

Global Youth Engagement in Promoting Community Empowerment in Indonesian Geoparks Development: Prospects and Challenges for Indonesia Geopark Youth Forum

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Abstrak

Taman bumi (*geopark*) merupakan konsep yang cukup baru, yang berkembang dengan terbentuknya UNESCO Global Geopark Networks. Ketertarikan Indonesia pada pengembangan geopark menghasilkan Rencana Aksi Nasional Geopark Indonesia yang berdasarkan pilar konservasi, edukasi dan pembangunan berkelanjutan. Metode pengembangan geopark ini sangat berbeda dengan upaya konservasi, perlindungan lingkungan hidup dan pembangunan sebelumnya karena meletakkan komunitas lokal sebagai penggerak utama. Artikel ini berupaya untuk mengidentifikasi peran pemuda dalam pengembangan geopark sebagai bentuk pemberdayaan komunitas dan kolaborasi pada konteks global. Artikel ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif melalui document-based research, interview dan observasi organisasi kepemudaan geopark-geopark Indonesia. Dengan artikel ini, penulis berharap dapat memberikan suatu rekomendasi untuk IGYF dan aktor-aktor pemuda dalam kawasan geopark untuk pengembangan geopark Indonesia.

Kata kunci: pemberdayaan masyarakat, pembangunan sosial, pembangunan berkelanjutan, pariwisata, taman bumi

Abstract

Geoparks are a reasonably new concept, popularised only with the establishment of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. Indonesia's growing interest in geoparks has sparked the National Action Plan for Geopark Development which laid the foundation of geopark development under conservation, education and sustainable development. This 'geopark way' of development is a dramatic shift from previous conservation, environmental protection or development by placing local communities front and centre. This article attempts to place the role of youth engagement in communities empowerment and collaborative initiative in the global context. The article uses qualitative methods, primarily through document-based research, interviews and direct observation of geopark youth organisations in Indonesian geoparks. This article hopes to offer recommendations for IGYF and youth actors in geopark areas to advance the development of Indonesian geoparks.

Keywords: community empowerment, social development, sustainable development, sustainable tourism, geoparks

Introduction

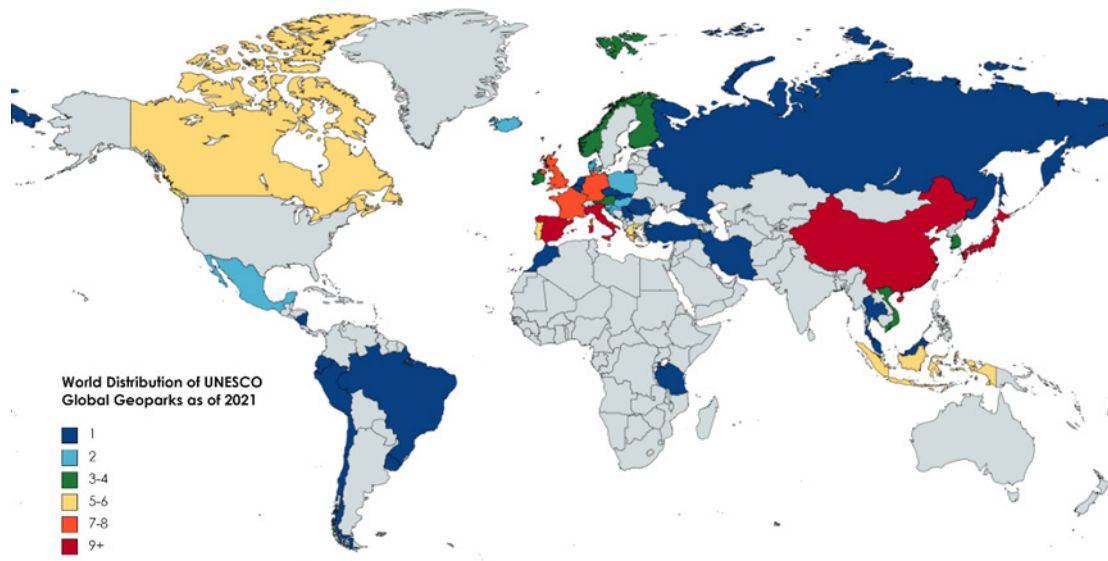
Geoparks are a reasonably new concept, only surfacing at around the end of the twentieth century with the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) establishment launched under the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1998. Here, UNESCO defines geoparks as single, unified geographical areas that hold international geological sites managed with a holistic three-pillar concept of conservation, education, and sustainable development. Originally, GGN had only been granted *ad hoc* support by the agency and operated somewhat independently before becoming integrated under UNESCO with the ratification of the new label of UNESCO Global

Geoparks (UGGp) in 2015 as the relationship was finally formalised. As of April 2021, there are 169 UGGps across 44 countries globally, with the addition of 8 new geoparks that year approved by UNESCO's executive board (See: fig. 1).

