dr. Siti Salwa Isa, the workshop focused on training young ambassadors in promoting Kilim Geoforest Park through specialized modules.

Through well-structured modules and engaging assignments, students honed their leadership qualities, confidence, and teamwork, fostering a deeper sense of responsibility for environmental preservation.

This inspiring workshop not only empowered the next generation of environmental stewards but also strengthened public awareness about the importance of safeguarding and preserving our natural heritage for a more sustainable future.





## ZERO KM GEOGASTRONOMY LANGKAWI'S CULINARY ADVENTURE

The Zero KM Geogastronomy Langkawi initiative, part of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark program, is transforming the island's food scene by championing local flavors, sustainable practices, and community-driven economic growth.

By focusing on locally grown ingredients and traditional cooking methods, this initiative embodies the principles of sustainable tourism and geotourism, celebrating Langkawi's natural bounty, cultural traditions, and geological significance through food.

More than just a dining experience, Zero KM Geogastronomy Langkawi serves as a bridge between visitors and the local community, encouraging support for small businesses, traditional markets, and eco-friendly food practices, such as:



### Food Festivals & Culinary Events

Showcasing local delicacies and sustainable food trends.



### Cooking Workshops

Immersing visitors in time-honored cooking techniques and ingredient sourcing.



### Geogastronomy Tours

Exploring the connection between Langkawi's geological wonders and its distinct flavors.

Zero KM Geogastronomy Langkawi also highlights and recognizes restaurants that embody this philosophy, prioritizing local ingredients and sustainable culinary traditions:

- Restoran Nelayan Langkawi
- Dangau Langkawi
- Kunang-Kunang Heritage Villas
- Crab Farm Langkawi

So whether you're a food enthusiast, a traveler seeking authenticity, or a supporter of sustainable living, Langkawi's Zero KM culinary movement invites you to taste the island's true essence—one locally sourced bite at a time.





### RESTORAN NELAYAN LANGKAWI

A haven for seafood lovers, sourcing fresh ingredients directly from local fishermen to ensure authenticity while supporting coastal communities.



### DANGAU LANGKAWI

A celebration of 'selera kampung' (village flavors), featuring grilled fish and traditional Malay cuisine, prepared with locally sourced ingredients and served amid picturesque paddy fields.



### KUNANG-KUNANG HERITAGE VILLA

More than just a place to stay, Kunang-Kunang's on-site restaurant honors local culinary traditions, utilizing ingredients from nearby farms and markets to offer guests a true taste of Langkawi's heritage.



### CRAB FARM LANGKAWI

A proud initiative of the Kubang Badak community cooperative, this unique restaurant offers a true farm-to-table experience. Savor the freshest flavors, sourced directly from their innovative crab and seaweed (laktud) farms, all while enjoying the serene charm of a traditional coastal village.



## CELEBRATING 17 YEARS OF LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK TRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABILITY & RECOGNITION OF GEOPARK ICONS

In honor of the 17th anniversary of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, a symbolic tree-planting ceremony was held at MARDI Agrotechnology Park Langkawi, where 17 Mdur 88 durian saplings—a hybrid variety innovated through MARDI's research—were planted as a tribute to sustainability and scientific progress.



The event was officiated by YBhg. Dato' Haslina Abdul Hamid, CEO of LADA, and witnessed by Geopark Ambassadors, Geopark Partners, and Geopark Product representatives for the 2024–2027 term, reflecting a shared commitment to preserving Langkawi's rich geological and ecological heritage.

As part of the 17th Anniversary celebrations, the prestigious Geopark Icons for 2024–2027 were officially recognized:

13 Geopark Ambassadors — comprising university lecturers, teachers, and community leaders, were acknowledged for their unwavering efforts in geopark education and for championing responsible tourism across Langkawi.



