



Augusta Margaret River
Tourism Association
Western Australia, Australia



Management Board of
Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park
Quang Binh, Vietnam

Sister Caves

“Statement of Agreement”



**Augusta Margaret River
Tourism Association
Western Australia, Australia**

**Management Board
Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park
Quang Binh, Vietnam**

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Sister Caves“Statement of Agreement”

The **Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association** and **Management Board of Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park** have agreed to undertake the following to develop and improve international tourism relations.

- Collaborate to cross promote the caves in Quang Binh, Vietnam and Margaret River, Western Australia.
- Co-operate to improve the management of our respect caves and create awareness for both sites on an international lever.
- Where appropriate, work jointly on projects of common interest that provide mutual benefit.
- Work with Cowan University (Western Australia), as well as universities in Vietnam to support this agreement.
- Where appropriate, share knowledge and information to assist with the environmental management systems for caves.
- Commit to a program of professional development to promote the spirit of this Statement of Agreement.

Mr *Trent Bartlett*
Chairman
Augusta Margaret River Tourism
Association Inc.

Mr Le Thanh Tinh
Director
Management Board of
Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park.

Statement of Agreement

Preamble

This document establishes an agreement and between the Phong Nha- Ke Bang National Park and the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association to define a cooperative relationship between the two organizations.

Contact detail

Managing Organisation

Phong Nha- Ke Bang National Park
Management Board,
Quang Binh Province
Son Trach commune, Bo Trach district
Quang Binh, Vietnam
Phone: (052) 38675021 (Administration)
Email: pnkb@quangbinh.gov.vn
Website: <http://www.phongnhakebang.vn>

Cave Location:

Phong Nha - Kê Bang National Park,
Quang Binh Province Viet nam
Website:
<http://www.phongnhakebang.vn/en>

Managing Organisation

Augusta Margaret River Tourism
Association
100 Bussell Highway
Margaret River, Western Australia
Australia, 6280
Phone +61 8 9780 5911
Email: ceo@margaretriver.com
Website: www.margaretriver.com

Cave Location:

Caves Road
Margaret River, Western Australia
Australia
Cave Website:
<https://www.margaretriver.com/what-to-do/1-caves-in-margaret-river-auqu>

Phong Nha Caves, Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park

Official Website : <http://www.phongnhakebang.vn>

The Phong Nha- Ke Bang National Park is located in the western of Quang Binh Province in the Central Viet Nam. It is one part of the Karst plateau, which extends to and adjoins the Hin Namno National Biodiversity Conservation Area of the Lao PDR. Phong Nha Ke Bang contains many large and spectacular caves. The karst landscape is an extremely complex and ancient one, with high geo-diversity and some geomorphic features of considerable significance. It has an Earth crust development history from the Ordovician period (464 million years ago). This has produced three types of topography and geomorphology. One type is the non-karst landforms, which consist of low, round-top mountains with planation surfaces and abrasion-accumulation terraces along the valleys of the Son and Chay rivers and at

the margins of the central limestone massif. The other major type is karst landforms, which are characterized by old tropical karst mainly from the Mesozoic era, but two-thirds of the site consists of karst from the Cenozoic. Extensive transitional landforms comprise an extremely complex intercalation of limestone massifs and terrigenous terrain with a diversity of rock types. The limestone occupies an area of about 200,000 ha and its highest point is 1,290 m above sea level.

The karst formation process has resulted in many features such as underground rivers, dry caves, terraced caves, suspended caves, dendritic caves and intersecting caves. There are two main systems are the Phong Nha system and the Vom system.

The Phong Nha Cave System - The Phong Nha Cave is the most famous one of the entire system, about 60 caves, with a total length of about 70 km from the southern of Ke Bang karst. Its entrance is Khe Rhy Cave and En Cave, which situated at the height of 300m above sea level. Phong Nha Cave is referred as "The largest and the most beautiful cave in Southeast Asia". Cave is divided into many branches, with a currently surveyed total length of 8.5km, an underground river, which flows over the main branch of cave, referred the longest underground river. The spectacular stalagmites and stalactites in Phong Nha cave have been formed for thousand years. Phong Nha cave was recognized as the top cave in the world due to its top records: "the longest underground river, the highest and longest cave, broadest and most beautiful fine sand beaches inside the caves, and the most spectacular stalagmites and stalactites, the largest and the most beautiful dry cave" (regarded by British Caving Association)

The Vom Cave system: The Vom Cave is also the modern system with high dimension in the entire Phong Nha Ke Bang Karst with over 30 grottos and a length of over 40km. This system is from Ruc Ca Roong Grotto, which situated at the height of 360m above sea level. Paradise Cave which is belong to the Vom Cave systems, is referred as "The underground Royal Palace", situated deep inside the World Heritage Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park at km 16 from the western edge of Ho Chi Minh road. This cave is originated around 350-400 million years ago and belonged to ancient Karst.