In Indonesia itself, the movement to support the establishment of geoparks had spurred since the late 2000s to early 2010s. The Ministry of Tourism began this initiative and funded several scientific feasibility studies for geopark development across the nation (Hidayat & Nasution, 2019; Cahyadi & Newsome, 2021). The Indonesian government had initially been identified six areas with great geological, biological and cultural potential to be designated as global geoparks: Batur, Merangin, Raja

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Figure 1
Current world distribution of UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2021



Reproduced from: UNESCO, 2021

Ampat, Rinjani, Sewu, Toba Caldera; all of which were then designated as national geoparks. In 2012, the Batur Geopark in Bali became the first Indonesia geopark designated as a Global Geopark. Following this, five other geoparks also received the status of UGGp in the period between 2012 to 2021, namely Mount Sewu, Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu, Rinjani-Lombok, Toba Caldera, and Belitong. Indonesia now has six global geoparks, fifteen national geoparks, and several aspiring geoparks and notable Geosites that are becoming nationally designated parks (Kunjana, 2018; Cahyadi & Newsome 2021).

The government of Indonesia formed the National Committee for Indonesian Geoparks (henceforth will be abbreviated as KNGI—*Komite Nasional Geopark Indonesia*), which oversees the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Indonesian Geoparks. The committee formalised in Indonesia's Executive Order (*Peraturan Presiden or Perpres*) No. 9 in 2019 on "The Development of Geoparks", which outlined the framework of geopark development anchored upon three main pillars are conservation, education and sustainable economic development. Furthermore, the Ministry of National Development Planning Law (*Permen Bappenas*) No. 15 in the year 2020 on "the National Plan of Action for Geopark Development in Indonesia" outlined 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as

the foundation of geopark development. *Permen Bappenas 15/2020* also outlined key actors in geopark development as the Indonesian government, KNGI, non-government actors such as local communities, educational institutions, academia, businesses and entrepreneurs, mass media, civil society, as well as third-party partners for geopark development in Indonesia.

The regulation has given non-state actors a significant role in developing Indonesian geoparks, and one of the most crucial actors in geopark stakeholders is youths. In 2021 KNGI announced plans to host the inaugural Indonesia Geopark Youth Forum (IGYF), a summit for local geopark youth communities to meet and discuss the progress of geopark development in Indonesia and areas where youths will play a critical role. In June and October of 2021, IGYF held its first series of National Seminars where selected delegates of each geopark met in Batur UGGp. The meeting primarily introduced IGYF as a new initiative for partnership and community empowerment in geopark development and a selection process for Indonesian delegates to the inaugural UNESCO Geopark Youth Forum held in December.

This article attempts to explain IGYF as an organisation and its purposes. This article also analyses youths' role in geopark development by looking at its potential as a new actor in social development in geoparks; through youth-led

community empowerment and as an actor in a Penta Helix Model for Geopark Development. As IGYF is still in its infancy, there is still the question of its use and efficacy in supporting geopark development. This article attempts to formalise rationality for its continued existence, what purpose it serves, its consequences and effects on local geopark communities, and how it may evolve in the future.

Theoretical Framework

Community Empowerment Approach in Development

Before analysing the role of youths in Indonesian geopark development, it is must be clear about the definition of empowerment. Empowerment is a development concept that comes from the word 'power'. While power can generally be described in the pragmatic sense as one's ability to do something or act in a particular way (Arden, 1970; Browne, 1995; Giddens, 1985; Sail and Abu-Samah, 2010), within the context of politics, however, power can be briefly described as an authority. The power within the political landscape is a political or social authority or control that an actor can exercise (Carr, 1939; Morgenthau, 1948). Theories of power politics like realism can no longer constrain the definition of power with such a limiting scope. As globalisation pushes interdependence, the conceptualisation of power has expanded beyond hard or military power. It made the discourse of power develop into a new kind of *soft power*.