Cikgu Sufina Binti Halim  
Cikgu Geopark



En. Omar Ariffin  
Koperasi Komuniti  
Kampung Kilim



En. Othman Bin Ayeb  
LTGA Nature Guide



En. Sabri Bin Musa  
Koperasi Sungai  
Kubang Badak



Prof. Dr. Norhayati Ahmad  
PPG Universiti  
Kebangsaan Malaysia





25 companies, agencies, and community organizations were selected as Langkawi Geopark Partners, demonstrating their commitment to sustainable practices and conservation efforts.



14 entrepreneurs were honored for their Geopark Products, innovative products that incorporate locally sourced ingredients and materials from Langkawi.



Ukiran Kayu  
MBA Badai Enterprise



Virgin  
Coconut Oil  
Datai Valley



Madu Kelulut  
Madu Kelulut  
Langkawi Resources



Kraf Tempurung  
Two Pai Craft



Biskut Gamat  
Rohazara Enterprise



LWI Blue  
MC Gemilang Sdn Bhd



Kraf Mengkuang  
Tuba Island Craft



Kerabu Beronok  
dan Sup Gamat  
Restoran Siti Fatimah



Batik  
Unicraft Work



Mahsuri Gold  
Liza Anggun Enterprise



Sarang Burung  
Langkawi Birdnest  
Culture Sdn Bhd



Beras Pulut  
Pertubuhan Peladang  
Kawasan Langkawi

This milestone event further solidified Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark's ongoing journey of conservation, education, and sustainable development—a journey driven by collaboration, passion, and a profound respect for nature.



## IDAMAN GEOSITE CLEAN-UP



### BEACH CLEAN UP WITH UNIMAP PASKAM CADETS

13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024

The first Idaman Geosite Clean-Up (IGSC) program of 2024 took place on January 13, 2024, bringing together 58 participants, including students and instructors, for a volunteer-driven beach clean-up at Teluk Dalam, Pulau Langgun.

During the event, participants successfully collected an estimated 170 kg of marine debris, helping to preserve the natural beauty of the area. Organized weekly by LADA, the IGSC program is an ongoing initiative aimed at reducing floating waste in the waters of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, ensuring the island remains clean and pristine for both tourists and local communities.

Through continued collaboration and dedication, we hope to maintain and protect the stunning landscapes of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark for generations to come.

### TEMURUN WATERFALL CLEAN-UP WITH STUDENTS & LECTURERS FROM USM & UKM

20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024

The second Idaman Geosite Clean-Up (IGSC) program of 2024 was successfully held on January 20, 2024, bringing together 90 dedicated participants, including students and lecturers, who volunteered their time to clean and collect waste at Temurun Waterfall.

Through their collective efforts, an impressive 600 kg of waste was removed from the site, helping to restore the area's natural beauty. As part of LADA's weekly IGSC initiative, this clean-up is one of many ongoing efforts to reduce waste pollution across the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, ensuring the island remains pristine and welcoming for both visitors and local residents.

With continuous commitment and teamwork, we can protect and preserve the breathtaking landscapes of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark for future generations. Let's keep making a difference!







## LANGKAWI GEOCYCLING

The Langkawi Geocycling event, held on 27th January 2024, marked a momentous beginning for Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark's celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network. This exciting event successfully brought together over 100 participants, including officers and staff from various government agencies across Langkawi Island.

Designed to strengthen inter-agency collaboration while showcasing the island's geological, biological, and cultural heritage, the program provided participants with a unique opportunity to connect with Langkawi's rich history and stunning landscapes.

The event was officiated by YBhg. Dato' Haslina binti Abdul Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of LADA, who actively engaged with participants throughout the cycling journey.