The largest cave in the world -Son Doong Cave was discovered in 1991 and publicly announced in 2009. In deep inside the tropical forest of Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park, the biggest chamber of Son Doong is over 5km in length, 200m high and 150m wide. With these tremendous dimensions. Son Dong takes over Deer Cave of Malaysia (2km length, 90m wide, 100m high) to keep the record of world's

largest cave.

Tropical forest of Phong Nha- Ke Bang National Park covers 92% the total area of the park, 90% of which is intact primary forest with diversified flora, consists of 6 phylum, 201 families, 972 genus and 3034 species of vascular plants. Specially, in Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park, there is a area of 2.400ha forest of ancient conifer on limestone (*Calocedrus rupestris*) over 500 years old.

The forest is also home to 829 vertebrate species have been recorded in the site, comprising 153 mammals, 151 reptiles and amphibians, 303 birds and 212 fish. The fauna is typical of the limestone karst forests of the Truong Son Mountains. The site is particularly rich in primates (with 10 species and subspecies) consisting of 50% of the total number of species in Viet Nam.

The Park is accessible by road (National Route 1A or Ho Chi Minh Highway 450 km south of Hanoi, 50 km north of Dong Hoi, 210 km north of Hue); by rail at Dong Hoi Railway station on Hanoi-Saigon Railway; by air at Dong Hoi Airport 45 km south of the park. Tourists are served at the Tourism Service Center at Son Trach commune of Bo Trach District, the entrance of this center is located by Ho Chi Minh Highway. Tourists are required to buy entrance ticket for package services, including entrance fee boat service. Ecotourism tour (if needed) requires additional service fee. Tourists then are transported by boat along the Son River upstream to the Phong Nha cave, Dark Cave and Paradise caves. The number of tourists has increased dramatically since the park was listed in UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Quang Binh Province has invested in upgrading the Phong Nha-Ke Bang visitor site to turn it into one of Vietnam's major tourist destinations.

Numerous ecotourism projects have been licensed for development and the area is being heavily developed by the Quang Binh province to turn it into a major tourist site in Vietnam. Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng is part of a tourism promotion campaign, "Middle World Heritage Road" which includes the ancient capital of Huế, the Champa relics of My Son, the city of Hoi An, Nha nhạc and the Space of gong culture in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

Tourist activities in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park include:

- Tour for expedition of caves and grottos in boats and with professional cave expedition means.
- Ecotourism, discovering the flora and fauna in this national park in the Kẻ Bàng Forest.
- Mountain climbing, trekking: There are extreme sloping mountains here with a height of over 1,000 m, which is a real challenge for adventurous climbers.

The Margaret River Caves, Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park
Official Website: <http://www.margaretriver.com>

The Margaret River Caves are situated along the spine of the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge, beneath the soaring karri forest lie more than 100 caves. These caves are found within the fragile (wind-blown sand dune) limestone karst system - a landscape formed by water movement dissolving soft young rock. Limestone within the ridge is some of the youngest in the world, formed around 1 million years ago during the late Pleistocene period.

The Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association operates three spectacular show caves; Lake, Mammoth and Jewel. These caves are easily accessible, each with their own story to tell and decorated with their own unique and dazzling formations. Lake, Mammoth and Jewel caves are open to the public every day of the year, with the exception of Christmas Day. Tour times vary with self guided and guided tours available.

Mammoth Cave - is a self- guided audio experience of majestic chambers. It is the most easily accessible of the three show caves, with the first chamber accessible by wheelchair. It's self-guided, which means you take a MP3 player and a headset and wander along the cave's boardwalks at your own pace. It is also one of few caves in the south west which contains fossils.

