

## International Symposium on Geosite Management

The *International Symposium on Geosite Management*, organised by the Laboratory EDYTEM, University of Savoie, was held in Savoie – Mont Blanc region (France) from 5 to 10 September 2011, under the auspices of the working group on geomorphosites of the IAG. The Symposium was divided in three parts.

The first one was a 2-day intensive course for master and PhD students, as well as geopark and nature park managers. Placed under the scientific responsibility of Nathalie Cayla (University of Savoie), it focused on the use of numerical technologies for the assessment and the promotion of geosites. After other editions organised in Lausanne, Lesbos and Braga, this new edition of the intensive course had again a great success. **35 persons attended the course (24 as students and 11 as teachers)**, three of them with financial support of the IAG: **Inès Fuertes-Gutierrez (Spain), Lucie Kubalikova (Czech Republic), Joana Rodrigues (Portugal)**.

The international conference « Managing geosites in protected areas » was held from 7 to 9 September 2011 at the University of Savoie (Chambéry) and in the Massif des Bauges Natural Park. Perfectly organised by Fabien Hobléa and his team, it allowed the **79** participants, coming from 18 countries, to share their work on geosites and management of geomorphological heritage in protected areas. Two field trips allowed the participants to discover practical experiences of promotion of geomorphology within the park. During the last day of the symposium the participants could discover the area of Chamonix – Mont Blanc.

The conference was open by Prof. Mario Panizza, former president of IAG and “father” of the concept of geomorphosites, and Prof. Piotr Migon and Prof. Eric Fouache, both vice-presidents of the IAG represented the International Association of Geomorphologists, as well as Prof. Monique Fort, former vice-president and current president of the French Group of Geomorphology, which also supported the symposium. The intensive course and the conference constituted an important event for the IAG working group on geomorphosites, and the proceedings will be published partly in the journals *Geoheritage* and *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie (in English)*, and **also in French** in the series *Cahiers Edytem*, edited by the University of Savoie.

*Emmanuel Reynard, University of Lausanne, chair of IAG WG Geomorphosites*



*Group photo taken during a field-trip*



The IAG/AIG-grant holders taken during the Symposium (from the left: Joana Rodrigues, Inés Fuertes-Gutiérrez, Lucie Kubalíková)

## **Report on the International Symposium on Geosite Management 2011: Intensive Course and International Conference**

Last September EDYTEM Laboratory team of the University of Savoie (Switzerland) organized the International Symposium on Geosite Management. It consisted of an intensive course of two days developed in Evian (France) and an international conference, both developed in Le Bourget du Lac and Eterlou (France). Evian is an internationally known town because of its water. But it is also the main town of the Chablais Massif, a territory which is doing a big effort to become a Geopark. Eterlou is a small village in the hearth of the Bauges Massif Natural Park. A couple of weeks after the end of the Conference this territory received the good news of being joined to the International Network of Geoparks. Remarking these aspects of the places visited during those days is the best way to express that the places for celebrating both the course and the conference were very appropriate and well chosen. Thus, the fieldtrips were really constructive and interesting. It is also worth-mentioning that apart from the geological interest and the natural value of both territories, their landscapes were impressive.

The intensive course was very useful. As a GIS user, this was my first approximation to these new technologies used in the inventory, exploration, knowledge and valorization of the geoheritage. I found them particularly helpful for the popularization and dissemination of the geosites, but also for modeling some processes during the approximation phase of the knowledge of a locality. Although these technologies are not the main topic of my personal research, it is always important to know the available tools and their main peculiarities. The course was well structured, as it started with the general concepts (aims and public of the cartographic representation of geosites) and continued gradually getting deeper into the techniques and their main advantages, disadvantages, applications and peculiarities. Another good point was that we were able to experience the different stages by designing the spatial representation of the geosites: the decision of the tool to be used, the collection of the necessary data in the field and the processing of these data afterwards. This practical approach was essential to make us aware of the problems, handicaps, opportunities, limits and challenges of each type of geosite to be represented and also of the diverse technologies used for this representation.

Additionally, the course was also very important because it allowed me to get in touch with some other young researchers and other professionals working in geoheritage in different countries. The atmosphere was very appropriate to share issues and experiences and to discuss several matters, as we were working in groups and facing up together the different circumstances and problems which occurred during the fieldtrips and training workshops.

The conference was also very productive for me. It was a good chance to see what other researchers are doing. Many contributions were helpful for me, particularly those related with methodological principles for managing geoheritage. It was also interesting showing the rest of participants several results of my own research. I got some useful feedback to implement into my work and had many constructive discussions about not only various classical topics in geoheritage management but also about some other new approaches and difficulties. Most sessions were dynamic with very different proposals

and projects. During the breaks, discussions and questions continued and the seed of some future contributions and collaborations was planted. It was my pleasure.