Joseph Nye (2004) defined soft power as influencing behaviours to achieve desired outcomes. Nye understood that there were multiple ways to accomplish this as the world began to face new trends that saw a shift of great powers being constrained to using less their traditional power. Rapid modernisation, urbanisation, and global communications expansion resulted in a diffusion of power from governments towards the private sector. This new trend in exercising power made it so that actors could achieve desired outcomes by making it within the interest of other actors to accomplish the same objectives. One of the things that help set this agenda is shaping beliefs and preferences by pushing for a perceived image associated with the actor in question. When it comes to community empowerment, image is a highly beneficial source of power and may play a much more critical role than more traditional

commanded *hard* power. While governments may act upon communities and their areas, the belief of a social contract in which governments must act in the interest of the communities means that it is within the realm of possibility for communities to make it the interest of the government to grant autonomous power for communities to build themselves up.

The sourcing of these powers requires three main phases: enabling or the development of capacity, empowering or the growth of capacity, and independence or the self-sustained nature, and these must come in the form of capacity-building and autonomy (Winarni, 1998). In developing society, accessibility to one community's natural resources, grant of rights, and the transfer of knowledge and skills is a basic model in the capacity-building of communities (Suparjan & Suyatna, 2003). It is crucial to remember that social development is a multidimensional approach that aims to bring into reality conditions that balance needs and resources by anticipating, problem-solving, and taking advantage of opportunities available (Soetomo, 2011; Pratama *et al.*, 2021).

The Penta Helix Model in Sustainable Tourism Development

Approaches in tourism have varied across the world and even across geoparks. In Indonesia, the most commonly found approach promoted by actors and academia was the Penta Helix or Quintuple Helix Approach to sustainable tourism development. The development of this concept began from two innovative models: the Triple Helix theory and the subsequent Quadruple Helix (Sudiana *et al.*, 2020). Etzkowitz and Loet Leydesdorff (1996) developed the Triple Helix Model, which emphasises the potential for a strategic relationship between Academia, Industry, and Government. It shifted from the well-established dual helix model Industry-Government relations, bringing academicians into the fold after observing that universities and Industries began developing closer relationships. This economic development model had noted similarities from that of Schumpeter (1961) stated about the two essential economic development actors: entrepreneurs and innovators. The two-helix approach held the basis of economic evolution being tied to the innovation of technology and society (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff, 1996).

The two helix approach was criticised as incomplete due to a lack of acknowledgment of the vital role of other actors in economic development, namely that of communities. Fyodorov et al. (2012) criticised how the triple helix concept was incomplete without considering the role of communities, which led to the development of the Quadruple Helix. The Quadruple Helix model inserted civil society as an integral part of development within the “Helix” models interactions between Governments, Businesses, Academia, and Civil Societies that birth innovation (Afonso et al., 2012). Finally, this led to the development of what we now know as the Penta Helix model. Here a new actor has been introduced: the media. The Penta Helix is a conceptual framework that establishes the necessity of collaboration of academia, government, businesses, communities as well as the media to promote economic growth and pursue innovation (Fyodorov et al., 2012; Halibas et al., 2017; Muhyi et al., 2017; Tonkovic et al., 2015; Sudiana et al., 2020).

