



A strategic plan for managing geopark—an experience of Taiwan

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Abstract

It has been 20 years since the UNESCO promoted the concept of geopark in 1997. There is much progress on development of geopark around the world. Through networks, many countries can learn from the other countries on management of the geoparks from initiation of establishing of geopark to join the UNESCO global geoparks. Taiwan is a typical example although there are much political issues, however the experience on development of geopark in Taiwan can be shared with other part of the world.

The experience can be divided into three stages: (1) adopt and initiate the concept of geopark, (2) promote the concept of geopark around Taiwan and become part of Cultural Heritage Law, (3) assess and manage the geoparks.

The first stage in Taiwan actually started from 1985 when there is a movement on natural conservation. A series of nature reserves were designed according to the Cultural Heritage Law and a series of national surveying on specific landscape sites were conducted. The second stage were started from 1999 when we restart a national wide surveying and 341 sites with specific landscapes were listed. Six Geoparks established before 2011 and nine geoparks were listed in Taiwan in 2017 Taiwan Geoparks Network established in 2011. Since then geoparks Network meeting was held twice a year for each geopark to share their works. The concepts of geopark was merged into Cultural Heritage Law on 27 July 2016. The third stage of promoting geopark affairs started from 2017 according to the law and each existed geoparks have to re-evaluate to be a national geopark officially. By law, the local and central government will need to provide budget for managing geoparks in Taiwan for the sustainable development of the country.

This presentation will demonstrate the experience of landscape conservation and development of geoparks in Taiwan since 1985.