Several esteemed leaders also took part, including:

- Mr. Mohamad Subhi bin Abdullah, District Officer of Langkawi
- DSP Zahiruddin bin Mat Hashim, Chief of the Special Branch District, PDRM Langkawi
- Capt. A. Ahmad Shahfikri bin Darus, Officer of the Civil Defence District of Langkawi
- Dato' Haslina bt Abdul Hamid, Director of Langkawi Tourism Academy
- Mr. Ahmad Husaini bin Cha, Langkawi Volunteer Officer
- YB Shamsilah bt Siru, ADUN Air Hangat

Participants embarked on an exhilarating 13.48 km cycling route through scenic villages and lush paddy fields, fully immersing themselves in Langkawi's breathtaking surroundings. A key highlight of the journey was Gegelang Mahsuri, a remarkable geosite believed to be the impact crater of a meteorite from 10 million years ago. Now a thriving agricultural area, this historic site contributes significantly to Langkawi's rice cultivation and can be viewed from the summit of Gunung Raya.

The success of Langkawi Geocycling 2024 underscores the importance of preserving and celebrating Langkawi's extraordinary natural and cultural heritage while fostering meaningful connections among agencies and the local community.

Here's to more adventures ahead as we continue to honor 20 years of Global Geoparks!





## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME

On February 24, 2024, Langkawi's Kilim Karst Geoforest Park played host to a prestigious Environmental Sustainability Program attended by over 200 participants, including Malaysian judges and secretariat representatives from the Office of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court.

The program was led by The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of Malaysia, underscoring the judiciary's commitment to environmental conservation. Also present was Tuan Ahmad Fuad bin Che Ani @ Abd Ghani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Management) of the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), who played a key role in supporting the initiative.

Participants were divided into two groups, with Puan Nordiana binti Nordin, Deputy Tourism Manager, guiding the first, while Cik Rasanubari Asmah Rahmah binti Abd Hamid, Senior Assistant Tourism Manager, led the second.

A highlight of the program was the mangrove planting and seedling activity, where participants enthusiastically engaged in restoring the mangrove ecosystem while gaining valuable insights into Langkawi's unique coastal biodiversity.

The visit also included an educational tour of the Geopark Discovery Centre (GDC), where participants deepened their understanding of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark's geological significance.

The program concluded with a breathtaking mangrove tour, allowing participants to experience firsthand the stunning landscapes and geological wonders of Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, reinforcing the importance of sustainable conservation efforts.





## GEOMANGROVE PROGRAMME

### REVIVING LANGKAWI'S MANGROVE HABITAT

Mangroves are the lifeline of Langkawi's coastal ecosystem. These unique coastal forests act as nurseries for juvenile fish and crustaceans, while also providing essential habitats for species like mudskippers, crabs, and kingfishers.

Beyond biodiversity, mangroves serve as natural coastal shields, protecting shorelines from erosion and extreme weather events. Additionally, these ecosystems function as powerful carbon sinks, absorbing large amounts of carbon dioxide and playing a crucial role in climate change mitigation.

The Geomangrove Program is a conservation initiative dedicated to mangrove rehabilitation and environmental education driven by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. Through collaborations with universities, schools, and volunteer organizations, the program fosters awareness of the critical role of mangroves in coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.

Here were some geomangrove activities in 2024:



#### INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT WITH UUM CIAC STUDENTS

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Hosted 40 international and local students and lecturers from Somalia, Indonesia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Yemen, China, and Romania.

Planted 54 mangrove saplings around Geopark Discovery Centre, Kilim.

Provided a hands-on learning experience on mangrove ecosystem functions and conservation efforts.



Discovery Centre  
Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark  
Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia







## YOUTH PARTICIPATION WITH AIESEC KEDAH/PERLIS

26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024

Involved 58 participants, including students from SJK (C) Min Nam and Chung Hua, Langkawi, as well as teachers and parents.

Conducted mangrove seedling activities at Kilim Geoforest Park's Mangrove Sanctuary, with 60 new saplings cultivated.

Strengthened awareness of mangrove sustainability and its role in protecting the environment.



## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE RITZ-CARLTON LANGKAWI

28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024

Participated by 13 employees, led by General Manager Ms. Mafalda Tavales.

