United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Global Geoparks

Progress report 2017 - 2020

Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark
Japan

Person responsible for the report:
Shigeya KANEZASHI

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

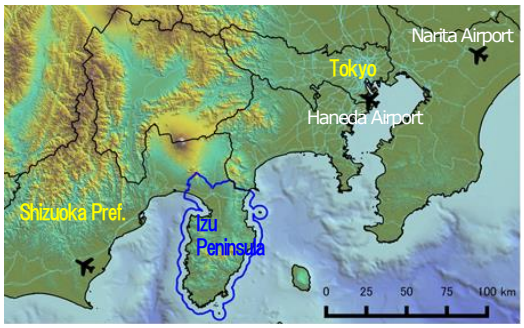
Surface area in km²	2,027 km² (of which 1,585 km² is on land)
Population	667,234 (as of 04/2019)
Year of acceptance as UNESCO Global Geopark	2018
Year of membership in the Global Geoparks Network (before the establishment of the UGGp label in 2015)	2018
Previous revalidation date(s) and name(s) of previous evaluator(s)	25–27 July 2017 Ibrahim Komoo, Alexandru Andrasanu
Contact person (name, position, e-mail)	Shigeya Kanezashi, Director info@izugeopark.org
Website (please provide URL)	https://izugeopark.org/
Social media (please provide list of all channels used)	Twitter https://twitter.com/izugeo Facebook https://www.facebook.com/izugeopark/ Instagram https://www.instagram.com/izugeopark/ YouTube https://www.youtube.com/user/izugeo/

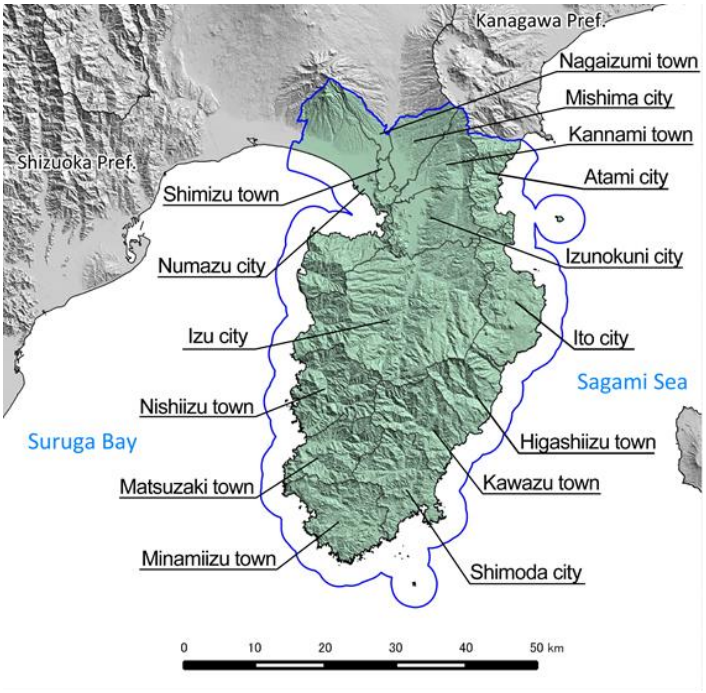
B. LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE UGGp

- Progress Report
- Evaluation Document A
- Evaluation Document B
- Annex Appendix
- GGN Annual Report 2018
- GGN Annual Report 2019

C. MAP OF THE AREA

This map is a standard UN map downloaded from the UNESCO official website and does not represent the position of the Japanese Government.





D. IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

UNESCO Global Geopark Initial Acceptance in 2018

Recommendation a: Considering the internationally important geological heritage of the Izu Peninsula and the role that it has played in local identity development, specific activities need to be developed in order to identify the connections between the local geological heritage, natural heritage, and cultural heritage and to integrate the results in education, promotion, interpretation and visiting infrastructure.

Improvements: Our specific activities take the form of small, frequent events and efforts in education and the promotion of tourism. Concrete examples follow:

- GeoCafe: Guest speakers are invited to give public talks. The initial talk introduces a particular topic showing the relationships between the structure of the Izu Peninsula and its natural and cultural heritage, followed by an open discussion. (See section E.1.5)
- Creation and distribution of “Footpath Maps” in Japanese and English for four trails around the peninsula. These enable people to enjoy both the geological and ecological wealth of the peninsula and its cultural and literary flowering, as they guide themselves along hiking trails.
- The Education Working Group has been registered as a regional ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) hub by the ESD Support Center, and is promoting both ESD and education about the Geopark.

Recommendation b: Highlight and promote the international value of the geological heritage through effective interpretation for a wide audience at every possible opportunity.

Improvements: We are using a wide variety of methods, including hub facilities, information panels, publications, websites, geotours and etc., to raise awareness of the international value of the geological heritage. (See section E.1)

Recommendation c: Related with its historical and cultural importance of Izu Peninsula, a deeper investigation should be opened on the intangible heritage of this area. This should include an inventory that includes local tales, legends, myths, local songs, dance, and music.

Improvements: We have created a list of all the registered cultural properties (including intangible cultural properties) in the area. We have created a DVD that offers a comprehensive overview of the Izu Peninsula through readings of a work of literature that covers the whole region: the essay *An Introduction to Izu,* by the Nobel laureate Yasunari Kawabata. This is being used broadly, and has been distributed to all schools within the Geopark to contribute to education on the local area.

Recommendation d: A clear partnership strategy should be developed with partners to include a clear methodology on the criteria required to become a partner and a formal agreement with the Geopark. This is applicable to but not restricted to accommodation and catering providers, transport providers, activity providers and producers of local products.

Improvements: In order to contribute to restoring and enhancing the economic and cultural vitality of the Izu Peninsula while achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Geopark has concluded a comprehensive cooperation agreement with a local gas utility company. We will work together to promote understanding of the local products and food culture of the peninsula, encourage local production and consumption, spread understanding of the environment and enhance disaster mitigation, and enhance the regional economy (Please see section E7.2 for details). In accordance with propagation effects to the area, we adopt individual agreement in the partnership strategy at present so that it is able to spread to wider economy. In addition, the council has a system for corporate supporters. The affiliation criteria is that consent of the geopark concept, and the supporters' activity purpose is realizing sustainable region. The corporations and organizations that participate in these ways are effectively our partners. Additionally, we have undertaken an Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism, and are developing a portal site through which people can make reservations with companies offering sustainable tourisms and for activities offered by certified geoguides.

Recommendation e: Develop the different landscapes of the area with the same quality criteria used, in order to have a good balance between the coastal areas and the inland areas, in order to integrate all geopark communities. Ensure that formal agreements are in place with all partners.

Improvements: To address the landscapes, we have compiled a list of all designated sites, and of both natural monuments and cultural properties. We are ensuring that this is reflected on information panels and the website, and in geotours. Further, we are developing our cooperation with other internationally recognized programs that overlap the area of the Geopark, and working on a comprehensive interpretation of the landscape. These geopark initiatives were primarily conducted at the inland area. Relations with partners are managed as described in our response to recommendation d.

Recommendation f: Due to the exceptional historical art and literature found in the Izu Peninsula landscapes, an inventory of these should be created to ensure that they are recorded and put to future use.

Improvements: We have created a listing of works of literature. As part of the GeoCafe series of public talks, we are holding “Literati Salons”, where the local culture and history of Izu are explored through themes in literary works. We are also cooperating with literature museums in the area.

Recommendation g: Develop international cooperation and exchanges in order to promote local geological, natural and human values and to enhance the role of the geopark in socio-economic development of local communities.

Improvements: We made a cooperation agreement with the Ciletuh-Parabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark in autumn 2019 and are now implementing cooperative programs in both education and promotion. We are carrying out training sessions to enable technology transfer and discourse between researchers, and have set up special exhibitions in the both central facilities. We will work to broaden our mutual interactions and strengthen the socio-economic development of the regions.

