International Workshop
20th Meeting of the Association of Moroccan Geomorphologists

Geomorphosites, lever of local socio-economic development.
From European experiences to Maghrebian and African projects

Beni Mellal, Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines
2 – 4 October 2014

Organisation
University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Research Laboratory «Landscape Dynamics, Risks and Heritage», Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Institute of Geography and Sustainability, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Moroccan Association of Geomorphology
M’Goun Geopark Project

With the collaboration of
Regional Council of Tadla Azilal
Wilaya of Tadla Azilal
Azilal Province
Azilal Provincial Council
Regional Tourism Council

Under the auspices of
Working Group on Geomorphosites, International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG)
Commission on Geomorphological Heritage, National Committee of Geography, France (CNFG)
Argument of the Workshop

Geomorphosites are geomorphological objects, which are, so far, relatively well inventoried, assessed and promoted in developed countries (European and Anglo-Saxon countries). They play an important role in the spatial development of these countries. In the Maghreb, and more generally in Africa, is the geomorphological heritage also favorable to be reconsidered as a lever for local, regional and national development? Do economic, social and cultural mutations of the southern Mediterranean countries initiate a new context where the issue of geohertiage and patrimonialization of geomorphological properties (geomorphosites, geosites) may emerge in connection with the projects related to Environmental protection, the Geo-Eco-Tourism development (and even more globally to the economic attractiveness).

The geological and geomorphological heritage of the southern Mediterranean countries is particularly rich and varied, notably characterized by karstic forms and very specific geological structures with sinkholes, combes, cluses, limestone pavements, canyons, caves, travertine waterfalls, springs and dry valleys etc. Although this potential is very weakly valued, it is nevertheless this great richness in varied landscapes and of high patrimonial value, that explains for example in Morocco, mainly in Tadla-Azilal region, the project of classification, at national level, of a large part of this region in geopark “M’Goun”. A geopark is a protected area, within well-defined boundaries, which covers several communities, and which is actually constituted of a geological heritage and a particular geomorphology, either for its scientific interest, for its rarity or even for its educational value. The geomorphosites of various sizes are the witnesses of the history of the Earth and of life as well as the evolution of landscapes (geosites). They may be supplemented by sites of ecological, archaeological, historical value. In effect, the richness of territories does not only lie in the natural heritage, but also in a rich and diverse cultural heritage: tangible (Zaouiat, ksour, marabouts, granaries, architecture, traditional costumes, etc.) and intangible (customs, moussems etc.).

A number of regional development actors already wonder about issues related to the enhancement of the geomorphological heritage attempting to appropriate them to the cultural, political and economic context of their countries. The objective of this workshop is 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 requirement on the ground.

This workshop is intended for both academics (geographers, geologists, geomorphologists, economists...) and the regional planning stakeholders and decision makers to reflect on the role of the geomorphosites in the local socio-economic development.

Topics

The conference is organized around six axes (2-3 October):

Topic 1 Geomorphosites, law and regulation.
Topic 2 Geomorphosites: definition, inventory and assessment.
Topic 3 Geomorphosites and geoparks: which relationships?
Topic 4 Geomorphosites and geo-ecotourism: which relationships?
Topic 5 Geomorphosites and socioeconomic development.
Topic 6 Geomorphosites and patrimonialization issues.

A field trip on the geomorphosites of the Region Tadla-Azilal is organised on 4 October 2014.

Languages

English, French, Arabian

Deadlines

30 April 2014 Deadline for submission of abstracts
1st June 2014 Confirmation of oral communications and posters
1st July 2014 Second circular
15 Sept. 2014 Deadline for submission of full papers

Costs

The conference registration fee is 100 € for researchers, academics and policy-makers of developed countries, 40 € for researchers and operators in developing countries. This price includes coffee breaks, the conference bag given to all participants, including the booklet presenting the program and abstracts of papers and a CD-ROM incorporating the entire communications and excursion.

Participation is free for students.

Payment of registration fees will be on site, in Dirhams.

Accommodation is to be managed and paid by the participants. A list of hotels will be proposed in the Second Circular.
Organizing Committee

Yahia El Khalki, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Hassan El Abbassi, University of Choaib Edoukali, El Jadida, Morocco
Abdellatif Rouiha, University of Choaib Edoukali, El Jadida, Morocco
Mohamed El Ghachi, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Hanane Radad, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Mouhsine Idali, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Jabbar Abdelhak, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Fatima-Zahra Guertaoui, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Abdelatif Hafid, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Farid Jaa, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Fatima-Zahra Salih, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco
Emmanuel Reynard, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Scientific Committee

Paola Coratza, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, IAG Working Group on Geomorphosites
Fabien Hobléa, University of Savoie, France, IAG Working Group on Geomorphosites, Commission on Geomorphological Heritage, CNFG
Emmanuel Reynard, University of Lausanne, Suisse
Yahia El Khalki, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Maroc
Dominique Sellier, University of Nantes, France, Commission on Geomorphological Heritage, CNFG
Michel Monbaron, University of Fribourg, Suisse
Heidi Megerle, Hochschule Rottenburg, Germany
Christian Giusti, University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), France
Abdellah Laouina, University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco
Driss El Fassi, University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco
Rachida Naffa, University Hassan II-Mohammadia, Mohammadia, Morocco
Brahim Akdim, University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Fès, Morocco
Aude Nuscia Taïbi, University of Angers, France
Mustapha El Hannani, University of Angers, France
Aziz Balouche, University of Angers, France

Requests

Prof. Yahia El Khalki, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, y.elkhalki@gmail.com
Prof. Emmanuel Reynard, University of Lausanne, emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch

Website: http://www.unil.ch/igul/page16728.html

Abstracts to be sent to:

to:
Prof. Yahia El Khalki, Université Sultan Moulay Slimane, y.elkhalki@usms.ma
Prof. Emmanuel Reynard, Université de Lausanne, emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch

Deadline: 30 April 2014
Intensive Course
Geomorphosites. Definitions and methods of investigation

Course presentation
This one-day intensive course is aimed at students (Master’s, PhD) interested in geomorphosite issues. It will deal on definitions and characteristics of geomorphosites, as well as various investigation methods (assessment and mapping).

Practical information
The course is organized by the Working Group on Geomorphosites of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG). The course will be taught by Paola Coratza (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) and Emmanuel Reynard (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

Languages
English and French (Language choice will depend of the language and provenience of students).

Costs
Participation is free.

Applications
Until 30 April 2014 by Emmanuel Reynard, emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch indicating: name, surname, University, e-mail adress, study level (Master’s or PhD), language