

## **Krong No Aspiring Volcano-Geopark In Dak Nong Province, Vietnam**

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Krong No aspiring volcano-geopark covers approximately 2,000km<sup>2</sup>, located in Krong No District, Dak Nong Province, The Central Highlands, Vietnam. The geopark has great potential on geoheritages related to activities of Chu'Bluk volcano. Natural and cultural heritages consist of geoheritage, biodiversity, archaeology, history and culture, and so on. They all meet criteria for a national geopark, expecting to become a GGN's member.

Six geoheritage types have been recognized in Krong No: 1. Paleontological: unique large tree mold fossils in basalt, many other fossils; 2. Morphological: spectacular landscapes such as mountain ranges, basalt flows, lakes, craters, waterfalls, and the longest lava tube cave system in Southeast Asia; 3. Rocky: different-facies volcanic rocks such as columnar basalt, foamed basalt, volcanic bombs, ultramafic xenoliths, and so on; 4. Stratigraphical: boundaries between terrigenous and magmatic formations; 5. Mineral Resources: bauxite, precious to semi-precious rocks, especially huge blocks of opal-chalcedon and others; 6. Tecto-structural: is one of valuable geoheritage type of the geopark.

In the region, there are Nam Nung Nature Conservation Region and Dray Sap Landscape Special-use Forest with hundreds of plant and animal species listed in the Red Book of Vietnam and Globe.

Krong No Geopark is a part of The Central Highlands – homeland of “The Cultural Space of Gong in The Central Highlands” recognized as “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO in 2005. Among many valuable cultural heritages, 3,000-2,500 year-old lithophone sets considered as one of the most ancient, unique musical instrument of humanity.

Recently, scientists are studying to set up the national and international geopark dossier for the region.

Key words: Krong No aspiring volcano-geopark; Chu'Bluk volcano; geoheritage types; tree mold fossils; lava tube caves; lithophone sets.