Planted 25 mangrove saplings at the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park Mangrove Sanctuary.

Fostered a deeper connection among hotel staff while reinforcing corporate commitment to sustainability.





Since its inception in 2022, the Geomangrove Program has united 826 passionate participants in a collective mission to restore Langkawi's vital mangrove ecosystems. Through 21 impactful initiatives, spanning collaborations with the private sector, government agencies, and educational institutions, a remarkable 976 mangrove saplings have been planted—each one a symbol of resilience, sustainability, and commitment to safeguarding our environment for future generations.

**826**

Participants  
involved.

**976**

Tree units that  
have been sown  
and planted.

**21**

Collaboration with  
private agencies,  
the government and  
educational institutes.







## CORAL PROPAGATION PROGRAMME AT KUBANG BADAK BIOGEOTRAIL

In celebration of World Ocean Day 2024, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, in collaboration with lecturers and students from the Master of Tourism Development Program at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), organized a meaningful initiative combining community-driven conservation efforts and marine ecosystem restoration.

Approximately 60 participants took part in the Idaman Geosite Clean-up (IGSC) 5/2024 at Pulau Jemuruk, Kubang Badak Biogeotrail, successfully collecting and sorting 21 bags of waste, weighing a total of 105 kg. This cleanup effort directly contributes to preserving Langkawi's pristine coastal environment.

Following the cleanup, participants engaged in a coral propagation activity, setting up 15 acropora branching coral racks to support marine life regeneration. This initiative plays a crucial role in restoring underwater biodiversity, enhancing marine habitats, and promoting sustainable ocean conservation.

With every cleanup and coral planted, we take a step closer to a healthier ocean and a thriving marine ecosystem for future generations.





## CELEBRATING GEODIVERSITY DAY WITH KELAB DUTA RIMBA

Every year on October 6, the world comes together to celebrate International Geodiversity Day, highlighting the significance of Earth's geological heritage. This year, Kelab Duta Rimba Malaysia, led by Cikgu Ganesan S. Sittrambaram, chose Langkawi—renowned for its breathtaking natural diversity—as the host destination. With Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) as a key collaborator, the program successfully ignited young minds' curiosity about conservation and geoscience, drawing 129 students and accompanying teachers from schools across Malaysia, including:

SK Sentul 1, SK Taman Tun Dr Ismail 1, SK Sanglang, SK Kuala Lanjut, SK & SMK Saujana Indah, SMK Ampang Pecah, SMK Seri Nibong, SMK Wangsa Melawati, SMK Cochrane, Sekolah Menengah Islam Al-Amin, and SMK Taman Keramat.

Before embarking on their field explorations, LADA provided an insightful briefing, offering participants a deeper understanding of Langkawi's protected conservation zones. Students then ventured into two of Langkawi's most iconic geoforest parks:

### MACHINCHANG CAMBRIAN GEOFOREST PARK

Home to some of the world's oldest rock formations, dating back over 550 million years.

### KILIM KARST GEOFOREST PARK

A stunning landscape of limestone formations, mangrove ecosystems, and rich biodiversity.

To maximize learning, students participated in interactive geopark modules and hands-on activities, gaining first hand exposure to the importance of conservation, geological heritage, and ecosystem sustainability.

The knowledge and experiences gathered during their time at Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark will not only deepen students' appreciation for Earth's natural wonders but also serve as valuable educational insights they can share back at their schools.

Through programs like this, we empower the next generation to become guardians of our planet's rich geodiversity.





## WORLD MOUNTAIN DAY 2024 GEOHIKING & STARGAZING ADVENTURE

To commemorate World Mountain Day 2024, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark proudly hosted the Geohiking and Stargazing Program on 28 – 29 November 2024. This year's theme, "Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future – Innovation, Adaptation, Youth, and Beyond," underscored the critical role of mountains in environmental sustainability and inspired youth engagement in conservation efforts.

