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## Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark

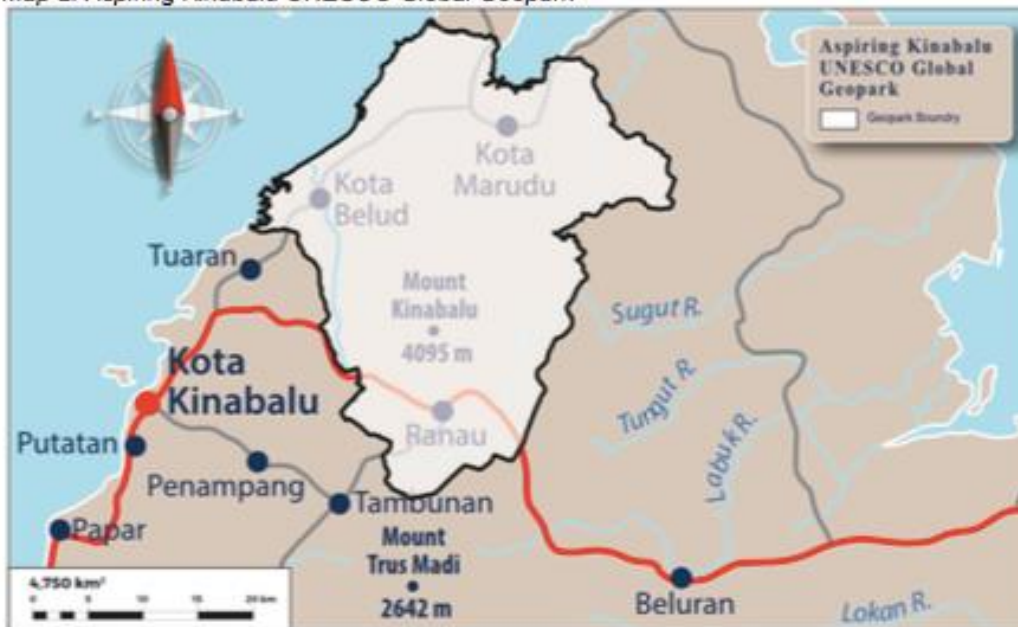
*Kinabalu, Malaysia*

### Geographical and geological summary

Map 1: Location of the aspiring Kinabalu UNESCO Global Geopark



Map 2: Aspiring Kinabalu UNESCO Global Geopark



## **1. Physical and human geography**

Kinabalu Geopark is located in the state of Sabah on the northern end of the island of Borneo or East Malaysia (116°16' E, 117°7' E; 5°44' N, 6°43' N). The geopark territory spans approximately 4,750 km<sup>2</sup>, covering the whole of Kinabalu park (World Heritage Site) and the whole or parts of three districts of Ranau, Kota Marudu, and Kota Belud. The Kota Kinabalu International Airport is about 15-20 min drive to Kota Kinabalu City. From there to Kinabalu Geopark is about 100 km (2h15m-drive) and the three major towns within Kinabalu aUGGp, Kota Belud (1h 27m; 70 km), Ranau (2h 18m; 106 km) and Kota Marudu (2h 21m; 119 km). The nucleus of the aspiring geopark is the Kinabalu Mountain, which is the highest peak in Malaysia and Southeast Asia (4095m) and near its foot at 550 m are hot springs at Poring. Kinabalu Geopark has a mountainous topography in the northern part of the Crocker range, low plains, and fertile valleys. The geopark has a wet tropical climate with temperature, humidity and rainfall becoming temperate at height. February to May are generally the driest months, October to January the wettest. The temperature at the Kinabalu National Park is between 15-24°C. At the peak of Kinabalu, the recorded temperature is around 4°C or lower. The total population in the Geopark is 291,300 people. There are about 423 villages in the Geopark. The main economic activities in the geopark include highland agriculture, animal husbandry and tourism activities with an average income of between RM2000 to RM3500. Rice is the staple food cultivated as wet paddy on alluvial plains and as dry paddy in hilly areas. Riverine fishing and occasional hunting are also major socio-economic activities.

## **2. Geological features and geology of international significance**

Geologically, the aspiring geopark is the youngest granitoid intrusion in Southeast Asia (7-8 Ma). The intrusion has brought up the area over 4000 metres above the present-day sea level, creating an outstanding mountainous landscape. Ophiolite sequence cutting across Sabah through Kinabalu represent an ancient oceanic crust (130 Ma) which records the subducted Proto-South China Sea lithosphere. The landscape of outstanding beauty, carved by the last glaciation activity in the tropical region, represents the rare glacial landscape in the Southeast Asia. Presently, there are 46 established geosites, which represent some of the important geological heritage of Kinabalu and contribute uniqueness to the regional geological and landscape history. Kinabalu World Heritage Site is also part of Kinabalu Geopark represent Outstanding Universal Value based on Criteria ix: significant on-going ecological and biological processes, and criterion (x): the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, cultural heritage, and economic development. Kinabalu Geopark also has an outstanding diverse local ethnic community and exceptional tangible and intangible cultural heritage.