Recommendation h: Adapt the Master Plan and Action Plan in order to better integrate the recommendations.

Improvements: We are compiling both a Master Plan (2021–2025) and Action Plan (2021–2025), taking the grass-roots standpoint of local residents through various way including workshop. The plans will accomplish within FY 2020 and enforce by the general meeting approval.

Recommendation i: Strengthen the networking with other UNESCO Global Geoparks at a regional, national and global level, and actively contribute to international conferences and meetings on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Improvements: In order to strengthen our networking with other Geoparks, we are sharing knowledge and practice through presentations at international conferences, and other interactions with instructor at UNESCO-organized training session or geopark field evaluators. In addition, we have concluded a cooperation agreement with the Ciletuh-Parabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark. We are contributing to international cooperation in a variety of ways, including hosting a school excursion, translating leaflets, exchanging display specimens, sending instructors to training sessions, and working on spreading the Geopark concept to Asian country in which Geopark is not yet implemented.

Additional Comment: All UNESCO Global Geoparks should ensure the role of women within the UNESCO Global Geopark staff in accordance with the UNESCO principles.

Improvements: The Bureau stuff members of the Geopark Promotion Council has exchanged in each year. In a period 2017-2020, almost the half of the member were women, whereas two as of December 2020. The President has requested municipalities to dispatch women staff to the bureau so that we are able to ensure a diversity of perspectives and it can reflect in decision-making. There is no gender gap in the roles held.

E. VERIFICATION OF UGGp CRITERIA

E.1 TERRITORY

E.1.1 GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION

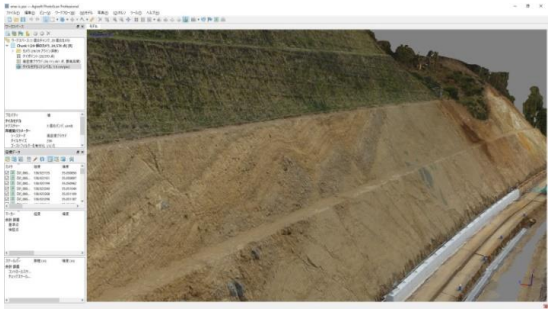
The International Value of the Geology

The geological features of the Izu Peninsula are characterized by the collision of the submarine volcanoes on the Philippine Sea plate against the Japan island arc, and by successive volcanism and strong crustal movement. This region is the only place in the world where two active island arcs are currently colliding. It is possible to trace diverse volcanic activity from the birth of submarine volcanoes to the subsequent development of large onshore volcanoes and active monogenic volcanoes. In particular, the excellent exposure of submarine volcanic ejecta in the west and south of the area has driven global research on submarine volcanism. The dynamic movement due to the collision has created tectonic landforms, including the appearance of the Tanna Fault associated with the Kitaizu Earthquake in 1930 that has promoted research on active faults since then.

Conservation of Geological Sites
Major Examples of Conservation Activities

<Creation of an Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism>
The conservation of many sites is ensured under a range of national laws and regulations, such as the Natural Parks Act, the Act on the Protection of Cultural Properties and related ordinances, Coastal Conservation Plans, and Regional Forestry Plans. On the other hand, some sites are not protected by law, and have de facto protection under local efforts. We have undertaken an Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism covering the whole of the Geopark area under the Ecotourism Promotion Act. This concept sets all sites are designated Natural Tourism Resources. After the approval of the ecotourism concept by the government based on this act, the Mayor of the local municipality will be able to respond to the possible deterioration of Natural Tourism Resource by declaring it a Specified Natural Tourism Resource and imposing legal restrictions such as prohibiting the entry to the site.

<Rescue Conservation of Outcrops>
There are cases in which high-quality outcrops are exposed by construction work. Such valuable outcrops have scientific value, but they are lost as construction continues. Thanks to Geopark training for construction officers, we receive information about uncovered outcrops from local municipalities. We preserve information about the outcrop before it is lost through taking geological records and samples, using drones to create 3-dimensional data, and creating and preserving surface peel specimens. In some cases, the surface peel specimens are provided to local schools as teaching material.



Three-dimensional data created from drone photographs

Reclassification of Sites
According to a past filed evaluators' advice, we organized the resources of the Geopark simply as "sites". The basic types of site are "Geological site", "Ecological site", and "Cultural site", but as it is not possible to account for all of the sites in the Izu Peninsula Geopark in these categories, we added three local classifications: Lookout site, Disaster site, and Research site.

Geological site	Sites whose main value is geological or geomorphological	
Ecological site	Sites whose main value is biological. Plant communities etc. May include sites with no connection to geology	
Cultural Site	Sites whose main value is cultural. Temples, landscapes, etc. May include sites with no connection to geology	
Lookout Site	The site itself has no particular value, but it has value as a viewpoint	**Additional categories**

Disaster Site	Sites connected to disasters. Disaster scars, commemorative monuments, disaster mitigation facilities
Research Site	Sites is utilized for scientific research, not open for the public.

In some cases, sites share features of several categories (Compound Sites)

Site Type			Site Numbers
Geological Site			94
Cultural Site			18
Ecological Site			5
Lookout Site			13
Disaster Site			13
Research Site			93
Compound Sites	Geological/Disaster	1	31
	Geological/Ecological	12	
	Geological/Ecological/Cultural	1	
	Geological/Ecological/Cultural/Disaster	1	
	Geological/Ecological/Cultural/Lookout	1	
	Geological/Lookout	1	
	Geological/Cultural	11	
	Lookout/Ecological	1	
	Lookout/Cultural	1	
	Cultural/Disaster/Lookout	1	
		Total:	**268**
	Sites including “Geo” (Geological sites)		122

The sites have been entered in a GIS database, which is available for usage by the Geopark member organizations.

The latest version of the site list and map, together with the GIS data, can be downloaded from http://izugeopark.org/office//maps/geosite/

E.1.2 BOUNDARIES

The boundary of the Izu Peninsula Geopark is the periphery of fifteen local municipalities (Numazu City, Atami City, Mishima City, Ito City, Shimoda City, Izu City, Izunokuni City, Higashiizu Town, Kawazu Town, Minamiizu Town, Matsuzaki Town, Nishiizu Town, Kannami Town, Shimizu Town, and Nagaizumi Town). The marine area is defined as extending 3 km from the coastline. By virtue of including these local municipalities, the Geopark also includes the inhabited island of Hatsushima (part of Atami City) and the southernmost point of Mikomoto (part of Shimoda City).

E.1.3 VISIBILITY

Gateway Enhancements

We are continuing to set up comprehensive information panels to make it easy for people who have visited the Izu Peninsula Geopark to become aware that they are in a geopark. Specifically, we have set up an information panel in front of the main rail gateway, Mishima Station. For people entering by road, the roadside stations are the main gateways. At the

Newly set up Visitor Center at Gateway Kannami

A roadside welcome sign

Gateway Kannami, which opened in 2017 in Kannami Town, we have established a visitor center, while at Roadside Station Izutsukigase, which opened in 2019 in Izu City, we have set up a general information panel. Information panels or visitor centers have already been established at other railway stations and roadside stations. In addition, with the cooperation of the Rotary Club, we have set up welcome signs on the main route through the area, National Route 135, and at roadside stations. In near future, we will set up welcome signs at the entrance from the Tokyo direction to enhance the visibility of the start of the geopark.

