



SARAWAK STATE

CALL FOR SUBMISSION

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GAGA 2026 is pleased to announce that the Sarawak State Government has agreed to facilitate the staging of the Green and Geopark Excellence Awards in Kuching on Oct 6.



Sarawak Delta
UNESCO Global Geopark

Sarawak is one of the top five sustainability hubs in the world and has in April proclaimed the achievement of Sarawak Delta as a UNESCO Global Geopark. Come visit Kuching, the City of Cats, as it hosts the WAK Festival, a month-long celebration of art, culture and heritage in the month of October.

The Green and Geopark Excellence Awards is an international platform recognising environmental leadership. Established in 2025 at the sideline under ASEAN+1 (China) Summit chaired by Malaysia, it promotes responsible tourism, green and geopark conservation, and climate action.

GAGA sets benchmarks for sustainable development. GAGA 2026 brings together leaders, communities, and practitioners committed to sustainability. This event celebrates initiatives shaping responsible relationships between people, place, and planet.



“GAGA is a prestigious and inspiring platform that celebrates excellence and innovation among UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide.”

Dr Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari,
Executive Board member of the worldwide
Global Geoparks Network



“This recognition reinforces our belief that Sarawak’s forest sector can be a world-class model of sustainability, innovation, and community-centred conservation.”

Datu Hamden Haji Mohammad,
Director of Forests, Forest Department Sarawak

Submission Process

- Open to all
- Materials required:
 - Completed application form
 - A 500-word citation
 - Hi-res photos of the geopark (Soft copy JPEG/jpg 150 dpi, minimum 3MB)
- Entry fees, application forms, and photos must be received by **20 August 2026** to avoid disqualification.

Entry Fees

Local submissions

- RM2,000 processing fees (non-refundable)
Media package : RM20,000 / RM30,000
- Award winners must confirm and select a package
 - Winner entitles to a table of 10 pax
 - Publicity : all media collaterals

Entitlements

- Trophy and certificate
- GAGA 2026 awards ceremony
- GAGA 2026 commemorative hardcover book.
The e-version of the book can be downloaded at www.GAGA-awards.com

Geopark Excellence Awards

Award Category		Qualification Criteria
☐	Outstanding New Geopark	For a geopark designated or substantially developed within the last 5 years, demonstrating exceptional progress in meeting all UNESCO GGP criteria, with verified community and government support.
☐	Geoconservation Project of the Year	For a specific, completed project that successfully protected, restored, or managed a critical geological site from threats like erosion, vandalism, or unsustainable development.
☐	Geoheritage Interpretation & Storytelling	For an innovative programme (e.g., trail, museum, app, AR experience) that effectively communicates geological stories to the public, enhancing understanding and appreciation.
☐	Community Engagement & Custodianship	For initiatives that demonstrably empower local/indigenous communities as primary stewards and beneficiaries of the geopark, including training and revenue-sharing models.
☐	Geotourism Innovation	For a unique, sustainable tourism product (e.g., geo-trail, geo-lodge, guided experience) that minimizes impact, educates visitors, and provides direct economic benefit to locals.
☐	Geo-education Programme (Schools)	For a structured, curriculum-linked programme that brings earth science to life for schoolchildren, with measurable outcomes in student learning and engagement.
☐	Scientific Research Contribution	For a published or applied research project (2023-2026) conducted within a geopark that advances geological knowledge and directly informs management practices.
☐	Climate Change Adaptation & Interpretation	For initiatives that use the geopark's geological record to educate on past climate change and develop community-based adaptation/mitigation strategies.
☐	Digital Innovation in Geoparks	For the development and effective use of digital tools (e.g., interactive maps, virtual tours, data portals) that enhance accessibility, management, or education.
☐	Geopark Product Development	For a successfully marketed local product (craft, food, art) whose story, sourcing, and production are intrinsically linked to the geopark's heritage and sustainability goals.
☐	Women in Geoparks Leadership	Recognising an individual or programme that has significantly advanced the role, participation, and leadership of women in geopark governance, science, or business.
☐	Indigenous Knowledge Integration	For outstanding work in weaving indigenous stories, knowledge systems, and cultural practices into the official interpretation and values of the geopark.
☐	Geopark for Sustainable Development Goals	For a geopark that clearly documents and evidences its contribution to multiple UN SDGs (beyond tourism), such as clean water, reduced inequalities, or sustainable communities.

