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Geomorphosites

A Working Group of the International Association of Geomorphologists

Annual Report 2014

Introduction

This report presents the activities of the working group *Geomorphosites* during the period October 2014 to December 2014.

Members

Emmanuel Reynard, in relation to the fact that he was elected as member (Publication Officer) of the IAG Executive Committee in August 2013, has decided to stop his activity as chairman of the working group, and proposed to the IAG Executive Committee to be replaced by Fabien Hoglea, University of Savoie. The IAG EC has accepted the proposal and the working group is now chaired by Paola Coratza (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) and Fabien Hoglea (University of Savoie). Fabien Hoglea is "maître de conférences" at the University of Savoie (Chambéry, France), specialized in geoheritage studies, and very active in particular in research in geoparks. He is co-founder of the Commission on Geomorphological Heritage of the Comité National Français de Géographie (secretary from 2010 to 2014 and president since 2015), and has been very active in the IAG working group, in particular in organizing an important symposium (conference and intensive course) in Savoie in 2011 (ISGM 2011) under the auspices of the IAG.

Activities 2014

European Geosciences Union General Assembly, Vienna, 27 April – 2 May 2014

The working group organised the session SSS1.2 "*Geoheritage: Integrating geo- and biodiversity research*", chaired by E. Reynard, Co-Conveners: Jose Palacio, Grazina Skridlaite, Hanneke van den Ancker.

The session aimed to link geodiversity and geoheritage research with biological sciences. Nature conservation is often restricted to the protection of species and habitats, and whereas biodiversity is well inscribed in the political agenda of most countries, geodiversity is still not fully addressed by nature conservation policies in the majority of the countries. 6 oral communications and 15 posters were presented and the session was attended by about 60 persons. The contributions were dealing especially with the following issues: geodiversity and geoheritage assessment, education, promotion (geotourism) and networking; links between geo- and biodiversity; geoheritage for environmental education.

Intensive course on geodiversity and geoheritage interpretation, Fortress of Bard (Valle d'Aosta, Italy), 9-12 September 2014

The WG, in collaboration with the IAG WG on Geodiversity (Chair: Prof. Zbigniew Zwolinski, co-Chair: Marco Giardino), co-organised the "Intensive course on geodiversity and geoheritage interpretation" that were held in Fortress of Bard (Valle d'Aosta, Italy), 9-12 September 2014.

The course, organized by Marco Giardino (University of Turin, Italy), has been taught by several members of the WG. 21 Master's and PhD students from Italy, Croatia, Poland, Switzerland, Indonesia, Brazil and Portugal attended the course. Topics on geoh heritage, geodiversity as well as various assessment methods were actively discussed during the lessons and during the two-days field trips.



A view of the audience during the field trip.

*IAEG XII Congress, Turin (Italy) – 15-19
September 2014*

The working group organised the session 8.5 "Geoh heritage, Geosites, Geoparks: contributions of the Engineering Geology in the management of natural and cultural landscape", chaired by E. Reynard and co-chaired by José Brillha, Paola Coratza, Marco Giardino, Luca Ghiraldi.

The session aimed to highlight the contributions of the engineering geology in geoconservation and geotourism within the concept of "environmental sustainability". 6 oral communication and 10 posters were presented and the session was attended by about 40 persons. The contributions were dealing especially with the following issues: geoh heritage promotion, relationships between cultural assets, environment and risks and impacts of anthropic activities; risk management in tourist areas. Short papers related to this session are published in the book: Lollino G., Giordan D., Marunteanu C., Christaras B., Yoshinori I., Margottini C. (eds.). *Engineering Geology for Society and Territory – Volume 8 Preservation of Cultural Heritage*, Heidelberg, Springer.

*ForumAlpinum 2014, Darfo Boario Terme (Italy),
17-19 September 2014*

The working group, in collaboration with the Mountain Geomorphosites Network, co-organised a workshop entitled "How to better use and conserve the Alpine geoh heritage resource?", moderated by Emmanuel Reynard and Géraldine Regolini.

The workshop aimed to bring together all stakeholders and institutions concerned and interested in geoh heritage (geoscientists, policy makers, territorial planners and promoters) of the alpine areas to discuss possibilities to create synergies in order to use this resource at best. The workshop was divided in three parts: two input speeches, a group discussion and a final discussion. The first input talk was held by Dr. Paola Coratza, focusing on the main achievements and gaps in geoh heritage research. Guido Trivellini from the European alpine programme (EALP) of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) held the second input talk, presenting two methodologies for biodiversity assessment developed within the EALP. The workshop was attended by about 25 persons, which have discussed, exchanged experiences and drawn new ways of interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration on the topic of geoh heritage and links between geo- and biodiversity.



A view of the audience during the discussion.

*International Workshop "Geomorphosites, lever of
local socio-economic development", Beni
Mellal (Morocco), 2-4 October 2014*

An International Workshop "Geomorphosites, lever of local socio-economic development: From European experiences to Maghrebian and African projects", organized by the University Sultan Moulay Slimane (Research Laboratory «Landscape Dynamics, Risks and Heritage», Morocco), the University of Lausanne (Institute of Geography and Sustainability, Switzerland), the Moroccan Association of Geomorphology and the M'Goun Geopark Project (Morocco), was held at the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, University Sultan Moulay Slimane (Morocco).

