

Geoheritage Database and the Evaluation Project Conducted by National Geoparks Secretariat of Korea

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Geological heritage is one of the essential part of a geopark. Geological heritage sites within a geopark must be legally protected and a geopark should be used as leverage for promoting the protection of geological heritage locally and nationally, as described in the guidelines of UNESCO Global Geoparks. Importance of geological heritage is a significant measure for UNESCO Global Geoparks, so geosites databases and their maps are required for geoparks. The National Geoparks Secretariat of Korea have been conducting a national project named “Geoheritage Database and the Evaluation” for the purpose of protection and management for geological heritage and its utilization for geoparks. The first part of the project has been conducted in ‘Sudokwon area’, Seoul and its suburban area, having started in September 2014 and finished in April 2015, and the second part will start in May 2015 for ‘Chungcheong area’, west and mid South Korea. This national funding project (ca. \$130,000 USD annually) will continue primarily until 5 total regions of Korea will be covered on the annual basis and the further research will go on. This project examines known and unknown geological heritage, puts it into national database and also proposes its assessment tools, which consists of 5 levels followed by qualitative and quantitative analyses. This project is aimed at not only building a national geological heritage database, but also helping both National and Global Geoparks to protect and manage geological heritage in an effective way as well as aspiring National or Global Geoparks to prepare for the application in time- and cost-efficient way.