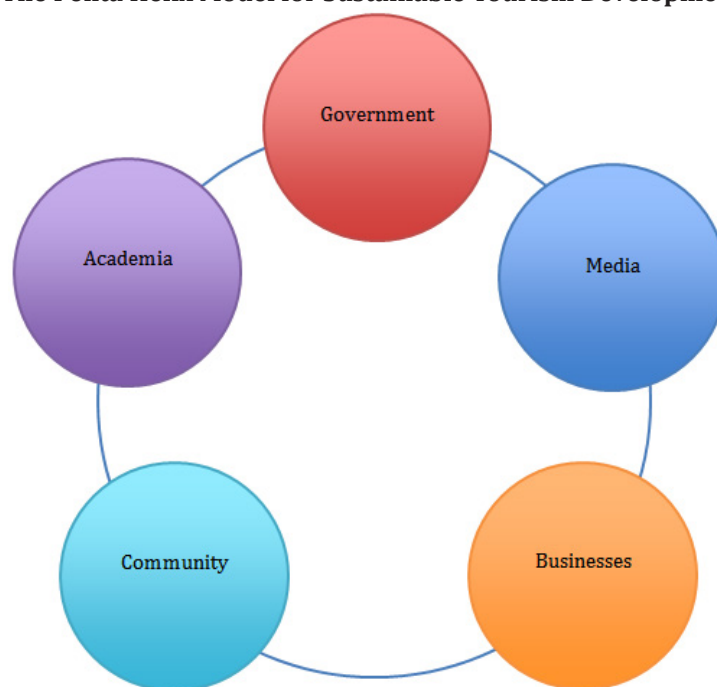
Although the principal basis of Penta Helix Model of development concerns primarily the Government-Media-Businesses-Community-Academia relationship, many contested variants and alternative models are proposed (Carayannis & Campbell, 2010; Halibas et al., 2017). Based on this variation, the stress is put on private

support’s role in research and innovation and the involvement of non-governmental institutions in active participation towards economic development (Halibas et al., 2017). The Penta Helix model has helped promote synergy among stakeholders in Indonesia’s tourism sector and establishes a framework for an integrated effort to sustainably develop the tourism sector through collaboration (Vani et al., 2020).

Critical Theory for Youth Empowerment

In analysing the role of organisations for youth empowerment, this article will primarily refer to the works of Jennings et al. (2006). Here Jennings et al. (2006) develop what they refer to as a critical social theory for youth empowerment, which outlines a collection of efforts that can be taken to create socio-political changes via four different models for youth empowerment. Empowerment within this context refers to social action processes that occur in individuals, families, organisations, and communities; and there has been extensive research on the concept of empowerment concerning individuals and their surrounding environment (Freire, 1970; Jones, 1993; Pinderhughes, 1995; Rapport, 1987; Wallerstein, 1992; Zimmerman, 1988; Jennings et al., 2006). In the context of IGYF, we will refer to the collective empowerment process that occurs in organisations and communities.

Figure 2
The Penta Helix Model for Sustainable Tourism Development



Source: Reproduced from Sudiana et al. (2020) and Hawkins et al. (2021).

The processes and structures of IGYF are built to enhance the skills of its members and provide them with the support necessary to create desired changes, improve collective well-being, and strengthen networks to maintain the quality of community life (Jennings et al., 2006). In the Critical Youth Empowerment Model developed by Jennings et al. (2006), some dimensions must be considered (see: Table 1).

Table 1
Critical Youth Empowerment

Dimensions	Critical Youth Empowerment
Safe, Supportive Environment	The environment must be safe, supportive, fun, caring, and challenging.
Meaningful Participation	Opportunities for youth are to develop capacities in the meaningful forum with youth responsibility and decision-making.
Shared Power	Shared power is critical, incremental transfer of power to youths as they gain capacity.
Individual and Community Orientated	Individual and Community empowerment is viewed as interwoven.
Socio-political Change Goals	Programs emphasise societal analysis and encourage social change.
Critical Reflection	Critical Reflection is integral to Critical Youth Empowerment through varied youth-based approaches.

Source: Jennings et al., 2006.

The International Centre for Research on Women in 2001 published an Issue Brief on “The Critical Role of Youths in Global Development” (Montgomery, 2001). The publication outlined that youths serve critical roles in development and must be seen as a partner of other stakeholders such as governments when it comes to development. Youths must be involved in communities and organisations to advance this agenda. Moreover, KNGI and Bappenas’s declaration for the establishment of IGYF opens for the opportunity to shape IGYF as an organisation that empowers youths, making these indicators critical in measuring the success of IGYF in empowering youths in the social development of local communities.

Methods

This research was conducted in the first year of IGYF’s existence in 2021 and used qualitative methods. This method is used to

explore the meanings and insights in a given situation (Strauss & Corbin, 2008; Levitt et al., 2017; Creswell & Creswell, 2009). Qualitative methods take advantage of a broad range of data collection and analytical techniques that use various methods to meet those needs, including sampling, interviews, and an assortment of document-based information available to interpret and analyse (Dudwick et al. 2006; Gopaldas, 2016). This research method is effective for a more natural setting that allows the researcher to extract many details from intense involvement in the actual experiences (Creswell, 2009).

