

The role of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group (GSG) activities for geoparks

Kyung Sik Woo

Department of Geology, Kangwon National University, Korea

Geoheritage Specialist Group, IUCN WCPA <E-mail: wooks@kangwon.ac.kr >

IUCN Resolutions 4.040 (2008) and 5.048 (2012) both clearly recognize that geodiversity is part of nature and geoheritage is part of natural heritage. Formal recognition of the geodiversity component of protected areas was made in 2008 in the revised IUCN Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. All 6 of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories are applicable to the protection of geoheritage. Although geoparks are not a protected area category as such, and may only include some parts of protected areas as geosites, the UNESCO-supported Global Geoparks Network also provides an international framework to conserve and enhance geoheritage, as does the UNESCO World Heritage List. The IUCN WCPA GSG was established in November 2013 to provide advice and guidance on all aspects of geodiversity and geoheritage for establishment and management of protected areas, the integration of geodiversity into IUCN's programs, and the promotion of better understanding of the links between geodiversity and biodiversity. The future plans for GSG are 1) to develop a Best Practice Guideline on geodiversity, 2) to develop thinking on the link between geodiversity and biodiversity, 3) to develop better guidance under WH Criterion (viii), 4) to increase knowledge of IUCN protected areas categories, 5) to develop guidance on the relationship between UNESCO Geoparks and IUCN Category I-VI and 6) to promote geodiversity within the work of IUCN globally, regionally and thematically. It is hoped that the geopark community will play a significant role for future GSG activities

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_biodiversity/gpap_wcpabiodiv/gpap_geoheritage