Award Category		Qualification Criteria
☐	Cross-Border Geopark Collaboration	For exemplary partnership projects between two or more geoparks (domestic or international) that share knowledge, promote joint geo-trails, or address common challenges.
☐	Geo-art & Cultural Expression	For an outstanding artistic project (sculpture, performance, film) inspired by the geopark's geology that has engaged the public and raised the geopark's profile.
☐	Accessibility & Inclusivity in Geoparks	For concrete initiatives that make a geopark's sites, information, and experiences accessible to people with disabilities, seniors, and underserved groups.
☐	Sustainable Infrastructure Award	For the design and construction of visitor facilities (viewpoints, paths, signage) that are low-impact, use local materials, and blend harmoniously with the landscape.
☐	Geopark Volunteer Programme	For a highly effective, well-managed volunteer programme that attracts, trains, and deploys volunteers meaningfully in conservation, guiding, or research.
☐	Youth Ambassador /Programme	Recognising a dynamic youth-led initiative or an outstanding young individual (under 25) who actively promotes and works for their geopark.
☐	Crisis Management & Geohazard Education	For a programme that effectively uses the geopark to educate locals and visitors about natural hazards (e.g., earthquakes, landslides) and preparedness.
☐	Food & Geo-gastronomy	For initiatives that promote local cuisine tied to the land's geology (e.g., specific soils, minerals) and support sustainable agricultural practices within the geopark.
☐	Long-Term Geopark Management	Award for a geopark (established 10+ years) demonstrating sustained excellence, innovation, and positive impact across all pillars over the long term.
☐	Photography & Visual Media	For a still photo or short film that most powerfully captures the essence, beauty, and story of a geopark, promoting it to a global audience.
☐	Business Partnership Award	For a private sector company that partners with a geopark authority in a way that supports conservation, education, and community benefit beyond simple sponsorship.
☐	Geopark Guide of the Year	For an individual guide who demonstrates exceptional knowledge, storytelling ability, and commitment to sustainable visitor principles. (Nominated by visitors/peers).
☐	Highest Tourist Arrival	For a geopark which demonstrated excellence in eco-tourism.

Green Excellence Awards

Award Category		Qualification Criteria
☐	Circular Economy Pioneer	For a company or project that has demonstrably implemented a circular business model, achieving significant waste reduction, material reuse, or closed-loop systems.
☐	Renewable Energy Transition Champion	For an organisation that has successfully transitioned a significant portion (min. 50%) of its operations to renewable energy, with verifiable metrics and a roadmap to 100%.
☐	Nature-Based Solution Award	For a project that uses natural processes (e.g., mangrove restoration, urban greening, wetland construction) to address climate change, flooding, or biodiversity loss with measurable benefits.
☐	Sustainable Urban Innovation	For a city/municipal project (e.g., in transport, waste, green buildings) that enhances liveability, reduces carbon footprint, and can serve as a model for other cities.
☐	Biodiversity Conservation & Restoration	For a terrestrial or marine conservation project that shows verifiable success in protecting a key species or restoring a degraded ecosystem.
☐	Green Technology Innovation	For a novel technology (hardware or software) developed and deployed in the last 3 years that provides a scalable solution to a clear environmental problem.