As Mohajan (2018) stated, qualitative research is a form of social action that emphasises how people interpret and make sense of their experiences to understand individuals’ social realities. Using data sources such as interviews, diaries, journals, and observations, the researcher can obtain, analyse, and interpret any visual, textual, or even oral historical data content (Zohrabi, 2013). The first step was to experience and observe for themselves the phenomenon discussed. By directly observing the activities of IGYF and local geopark youth communities, this article observed the many stakeholders involved in the development of geoparks through the Penta Helix Model adopted by many geoparks for sustainable tourism. This research also gathered data from works of literature concerning the subject related to the research question, with the selected keywords being “geoparks”, “community empowerment”, “youth participation”, “sustainable tourism” through online databases and libraries.

Results

Indonesian Geoparks: Opportunities and Challenges

Indonesian Geoparks at a glance

Most currently established Indonesian geoparks in Indonesia had already been well established as national parks, promoted as domestic nature-based tourism destinations. Most had already been well established as nature tourism sites long before they were reintroduced with their new branding of geoparks (Cahyadi & Newsome, 2021). The concept of Geopark in Indonesia is formalised under *Perpres Nomor 9 Tahun 2019* (Indonesia President Decree No. 9/2019 on Geoparks) and *Permen Bappenas Nomor 15 Tahun 2020* (Minister of National

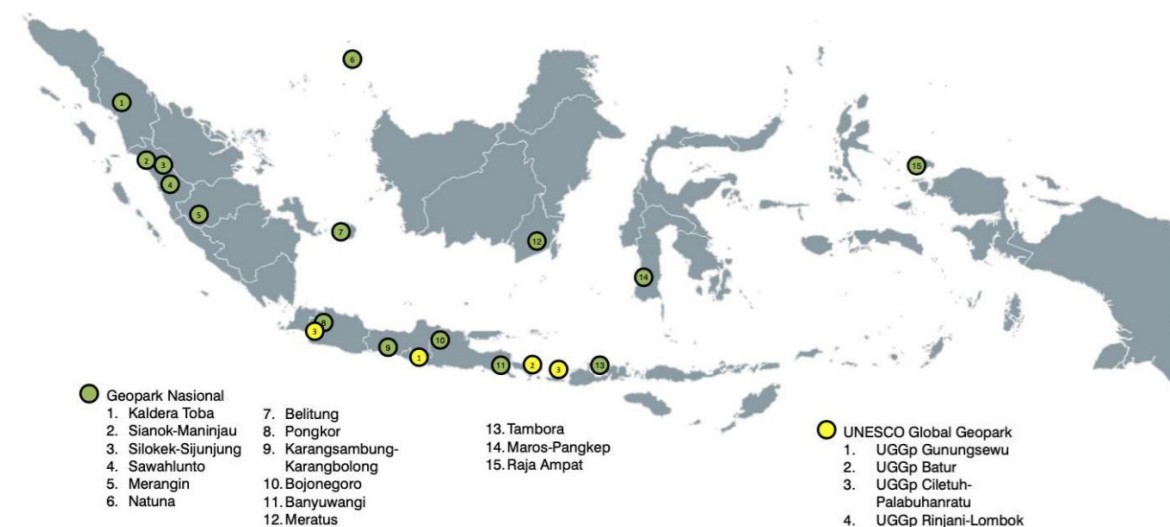
Development Planning Law No. 15/2020 on National Action Plan for Geopark Development). The phenomenon of Geo-tourism that has been popularised has sparked the expansion of geoparks in Indonesia. This relatively new concept has influenced the field of academia and international organisations in seeing geoparks as a tool for rural development, local community participation, and poverty reduction for those developing countries rich in geological heritage (Sagala et al., 2021).

Currently, Indonesia has 6 UNESCO Global Geoparks 15 National Geoparks with several Aspiring Geoparks, all with a combined total of over 110 identified Geosites (Bappenas, 2019). The geopark concept in Indonesia is developed through the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as outlined in the National Action Plan for Geopark Development in Indonesia in *Permen Bappenas* No. 15/2020, where the SDGs have been integrated into the framework for geopark development (Bappenas, 2020). Despite this new direction, geoparks in Indonesia are still struggling to address the challenges present even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Cahyadi & Newsome (2021) found that much of the issues in geoparks have increased long before the pandemic and have only been further deepened during the global health crisis. It shows a struggle in implementing the global geopark model in Indonesian geoparks, even in the geoparks designated as global geoparks (see: Table 2).