The program was made possible through an impactful collaboration between:



- Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)
- Langkawi Tourism Academy (LTA)
- Langkawi Forestry Department
- Measat Satellite System Sdn. Bhd.
- Langkawi National Observatory
- BDB Leisures Sdn. Bhd.
- Kedah State Forestry Mountain Guides

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of Gunung Raya Granit, Langkawi's highest peak, participants embarked on a thrilling geohiking expedition. Along the way, they uncovered the hidden geological treasures of this ancient mountain while learning about its rich biodiversity and ecological significance.



As night fell, participants gathered for a mesmerizing stargazing session guided by experts from the Langkawi National Observatory. With state-of-the-art telescopes, they explored the vast night sky, deepening their appreciation for astronomy and celestial wonders.

This program aimed to raise awareness and foster a deeper connection between youth and nature, emphasizing the importance of conservation in protecting Langkawi's precious natural heritage.



## SEGMENT [3] : GEOPARK PROJECTS & UPLIFTING VISIBILITY

### GEOPARK COMPLETED PROJECTS 2024 ----- 47

- Reinstallation of Sticker Wallpaper & Other Repair Works at Geopark Gallery, LADA Complex
- Upgrade and Repair Works for Lighting at Bulatan Mar Mar, Langkawi
- Project for Demolition and Reconstruction of the Platform at Tasik Dayang Bunting and Other Related Works
- Felling of High-Risk Timber Trees at Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park
- Upgrade Works for Gua Pinang Jetty, Kubang Badak Biogeotrail
- Lake Cleaning Works at Tasik Dayang Bunting and Other Related Works
- Upgrading and Restoration of Landscaping at Bulatan Mar Mar, Langkawi
- Improvement of Handrails and Walkways at Tasik Dayang Bunting
- Repair and Replacement of 7 Information Panels at Langkawi UGGp Geosite
- Proposed Installation of Tourism Signage (Geopark Ocean Drive)
- Minor Repair Project for Geopark Ocean Trail
- Upgrading and Restoration of Existing Facilities at Tasik Dayang Bunting
- Repair Works for Facilities at the Campsite in Teluk Mempelam

### MOTAC & LADA STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE LANGKAWI'S TOURISM SECTOR ----- 48

### EXPLORING THE UNIQUENESS OF KUBANG BADAK BIOGEOTRAIL ----- 49





## GEPARK COMPLETED PROJECTS 2024



Reinstallation of Sticker Wallpaper & Other Repair Works at Geopark Gallery, LADA Complex



Upgrading and Restoration of Landscaping at Bulatan Mar Mar, Langkawi



Project for Demolition and Reconstruction of the Platform at Tasik Dayang Bunting and Other Related Works



Felling of High-Risk Timber Trees at Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park



Upgrade Works for Gua Pinang Jetty, Kubang Badak Biogeotrail



Lake Cleaning Works at Tasik Dayang Bunting and Other Related Works



Upgrade and Repair Works for Lighting at Bulatan Mar Mar, Langkawi



Improvement of Handrails and Walkways at Tasik Dayang Bunting



Repair and Replacement of 7 Information Panels at Langkawi UGGp Geosite



Proposed Installation of Tourism Signage (Geopark Ocean Drive)



Minor Repair Project for Geopark Ocean Trail



Upgrading and Restoration of Existing Facilities at Tasik Dayang Bunting



Repair Works for Facilities at the Campsite in Teluk Mempelam



## MOTAC & LADA STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE LANGKAWI'S TOURISM SECTOR



On Tuesday, April 2, 2024, YBhg. Dato' Haslina Abdul Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of LADA, held a strategic meeting with YB Dato' Sri Tiong King Sing, Minister of Tourism, Arts, and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC) at the Ministry's office in Putrajaya. The discussion focused on enhancing Langkawi's tourism development through closer collaboration between LADA, MOTAC, and Tourism Malaysia.