Installation of Interpretation Panels
Over the four years since 2017, we have set up Geopark interpretation panels in 25 locations. All interpretation panels are in both Japanese and English, and make effective use of photographs, illustrations, and maps to keep the amount of text to a minimum and ensure that they are easy to understand. In total, there are now interpretation panels in 141 locations. The interpretation panels can also be viewed online. The promotion council has been systematically updating existing panels to include the UNESCO-linked logo since recognition as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2018. Also in 2018, “Traditional wasabi cultivation in Shizuoka” was recognized as a Global Important Agricultural Heritage System, and some of the designated sites of wasabi cultivation overlap with Geological Sites and Ecological Sites within the Geopark. We have cooperated with Shizuoka Prefecture, which oversees the agricultural heritage, to set up unified interpretation panels in those locations, aiming for synergy between the two global brands. (See section E.4)

Website & SNS
The Izu Peninsula Geopark website was thoroughly revised in 2017. The new website serves all the fundamental publicity functions: providing basic information, introducing points of interest and activities, advertising events, and making the park’s literature and publications available for download. One distinctive feature of the website is that it is set up to link points of interest. Rather than displaying them individually, each point is tagged with its area, the phenomena that are visible there, theme, geological period, and so on. This means that visitors to the site can easily find all the points of interest that match up with the topics they want to learn more about. The page for each point of interest includes not only access information and an interpretation of the site, but also “Hazard Information” to enable people to view it safely, and “Academic Information”, linking to academic papers including research on the site. Finally, in times of natural disaster, such as typhoons, information about the damage is also published on the site. (See section E.2.4)
The website is visited by an average of around 1,000 users per day. This puts it among the top tourism websites in Shizuoka Prefecture, and it is contributing to increased awareness of, and visits to, the Geopark. We also maintain a presence on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, where we publish updates on events and day-to-day activities, focusing on more casual and immediate topics than the website.

E.1.4 FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUTURE

Izu Peninsula Geopark Museum “Georia”
The Izu Peninsula Geopark Museum “Georia” was founded in 2014 as the central facility for the geopark’s activities. As part of the foundation, we conducted workshops with local municipalities, geoguides, and the local area where the museum was founded (Shuzenji Onsen), developing the following concept.

“Visitors to the museum should be able to enjoy an immediate experience of the geostory. Through a vicarious experience of how scientists made important discoveries about the area, they will become able to untangle the features of the contemporary Izu Peninsula and its geological activity. Further, by taking this experience to the geopark, they will, with the help of the interpretation panels, be able to read the landscape for themselves.”

Many of the exhibits in Georia are set so that people can touch them, and freely examine them through microscopes. It holds regular special exhibitions, to offer new information to repeat visitors. In addition to the exhibitions, Georia also hosts workshops for both adults and children, helping them to understand and discover the natural features around them.

Geopark Visitor Centers

Visitors to the Izu Peninsula enter from many directions. Further, Geopark sites and accommodation are spread over a wide area within the geopark. As a result, the central facility, Georia, cannot, by itself, provide all the necessary information. Thus, we aimed to establish one visitor center in each of the local municipalities (fifteen towns and cities) making up the geopark, to provide information about the surrounding area. Newly established visitor centers since 2017 are as follows: Kannami Town (2017), Minamiizu Town (2019), Shimizu Town (2019), Nishiizu Town (2020). As of now, fifteen visitor centers have been established, and are managed by the appropriate local municipalities.

Locations of Geopark hubs (2020)

Research Hub "AmaGEO"

A laboratory for science research of this Geopark, Amagi Research Hub "AmaGEO" was founded, using a closed school building in the center of the area in 2019. It includes a research laboratory, a document and sample storage and exhibition space. Shizuoka University is making use of the same facilities, and we hold collaborative events with them.

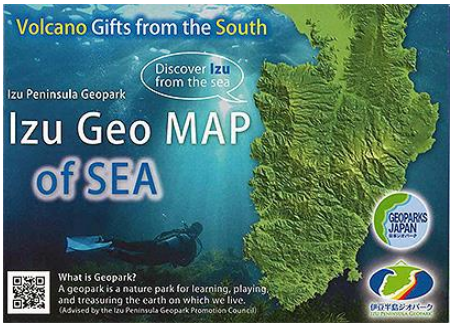
E.1.5 INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Publicity Media

<Material Produced by the Promotion Council>

The Promotion Council produces two varieties of map. The first, aimed at both visitors and local residents, is the Izu Geo Map. This map, which is available in five languages (Japanese, English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean), describes the overall structure of the Izu Peninsula, and introduces the main sites, along with the nature, food, and history of the area. The second, aimed at visitors, is a set of four Driving Maps, one for each of the northern, southern, eastern, and western areas. These maps are constantly updated in cooperation with certified geoguides, and are distributed to visitor centers, roadside stations, and tourist and accommodation facilities. They have proved to be a powerful tool for raising interest in the Geopark.

We have also created the Footpath Map series, which allows people to guide themselves on hiking tours that take in the geology and flora of the area, and introduce places related to literature. Collaborating with marine



Movie imagery of "An Introduction to Izu" DVD

activity companies, we have also produced Izu Geo Map of Sea, which is modelled on the Izu Geo Map but focuses on geological features in the sea. These two activity maps are available in both Japanese and English, so that visitors from overseas can also enjoy Izu activities.
We are also producing educational materials. We have created a comic, *Secrets of the Izu Peninsula,* aimed at children, and it is distributed every year to all children in the fifth year of elementary school (ages 10-11) within the area of the geopark. It is also used in study activities that utilize the geopark. In 2020, we created a DVD that provides a comprehensive overview of the Izu Peninsula based on a narration of the essay "An Introduction to Izu" by Yasunari Kawabata, a literature Nobel laureate. The prime purpose of this DVD is to support local area studies, and it has been distributed to all schools within the territory, where it is widely used to enhance students' understanding of the area where they live.

<Books>
We also produce books, aimed at a wider audience. In 2017, Professor Masato Koyama of Shizuoka University, an academic advisor to the Promotion Council, published a book entitled *Through the Eyes of Drones: The Izu Peninsula Collision.* In this book, he analyzed the geology and geomorphology of the Izu Peninsula based on aerial drone photography. In 2019 Atelier Rocky published a collection of aerial drone photographs of the Izu Peninsula Geopark for a general audience, entitled *Divine Geology.* Both of these books are available in the Georia museum shop.

<Izu GeoTest>
We hold the Izu GeoTest every year to encourage wider and deeper use of the information in our printed material and books, and on our website. The purpose of the Level 3 Izu GeoTest is to get people to strengthen their interest in the Geopark while they enjoy researching new information. Thus, the test is open for several weeks, and test takers may submit their answers at any point during this period, using books and online materials to research their answers before submission. Over the four years up to 2020, the average number of submissions has been 500. Schools and companies have taken it in groups, and people are becoming more aware of it.
People who have passed Level 3 may also take Level 1-2. The Level 1-2 Izu GeoTest is taken at an examination center, and in the three years to 2019 the average number of candidates has been 57. The questions are designed to be easier to answer if you have actually visited the sites in question. People who score 45 or more out of 50 receive Level 1, while those who score 35 or more receive Level 2. Level 1 is difficult, with only one or two people reaching it every year, and there are some people who take the exam every year aiming to achieve Level 1.

Cooperation with the Media
We strategically issue press releases to media organizations. For example, in fiscal 2018 we issued 101 press releases, the highest number among the UNESCO Global Geoparks. At present these releases, depending on their content, are sent to the 78 organizational members of the council, 150 corporate supporters, the publicity departments of the prefecture and the cities and towns making up the geopark, 77 media organizations, 51 travel companies, 230 individual geosupporters, and 189 certified geoguides. Information is delivered directly to interested residents, and its frequent appearance in the media has raised awareness of the Geopark. As people become more aware of the geopark, we receive more requests to appear in various media. For example, a popular national television program on NHK, the national broadcaster, explained the Izu Peninsula.

GeoCafe
GeoCafe aims to create a space in which different kinds of knowledge about the Geopark can be shared, revealing the many ways in which it is valuable. It was first held in fiscal 2017 with the goal of bringing people to know about Global Geoparks. Since fiscal 2018, it has been held about once every two months at various locations across the peninsula. Small groups of

people, including a specialist or two, gather to take up varying topics, including literature, ecology, geology, and folk customs, and share information. Based on the questionnaires we collect, it seems that about half of the attendees are regulars, while half are made up of first-timers or second-timers. Some themes have become standards, such as the “Literati Series”, which takes up the relationship between the Izu Peninsula and literature, or the “It’s Tough for Hot Springs!”, held in cooperation with the Shizuoka Hot Springs Association, which looks at the science and management of hot spring resorts.

