

Some Suggestions In Implementing The Sustainable Development Strategies Of Geopark In China

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From 2010 to 2014, a total of 9 evaluation and 33 revalidation missions performed by nearly 40 individual experts assigned by UNESCO have played in China. Finally 9 applying areas successfully became parts of GGN Family, and most of the revalidation areas also got the membership of GGN for a further four-year period except 5 ones for a two-year period only. Whatever the results, each recommendation in letters proposed by GGN Bureau and the evaluators is valuable and thought-provoking. Based on that, some common/crucial suggestions should be taken into consideration by the Chinese Geoparks for improvement in following sustainable developments.

1)Territorial integrity and Single promotion area. The different scenic areas within a Geopark must be physically united within a unified boundary, managed with integrated activities and promoted under one Geopark identity.

2)Geopark visibility. The promotional strategy using the GGN logo as a label of quality must be implemented. Special effort should be also given to promote its membership of the GGN.

3)Easy-to-understand Geo-information. Accurately simplify at least two languages of the geosite information showed in interpretative panels or paper materials.

4)The diversity of elements inside Geopark. Integrate and highlight the history, culture and biodiversity of the area into the Geopark. Connection of geo-heritages with other heritages is very necessary and highly appreciated.

5)Sustainable education programs and pragmatic cooperation. Education on geosciences among Geopark schools should be developed to the regular teacher programs, and also be extended to local inhabitants and related tourism services staffs.

The existing twinning agreements with other Geoparks should show tangible activities and results. Pragmatic cooperation must be advocated.