The Pre-Existing Challenges for Geoparks and the post-COVID-19 predicament

The establishment of IGYF could not have come at a more turbulent period, during a global pandemic that has ground most activities to a halt. It has been a challenge in any geopark activities as, like most economic sectors in Indonesia, the tourism sector has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The first cases of COVID-19 were detected in Indonesia back in March 2020, and its rapid spread has impacted international tourism significantly (Cahyadi & Newsome, 2021). Moving into 2022, we are beginning to understand more the full extent of the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic poses to Indonesia’s tourism sector. The Indonesian Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy has noted that over 1.4 million people in 2021 have lost their jobs from the formal tourism sector and relevant sectors, including accommodations, tour and travel agencies, food and beverages, and many more, with over 300,000 people losing employment in the informal tourism sector (Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, 2020; Cahyadi & Newsome, 2021). Nature-based tourism is a vital aspect of the Indonesian economy which accounts for almost 5% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP); something that the government intends to increase in the coming decade has struggled to achieve in the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Hawkins et al., 2021).

Figure 3
Indonesian Geoparks distribution



Source: Geological Survey Centre, Indonesia Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (2020)

Table 2
Indonesian UNESCO Global Geoparks at a glance (Pre COVID-19)

Geopark (Location)	Area Size	Economic and Employment Prospects	Environmental and Social concerns	Annual Tourism Flow	
				Domestic	International
Batur UGGp (Bali)	370.5 km ²	Tour Guides, Hiking Porters, Accommodations, Souvenir, Culinary	Litter and Waste, Sanitation, Congestion, Vehicle Emissions, Disturbance of wildlife from visitors	141,874	298,700
Belitong UGGp (Bangka Belitung)	4,800 km ²	Scuba diving services, Tour Guides, Accommodations, Souvenir, Culinary	Litter and Waste, Sanitation, Congestion, Vehicle Emissions, Coral reef ecosystem damages by fishing practices and coral bleaching	308,440	19,063
Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu UGGp (West Java)	1,260km ²	Tour Guides, Hiking Porters, Accommodations, Souvenir, Culinary	Litter and Waste, Sanitation, Congestion, Vehicle Emissions, Limestone Mining	14,723,559	No data
Gunung Sewu UGGp (Central & East Java)	1,802km ²	Tour Guides, Hiking Porters, Accommodations, Souvenir, Culinary	Litter and Waste, Sanitation, Congestion, Vehicle Emissions, Limestone Mining	3,267,497	No data
Kaldera Toba UGGp (North Sumatra)	2,700km ² (Lake Toba)	Tour Guides, Hiking Porters, Accommodations, Souvenir, Culinary	Litter and Waste, Sanitation, Congestion, Vehicle Emissions	12,140,000	231,465
Rinjani-Lombok UGGp (West Nusa Tenggara)	2,800km ²	Tour Guides, Hiking Porters, Accommodations, Souvenir, Culinary	Litter and Waste, Sanitation, Congestion, Vehicle Emissions, Disturbance of wildlife from visitors	669,422	21,409

Annual tourist flow data were obtained from various Geopark Websites and economic prospects and environmental concerns findings by Cahyadi & Newsome (2021).

While this is a dramatic shift from the business-as-usual and creates a new challenge for local geopark managers, the issues faced by Indonesian geoparks do not begin, nor does it end with the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the challenges faced by Indonesian geoparks have long existed before the first cases of COVID-19 were even detected. In recent years there has been much discussion over the issue of pollution, waste, and environmental degradation in tourism sites and protected natural areas. It is caused by high tourism flow, increasing transportation and congestion, and damaging activities and behaviours from visitors; something particularly concerning in nature-based tourism sites such as geoparks. The degradation of geoparks and their sites has become an increasingly concerning development (Cahyadi & Newsome, 2021; Kaiwa, 2017; Hawkins et al., 2021). Indonesian geoparks have become an increasingly popular destination for tourism, but this increase in popularity and revenue has many consequences for the future of geoparks and their environment.

