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Geomorphosites

Research, protection and education

A Working Group of the International Association of Geomorphologists

Annual Report 2008

Introduction

This report presents the activities of the working group *Geomorphosites: research, assessment and improvement* during the period January 2008 to December 2008.

Members

The WG is chaired by Emmanuel Reynard, University of Lausanne, Switzerland and Paola Coratza, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy. The Secretary is at the University of Lausanne (Géraldine Regolini-Bissig). The committee created in 2006, worked in the same composition during 2008.

Members of the committee are:

- Emmanuel Reynard, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Chair
- Paola Coratza, University of Modena, Italy, Chair
- Mario Panizza, University of Modena, Italy
- Viola Maria Bruschi, University of Cantabria, Spain
- Diamantino Pereira, University of Minho, Portugal
- Nikolaus Zouros, University of the Aegean, Greece
- Valeria Panizza, Univ. of Sassari, Italy

During the last year new members joined the WG. Currently the working group has 174 members from 31 countries.

Activities 2008

Workshop "Mapping Geoheritage", Lausanne (Switzerland), 17-20.6.2008

This workshop joined together 20 scientists from six European countries interested in mapping geoheritage. The first part of the workshop was dedicated to presentations of examples of geoheritage cartography by the participants. The second part was organised as a practical workshop with a field trip and mapping exercises concerning geoheritage and geotourism mapping. The results will be presented at the 6th European Congress on Regional Geoscientific Cartography and Information Systems in Munich (2009) and at the Conference "Geomorphosites 2009 : imagerie, inventaire et valorisation du patrimoine en géomorphologie" in Paris (see below).



Participants of the **Workshop "Mapping Geoheritage"** after the visit of the Vineyard Terraces, Lavaux (UNESCO World heritage site). Picture: B. Erhartic

33rd International Geological Congress, Oslo (Norway), 6-14.8.2008

The working group co-organised with ProGeo the session IES-03: *Geosites and landscape - conservation and management strategies*. This symposium was composed by one invited lecture (William Wimbledon) and by 14 presentations (9 oral and 5 posters). It was included in a broader group of sessions concerning geoconservation, geoparks and geotourism.

The symposium dealt with pragmatic issues regarding the establishment of conservation and management strategies concerning geoheritage. These strategies vary between each country as a consequence of the availability of geological knowledge, legal framework and institutional commitment of national authorities. During this symposium some experiences were described from different countries worldwide, which allowed the discussion between participants.

The International Geological Congress gave also the opportunity to organise a business meeting concerning the creation of a new international association of geology and tourism. The meeting was initiated by the Italian Association Geologia e Turismo (M. Panizza), the European Geoparks Network (N. Zouros) and the IAG WG (E. Reynard). This new association could be created in 2009.

IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology in Brasov (Romania) 17-19.9.2008

The working group organised a common session with the Geoarchaeology IAG working group (chair: E. Fouache) on "Geomorphology and human heritage". Although the number of communications was quite low, the session had two main positive impacts: the diffusion of our activities within the Romanian geomorphological community (and several new members came from Romania) and the collaboration with another working group of the IAG.

Intensive Course "Geoconservation and Geoparks: Interpretation and Communication", Lesvos (Greece), 23-28.9.2008

After the editions in Switzerland (2006) and Greece (2007), a third Intensive Course was organised for PhD and Master students as well as for Geopark staff members. The course was organised by N. Zouros and again under the auspices of UNESCO and the European Geoparks Network.

This year focus was proposed by the 2007 course participants who asked for a course on good practices concerning education to geosites within geoparks. 33 participants coming from 10 countries took part to the course. A new edition is planned for 2009 in Portugal (see below).



Participants of the Intensive Course "Geoconservation and Geoparks: Interpretation and Communication" in front of a gigantic petrified trunk in the Lesvos Petrified Forest, (Greece). Picture: K. Kozyna.

Valorisation et vulgarisation du patrimoine géomorphologique - Objectifs et pratiques, Nantes (France), 18th October 2008

The French Geographers Association organised this meeting composed by five conferences (D. Sellier, M. Ambert, N. Cayla, C. Portal, Y. Lageat) and a field trip. During the field trip from Saint Nazaire to Nantes, a hundred participants sailed back the Loire estuary aboard the *Pimpante* and discovered the estuary's geomorphology. The proceedings will be available in the *Bulletin de l'Association de Géographes Français* (BAGF) in the beginning of 2009.

Postgraduate Course "Geoconservation", University of Braga, Portugal

A new edition of this program of education was organised by the University of Minho. E. Reynard gave a 10-hour course on geomorphosite assessment and management (27-28 June 2008).

Information

The various activities and reports are available on the IAG website: www.geomorph.ch. We thank Dr Zbigniew Zwolinski, who very kindly organise the information on the website.

Administration

Internal communication

Newsletters with information about the ongoing activities of the WG were sent to the members in 2008. In addition, the members of the WG were regularly kept up-to-date about international meetings and workshops concerning geomorphosites.

International contacts

The WG has scientific contacts with the UNESCO (Geoparks initiative, N. Zouros, E. Reynard), the European Geoparks Network (N. Zouros), the Italian Association Geologia e Turismo (M. Panizza, P. Coratza), ProGeo (J. Brilha).

Publications 2008

No specific publications were published in 2008.

Perspectives 2009

Book on geomorphosites

The review of the different chapters for a book (manual for students) on geomorphosites and related issues, written by a panel of selected authors, is completed. The book will be published by Pfeil Verlag (Munich, Germany) in 2009 and presented at the International Conference on Geomorphology in Melbourne (2009).

Other publications

Two more publications will be edited in 2009:

- The proceedings of two sessions held in international conferences (IGC in Florence (2004) and IAG in Zaragoza (2005), as a thematic volume "Geomorphology and Cultural Heritage", published by P. Coratza, O. Nesci, L. Pallí, M. Panizza & E. Reynard in the *Memorie Descrittive della Carta Geologica d'Italia*.
- The proceedings of the workshop "Mapping Geoheritage", held in Lausanne in 2008, that will be published by the Institute of Geography of Lausanne University.

Both publications will be available at the Melbourne Conference.

Conferences and meetings

9-12th June 2009: 6th European Congress on Regional Geoscientific Cartography and Information Systems, Munich (Germany). Deadline for registration: **15th April 2009**

10-12th June 2009 : Géomorphosites 2009 : imagerie, inventaire et valorisation du patrimoine en géomorphologie, Paris (France). Deadline for abstract submission: **31st January 2009**

6-11th July 2009: 7th International Conference on Geomorphology, Melbourne (Australia), Information is available on the web at: <http://www.geomorphology2009.com>. Deadline for abstract submission: **4th February 2009**

Intensive Course

Intensive course *Geodiversity and Geological Heritage Assessment*, University of Minho, Braga, **9-13 September 2009**. The course will be followed by the European Geopark Network Conference at Naturtejo Geopark (that begins on 14th September 2009).

Information:

<http://www.dct.uminho.pt/cct/intensivecourse/>.

Lausanne/Modena, 30 January 2009

Emmanuel REYNARD, Paola CORATZA, Géraldine REGOLINI