



Geopark as a link between geomorphology and society

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Geoparks aim to conserve landscapes not only by preventing landscapes with environment and scientific values from intentional or unintentional damage, but by making these educationally and academically valuable sites the cornerstone for the sustainability of human society.

Compared with national park which is mainly conservation oriented, Geopark is a kind of bottom up movement for sustainable development. Through landscape conservation, environmental education, geo-tourism and local involvement, the awareness of the local society needs the geomorphological understanding and find the way to protect their landscape.

This study is trying to use Taiwan as a typical example to demonstrate such a link. As Taiwan is a hazardous country because of tectonic movements and typhoons, it is a challenge to cope with the natural processes for sustainable development. Among the work for geopark, how to explain the value of geo-diversity and appreciate the nice landscape caused by the natural processes are so important for publics.

Geopark then is a tool for management of the landscape. This paper demonstrates the progress of the geopark movements in Taiwan.