

Geo-conservation on the Silk Road Economic Belt , Dunhuang Geopark of China

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Located in the western part of Gansu province, China, Dunhuang was not only the source of “Dunhuangology” because of Mogao Caves, but also the convergent site of different segments on the Ancient Silk Road, which has made the city an attraction to the world for such a long time. The establishment of Dunhuang Geopark will provide a new way for ecological civilization construction and will promote geo-conservation on the Silk Road Economic Belt.

Dunhuang has spared no effort to declare to be a member of GGN, during when it has had geoheritage investigated (including the distributions, contributing factors, environment of geoheritage et al.), statistics, and some preliminary protection measures done. For example, it has set up fences and monitoring system to separate geoheritage with the tourists and monitor if there is something wrong in the geopark, not to ensure the safety but to protect the environment. Besides, to build the interpretation systematically will also help to raise protection consciousness. Also, as a typical landform both at home and abroad, the yardang landform’s protection will promote geo-conservation greatly in the geopark.

All in all, geo-conservation in Dunhuang Geopark, which is of great importance on the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt, plays an important role in promoting exchange of Chinese and Western culture, integrating tourism economy and natural resources conservation, and realizing harmonious development of human and nature.