Date	Title	Speakers
2018/2/12	Easy Science Café: What are Global Geoparks?	Dr. Atsuko Niina, Tottori University of Environmental Studies Mr. Yusuke Suzuki, Izu Peninsula Geopark Prof. Dr. Katsuhiko Asahi, Izu Peninsula Geopark
2018/6/10	Geo Literati Café	Mr. Hiroo Ando, Geoguide Mr. Kazumasa Nagakura, Book shop owner Mr. Yusuke Suzuki, Izu Peninsula Geopark
2018/7/7	Across Amagi	Ms. Ryoko Ishigami, TV Director Ms. Ikuko Uda, Hotel Manager
2018/9/16	Stories of Crystals and Rainbow Creation Workshop	Ms. Kayoko Sato, Writer
2019/1/27	It’s Tough for Hot Springs!	Ms. Noriko Ota, Boring Engineer Mr. Shin Watanabe, Hot Spring Inn Manager
2019/2/24	Geo Literati Café	Mr. Naoki Kenmochi, Curator Ms. Kayo Tokuyama, Curator Mr. Hiroo Ando, Geoguide
2019/6/16	GeoCafe Spirits of the Road	Mr. Sei Tajima, Curator Mr. Norihisa Osaka, Geoguide
2019/7/6	Geo Literati Café “Men of the Mountain Passes”	Ms. Kayo Tokuyama, Curator Mr. Hiroo Ando, Geoguide
2019/9/7	Aqueduct Café in Mishima	Ms. Maki Sumi, Designer Mr. Yusuke Suzuki, Izu Peninsula Geopark
2019/11/30	*Xenoturbella* and Dr. Nakano	Dr. Hiroaki Nakano, University of Tsukuba
2020/1/26	It’s Tough for Hot Springs!	Ms. Eiko Oishi, Hot spring manager Mr. Yuichi Ezawa, Chemical Analyst Mr. Akio Sugimoto, Chemical Engineer
2020/4/25	It’s Tough for Hot Springs! (Online)	Dr. Wakao Fukuda, Kwansei Gakuin University Mr. Kazumasa Nakada, Medical Doctor

Milk Stories

From summer 2018, we have been working with the Kannami East Agricultural Cooperative on a project to print short stories on 200 ml Tanna Milk packs. Around 10 million of these 200 ml packs are produced every year, mainly for school lunches in the Izu area. As a result, their educational impact is remarkably strong. For the second edition, starting in 2019, we called for submissions from people over 70 years of age. At the same time, we set up a system through which facilities for the elderly could arrange for visits from certified geoguides to help with the creation of the manuscripts. In this way, the project has promoted the Geopark and knowledge of the local area not only to schools, but also to the elderly.

GeoTrain

Izukyu Railway Corporation is continuing to run a GeoTrain in which photographic posters of Geological Sites from across the peninsula are displayed, introducing the Geopark to visitors. In 2019 and 2020, the Izu Hakone Railway has also been running trains as a GeoTrain. This train displays posters designed by local high school students to introduce Geological Sites, and was made a reality through the cooperation of the railway company, high schools, and the Geopark Promotion Council.

Poster from the Izu Hakone Railway GeoTrain
(Created by the Photography Club at Izu Sogo High School)

Geopark Children's Picture Contest

We hold a picture contest for elementary and junior high school students who either live in the Izu Peninsula or go to school there. The call for entries is made over a period including the summer holidays, and we ask for pictures of geopark sites. The aim is to get children to visit the Geopark sites with their families, learn more about the area, and feel pride in it. The contest was first held in 2017, and the number of entries has increased year by year, reaching nearly 200 in 2019. We hold an exhibition of winning entries, which visits Georia, the central museum, visitor centers, and supporting corporations.

Research Grant

We launched a program of research grants for young scholars in 2015, with the aim of raising the base level of academic research in the Izu Peninsula. From 2018, when we were designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark, the policy was changed to provide grants for English-language publication of peer-review scientific papers, to encourage global level research. Further, by publicizing the scheme to many research organizations, a number of cutting edge applications were able to convert it into a competitive grant program. The grant

Number of grants awarded by the Izu Peninsula Geopark Grants-in-aid for Scientific Research over the last four years, by field of study

	Earth Sciences	Biological Sciences	Human and Social Sciences
Fiscal 2017	2	1	
Fiscal 2018	2	2	
Fiscal 2019	2	1	
Fiscal 2020	1	1	1

recipients give public lectures on their results, in which they are expected to aim the presentation at the general public and avoid technical terms, so that it is effective outreach. It is also contributing to the spread of world-leading scientific research, and the deepening of its connections to the region.

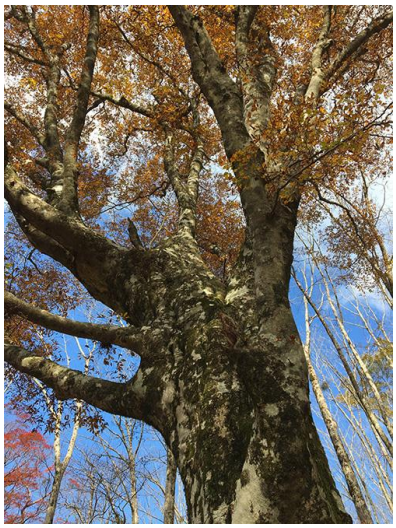
E.2 OTHER HERITAGE

E.2.1 NATURAL HERITAGE

Within the Izu Peninsula, there are 11 examples of vegetation, ecosystems, or wild animals registered as national natural monuments, 32 registered by the prefecture, and 63 by the municipalities of the area.

The Kuroshio Current flows along the coast of the Izu Peninsula, so that it is blessed with a warm climate for its location at latitude 35º north. For example, Cape Iro meteorological station, at the southern tip of the peninsula, recorded an average temperature of 16.6ºC for the period 1981–2010. As a result, it marks the northern edge of the range of a wide variety of vegetation found in the southern areas of the warm temperate zone. The grove of juniper at Cape Oose in Numazu City is the most northerly location where multiple juniper trees grow. The area also marks the northern edge of the ranges of many varieties of fern. On the other hand, Mount Amagi, in the central mountain range, has an annual rainfall that reaches 4000 mm, and is the cradle of a diverse natural environment. The forests of Stewartia and beech on the ridges of this mountain are designated as a special protection area within the National Park. Further, a primeval beech forest in Kannami Town has been preserved with no logging for several centuries. Beech, which prefers a cool climate, colonized the Izu Peninsula during the Ice Age when temperatures were 6–7ºC lower, but as the temperature rose in the post-glacial period, it retreated, so that the woodlands at an altitude of about 1000 m on Mount Amagi and in Kannami Town are relict populations.

Juniper at Cape Oose



Primeval Beech Forest at Mt. Amagi

The marine regions also display the distinctive features of the natural environment of Izu. Uchiura Bay in Numazu City has the most northerly population of *Acropora* coral, and the subduction zone in Suruga Bay is home to a wide variety of deep-sea fish, along with the world's largest arthropod, the Japanese spider crab.

E.2.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE

There are 669 registered cultural properties in the Izu Peninsula, of which 1 is a World Heritage Site, 142 are national cultural properties, 69 are designated by the prefecture, and 447 are designated by the municipalities.