Hence, I am grateful to the IAG for the Grant they offered me. I also want to highlight the efforts of the Edytem Team, which not only made a great work of organization, but also fulfill the logistic and particular needs of every single participant. Thank you to all the organization team and especially thanks to Fabien Hoblea, Nathalie Cayla, Simon Martin, Amandine Perret and Anne Guyomard.

*Inés Fuertes-Gutiérrez, Departamento de Biodiversidad y Gestión Ambiental, Universidad de León, Spain*

## **Intensive Course report (Evian, 5-6th September 2011)**

The Intensive Course, in general, was focused on the use of new technologies that could facilitate the inventory, exploration and evaluation of the geoheritage. The workshop also offered the possibility of manipulating simple tools (especially web-mapping and virtual tours) and helped us to understand these new technologies.

The new technologies were presented during the first day at the morning. The presentations offered the overall overview of the technologies that can be used for the geosites and geomorphosites inventory, promotion or management. Both theoretical and practical examples were discussed.

Monday afternoon was dedicated to the field trip where we visited some specific geosites in the Park Natural Chablais. The most interesting geo-features were the kames (area of Voua) and the erratic block that were really good examples of geosites with great added value.

During the evening we discussed the practical approach of the new technologies and we worked on the concrete projects concerning the web-mapping, visualization of the geomorphological processes etc. During the evening, the presentations about the HINT project and about the problems of Naturtejo geopark were exposed.

Tuesday morning was focused on practical workshop, we formed teams and created real projects about geoheritage based on the data collected and recorded the previous day. Our group created simple presentation of Voua geosite including the processes that formed the geosite, historical approach and explication of the geomorphological processes for the laic public.

Tuesday afternoon we heard various presentations of the current projects and methods used for managing and promoting geoheritage, especially the presentation about using the LiDAR survey was interesting. Then we discussed some general aspects of the e-tourism and the most discussed question was: Could the new technologies replace the „real“ human guide and explication?

I really appreciate the possibility of participate this workshop because it offered a lot of new ideas and showed the new ways how to promote and manage geoheritage. The organization of the workshop was excellent and I am sure that it will help me in my future investigation and work.

*Lucie Kubalikova, Czech Republic*

## **Report on the International Symposium on Geosite Management Savoie - Mont-Blanc, 5-10 September 2011**

I'm geologist, MSc in Geoconservation and I attended the International Symposium on Geosite Management, held in Savoie – Mont-Blanc, on 5-10 September 2011, awarded by IAG grant. In the first part of the Symposium there was the Intensive Course dedicated to new technologies applied to geosite management, with lectures, workshops and fieldwork for collecting data. On the first evening there was the presentation of some projects, and I presented "Naturtejo Geopark: Geoconservation versus Geotourism: how could new technologies help managing a wide territory (4617 km<sup>2</sup>)". The Course was very helpful, presenting me several solutions about 3D reconstitutions and virtual tours with geovisualization, some more basic other more advanced. During classes there were presented several tools and support materials still available for us on Savoie University website and our teachers, to whom I have to thank, were very dedicated and are still always disposable to solve problems despite the distance. These days were very full but allowed me to exchange contacts, share professional experiences and, as the group was not so big, it was possible to contact close together with colleagues from all parts of Europe, some of them with whom I still keep on professional and/or social contact.

The International Conference: Managing Geosites in Protected Areas involved a large number of experts. I presented the oral communication "Geosite management in Naturtejo Geopark (Portugal): geomorphological viewpoints", under the topic "Geosites in protected areas: Which development and for which public?", a subject that I'm starting to develop. Although there was no time to many questions after the presentation, I had some interesting conversations during the Conference days that gave new point of views and suggestions of other analysis and approaches to the subject. This Conference included an important field component in a very interesting region that gave me the opportunity to know a part of Bauges Massif, which integrated the European and Global Geoparks Network, under UNESCO, few days later.

Attending opening conferences, oral and poster communications, discussing approaches and methodologies with colleagues from other countries was a very enriching experience, where we always learn a lot and bring new ideas to our projects.

The location of both events was very good and comfortable with the accommodation, restaurant, work sessions, bar, living room and internet point at the same unity. I have to congratulate all the organization that was exceptional, with all the details always under control and providing a very pleasant atmosphere in all the contexts.

In my personal point of view, it was a enriching and inspiring opportunity, a unique experience, where I could share my ideas and projects, learn and bring new tools, know about different practices and methods, discuss ideas and share thoughts, receive new knowledge, meet new colleagues, make new professional contacts, have new ideas, who knows for future common projects and visit Savoie region.

*Joana Rodrigues, Naturtejo Geopark, Portugal*