

# Geomorphosites

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(editors)



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and Géraldine Regolini-Bissig**  
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# Geomorphosites

240 pages, 51 coloured and 70 black-and-white figures,  
38 tables/boxes. – 24 × 17 cm. Paperback.

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Geoheritage – that are the geological and geomorphological elements of nature worthy of being conserved – is an important component of the natural heritage. In most cases, it constitutes the skeleton of the landscape. The new interest of the scientific community for the geomorphological heritage – the so-called geomorphosites – has induced the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) to create in September 2001, at the 5th International Conference on Geomorphology held in Tokyo, a specific working group aiming to improve knowledge and scientific research on the definition, assessment, cartography, promotion and conservation of geomorphosites. During the last eight years, experiences were shared during workshops and international conferences and the main results were published in international journals. This book proposes a synthesis of the research on the geomorphological heritage, both at the conceptual and methodological level. The results presented here are based on numerous studies carried out by various researchers in different contexts (academic research, environmental impact assessment, conservation, geotourism) and countries. This book, written by a first class international team, will help researchers and students dealing with geotourism, geodiversity, geoconservation and geoparks in their tasks.

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cal heritage (Other being trees, forests, lakes used in the last few decades). This may be an opportunity to compare and contrast in Table 3.1 geomorphosites (natural, cultural, and/or both) with other categories of heritage (cultural, natural, or both) and to identify the main differences and similarities between them. This may also be an opportunity to identify the main differences and similarities between them. This may also be an opportunity to identify the main differences and similarities between them.

### 3.2 Specialisation of geomorphology


The main dimension that is considered is usually geomorphology (Reynard 2006). The scientific dimension, the dynamic dimension and the interaction of them. Some geomorphologists have often used a certain approach (Table 3.2), or, at least, a certain set of one or more categories of geomorphology (e.g. morphological, geomorphological, etc.). This is the reason why geomorphologists in various countries, approaches are classified as 'national schools'. We must also bear in mind that the concept of geomorphosite should not be based only on the scientific dimension, which remains an abstract dimension of geomorphology. The second dimension is the **heritage** one. This is the reason why geomorphosites to be distinguished from other types of geomorphology is a particular one. Geomorphosites are the type of geomorphosite that allow the conservation of current (and dynamic) processes. The main



**Table 3.1** Different forms of geomorphology with reference to the first author that has used them (from Reynard 2006, modified)

Author	Reference	Notes
Geomorphological site	Paola & Piacente 1981; Reynard 1989	The authors propose two types of geomorphosites: natural and cultural. These references provide quantitative information on the basis of four types of geomorphological, scientific, cultural, economic). The scientific value is based on the assessment of the geomorphological heritage of geomorphological scientific, cultural, economic, and scientific value.
Geomorphological good	Carton et al. 1994	The authors refer to scientific, geomorphological, and cultural. They identify geomorphological, scientific, cultural, economic, and scientific value.
Geomorphological site	Hohléa 1996	The assessment of geomorphological heritage may be based essentially on the scientific value.
Geomorphological site	Orri & Panizza 1995, 1997, 1999	The assessment of geomorphological heritage may be based essentially on the scientific value.
Geomorphological site	Risse et al. 1997	The authors refer to scientific, geomorphological, and cultural. They identify geomorphological, scientific, cultural, economic, and scientific value.
Geomorphosite	Reynard 2001	'A geomorphosite is a landscape in which a natural site is identified'.

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**Fig. 3.1** The Grotto of S. Ignazio (Italy) and a typical example of 'natural monument' of geomorphosites. The scientific dimension of the location that has been used by P. Coratza & S. Piacente (1981) and by E. Serrano (1997) for the scientific dimension provided here by scientific dimension. (Photo: E. Reynard)

**Fig. 3.2** The karst in Sardinia is a typical example of the type of 'Natural Monument' (the concept of natural monument structure against structures perfectly integrated in the landscape with a natural dimension to the site and involves the great heritage value of the geomorphosite. (Photo: E. Reynard)

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