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Geomorphological Sites

Research, assessment and improvement

A Working Group of the International Association of Geomorphologists

Annual Report 2004

Introduction

This report presents the activities of the working group *Geomorphological Sites: research, assessment and improvement* during the period April 2004 to March 2005.

Members

There are two types of members: corresponding members (free participation) and full members (one or two per country, designated by the co-ordinator). Currently the working group has 117 corresponding members and 22 full members from 18 countries.

Activities 2004

International Geological Conference, Florence, 20-28 August 2004

The working group organised the session T.17.04 *Geomorphological sites in a cultural integrated landscape*, chaired by Mario Panizza (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy) and Emmanuel Reynard (Institute of Geography, University of Lausanne, Switzerland).

The session aimed to study the relationships between geomorphology and culture, particularly focusing on two directions of research: (1) Geomorphology considered as a component of the cultural heritage (in a broad sense) of a territory, that is, by the same standards as works of art, historical or architectural monuments, scientific and biological assets etc., (2) The

relationships between some cultural components (in a strict sense) of a territory (archaeological, historical, architectural assets etc.) and the geomorphological context in which they are inserted (resources, risks, impacts etc.).



Emmanuel Reynard during his presentation on Assessment of the Geocultural Value of Geomorphosites.

25 abstracts were proposed and the session was attended by about 60-80 persons. A publication of the proceedings is currently in preparation.

Several other sessions were dealing with geosites, geoconservation and geoparks, which means that these arguments begin to interest the geoscientific community. All people interested with geosite, geopark and geoconservation issues may attend the new *GEOSEE* initiative launched by the IUGS.



A view of the audience.

International Conference on Dimension Stones, Prague, 14-17 June 2004

WG's member Richard Prikryl, Associate Professor at the Institute of Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Mineral Resources of Charles University of Prague, perfectly organised this Conference.



Richard Prikryl opening the Conference.

One of the main aims of the conference was to bring together people working in different aspects of natural stone, including production and development as well as design, education and environmental issues. Emmanuel Reynard, WG's chairman was invited to give a conference on geoconservation issues related to dimension stone use. He presented the case of erratic blocks' conservation in Switzerland. Bernie Smith (University of Belfast), new member of our WG, was the second invited speaker of the conference.

The proceedings of the conference are published in a book edited by R. Prikryl (see below: publications).

Conference Geologia e Turismo, Bologna, 23-24 September 2004

Several members of the WG are also members of the Italian Association *Geologia e Turismo* that organised the second national conference on geology and tourism in Bologna.

More than 100 abstract were submitted and accepted. More than 200 scientists and public administrators were registered.

Three scientific session were running on the following topic:

- Tourism and territory
- Cartography and GeoTourism
- Exploitation of the geological features for tourist purposes

The abstracts of this conference were published in Italian in two volumes (see below the references)



Paola Coratza during her presentation on Geo-tourist Map in Dolomites (Italy).

2nd Swiss Geosciences Meeting, Lausanne, 19-20 November 2004

The WG co-organised with several Swiss scientific societies a session on *Geotopes and Geoparks* during this meeting. The session was chaired by Emmanuel Reynard and Peter Jordan, President of the Swiss WG on Geotopes.

The abstracts were published in a volume, available (pdf file) on the site: <http://geoscience-meeting.scnatweb.ch/>

Information

The various activities and reports are available on the IAG website: www.geomorph.ch. We thank Dr Zbigniew Zwolinski, who very kindly organise the information on the website.

Administration

Co-ordinator is E. Reynard (Lausanne); secretary is Paola Coratza (Modena). We met two times at Florence (25 August 2004) and Modena (25 February 2005). During the second meeting, it was decided to propose to the general assembly of IAG in Zaragoza to continue the WG activities for a new four years' period (2005-2009).

Two reports were sent to the members in 2004: the annual report 2003 sent in April 2004; the call for abstracts for our workshop at the International Conference of Geomorphology and to other conferences and workshops dealing with geomorphosites.

All the reports are published on the Internet: IAG website (www.geomorph.org), and IGUL website (www.unil.ch/igul).

E. Reynard participated to a UNESCO meeting, 11 February 2005, in Paris.

Publications 2004

Prikryl R. (2004). Ed. *Dimension Stone 2004. New perspectives for a traditional building material*, Leiden, Balkema.

Reynard E., Pralong J.P. (2004). Eds. *Paysages géomorphologiques*, Lausanne, Institut de Géographie, Travaux et Recherches n° 27, (in French, to order on the website: www.unil.ch/igul).

32IGC (2004). *32nd Int. Geological Congress, Florence 2004*, Abstracts Volume.

Servizio geologico sismico e dei suoli (2004). Ed. *Atti del secondo convegno nazionale Geologia e Turismo. Opportunità nell'economia del paesaggio*, Bologna, 3-4 novembre 2004.

Two special issues of the journals *Quaternario* and *Géomorphologie* are currently in preparation. They will be presented at the Geomorphological Conference in Zaragoza in September 2005.

Perspectives 2005

6th IAG Conference, Zaragoza, 7-11 September 2005

The WG is holding the topical symposium "Geomorphological Sites. Research, assessment and mapping". All the products and a synthesis of the WG's activities will be presented.

WG's members Enrique Serrano and Antonio Cendrero are organising field trips in the Pyrenees and Cantabrian Range with a focus on geomorphosites issues.

WG activities 2005-2009

A request for continuing the activities of the WG during the period 2005-2009 will be presented to the IAG General Assembly.

For the new period, we propose the creation of thematic working groups dealing with specific topics (e.g. assessment, mapping, education, legal protection, geotourism).

The WG should also develop one or more international research projects.

Another objective is to develop the links with other organisations dealing with geosite issues, as ProGeo or Geosee.

4th Symposium ProGeo on Conservation of the Geological Heritage, Braga, Portugal, 13-16 September 2005

The symposium is organised by WG's member José Brilha. A synthesis of the WG's activities will be presented by E. Reynard and P. Coratza.

More information about the conference: www.dct.uminho.pt/cct/progeo2005

6th European Geoparks Network Meeting, Lesbos, Greece, Braga, 5-8 October 2005

The symposium is organised by WG's member Nikolaus Zouros.

More information about the conference: www.petrifiedforest.gr



Volcanic neck of Petra, Lesbos Island (© N. Zouros)

Lausanne/Modena, 13th April 2005

Emmanuel REYNARD, Paola CORATZA