Evidence for human occupation of the Izu Peninsula goes back 37,000 years to the middle Paleolithic. The stone tools found at the Idemaruyama site in Numazu City are some of the oldest found in Japan, and use obsidian from Kouzu Island in the Izu Islands, serving as valuable evidence of the movement of people by boat. Sites dating from the Kofun period (roughly 200 CE to 600 CE) are designated as sites within the Geopark, including the Kashiya Cave Tombs and Ema Cave Tombs. There are

Kashiya Cave Tombs (Kannami Town)

also many nationally designated historic sites, such as the place where Minamoto Yoritomo, who was exiled to Izu and then founded the Kamakura feudal government, raised the standard of rebellion in the late twelfth century. In the mid to late nineteenth century, at the end of the Tokugawa shogunate, many important events happened in the area, including the signing of the Shimoda Treaty which is the supplemental arrangement of the Japan–US Treaty of Peace and Amity, and remaining sites from the period include the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces, where large cannon were made, and Gyokusenji Temple, the site of the first US consulate in Japan. Of these, the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces are part of the World Cultural Heritage Site “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining”. Izu stone and its quarries deserve particular mention in the context of the history and culture of Izu. “Izu Hard Stone”, a hard and durable variety of andesite, was used in the walls of castles, while “Izu Soft Stone”, a soft stone that is easy to work, was used for stone storerooms and ovens, and for decorative stonework inside buildings. Among the quarries, the Usami quarry in Ito City, which was used in the construction of Edo Castle, is designated as a historic site by the city. Further, in the past many materials were mined in the area, including gold, and the former Toi Gold Mine and Gantsuki Tensho Gold Mine are also registered by Izu City as historical sites.

E.2.3 INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

There are 58 registered intangible heritages in the Izu Peninsula, of which one is national, ten are prefectural, and 46 are municipal. One is registered by both the country and the prefecture. These heritages have legal protection, and are, for the most part, seasonal festivals, religious rituals, and performing arts. The land of Izu is closely bound up with volcanoes, and the main Japanese deity of the primary Shinto shrine of Izu, Mishima Taisha Shrine, known as Mishima Daimyojin, was given increased rank by the court whenever volcanic islands to the south erupted. On the other hand, every August a traditional festival called “Kawakanjo” is held at the Kano River, which saw a great deal of damage in the 1958 typhoon, to pacify the kami of the river and make offerings to the souls of those killed by flooding. Finally, there are many shrines that people who made a living on the sea revered as protective spirits for safety at sea, such as Iro Jinja Shrine, at the the southernmost tip of Cape Iro.

Kawakanjo (Izunokuni City)

<Authors and Izu>

Izu, blessed with hot springs, is a region where authors have often stayed to write their works, and Izu appears with particular frequency in literature of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. 325 individual works, including novels, essays, and poems, have been recorded as having a close link to the peninsula, such as the works of Yasushi Inoue, the author of “Shirobanba”, who was raised in Amagi-yugashima, the works of Yasunari Kawabata (such as “The Dancing Girl of Izu”), who stayed in the peninsula for long periods, and works by Osamu Dazai, who wrote such famous works as *The Setting Sun* and *No Longer Human* while staying in inns in Numazu and Atami. As part of the GeoCafe series begun in 2018, we have been holding “Literati Cafes” focused on the connection between these authors and works and the landscape and environment of Izu. (See E.1.5 for more details)

The Mount Amagi Tunnel, featured in “Dancing Girl of Izu”

E.2.4 INVOLVEMENT IN TOPICS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

Through the activities of the Geopark, people can learn about the origins and structure of the land. Through this, they can learn about disasters of the past, and prepare themselves for disasters that might occur in the future. The regional disaster plans for Shizuoka Prefecture, Ito City, and Izu City include the following provision: “In cooperation with the Izu Peninsula Geopark, we will work to give tourists and others a broad and accurate understanding of potential disasters arising from volcanoes, and of how to respond to them.” Some of the sites composing the Izu Peninsula Geopark are Disaster Sites, comprising scars and records of past disasters. As a concrete disaster mitigation measure, the Geopark is a member of the Izutobu Volcano Group Eruption Emergency Landslide Mitigation Strategy Promotion Coordination Group. In addition, we arrange for disaster mitigation staff in local municipalities to view the Disaster Sites.

On 19th July 2019, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Izu-tobu Submarine Volcano Eruption, a symposium was held to preserve memories of the disaster. In addition to keynote addresses from university professors, there was a panel discussion including people who personally experienced the eruption: people responsible for the disaster response, local fishermen, and members of the media. Around 370 people attended the symposium, preventing the disaster from being forgotten and reminding everyone of the need for vigilance.

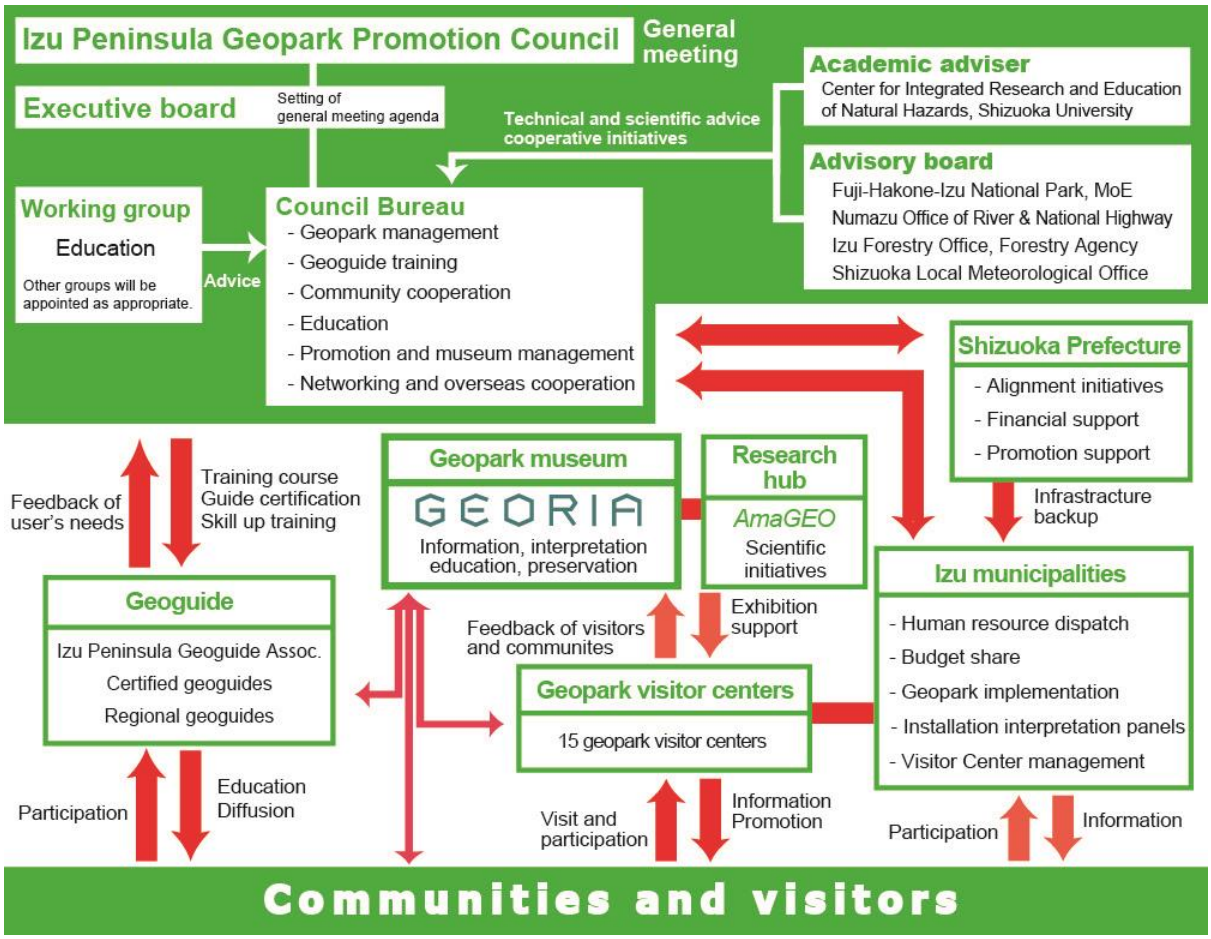
Symposium Panel Discussion

When natural disasters such as typhoons occur, we make information available on SNS. In the aftermath, we investigate the situation on the ground and gather information from local municipalities to grasp the damage to geopark sites. We update the information about disaster damage on our website as necessary. When recovery works are undertaken, the Promotion Council works with the local authority undertaking the works to ensure that the value of the sites is not lost.

