Sustainable development of Geoparks

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We should pay more attention to promote the sustainable development of Geoparks from three aspects, respectively they are scientific research, local socio-economic development and environment protection. The sense of a regional system should be brought into the development of Geopark, in order to realize the win-win prospect of resource, economy, society and environment. The concept of "PRED" was introduced into Liujiang Geopark research by Qiao Xiaohong. It combined the theory of human-earth system, including population, resource, environment and development, and many other aspects. UNESCO and the GGN established guidelines for geoparks in 2004, which emphasized that valuable geoheritage on the earth should be preserved and its environment should be protected, combining with strategies of regional socio-economic development. P (people) are the human beings participating in the Geopark, including the managers, developers, local residents and tourists. R (resource) represents geoheritage resources. E (environment) represents the garden and the whole environment of its apanage, including natural and cultural environment. D (development) means coordinated development of economy, society and environment in the park system. The PRED system of Geopark was made based on relationships above.

The relationship between human beings, nature, environment and development are closely linked, which can be seen from the PRED system. Human beings are the protector and the destroyer of Geopark, and also the consumer, playing multiple roles, whose activity maybe good or bad. But once the geoheritage resources and the ecological environment were destroyed, social and economic development of the Geopark and even the local places would be restricted in return.

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