Award Category		Qualification Criteria
☐	Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security	For a farm, cooperative, or initiative promoting regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, or sustainable fisheries that enhances soil health, yield, and farmer livelihoods.
☐	Water Stewardship Award	For leadership in protecting a watershed, implementing large-scale water efficiency, or providing innovative solutions for clean water access and sanitation.
☐	Zero-Waste Community Initiative	For a community-led programme (town, island, campus) that has achieved a dramatic, measurable reduction in waste sent to landfill through systemic change.
☐	Green Finance Initiative	For a bank, fund, or financial instrument that successfully directs significant capital into verified green projects, with transparent impact reporting.
☐	Corporate Sustainability Leadership (SME)	For a Small/Medium Enterprise that has fully integrated sustainability into its core operations and value chain, serving as an exemplar for its industry.
☐	Corporate Sustainability Leadership (Large Corp)	For a large corporation demonstrating transformational change across its entire footprint, with ambitious, science-based targets and verified supply chain improvements.
☐	Social Enterprise for the Environment	For an enterprise whose primary mission is to solve an environmental problem, with a clear, scalable business model and proven social impact.
☐	Sustainable Supply Chain Transformation	For a company that has successfully redesigned a complex supply chain to be transparent, ethical, and low-impact, with third-party verification.
☐	Eco-Innovation in Materials	For the development and commercial application of a biodegradable, low-carbon, or recycled material that effectively replaces a polluting alternative.
☐	Environmental Education & Awareness	For a campaign or ongoing programme that has measurably shifted public awareness or behaviour on a critical environmental issue in a target community.
☐	Ocean Health & Plastic Solutions	For initiatives tackling marine plastic pollution (from prevention to cleanup) or promoting sustainable coastal and ocean management.
☐	Just Transition Champion	For projects ensuring the shift to a green economy is fair and inclusive, protecting workers' rights and creating quality new jobs in vulnerable communities.
☐	Green Building of the Year	For a newly built or retrofitted structure that achieves top-tier green certification (e.g., LEED Platinum, Green Building Index) and demonstrates holistic design excellence.
☐	Women in Sustainability Leadership	Recognising an individual woman who has driven significant environmental change through policy, innovation, community action, or corporate leadership.
☐	Youth-Led Climate Action	For a project conceived and led by young people (under 30) that delivers tangible, on-the-ground environmental or climate action results.
☐	Sustainable Tourism Operator	For a tourism business (hotel, tour company) that achieves the highest standards of sustainability, benefitting local communities and conserving the natural environment.
☐	Environmental Policy & Governance	For a government agency or NGO that has successfully advocated for or implemented a policy leading to a demonstrable, positive environmental outcome.
☐	Lifetime Achievement in Sustainability	For an individual with a sustained career (25+ years) of extraordinary contribution to environmental protection, education, or innovation.
☐	Green Media & Journalism	For a piece of investigative journalism, documentary, or media series that exposed an issue, held power to account, or inspired action on a major environmental topic.

Nominee Information

Country :

Name of UNESCO Global Geopark :

Person-in-charge :

Designation :

Work Phone :

Email :

WeChat (if any) :

Mailing Address :

Consent & Declaration

I / We, hereby declare that the information contained in this form is true and correct, and also hereby agree to attend the said event and are obliged to settle all entry fees as stipulated in the official invitation letter and the invoice. The organiser reserved the right to receive the full settlement of the said amount in the event that I am unable to attend/received the award for whatever reason. All payments made are neither returnable nor refundable.

Name :

Designation :

Work Phone :

Email :

Authorised signature

Date

Terms & Conditions

- The organisers reserve the right to reject incomplete or non-compliant entries.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.
- By entering, participants grant the GAGA Awards Secretariat the right to use submitted materials for promotional purposes.

Banking Details For Entry Fee

Bank Account Details:

- Account Name : A PEN MEDIA SDN BHD
- Bank Name : PUBLIC BANK BERHAD
- Account No. : 3210451402
- Swift Code : PBBEMYKLXXX
- Bank Address : 87, LEBUH BISHOP, 10200 GEORGETOWN, PENANG, MALAYSIA
- Bank Tel. No. : +604-261 6679

For more information, refer to www.GAGA-awards.com or email KY at apen.pung@gmail.com.

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