E.3 MANAGEMENT

The Izu Peninsula Geopark Promotion Council is the management body for the Geopark, and, as of December 2020, is made up of 76 organizations, including all local municipalities, mercantile, and transport companies. The Promotion Council is preparing to merge in April 2022 with the Izu Development Association, which undertakes a role of tourism development in the Izu Peninsula. The new merged body is going to have a General Incorporated Association status. The Promotion Council is made up of a General Meeting, Executive Board, Bureau, and working group. The General Meeting gathers representatives of all the member organizations, and discusses and makes decisions on important issues such as the establishment, revision, and revocation of the Council’s rules, plans for major activities, and budgets. The Executive Board prepares proposals for the General Meeting and strategic activity plans, while the Bureau manages day-to-day activities and serves as a contact point for the Geopark. Working group is established when there is a need for support for these activities from people with specialist knowledge.

The Promotion Council establishes budgets and manages its funds independently. The main sources of income are membership fees from the members of the council (primarily the fifteen municipalities) and grants from Shizuoka Prefecture, which support operating expenses such as the training of geoguides, publicity activities, and the support of scientific specialists. In addition, we have a budget for research grants and preservation activities, funded by donations from corporations. Physical infrastructure such as the visitor centers and interpretation panels is paid for by the municipalities and other member organizations. The



budget for the Promotion Council since 2017 is given below.
The Bureau is headquartered in the center of the peninsula, in Shuzenji, Izu City, and currently has ten staff members. The Bureau employs three scientific specialists (geology, physical geography, human geography) as dedicated scientific staff. These staff members, in addition to carrying out research in the Geopark, are responsible for preparing scientific interpretations of the Geopark and engaging in educational and outreach activities. The Geopark receives the benefit of external academic advice from its Academic Advisor, Professor Masato Koyama of Shizuoka University, and also establishes working groups as necessary to advice on particular projects.
In a period 2017-2020, almost the half of the member were women, whereas two as of December 2020. The President has requested municipalities to dispatch women staff to the bureau so that we are able to ensure a diversity of perspectives and it can reflect in decision-making.

Promotion Council Budget

Fiscal Year	General Budget	Notes	Preservation & Research Fund
2017	¥77,700.000	Operating expenses for Georia included, increased budget for UGGp evaluation. Shimizu Town and Nagaizumi Town provided personnel funds in lieu of dispatching staff	¥2,070,000
2018	¥72,591,000		¥1,515,000
2019	¥81,494,000	Salary of bureau director added to budget	¥1,301,694
2020	¥81,557,426		¥1,500,000

Current Bureau Staff

	Name	Employment	Function	Specialty	% Time	Gender
1	Shigeya Kanezashi	Regular	Director		100%	Male
2	Hideki Ono	Seconded from Kawazu Town	Assistant Director	Archaeology	100%	Male
3	Prof Dr Katsuhiko Asahi	Regular	International Relations/Scientific Specialist	Physical Geography	100%	Male
4	Dr Atsuko Niina	Regular	Tourism/Scientific Specialist	Human Geography	100%	Female
5	Daisuke Endo	Regular	Education/Scientific Specialist	Geology	100%	Male
6	Sho Hayakawa	Seconded from Atami City	Education		100%	Male
7	Haruna Tsukamoto	Seconded from Minamiizu Town	GeoCafe/Public events		100%	Female
8	Kanji Kimura	Seconded from Shimizu Town	General admin duties		100%	Male
9	Uichiro Koshiba	Seconded from Nishiizu Town	Advertising/Corporate relations		100%	Male
10	Tetsuya Ota	Seconded from Matsuzaki Town	General accounting & Georia		100%	Male

E.4 OVERLAPPING

World Heritage Site

The Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces, a component part of the “Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining” World Cultural Heritage Site (registered 2015) is within the area of the Geopark. The Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces were the sole surviving reverberatory furnaces (melting furnaces) that were actually put into operation in Japan in the mid-nineteenth century, and the furnaces make use of Izu Soft Stone (a variety of tuff), which is widely used in the Izu region. In light of this, the Geopark cooperated with the Cultural Properties Office of Izunokuni City, which manages the furnaces, to register the furnaces as a Cultural Site of the Geopark and hold a special exhibition on “The Izu Stone” in the furnaces’ guidance center. We will continue to work to increase our mutual value as UNESCO programs through continued and systematic cooperation, and mutual direction of visitors between the sites.

Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces of WCH Site (Izunokuni City)

Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

Mount Amagi, the central mountainous region of the Izu Peninsula, has over 4000 mm of rainfall per year, and is the source of many high-volume groundwater springs. Against this background, *wasabi*, Japanese horseradish, became one of the agricultural products that

represents the peninsula. The method of wasabi cultivation developed in Izu 130 years ago has been passed down to the present day, and as it uses almost no fertilizer or agrochemicals, it was recognized as a Global Important Agricultural Heritage System in 2018, as “Traditional wasabi cultivation in Shizuoka”. The main cultivation sites are designated as Eco Sites within the Geopark on the basis of their distinctive character. In cooperation with Shizuoka Prefecture, which manages the Agricultural Heritage System, we have created interpretation panels that bear the logos of both UNESCO and the FAO. The synergy of two global brands and the goal of providing explanations that are easier to understand are very popular with visitors. In addition, we held joint workshops aimed at producers.

Joint information panel together with UNESCO and FAO on Izu wasabi

E.5 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

School-Based Education

The Izu Peninsula Geopark is actively engaged educational activities making active use of the Geopark in schools throughout the peninsula, with the goal of cultivating a love of and pride in their hometown among pupils and students through their study of the nature, history, and culture of the region in which they live, ultimately supporting the creation of a sustainable society. As the new education guidelines that came into effect from the 2020 academic year include the goal “Become creators of a sustainable society”, we preparatorily held an ESD explanatory seminar in the 2017 academic year, aimed at teachers at elementary, junior high, and high schools, and members of local education boards, in the hope of supporting and advancing ESD in schools. In November 2018, our Education Working Group was registered as a “Regional ESD Activity Hub” by the ESD Resource Center Japan.

Geopark education has been put into practice in several areas. Minamiizu Town and Matsuzaki Town have developed a unified curriculum from elementary to high school, while Ito City is moving forward with Geopark studies in all elementary schools in the area, in a program that has a budget attached. Building on these pioneers, Geopark studies are steadily spreading to other local municipalities. These activities use the curriculum slot for Integrated Studies, and generally deal with the origins of the peninsula, its history, and distinctive natural features as a kind of area studies. The Geopark is also used in science classes, for the observation of strata and volcanic ash, or in classes on disaster mitigation. It is very common for the lessons to involve fieldwork. The teaching responsibilities are divided between the Promotion Council’s scientific specialists and certified geoguides from the Izu

Peninsula Geoguide Association. They carried out lessons at thirty schools in the 2017 academic year, at forty in 2018, and at thirty in 2019.
As it is clearly impossible for teachers to make use of geopark studies if they do not understand why it is necessary, or know what content can be studied, we prepared a Geo Studies text for teachers in 2019, to encourage the further spread of Geopark studies. These texts introduce the Geological sites near schools and explain what can be learned at each site. The texts have been distributed to the educational boards of each city or town, and to all schools.
We are also involved in education at high schools. We set topics for students pursuing earth sciences within the science exploration class and have them engage in research. Those results are presented as posters at scientific conferences in Japan on earth and planetary sciences, and every year some posters win prizes. At other high schools, students have developed products based on the Geopark in the inquiry-based cross-disciplinary study classes, or conducted workshops with local residents on evacuation in the event of a tsunami arising from an earthquake, in science exploration class.
It is important to pursue Geopark education with a constant awareness of ESD, in order to resolve issues facing both schools and local areas in the light of the SDGs. We are working to show all areas that we are offering comprehensive study that covers people's daily lives, as well as culture, history, and the products of each region. In order to do this sustainably, it is necessary to create a system within which the scientific specialists and certified geoguides can take on the lessons.

