Establishing the First Global Geopark in Bohol, Philippines: Its Implications to Sustainable Island Development

Mario R. Delos Reyes
Professor & Dean
University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP)
Definition of a Geopark:

A single, unified geographical area where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Sites of ecological, archaeological, historical or cultural value should be an integrated part.

(UNESCO, 2016)
I. Introduction to UNESCO Geopark

II. Selection of Bohol

III. Timeline of Activities

IV. Sustainable Island Development

V. Potential Geosites

UNESCO Global Geoparks Focus Areas:

- Natural Resources
- Geological Hazards
- Climate Change
- Education
- Science
- Women
- Culture
- Sustainable Development
- Geoconservation
- Local and Indigenous Knowledge
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Asia=43
Europe=69
Others=8

🌟 = Geopark

International Conference
Examples of UNESCO Geoparks

Itoigawa Geopark, Japan
- Japan’s first Global Geopark
- Declared UNESCO Global Geopark in 2009
- Passed its 2nd validation by UNESCO in 2017

Hongkong Geopark, Hongkong
- Declared UNESCO Global Geopark in September 2011
- Passed its 1st validation by UNESCO in 2016
Selection of Bohol:

- Research started in January 2013
- Search for a suitable region that could satisfy the criteria for a Global Geopark
- Bohol Island in the Central Visayas was deemed to have the best qualifications
Why Bohol was chosen:

- Ready to receive tourists
- Available infrastructures
- Local communities are prepared and experienced to welcome visitors
- Unique Geology
- Offer diverse experiences: geological, cultural, biological, archaeological
- Enhance sustainable development & geological conservation
Preliminary selection process for the first Philippine UNESCO Geopark

- January 2013

Fact Finding Mission for the establishment of the First Philippine Geopark

- October-November 2013


Summary

In January 2013 we started the Fact Finding Mission in the Philippines for the establishment of a National Geopark seeking UNESCO’s assistance to join the Global Geoparks Network. The valuation of different territories was based on the strong need for an international framework to enhance the value of the Earth heritage, its landscape and geological formations, which are key witnesses to the history of life.
Bohol Geopark Field Investigation, Bohol
• April 2015

Coordination Meeting with UP-SURP, MGB, DENR-FASPO
• April 2015
Writing, editing, layout of Bohol book
- November to December 2016

- February 2017
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Bohol Geopark Project Workshop

- April 2017
- Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Bohol Geopark Project Coordination Meeting
• August 10, 2017

Coordination Meeting for Bohol Geopark Project
• October 3, 2017
Symbolic unveiling of the Chocolate Hills Geomarker for Aspiring Bohol Geopark

- October 2017
- Chocolate Hills Park, Carmen, Bohol
Geology of Bohol Workshop

- November 2017
- LGU officials, tourism officers, planning officers from municipalities with proposed geosites
Best practice sharing with Masungi Georeserve

• January 2018
• For LGU officials, tourism officers, planning officers from municipalities with proposed geosites
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Bohol Geopark

Geosites
- Geological
- Biological
- Archaeological
- Cultural

Sustainability
- Economic
- Ecological
- Social
- Cultural

Sustainable Island Development
Potential Geosites

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- Maribojoc Uplifted Terrace
- Tarsier Sanctuary
- Hinagdanan Cave
- Baclayon Terraces & Baclayon Church
- Inabanga Rupture Site
- Chocolate Hills

International Conference in Urban and Regional Planning
Chocolate Hills

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Tarsier Sanctuary

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Hinagdanan Cave

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Maribojoc Uplifted Terrace

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Inabanga Rupture Site
Baclayon Terraces & Baclayon Church

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