Lake Cave - Home to the "suspended table" which weighs several tones and is one of the only formations of its kind in the world, Lake is the most active cave in the south west. It is the only cave on the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge that has a permanent lake. Entry access is through a spectacular doline - a large hole in the earth's surface. It is the deepest of the three show caves run by the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association. It is home to Caveworks, a world-class eco interpretative centre designed to help you learn about the formation and history of caves within the region, throughout Australia and around the world.

Jewel Cave - is the biggest show cave in Western Australia, with four massive chambers. It is also home to one of the longest straw stalactites found in any tourist cave in the world. In 2011, Jewel Cave was awarded a gold medal in the "Tourist Attractions" category at the WA Tourism Awards, as well as silver in the Eco Tourism Category. Jewel Cave is also home to the spectacular new Jewel Cave Preservation Centre.

Statement of Agreement:

This agreement gives a basis for a common understanding and sharing of knowledge between the Phong Nha- Ke Bang National Park, Quang Binh Province

and the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association (AMRTA).

It is based on recognition sharing of knowledge, as each party's goal is aimed at creating awareness for their region and improving the understanding of Geotourism. This agreement aims to offer a formal agreement for sharing of knowledge between these Geotourism attractions.

It is recognized and understood that this partnership provides an opportunity to access information on tourism programs and projects that is not readily available including; best practice management, environmental management, staff training, marketing and promotion, infrastructure development.

Definitions

Geotourism: refers to 'geological tourism', which includes tourists looking at and enjoying natural landscapes including landforms and rocks, as well as understanding the processes that have shaped them over time.

Communication

- The Chair or President of each agency shall review this agreement annually at the commencement of each calendar year and decide if the agreement is still relevant to each.
- Both parties agree to and share future plans and directions that have an impact on Geotourism in their region.
- Both parties will authorize Management to act on their behalf and communicate and share information openly that will benefit Geotourism. This may include visitor numbers, staff training plans, best practice management, environmental management reports, funding and capital works programs etc.
- Sharing of information regularly via email, where an open forum for discussion is adopted by both parties on issues relating to Geotourism management
- An agreement to meet annually via teleconference or face to face. With any meeting or travel costs associated will be at the expense of each individual partner.

Programs and Activities

- Actively co-operate to improve the diversity and marketing of geo-tourism experiences between both parties, through website links, brochure displays etc.
- Brochures displayed at each geo-tourism site of the other partners product.
- Acknowledgement and link of the partnership relationship on each partners website.
- Provide opportunities for educational organizations such as colleges and universities. Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, as well as universities

in Vietnam, will be a priority.

- Foster collaboration between the South West region of Western Australia and Vietnam.
- Collaborate to ensure State and Federal Governments are informed about the geo-tourism and tourism assets.
- Where appropriate, work jointly on projects of common interest that benefit each region.
- Where appropriate, share knowledge and information to assist geo-tourism development in each region.
- Commit to a program of joint communication to facilitate this Statement of Agreement.

Agreement Information

This agreement will commence on the date of signing by the respective organizations. The agreement will be reviewed prior

Either of the parties to this agreement may, at any time by written notice, agree to a variation or cancelation of this agreement. Any changes must be in writing and signed by all parties.

It is agreed and accepted that nothing in this agreement implies any form of legal contract or commitment.

Socialist Republic of Việt Nam
Quangbinh People's Committee
Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park
Management Board

Western Australia

Mr. Le Thanh Tinh
Director
Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park
Management Board
Son Trạch Commune, Bố Trạch district
Quảng Bình Province, Việt Nam

Mr. Trent Bartlett
Chairman
Augusta Margaret River Tourism
Association
100 Bussell Highway
Western Australia, Australia 6280

Sign

Sign

Date

Date

Mr. Vo Van Tri
Manager
Sciences and International Cooperation
Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park

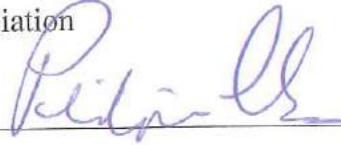


Sign

20th February 2015

Date

Ms Pip Close
Chief Executive Officer
Augusta Margaret River Tourism
Association



Sign

20th February 2015

Date

Witness

Mr. Le Viet Duyen
Consul General
of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Perth, Australia

Signature



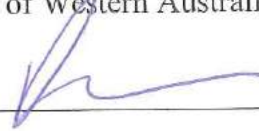
Date

20th February
2015

Witness

The Honourable Terry Redman, MLA
Minister for Regional Development
Government of Western Australia

Signature



Date

20th February 2015