Atami High School "An Encouragement of Evacuation"

Geopark Education Newsletter

We publish the "Izu Peninsula Geopark Education Newsletter" every other month and distribute it to all schools within the area. This newsletter focuses on our activities with schools, covering examples of educational activities with schools or local areas and information about ESD or disaster mitigation education. Schools that are positive about Geo study still have few opportunities to hear about activities at other schools, and so we hope to share examples of good practice through the newsletter and create the conditions for the spread of effective educational practice.

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group was established in 2017 to gather information on the conditions for education, set policy for educational activities, and assess their success. The Education Working Group is composed of geoguides and teachers engaged in our educational activities, professors in the field of education, and educational support organizations (ESD Resource Center Japan, Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU)). This group prepared the Geo Studies text mentioned earlier. Further, in 2017, it hosted a group visiting under the ACCU "Indian Teachers Invitational Program", and introduced Geopark studies to a group of Indian teachers, improving mutual understanding through a discussion with teachers from the Izu Peninsula.

Guide Training and Development
A training course for certified geoguides is held every other year, and in the off year we hold a “Skill-Up” course to further develop existing geoguides. Training courses were held in fiscal 2017 and 2019, while a Skill-Up course was held in fiscal 2018 (and will be held in fiscal 2020).

<Geoguide Training Course>
The Geoguide Training Course is a paid course, open to people who have passed Level 3 of the Izu GeoTest. After a five-month course, including both academic study and practical fieldwork, the Promotion Council certifies geoguides on the basis of an exam conducted on the field. Around 200 certified geoguides had been recognized by fiscal 2019. The certification must be renewed by taking additional training once every five years. Through the renewal process, the Promotion Council maintains its awareness of the activities of individual geoguides. The Izu Peninsula Geoguide Association has become a driving force behind the activities of the Geopark, and is involved in many activities through its strong links to the Promotion Council.

<Skill-Up Course>
In the years when no Geoguide Training Course is held, there are Skill-Up courses for existing geoguides. In 2018 there was a five-day course, including two days of field work led by Whole Earth Nature School, which aimed to improve the communication and interpretation skills of geoguides. There was also an “Inbound Course”, which aimed to improve understanding of difference in cultural background and raise linguistic ability so that guides could engage more effectively with international visitors, while training for English-language guides was carried out in cooperation with the Promotion Council scientist.

<Regional Geoguides>
The system of “Regional Geoguides” was established in 2013, for people who had an interest in the Geopark, but whose activities were limited to a particular area, and who would find it difficult to take a long training course. It was established with people who run businesses in the area particularly in mind. Group training courses were held for regional geoguides by “Geo Terrace Ito”, in Izukogen, in 2018 and 2020.

E.6 GEOTOURISM

The Izu Peninsula Geopark is looking for a mode of tourism that enables visitors to experience the history, culture, and natural environment, particularly the geological heritage, of the area and learn from them, while contributing to their preservation. Tourism is one of the foundational industries of the Izu Peninsula, and aims to create a sustainable regional economy. In 2019, an Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism was determined to promote sustainable tourism and strengthen links between businesses. This Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism is defined under the Ecotourism Promotion Act as a plan created by a region to conserve and make use of its natural tourism resources, and these plans are approved by the government ministers with primary responsibility for this topic (the ministers of the Environment; Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism; Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries; and Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). Once the plan is recognized, the region can make use of a variety of systems to promote tourism while taking steps to preserve its natural tourism resources. Concrete examples include special permission for geoguides to use cars to transport visitors so that they can run tours to areas with poor access, and a system for restricting access to certain areas to prevent environmental deterioration through over-tourism. At the Izu Peninsula Geopark, the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism was settled through workshops involving local municipalities and activity businesses, and periods for public comment, as a means to advance sustainable tourism in the area. This concept has been taking a prior review by the relevant ministries.

To support the promotion of sustainable tourism, we are preparing a portal website for activity companies that offer appropriate activities. This site will introduce such sustainable tourism activities as geoguide tours, sea geotours, or e-bike tours, and will also allow people to actually book such activities. In addition to these, the Izu Peninsula Geoguide Association has started to offer several tours for which no reservation is necessary, starting and finishing at fixed times. Further, in cooperation with the Hong Kong Geopark, we invited educational trips from overseas, and are working to spread actual participation in geotourism.

E.7 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

E.7.1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

In the “Izu Peninsula Grand Design”, adopted by the Mayors’ Council of seven cities and six towns in the Izu Peninsula to outline a vision for the future of the region in terms such as economic development, disaster mitigation, and transportation, the Izu Peninsula Geopark Promotion Council is responsible for sustainable development in the region.

E.7.2 PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships Within the System of the Promotion Council

<Corporate Supporters and Geosupporters>
The Corporate Supporter system was established in 2015. Businesses and groups that have become Corporate Supporters are permitted to put the Geopark’s logo on their products or services, a benefit that encourages membership. As of the end of March 2020, 151 businesses were Corporate Supporters, and the total annual income from membership fees was about 1 million Yen. Around forty products made use of the Geopark logo. Businesses have a variety of motivations and requests, and we organize thorough hearings to learn the region’s needs, and take them into account. Geosupporters are individuals with an interest in the Geopark.
Every month, the Promotion Council sends a newsletter about “Next Month’s Geo Events” to all Corporate Supporters and geosupporters, and also sends email notifications of things that are likely to be of interest as they come up. In addition, we publicize enthusiastic and distinctive activities through press releases and the Geopark website. Since 2017 we have held an annual Corporate Supporters’ Gathering, where Corporate Supporters can hear about things groups are doing in the Geopark and nurture the seeds of new schemes. This gathering has strengthened the direct links between Corporate Supporters. While strengthening the network of Corporate Supporters, we are also looking for new ways listen to and implement their varied requests, so that their activities will make the economic and social vitality of the Izu Peninsula a part of everyday life.

Partnerships with Groups Inside and Outside the Region

In 2020, the Promotion Council concluded a comprehensive cooperation agreement with Shizuoka Gas Group. This agreement is a ten-year long-term partnership, and aims to achieve the SDGs while contributing to the revitalization and development of the Izu Peninsula through the promotion of joint activities that align with the Geopark’s mission to “explore, develop and celebrate the links between that geological heritage and all other aspects of the area’s natural and cultural heritage”. In concrete terms, the partnership aims to promote understanding of the foods and food culture of the Izu Peninsula, encourage local production and consumption, spread understanding of the environment and disaster mitigation, and boost the

The president made a comprehensive agreement with Shizuoka Gas Group

regional economy. In this way, it will give the Izu Peninsula new value. As a starting point, we are holding workshops-cum-cooking classes focused on wasabi, a distinctive product of the area, which we hope will lead to a rediscovery of and renewed appreciation for this ingredient, and a long-term increase in its popularity. Every year, the theme will change to highlight a new ingredient.

Cooperation with Various Organizations Inside and Outside the Region
In addition to the comprehensive cooperation agreement implemented through the Corporate Supporter system, we have a number of partnerships with particular goals.

<Continued Support from Tokai Bus for the Conservation and Research Fund>
Tokai Bus Corp. has concluded an agreement with the Promotion Council to donate ¥10 for every bottle of citrus liqueur that they sell in a year, and the Council has given them permission to use the Geopark logo on the product. These donations are placed in the Conservation and Research Fund, and are the funding source for the research grants.