As a premier destination for both domestic and international travelers, Langkawi possesses immense potential as a world-class island tourism hub, offering breathtaking landscapes and a serene getaway. The island also holds a unique competitive advantage as Southeast Asia's first UNESCO Global Geopark, making it a prime location for international tourism events, business conferences (MICE), and eco-tourism experiences.



With this strengthened partnership, Langkawi is set to elevate its global standing, driving sustainable tourism growth while reinforcing its status as Malaysia's crown jewel of island tourism.

MENTERIAN PELANCONGAN, SENI DAN BUDAYA  
KUNJUNGAN HORMAT OLEH  
KETUA PEGAWAI EKSEKUTIF  
LEMBAGA PEMBANGUNAN LANGKAWI (LADA)  
DATO' HASLINA BINTI ABDUL HAMID  
2 APRIL 2024



## EXPLORING THE UNIQUENESS OF KUBANG BADAK BIOGEOTRAIL

Kubang Badak Biogeotrail stands as one of Langkawi's most significant conservation and ecotourism destinations, offering visitors a remarkable journey through history, geology, and biodiversity. This extraordinary trail is home to a rich tapestry of geosites and biosites, each telling a unique story of Langkawi's natural heritage.

On June 4th 2024, YBhg. Dato' Haslina binti Abdul Hamid, CEO of Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), explored the Kubang Badak BioGeotrail. This immersive experience introduced YBhg. Dato' Haslina to a high-value conservation and tourism site, which plays a vital role in community development and contributes significantly to the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.



The various geosites, biosites, and breathtaking locations explored, were:



- Sungai Siam Village
- Bukit Menora
- Kebung Arang
- Gua Pinang
- Tanjung Didih
- Pulau Jemuruk
- Pulau Pasir
- Pulau Dangli

These sites form the main visitor trail within Kubang Badak BioGeotrail, attracting nature enthusiasts and eco-tourists alike.

Surrounded by lush mangrove forests, which act as a natural buffer for this heritage site, Kubang Badak BioGeotrail offers a unique blend of ecological and geological wonders. Adding to its appeal, the Mangrove Cruise experience is quickly gaining attention and is set to become one of the major attractions in Kubang Badak BioGeotrail in the near future.

This visit highlights LADA's commitment to conservation and sustainable tourism, ensuring Langkawi's natural treasures continue to thrive for generations to come.







SEGMENT [4] :  
CAPACITY BUILDING

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## 7<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

The 7th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks, themed "Geopark Management and Community Engagement," commenced with an inaugural dinner on April 26, 2024, at Hotel Aloft Langkawi. The event was officiated by YB Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), and attended by nearly 150 guests, including 80 participants, geopark partners, ambassadors, product representatives, course lecturers, and ministry officials.

As part of the opening ceremony, several awards were presented to honor outstanding contributions to Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark:

**Mr. Othman Ayeb**, Tour Guide & Geopark Ambassador  
**Langkawi Community College**, Geopark Partner  
**Datai Valley Virgin Coconut Oil**, Geopark Product  
**Datai Langkawi**, Geopark Partners  
**Marecet**, Geopark Partners



The second day featured insightful presentations from distinguished experts:

**Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo**  
 Case Study of Langkawi UGGp 2024–2028

**Prof. Dr. Norhayati Ahmad & Dr. Maklarin Lakim**  
 Conservation & Management of Geopark Heritage Sites

**Mr. Koki Nagata**  
 Geopark Best Practices from Japan

**Dato' Prof. Dr. Norzaini & Dato' Dr. Mokhtar Saidin**  
 Community's Role in Geoparks

**Prof. Dr. Nikolas Zouros**  
 Latest Developments & Challenges in UNESCO Global Geoparks





Participants also embarked on a field excursion to key geosites, including, Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park, Kilim Karst Geoforest Park and Kubang Badak Biogeotrail.

