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## THE LANGKAWI DECLARATION

The 4<sup>th</sup> International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks was held from April 12 – 15, 2010 in Langkawi Global Geopark, Kedah, Malaysia, and was attended by 423 delegates from 27 countries. After deliberation, the delegates hereby affirmed that:

1. The philosophy and vision of geoparks provide a balance between conservation of heritage, local socio-economic development and local community empowerment. Thus geoparks are an effective and practical tool for regional sustainable development.
2. Geoparks emphasize having an effective governance system in the form of co-management and stakeholders' collaborative management.
3. Successful and high quality geopark development requires that all stakeholders have awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the vision, as well as their support towards the activities of the geopark. This can only be achieved through continuous capacity-building at various levels.
4. Public education and communication of geoparks should be for all and not only for geologists. This requires the translating of scientific knowledge for simple public information through various media.
5. A geopark will not have a soul if the local communities are not involved. Empowering them will increase their sense of ownership to conserve the resources while improving the quality of life of the communities.
6. Detailed scientific knowledge will not only increase the heritage value of a geosite, but also encourage sustainable resource utilization. This will include other natural and cultural resources within the geopark.
7. The success of any geopark is highly associated with its ability to network at local, national, regional, and global levels. Sharing experiences, and best management practices, among geoparks will allow each geopark to be developed to its highest potential.
8. It is necessary to respect the use of the term 'geopark', and to safeguard the reputation of geoparks to ensure that they reflect quality in all aspects of their heritage, products and services.

Langkawi Global Geopark, Malaysia

14 April 2010



Malaysia National Commission  
for UNESCO

