

## **An Introduction to Yanchao Badland Geopark, Taiwan**

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The mudstone badlands and mud volcanos mark the unique landscape in southwestern Taiwan. The major features of badlands include sparse vegetation or steep slopes with scant massive erosion gullies and surface erosion, collapse and sharp ridge as well. Mud volcanos are pseudo-volcanos, which continuously, periodically or abruptly emit mud, flammable gas and often create miniature landforms similar to volcano. Five different shapes of mud volcano are found in this area, including mud cones, mud shields, mud holes, mud marr, and mud basins. Typical mud cones, mud marr, and periodic eruption mud holes can be found in Wushanding Mud Volcano Nature Reserve, and mud shields and mud basins are found nearby. The mud volcano and surrounding badland hill have been designated as Yanchao Badland Geopark, and jointed Taiwan Geoparks Network. The visitors of Wushading Mud Volcano Nature Reserve can be more than 50,000 annually. Therefore, it could be prone to the disturbance of visitors, and the monitoring techniques and management strategies become the major issues for the balance of conservation of landscape and promotion of environment education and geotourism. The local community and NGOs are in cooperation with government, they undertake the works of interpreting the landscape for the visitors, regulating their behaviors and tidying the whole area. At present, we keep working on the landform monitoring in mud volcanos, the studying of local history, culture and the mode of production-life-ecosystem, and the co-development of Nature Reserve and community are progressing smoothly.