Additionally, they engaged with geopark community initiatives at the Langkawi Research Centre, Langkawi Craft Complex, Kubang Badak Cooperative Community, and Kilim Cooperative Community, gaining firsthand experience in sustainable geopark development.



During the closing ceremony, Dato' Haslina Abdul Hamid, CEO of LADA, expressed her appreciation to the esteemed speakers for their expertise and dedication. She urged participants to champion sustainability, inclusivity, and cultural sensitivity, ensuring that geoparks continue to flourish as hubs of conservation, education, and socio-economic growth.

This transformative course reaffirmed the commitment of the global geopark network to collaborative learning, environmental stewardship, and community empowerment.







## WELCOME BACK TO LANGKAWI! APGN SYMPOSIUM 2026

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is honored to have been selected as the host of the 9th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium in 2026 during the APGN Advisory Committee Meeting in Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam.

This prestigious event, the largest and most influential gathering of geopark members, geoscientists, and sustainability experts in the Asia-Pacific region, will bring together over 800 participants from around the world.

Hosting this symposium is a historic milestone for Langkawi, as it previously hosted the very first APGN Symposium in 2007. This selection reaffirms Langkawi's global leadership in geopark management, sustainable development, and geotourism innovation.

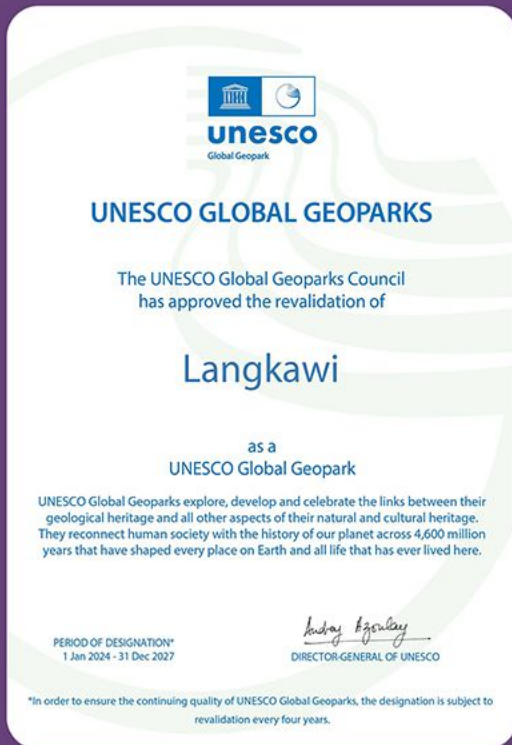


GLOBAL  
GEOPARKS  
NETWORK

APGN  
ASIA PACIFIC  
GEOPARKS  
NETWORK







## A GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND INNOVATION

The 2026 APGN Symposium will serve as a dynamic platform for:

- 1 Exchanging cutting-edge knowledge in geosciences, conservation, and sustainable tourism
- 2 Sharing best practices in geopark management and community engagement
- 3 Strengthening collaboration between experts, policymakers, and local communities
- 4 Showcasing Langkawi's success stories in sustainability and biodiversity conservation

## LANGKAWI'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Adding to this achievement, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark was also awarded the Green Card e-validation certificate following its successful revalidation assessment in 2023 – a testament to its ongoing commitment to conservation, education, and responsible tourism. The next revalidation will take place in 2027, ensuring that Langkawi continues to set global benchmarks in sustainable geopark management.

As Langkawi prepares to welcome the world's leading geopark professionals, this event will not only reinforce its legacy but also inspire future generations to protect, preserve, and promote our planet's geological and cultural heritage.

See you in Langkawi in 2026 – where nature, culture, and science unite for a sustainable future!





## APGN DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2024

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark proudly joined the APGN Geopark Development Forum 2024, hosted by Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Global Geoparks Network. This prestigious event brought together 40 participants from 21 Asia-Pacific Geoparks, including representatives from Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and China, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and expertise.