For example, the findings of Hawkins et al. (2021) on the issue of environmental degradation in the Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark are examples of the consequences of unsustainable tourism practices and a lack of necessary development in the geopark areas. Some of the more significant issues identified include a high level of environmental damage in critical forests and marine ecosystems, increased vulnerability of endemic and endangered species, deforestation, destruction of marine ecosystems and natural landscapes, inadequate waste management systems, and high levels of waste and litter both on land as well as fresh water and marine ecosystems, pollution, and reduction in air quality, as well as poor tourist behaviours. The immense challenge faced by geoparks today is determining how to develop sustainably to address these challenges without further damaging the environment. Unfortunately, many geoparks in Indonesia still struggle to address this issue adequately. It arises with the dilemma of preservation and

development becoming increasingly complex – and with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to have a chokehold on much of the revenue in Indonesian geoparks, monetary resources needed to address these issues are dwindling.

The COVID-19 pandemic, while having caused catastrophic damages to Indonesia's tourism sector, is also an excellent opportunity to remodel Indonesia's approach to tourism development completely. The development of a Penta Helix Model is revised to be more in-tuned with local geopark areas' needs, and unique makeup needs stakeholders in geoparks, like government actors, civil societies, businesses, or even the youth communities themselves. In adjusting the Indonesian framework for community development, adopting a community-first attitude is crucial for a more sustained future for our geoparks. Youth Communities in Indonesian geoparks play a vital role in addressing the challenges for the future development and management of Indonesian geoparks. It included recognising and addressing the severe impacts of COVID-19 and some issues that have been long faced by geoparks like conservation, education, and sustainable development. The youth initiative also addresses the problem of the tourism-environment nexus in Indonesian nature-based tourist destinations that need to be reassessed.

Discussion

The role of Youth Engagement in Geopark Development and Indonesia's Chairmanship of the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum

The origin of IGYF is started from the inaugural Indonesia Geopark Youth Forum 2021. It is a summit hosted by Bappenas to invite youth delegations from all Indonesian geoparks to raise awareness of the importance of geoparks and their challenges. Now it has transformed into a youth-led organisation that empowers local youth communities surrounding Indonesian geoparks and takes a more active role in developing geoparks in Indonesia. During their inaugural summit in Bali in July and November 2021, IGYF was tasked with its first duty – sending Indonesian delegates for UNESCO's 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, where a new plan was introduced; the UNESCO Geopark Youth Forum. The delegation of Indonesia, who were members of IGYF, had successfully campaigned for the election of

Indonesia as the 1st Chairman of the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum. It was officially announced during the Closing Ceremony of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark attended by representatives of UNESCO Global Geoparks from 169 Geoparks in 44 countries.

Indonesia's chairmanship of the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum is an opportunity for youths to determine their role in developing geoparks. The coordination between the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum and UNESCO Global Geopark Network will allow youths to actively participate in the development of geoparks through a bottom-up approach. It considers the role of civil societies above any other actors within the Penta Helix makeup of geopark development. Indonesia's presidencies establish clear mandates and missions of the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum (UGGYF) and set out foundational frameworks for the role of UGGYF in our geoparks. Moreover, it also supports future initiatives in achieving the goal of collaborative community empowerment and creating UGGYF as a mature global actor in empowering communities across all geoparks. As IGYF's Chairmanship has come in its very infancy, it now faces the burden of developing both IGYF as Indonesia's National Geopark Youth Forum and spearheading the development of the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum.

As Indonesia assumes the chairmanship in the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum, one more unique aspect to the note is the role of IGYF as an actor in diplomacy. The development of Youth Diplomacy in International Affairs is still being widely discussed, particularly on the rise of youth non-governmental organisations that have become a notable trend in many countries and have become increasingly interconnected throughout the years. The role of youths has become increasingly blurred in the global system. The passing of hallmark resolutions for youth such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond, the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, as well as the International Bill of Youths Rights has aided in the development of the necessity of youth action and cooperation (Modaber, 2016).

