



The role of IUCN protected area categories in the conservation of geoheritage

Kyung Sik Woo (1,6), John E. Gordon (2,6), Roger Crofts (3,6), Enrique Diaz-Martinez (4,6), Patrick J. McKeever (5,6), and Wesley Hill (6)

(1) Kangwon National University, Geology, Chuncheon, Gangwondo, Korea (wooks@kangwon.ac.kr), (2) School of Geography & Geosciences, University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK (jgordon0914@gmail.com), (3) IUCN-WCPA Emeritus, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK (roger.dodin@btinternet.com), (4) Department of Geological & Mining Heritage, Geological Survey of Spain, Madrid, Spain (e.diaz@igme.es), (5) Earth Science and Geohazard Risk Reduction Section, UNESCO, Paris, France (pj.mckeever@unesco.org), (6) Geoheritage Specialist Group, IUCN-WCPA (wesleyhill@gmail.com)

Geoheritage comprises those elements of the Earth's geodiversity that are considered to have significant scientific, educational, cultural/aesthetic, ecological or ecosystem service value. IUCN Resolutions 4.040 (2008) and 5.048 (2012) both clearly recognise that geodiversity is part of nature and geoheritage is part of natural heritage. Formal recognition of the geodiversity component of protected areas was made in 2008 in the revised IUCN Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories (Dudley, 2008). All 6 of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories (strict nature reserve/wilderness area, national park, national monument or feature, habitat/species management area, protected landscape/seascape, and protected area with sustainable use of natural resources) are applicable to the protection of geoheritage and provide opportunities to integrate conservation of geosites and the wider landscape values of geodiversity much more closely in protected area networks (Crofts & Gordon, 2015). Although geoparks are not a protected area category as such, and may only include some parts of protected areas as geosites, the UNESCO-supported Global Geoparks Network also provides an international framework to conserve and enhance geoheritage, as does the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Geoheritage Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas provides specialist advice and guidance on all aspects of geodiversity and geoheritage in relation to the establishment and management of protected areas, the integration of geodiversity into IUCN's programmes, and the promotion of better understanding of the links between geodiversity and biodiversity. http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_biodiversity/gpap_wcpabiodiv/gpap_geoheritage/.

Crofts, R., Gordon, J. E. (2015) Geoconservation in protected areas. In: G.L. Worboys, M. Lockwood, A. Kothari, S. Feary, I. Pulsford (eds), Protected Area Governance and Management. ANU Press, Canberra, 531-567.
Dudley, N. (ed.) (2008) Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.