



I.A.G. International  
Association  
of Geomorphologists



I.A.G. Working Group

## Report of the meeting of the Working Group “Geomorphological sites”

Modena, the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2002, 9.30 – 12.00

### List of presence:

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### 1. Introduction

This meeting was the first occasion to discuss several aspects that could be of interest for the working group “Geomorphological sites”. E. Reynard, co-ordinator of the WG, thanked all the participants who took part to the meeting. E.M. Latrubesse (Bra) and M. Hurtado (Arg) could not attend the meeting. The co-ordinator of the meeting did not receive any news from G. Martini (Fra) and D. Barretino Fraile (Spain) since the beginning of the activities. He will contact them again in order to know their position.

E. Reynard made firstly a general presentation of the paper that was presented in 2001 at Tokyo for the proposition of a WG on the topic of geomorphological sites. He also presented the “history” of the WG creation.

### 2. Objectives and fields of research

In the paper presented at Tokyo, four fields of research were proposed. These fields were discussed and the following propositions were made:

#### *Knowledge and assessment of geomorphological sites*

- As Mario Panizza pointed out, it is important for the Working Group to define its main field of research. It was accepted that the Working Group will work principally on the evaluation of geomorphological sites, comparing different methods of assessment. For the next meeting (2003), a methodology that can be adopted at an international level will be proposed. It will combine three important levels of reflection: (1) definition of geomorphosites, (2) assessment methodology and (3) inventory methodology. The methodology will be proposed from a theoretical and formal point of view.
- The Working Group has no time and not enough money to do a practical application of the methodology.

- Concretely, the COFIN Italian research group (S. Piacente) will send the methodology that is in progress to the Working Group co-ordinator. Each member of the Working Group who works on the topic will do the same **before the end of 2002** in order to establish a basis for comparing methodologies.
- The co-ordinator will then contact some members in order to write a preliminary paper that could be discussed during the next meeting (October 2003). A paper should then be proposed for the Geological Congress in Firenze, in August 2004 (session T.14.1).

#### *Conservation and legal status of geomorphological sites*

Monica Auteri suggested that the different laws concerning geosites should be referenced. The collection of this type of information comes up against the regular modifications of national laws. It is very hard to have a correct documentation. The proposition was therefore not adopted.

#### *Education about geomorphological processes and landforms*

The problem of education is a recurrent issue in geology and geomorphology. But this question is highly related to each national system of education. In conclusion, education is a too large field of research for the Working Group and is not adopted.

#### *Tourist attractiveness of geomorphological sites*

For Sandra Piacente, tourist attractiveness already takes place in the research about assessment of geomorphological sites. There is no need for the Working Group to consider tourist attractiveness as a major and individual field of research.

### **3. Organisation and distribution of the activities**

Several practical aspects were also discussed:

#### *Secretary*

Paola Cortza, University of Modena, was suggested to be the secretary of the Working Group. The various lists of people related to the Working Group and the documentation will be centralised in Modena.

#### *Documentation*

It was proposed to create a booklet with the references coming from the COFIN, the Center of Documentation on Geosites of Genova and the Institute of Geography of Lausanne. The booklet could also be published in the form of a CD-ROM to annex to the proceedings of the Modena workshop. The Working Group could give a financial support for this publication. S. Piacente (organiser of the workshop) and E. Reynard (co-ordinator of the WG) will prepare a concrete project.

#### *Website*

Currently, the Working Group has not its own website. It is partly hosted by the website of the Institute of Geography of the University of Lausanne ([www.unil.ch/igul/](http://www.unil.ch/igul/)) and by the IAG website ([www.geomorph.org/](http://www.geomorph.org/)). A first proposition was made to create an individual website, to be hosted, for example by the Centro Documentazione Geositi of Genova (G. Brancucci).

Finally, the idea of a section to be put directly in the IAG website is adopted. All the information will be collected by E. Reynard and transmitted to the webmaster of the IAG. A concrete proposition for the website should be made by E. Reynard to Mario Panizza before July (meeting of the IAG executive committee).

#### *Encyclopedia of Geomorphology*

Emmanuel Reynard has to write a definition of geosites for the Encyclopedia of Geomorphology, published by the International Association of Geomorphologists (Ed. A. Goudie). Each member of the Working Group can send to E. Reynard his/her main references about geosites (propositions and definitions). This should be done before the beginning of August 2002.

#### *Members of the Working Group*

Two types of members are accepted in the WG: general members and corresponding members. There is no fee for attending the WG.

Every body interested in geomorphological sites is welcome as a general member. The current members can suggest new members for taking part of the Working group (send the address to E. Reynard or P. Cortza). Corresponding members should cover a large range of countries. There should be no more than one or two corresponding members from the same country.

### *Logo*

A logo was made for the Working Group by Milena Bertacchini (Modena). E. Reynard thanked her for the great quality of this work. The logo can be used for meetings or publications made by members of the Working Group in the area of geomorphological sites. For each use, members should advise E. Reynard.

### *Poster and flyer*

A flyer will be realised about the activities of the Working group. It could be sent or distributed by the members when they are making presentations, public lectures or when they are attending conferences or workshops. The flyer will be realised by E. Reynard (content) and M. Bertacchini (layout) as soon as possible.

With the same objective, a poster presenting the Working Group and its activities should be done.

These two projects will receive financial support from the Working Group.

## **4. Next meetings**

A proposition for a general meeting in October 2003 in Sardegna was made. E. Reynard will contact A. Ulzega and F. Di Gregorio (Cagliari) and V. Panizza (Sassari) in order to discuss a concrete proposition. The meeting should be organised on the same model as the Modena meeting (workshop, administrative meeting, field trip).

A second meeting should also be organised in Lausanne (Switzerland) in spring 2003. It should be an administrative meeting with few people. A decision about this meeting should be taken before the end of 2002.

The Geological Conference in Firenze in August 2004 will be the occasion to prepare the organisation of the International Conference on Geomorphology taking place in Saragoza in 2005. Saragoza will be the last meeting of the Working Group, where the final expected products could be presented.

## **5. Varia**

E. Reynard announced a workshop about geotopes that will take place in Bad Ragaz (Switzerland), in May 2003.

Website: <http://www.geoforum.ethz.ch/deutsch/Arbeitsgruppen/geotop2003.html> (before 15.10.02)

Mario Panizza stressed the fact that there will be several workshops and excursions on geomorphology during the geological conference of Firenze. As the first circular has been published ([www.32igc.org](http://www.32igc.org)), all the members should express their interest for one or more geomorphological topics, especially in the T.14.1 session: <http://www.32igc.org/firstcircular-scientific05.htm> (before 31.08.02)

Finally, E. Reynard thanked again S. Piacente, M. Panizza and P. Coratza, and all their team in Modena, for the perfect organisation of the workshop and for their friendly "italian" welcome! The meeting concluded by a lunch offered by the Italian hosts.

Lausanne, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2002

Emmanuel Reynard and Céline Fuchs

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