Thus, there are now several opportunities and challenges for IGYF that must be addressed

during its UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum chairmanship to determine the role of youths in our geoparks firmly. First, IGYF must comprehensively establish its existence, which means it must clearly state its aims and objectives, framework, and structure. IGYF must, in its nature, act as a catalyst to empower local communities within geoparks to have a more vital role in the multi-stakeholder approach in geopark development. IGYF can use its unique relationship with government stakeholders to bridge government-to-community relations. Second, IGYF needs to strengthen its capacity to communicate and collaborate with local and regional geopark youth forums. As it holds the inaugural chairman position, Indonesia has the unique opportunity of shaping the global network system and framework for communication and collaboration among global geopark youth communities. It allows IGYF to ensure that it adopts a mechanism or framework that IGYF can adopt locally to enhance its role to become more effective. Finally, IGYF needs to address how it will carry out its aims and objectives by utilising its members in research and academia to reflect on this matter and analyse its place in the future of Indonesia's Geopark.

IGYF poses an opportunity to address the base concept of power concerning community empowerment. As expressed earlier, this conceptualisation is not so much on IGYF's ability to take action but instead holds over the management and development of geoparks. It is still vague and is one of the most challenging questions to answer. Granting IGYF significant authority in managing geoparks or integrating local geopark youth communities in the management agencies will grant IGYF the necessary authority to empower community roles in geopark development management and the decision-making process. Addressing this dilemma remains the most significant barrier in the status of IGYF as a civil society actor. Indonesia's role as the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum chairman is the first step of many to grant IGYF's legitimacy further. It creates a stronger argument for the development of IGYF to hold more substantial authority and power in geopark management and development-related matters. It takes shape poses the final question in determining the full scope of IGYF's impact in the empowerment of Indonesian geoparks local communities.

In addressing this issue of power and authority, this article will split the concept into two distinct categories: hard power and soft power instruments and approaches. IGYF and UGGYF are non-state actors (NGOs and Civil Society groups); they can act as engagement groups to state actors. It means there are limitations of power and authority which correlate directly with what their respective states grant them. In this regard, the most likely form of power instruments and resources available for IGYF and UGGYF is their institutionalisation, values, mandates given, actions, practices, and policy influence it may have on other actors and institutions. Another means or tool for power would possibly come from their economic and financial capacity to hold programs projects attract support through rewards and quid-pro-quo. In terms of soft power, youths have historically used means such as projecting images narratives and taking deliberative measures such as promoting and coordinating action to obtain its goals or influence other actors. Hence, exploring their limits of power and authority and the scope of their influence in geopark development and management will be the next step in IGYF's institutionalisation.

Conclusion and Recommendations

While there is still the issue of IGYF's status that needs to be addressed, the rapid development of the organisation and the adaptability of IGYF in quickly setting out to address these challenges show that IGYF holds a vital role in this future development of Indonesian geoparks. Having a unique characteristic in the Penta Helix Model, IGYF has several strengthening features to its advantage. The most notable is its close relationship with the Indonesian Ministry of the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) and its makeup of Academics, Civil Society, and even entrepreneurs and workers in the Geopark sector. It is useful when adopting a *community-first* attitude that stresses the crucial aspect of community empowerment as the bedrock of geopark development. It poses a challenge to IGYF as a catalyst in ensuring local geopark communities most affected by their geoparks must have a more significant development than the other stakeholders such as businesses, government, academia, or the media. This article

recommends that IGYF hone its unique position to represent their geopark communities better and empower them as stakeholders.

The Indonesian Chairmanship for the UNESCO Global Geopark Youth Forum is an opportunity for IGYF to demonstrate its conviction to become a stakeholder in geopark development. Obtaining it means that IGYF must address the challenges it faces as an institution but the challenges faced by its mandates. The post-COVID-19 dilemma for geoparks and the pre-existing challenges that are still present to this day will serve as the test for IGYF's extent as an actor in the role it plays. Being able to promote and establish itself as a strategic and vital actor in addressing these matters will be detrimental to the continued existence of IGYF. The underlined question is necessary answered for any the conceptualisation of hard and soft power for IGYF to explore the limits of their authority and scope of influence over Indonesia's management and development geoparks. There is still so much more to be researched on the matter, and the limited amount of research on youth communities in geoparks means there is a big gap in academia regarding the matter. Suppose the Penta Helix model is to be successfully implemented for sustainable development, understanding each actor's roles and the extent of cooperation frameworks can be implemented to realise. It rests in academia's hand to conduct further research on the matter as IGYF continues to grow and explore new avenues in which it can operate in efforts to promote geopark development.

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