<How To Enjoy the Sea Geo of Izu>
This is the name of a group of businesses that offer activities based around the sea, such as diving, snorkeling, kayaking, SUP, and coastal walks. It aims to promote the rediscovery of geological features in the marine environment, through marine activities centered on the Izu Peninsula Geoguides Association, Izu Peninsula Geo Marine Club (an association of regional geoguides) and Geo Terrace Ito. It has held workshops in cooperation with the Promotion Council, and produced posters and leaflets. (See E.1.5.)

<Cooperation with Museums of Natural History>
The natural history museums in the different areas of the peninsula all have their own fans, depending on their themes. If these museums work together, they can appeal very effectively to people with an interest in the natural sciences. In 2019, we worked with the two museums listed below, loaning samples, display items, and images from Georia, and sending scientific specialists to give courses and excursions.

Museum	Exhibition Theme	Period	Cooperation Details
Fujinokuni Environmental History Museum	Amazing! Overwhelming! The Nature of the Izu Peninsula	15 June to 25 August 2019	Loan of movie and panels Museum talks by scientific specialists Bus excursions (4 times)
Gekko Observatory	The Izu Peninsula in Geohistory	1 March to 31 May 2019	Loan of movie

E.7.3 FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

<Development of the Hachikubo Volcano Geological Site>
The designation of the Izu Peninsula Geopark as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2018 prompted the local community around the Hachikubo Volcano Geological Site to form the “Hachikubo Group”, and hold study groups and fieldworks on the volcano. These activities led them to the conviction that they wanted a lot of people to visit the volcano, and they decided to work together to open a mountain path to the top. They built a viewing platform at the summit from which Mt Fuji is visible, and, in cooperation with the local Lions Club, set up a Geological

Site Interpretation Panel. Further, a biological professor from Shizuoka University, based at the AmaGEO research hub, held a forest workshop, which led to labels identifying their species being placed on the trees alongside the path to the top. The path is maintained by the community, with the assistance of the Promotion Council.

Members of the local community clearing the path and setting up the viewing platform

<Site Maintenance by Local Municipalities and Local Communities>
Cleaning and clearing of vegetation from sites and the paths leading to them is carried out by local municipalities. In addition, groups of geoguides patrol the paths and hold cleaning events, which ensures effective conservation. Teachers and students of Matsuzaki High School, together with local residents' group, are carrying out a continuing program of conservation and cleaning for outcrops of the oldest strata in the Izu Peninsula, which are found near them, in Ishiki, Nishiizu Town.

The peninsulas' oldest rock exposure, pillow lava, is maintained by students and local community

<Participation of People with Disabilities in Geopark Activities>
The Geopark Promotion Council and the Geoguide Association are aiming to increase the visibility by having them wear polo shirts embroidered with the Geopark logo, as a sign that they are involved in the Geopark's activities. Taking inspiration from schemes to involve people with disabilities in society in developing countries, we placed an order at a workshop which employs people with disabilities to create embroidery. In this way, we not only hope to have the activities of the Geopark support disabled people, but also hope to involve all local residents in its plans. As overseas visitors also visit the workshop, it has created opportunities to realize that people with disabilities are not only citizens of the local area, but of the world. In addition to the polo shirts, we have also ordered the embroidery of souvenirs such as towels.

Indonesian sister Geopark trainees receive souvenirs with embroideries of geopark logos produced by people with disabilities

E.8 NETWORKING

Participation in International Conferences
Over the three years since 2017, we have participated in the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and the 5th and 6th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)

Symposiums. At these meetings, we have given oral presentations on our efforts in the Izu Peninsula, shared case studies, and reported on our research as a Geopark. As one example, the President of the Geopark Promotion Council (the Mayor of Izu City) gave an oral presentation at the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, held in the Adamello Brenta Geopark in Italy. He reported on a case in which the city had intended to preserve geological heritage, but the results had destroyed its value so that it could not be designated as a Geological Site. In this presentation, he spoke as one of the people responsible for this, with a strong element of self-criticism. The attendees strongly commended him for presenting an example of failure. Apart from this, we have participated actively in the questions at the symposiums, and engaged in genuine international relationships.

Mr. Kikuchi's presentation at the 8th GGN Conference

Further, in 2017 we sent scientific specialist to the Lesvos Intensive Course, held by UNESCO. We were proactive in discussions with the UNESCO/GGN advisory council, and took away some ideals that were shared across the Izu Peninsula after he got home. He also talked to aspiring Geoparks about what the Izu Peninsula had done, creating some ongoing relationships.

Cooperation and Interaction with Other UNESCO Global Geoparks

The Ciletuh-Parabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark, which was designated at the same time as the Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark, is located in Indonesia's West Java Province, which has a sister agreement with Shizuoka Prefecture. A visit to the Izu Peninsula Geopark was part of a high-level Prefecture/Province meeting, and formed the starting point of an ongoing relationship between the two Geoparks. Two staff members from their province spent two weeks at Izu to study UNESCO Global Geoparks, and after that there was an official visit from the Izu Peninsula to their Geopark, to provide feedback. Then the key players of their Geopark were invited to Izu after that for skills training, where we engaged in technology transfer for interpretation panels, the creation of electronic maps, and the conservation of sites, with careful attention to techniques that could be implemented in Indonesia. We have also exchanged materials for display in each other's museums. In 2019 we exchanged a memorandum of understanding about the cooperation between the two Geoparks.

Signing the memorandum between two geoparks

In addition, we hosted a one-week school excursion from the Hong Kong Geopark, and we are now working on creating a package for such educational visits from overseas so that we can host them on an ongoing basis. We have also provided Japanese translations of leaflets for Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark in China and Bergstrasse - Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark in Germany.

Activities to support starting geopark activities in Asia

In 2018, we sent an instructor to the Regional Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks, "Perspectives for National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific Region," held by the UNESCO Jakarta office, the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark and the Japanese

Geoparks Network. He lectured on educational role in Geopark activities. We have also contributed to raising awareness of Geoparks in regions where they have not yet been implemented. We have worked with government officials and academicians from Nepal who are interested in Geoparks, providing advice on how to introduce a Geopark and concrete technology and skill transfer training for conservation measures. We have also sent certified geoguides to an aspiring UGGp in Republic of Korea, to provide examples of how geoguides can work in educational practice. We are engaged in active awareness raising and technology transfer, making use of a range of opportunities

E.9 SELLING OF GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

The organizations composing the Promotion Council are not engaged in the working or sale of geological material.

F. CONCLUSION

Since beginning Geopark activities in 2011, the Izu Peninsula has promoted geotourism, and pursued numerous methods to introduce the history and attractions of the Izu Peninsula to visitors: training geoguides, setting up interpretation panels, and establishing central facilities. Further, through geo-education and local activities in schools, we have fostered a deep connection to their hometowns, and encouraged the students to understand the Izu Peninsula, the unique landscape in which they live, and aim to make it into a sustainable region. In 2018, we were designated as an UNESCO Global Geopark. The people who live their lives in the peninsula have nurtured an awareness of the area's international value and a pride in their region.

Over the past three years since 2017, the activities of the Geopark have developed further. A striking example is the spread of geo-studies among schools. They have observed the area through fieldwork, and the study of the origins and evolution of the Izu Peninsula has led them to improve their understanding of the area. The ripple effect has led to increased awareness of disaster mitigation too. In geotourism, we have built on existing tours that focused on geology, and broadened their appeal to include the diverse natural environment, culture, and arts of the region. Geotours that need no reservation have been held across the peninsula, and uncovered new clients for the Geopark, successfully broadening its appeal. Further, through our proactive and multifaceted contributions to the activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks network, we saw synergistic effects in which visitors from overseas brought residents of the region pride in and a new appreciation of their home. One of our achievements is that the word "Geopark" has become established as a positive and forward-looking image that captures the whole peninsula.

The Izu Peninsula is already seeing a decline in population. Hand in hand with corporations and individuals who share our vision, we will put the SDGs into practice through the Geopark's activities, and aim to realize a sustainable society, both now and in the future.