Officiated by Ms. Yuan Xiao Hong from the Department of Natural Protected Areas Management, National Forestry, Grassland and National Park Administration of China, the forum tackled critical aspects of geopark development and management, focusing on:

- 1 Strategic management planning for sustainable geopark growth
- 2 Educational initiatives to raise awareness and engagement
- 3 Enhancing visibility to boost global recognition
- 4 Strengthening community involvement for long-term conservation



Participants actively shared best practices, success stories, and key lessons from their respective geoparks, creating an invaluable platform for collaboration and innovation. This forum reaffirmed the collective commitment to preserving and promoting geodiversity, ensuring that geoparks across the region continue to thrive as beacons of conservation, education, and sustainable tourism.







## LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK RANGERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) Rangers Empowerment Programme brought together key stakeholders to strengthen conservation efforts and knowledge exchange. Led by YBhg. Dato' Haslina Abdul Hamid, CEO of LADA, alongside YBrs. Dr. Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari, Langkawi UGGp Manager, the initiative fostered collaboration between Langkawi UGGp and Lipis Geopark.

Recently recognized as Malaysia's 11th National Geopark (November 9, 2023), Lipis Geopark is a treasure trove of geological wonders (28 geosites), biological diversity (6 biosites), and rich cultural heritage (9 cultural sites). This made it the perfect venue for this impactful program.





Some of the activities organised for the rangers included :

- Tree Top Walk – Taman Negara Sungai Relau
- Exploration of Gua Padang Kawad (Gua Hari Malaysia)
- Cultural Visit to SMK Clifford
- River Expedition along Sungai Lipis & Sungai Jelai with Kg. Tanjung Lipis Community
- Cave Trekking & Exploration at Gua Bama Geosite
- Visit to the Orang Asli Settlement at Pos Betau



The programme culminated in a strategic engagement session, chaired by YBhg. Dato' Mohd Hafizi Ibrahim, Lipis District Officer. The discussion, held at Majlis Daerah Lipis, brought together key players from Perbadanan Taman Negeri Pahang, Majlis Daerah Lipis, Jabatan Mineral & Geosains Pahang, and the vibrant Lipis community.

The session focused on sharing ideas, strengthening partnerships, and reinforcing the commitment to safeguarding Malaysia's natural and cultural heritage. This initiative not only deepened ties between the two geoparks but also set a stronger foundation for future conservation and sustainability efforts.







## LESVOS ISLAND UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK INTERNATIONAL INTENSIVE COURSE 2024

From May 27 to June 3, 2024, the International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks brought together 80 participants, 22 lecturers, and representatives from 52 countries to advance knowledge in geopark development, geoconservation, and sustainable tourism. This dynamic program fostered collaboration through expert-led discussions, interactive lectures, and immersive field visits.

Geopark professionals from diverse regions—including Samoa, Mexico, China, France, South Africa, and Denmark—shared best practices and challenges in geological heritage management. Representing Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Nordiana presented Langkawi's initiatives in geoconservation, sustainable tourism, and community engagement, reinforcing its role as a global leader in geopark excellence.



### KEY THEMES ADDRESSED :

- UNESCO Global Geoparks Development & Criteria
- Sustainable Tourism & Community Empowerment
- Geodiversity, Biodiversity & Cultural Heritage Conservation
- Strengthening the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network
- Geoeducation & Capacity Building



Participants explored Lesvos Island's extraordinary geological and cultural sites, including the Petrified Forest of Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark, an exemplary model of conservation and geotourism development.



This intensive course deepened global cooperation, reinforced the importance of sustainable geological heritage management, and empowered participants with cutting-edge knowledge. Langkawi Geopark's active role further elevated its international visibility and commitment to global geopark excellence.

A heartfelt appreciation to the University of the Aegean, Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark, and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network for orchestrating this impactful event!





Langkawi UNESCO Global

# GEOPARK

2024

## GAZETTE



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LANGKAWI



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