The Workshop included two days of indoor paper/poster sessions (October 2–4), preceded by a one-day Intensive Course on "Geomorphosites. Definitions and methods of investigation". More than eighty participants have attended the workshop from different countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Spain,

Switzerland, Tunisia) and forty interesting and varied oral papers and twelve posters were presented. The objective of this workshop was to enable geomorphology experts and local actors from the Maghreb and African countries to build upon existing European experiences in material recovery and socio-economic development and try to adapt these experiences to requirements on the ground.

The pre-workshop one-day Intensive Course on "Geomorphosites. Definitions and methods of investigation" was co-organized by the IAG WG on Geomorphosites in collaboration with the Lausanne University and aimed at students interested in geomorphosites issues. More than fifty Master's and PhD students from major universities of Maghreb countries attended the course. Topics on definitions and characteristics of geomorphosites, as well as various investigation methods, especially assessment and mapping, were actively discussed during the lessons and in the field. One student from Tunisia was financially supported by a grant offered by IAG.

This first meeting in a non-European country is part of the strategy of the WG on Geomorphosites to disseminate the activities in developing countries for the 2013-2017 period of activities.



A view of the audience during the intensive course.

Intergeo – digital platform on geomorphosites, First workshop, University of Lausanne, 4 - 5 December 2014

First steps have been done for the development of a digital platform allowing to disseminate learning materials on geomorphosites. This important task will be pursued in strict collaboration with the University of Lausanne, which offers a good opportunity to concretize this double objective. The "Fonds d'innovation pédagogique" (FIP) of the University of Lausanne is aimed at improving teaching skills of the university staff. Each year, one main objective is delineated and for 2015 it is: "improving the autonomy of the students". At the University of Lausanne, Emmanuel Reynard (past chairman of the WG period 2009-2013, and now active member of the WG) has been in charge of a Master's course on "Geomorphosites and Geoconservation" for several years. A large part

of the content of the course is linked to the activities of the working group, and several members of the working group have been invited to intervene in the course. First working contacts have been established with members of the WG and potential partners (University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Emmanuel Reynard; University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, Paola Coratza; University of Savoie, France, Fabien Hobléa and Nathalie Cayla; University of Minho, Portugal, José Brilha and Paulo Pereira; University of Bucharest, Romania, Laura Comanescu and Florina Grecu; University of Paris IV – Sorbonne, France, Christian Giusti). These six universities have been chosen as partners because of their participation in the IAG WG and because UNIL has exchange agreements with some of them. A first workshop, in order to discuss table of contents and tasks, was held in Lausanne on 4 - 5 December 2014.



A view of the participants after the workshop.

Publications

Proceedings of the ISGM Symposium

The proceedings of the International Symposium on Geosites Management (ISGM Savoie 2011) have been diffused in the beginning of 2014. They are edited by Fabien Hoblea, Nathalie Cayla and Emmanuel Reynard in the series "Collection Edytem" (n° 15, December 2013, 175 p.)

Special issue of Geoheritage 2014

A special issue of *Geoheritage* (Volume 6, Issue 2) entitled: "New Digital Technologies Applied to the Management of Geoheritage" has been published in June 2014 (guest-editors: Nathalie Cayla, Fabien Hobléa and Emmanuel Reynard). It gathers a selection of articles derived from the intensive course dedicated to the use of

digital technologies for geoheritage management held in the framework of the ISGM 2011.

Another special issue of Geoheritage in progress for 2015

The session "Geomorphosites" during the IAG conference in Paris in August 2013, was quite diverse, with high quality presentations and posters (22 oral contributions and 34 posters), and with a very good participation (the room was sometimes too small to welcome all the interested persons). A special issue of Geoheritage, guest-edited by Emmanuel Reynard, Paola Coratza and Fabien Hobléa, should be published before September 2015.

Future activities 2015

European Geosciences Union General Assembly, Vienna, 12-17 April 2015

The WG, in collaboration with the IAG WG on Geodiversity, co-organises the joint session SSS9.11/EOS10/GM4.4 "Geoheritage, Geodiversity and Landscapes: a key issue for present and future studies", convened by Paola Coratza, Benjamin van Wyk de Vries and Zbigniew Zwoliński (Co-Conveners: Marco Giardino, Alicja Najwer, Hanneke van den Ancker, Sjoerd Kluiwing, Emmanuel Reynard, Grazina Skridlaite, Erika Vye, Thomas Kissler).

More information about the conference:
<http://www.egu2015.eu/home.html>

IAG Regional Conference "Gradualism vs catastrophism in landscape evolution", Barnaul (Russia), 02-04 July 2015

The WG, in collaboration with the IAG WG on Geodiversity, co-organises the session "Gradual processes and extreme events in geodiversity and geoheritage".

Conveners: Paola Coratza, Marco Giardino, Fabien Hoblea, Nina Kocheeva, Zbigniew Zwolinski.

More information about the conference:
<http://iag2015.rurs.net/>

Second International Conference "Geosites: research and tourism development for regional promotion", Tozeur, 19-24 October 2015 – Tunisia

The Laboratory for Geomorphological Mapping, Space, Environment and Dynamics of the Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales de Tunis organize the Second International

Conference on Geosites that will be held next October in Tozeur (Tunisia). This conference is intended for both researchers and regional planning stakeholders and decision-makers. The conference is organized around two main topics: theoretical approaches to Geosites and Geomorphosites and their evaluation, popularization and conservation. A two-days intensive training course is also organised.

More information about the conference:
<http://www.geosites.tn/?lang=en/>

Paola CORATZA and Fabien HOBLEA