

Linkages among geoconservation, rural livelihood and tourism: a case of Xingwen Global Geopark of China

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The purpose of this paper is to explore the relationships between geoheritage conservation, livelihood improvements, and tourism development using the appreciative inquiry approach as a research tool. The research was conducted in five communities representing different levels of tourism development around Xingwen Global Geopark in China. The results indicate that tourism helps change local people's attitudes toward geoconservation and reduce people's dependence on natural resources. Tourism, particularly small-scale and locally owned geotourism ventures, is also identified as a tool to enhance the livelihoods of people around geoparks. The paper also developed a framework to help understand these linkages.

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