

Annex 5: 1-page geological and geographic summary, including a detailed map indicating the location



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark

Sanqingshan Geopark of China

geographical and geological summary



1. Physical and Human Geography

Sanqingshan Geopark is located in Shangrao City, Jiangxi Province of China, Asia-Pacific Region, southeastern Eurasia. Its geographic coordinates are 28°45'06" ~ 29°01'08"N and 117°53'03" ~ 118°13'20"E. The altitude of the area is around 158 ~ 1819.9m and the Geopark covers an area of 433km². The Geopark is 43km away from Shangrao and 230km away from Nanchang. The Geopark is easy to reach as there are Shangrao Sanqingshan Airport, three railways and three highways around it. The tour roads to the Geopark are connected with Shangrao High-Speed Railway Station and the highways in neighbouring cities.

The Geopark is a typical example of granite mountain landform and is located in the eastern mid-subtropical monsoon climate zone. It has distinct seasons, cool in summer and cold in winter. The annual temperature is 10.9°C. The annual precipitation is 1857.7mm. The eastern mid-subtropical moist evergreen broad-leaf forest ecosystem is well preserved in the Geopark, and includes 9 vegetation types, 2373 species of higher plants and 401 species of vertebrates (45 of which are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species). It also includes 146 species of animals and plants which are protected by CITES against over-exploitation through international trade.

Sanqingshan has a history of more than 1,000 years and is one of the birthplaces of Taoism. There are 238 Taoist relics and other cultural relics such as ancient academies, dwelling houses, a performance stage, hall of monuments, etc. In addition, Sanqingshan is home to some local intangible heritages such as Gan Opera, Madeng Drama, Hetangjiu Banquet, etc. There are 65 thousand residents living in the Geopark, including the Han people and the She ethnic group.

2. Geological features and geology of international significance

The Geopark lies in the centre of the anticline of Huaiyu Tertiary and junction of Yangzi Plate and Cathaysian Plate. The central area of the Geopark is made up of granites from the Mesozoic Era and is surrounded by ground layers of the Palaeozoic Era. The current geo-conditions of the Geopark are the result of structure evolution of the Proterozoic Era, Early Palaeozoic Era, Late Palaeozoic Era, Mesozoic Era, and Cenozoic Era, They are also the result of the structure movements of the Caledon, Indochina, Yanshan and Himalayas. There are lots of fissures and faults in the granite bodies. The main peak is a triangular fracture plate made up of fractures from three different directions and formed by mountain uplift. All these have helped to form the natural landscapes in the Geopark.

Sanqingshan is a geopark composed of Mesozoic granites and Neoproterozoic and Paleozoic strata. It records a history of the Earth spanning over 800 million years and has 162 inventoried geosites, including 68 granite geosites, one Neoproterozoic-Paleozoic strata section, one Mesozoic granite geological and geomorphological section, 14 series of stratigraphic units, 34 types of rock, 42 typical geological structures such as folds, faults, joints, bedding structure of sedimentary rocks, granite intrusion tectonics. The granite peak forest in the Geopark has global significance. Granite pillars, peak walls, peak clusters, peak forests, stone forests, stone pillars, pyramids, cliffs, odd-shape stones are well preserved in the Geopark. It is not only a rare natural museum of granite landform, but an outstanding global example of granite mountain peak forest landform.