

Tak Petrified Wood Geopark

From the discovery of petrified wood In the area of Ban Tak District, Tak Province in 2013, the Department of Mineral Resources has prepared a master plan for the management of Tak Petrified Geopark for years 2017 – 2021. With the suggestion that the area has potential to be developed into a geopark at the local, national, and global level Tak Province announced on March 30, 2017 that the area in the area Mueang Tak District, Ban Tak District, Sam Ngao District and a part of Phawo Subdistrict , Dan Mae Lamao Subdistrict, Mae Sot District, Tak Province is a provincial geopark, according to the master plan.

The longest petrified wood in the world was recorded by the Guinness World Records (GWR), which assessed and certificate awarded on June, 2022, which made Tak petrified wood very well-known in the country and abroad attracted more tourists to

travel in Tak Province generating income for people in the local community. It continued to upgrade tourist attractions to have world-class standards.

Local benefits from the Tak petrified wood when recorded for the longest petrified wood in the world.

- 1) Make cities and communities have tourism potential, generate more income from creative and cultural tourism.
- 2) More creative and cultural tourism products have been registered for intellectual property.
- 3) Wealth economic stability, including tourism, which includes transportation, trading, hotels, tour companies.
- 4) Create economic benefits of local tourism, namely allocating resources in the area for maximum value, and benefit bring well-being and when the tourism economy improves, it will bring more income to the local area.

Future development direction for Tak Petrified Wood Geopark

Integrated geotourism together with local administrative organizations in the area, consisting of municipalities, sub-district administrative organizations by focusing on presenting the strengths which has the potential to compete in the area both outstanding in mineral resources, petrified wood, culture, history of Tak Province and the way of life of the community to develop competitiveness in tourism in the Petrified Wood Geopark in a creative way

- 1) Support development and upgrading community products to standards and marketing skills to increase the opportunity to generate income for the local area effectively
- 2) Create value for tourism products and services okocus on using knowledge and innovation to extend cultural capital and local wisdom, such as product and service development, way of life, community stories to attract more tourists to visit
- 3) Focus on the development of tourism potential along with the development of local community products and services of the community to have an identity connected to the cultural values and distinctive features of the Tak Petrified Wood

Geopark to have a standard to create a career, have employment, as well as improve the livelihood of people in the area

4) Integrate cooperation between relevant agencies. and local communities in the conservation, restoration and conservation of petrified forest resources To be a mechanism to drive the management of the Petrified Wood Tak Geopark in a concrete way by promoting the conservation of geology sustainable development, create awareness of the value and conservation of the land's heritage under local laws.

- 5) Promote and support the needs and sustainable use of resources
- 6) Raise awareness of potential climate impacts in the region with adaptation to potential impacts
- 7) Promote and support the development of educational activities for people of all genders and ages, and the local community can educate others.
- 8) Culture, wisdom of indigenous peoples and local communities together to protect and conserve the World Heritage and promote sustainable local and indigenous cultures.

9) Sustainable Development, there must be a sustainable development and management plan for the local community.

The importance of maintenance save petrified wood including taking care of nature to bring back balance.

Petrified wood with a length of 69.70 meters is particularly striking and unique, especially a petrified tree that is over 120,000 years old and is the largest and longest petrified wood fossil since discovered in Asia. Petrified wood will be one of the keys to the history of the past world. To know the history of paleontology, botany and geography, ancestry, as well as the age, history and evolution of the world.

Therefore, petrified wood is a rare and valuable natural resource in terms of academic, economic, tourism and heritage of the Thailand.

This will result in the community and people to recognize the greatness of thai natural heritage. This will lead to pride and awareness of the importance of the petrified wood. in order to conserve and to be developed as a learning center and an international tourist destination that is beneficial to the community and the country in the future.