

## Aspiring Geopark of Gunung Sewu, Indonesia

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Gunung Sewu is the name of the karst region in southern part of Java, known through its prominent tropic conical hills landscapes. Thousands of conical or hemispherical limestone hills, hundreds of caves, solutional-depressions (doline, uvala, polje), dry-valley, blind-valley, coastal and river terraces decorate an area of 120 x 40 square km.

Since 2010, based on Geopark concept, this karstic region crossing 3 districts and 3 province boundaries, has built and developed an object for conservation, education and growth of local economy through geotourism and geoproducts. In 2014 Gunung Sewu aspiring geopark applied for membership in GGN, at the moment the application is pending.

Gunung Sewu Geopark developed to identify the relationship between components of abiotic (geology), biotic (flora, fauna) and culture. The local culture is not limited to tangible and intangible culture of the present, but also the past life. Paleolithic stone culture of prehistoric man, known as Pacitanian Culture, well known in Southeast Asia. Some names of caves and lakes in Gunung Sewu indicate that vertebrates such as rhinos, hippos and elephants once lived in this karst region. At least, now extinct animals coexisted with prehistoric man during the end of the Quaternary.