

**MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS OF WORKING GROUP
“GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SITES”**

Cagliari (Italy) 3 October 2003, 9.15 – 10.30

Mexico City (Mexico) 30 October 2003, 16.40 – 17.20

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

- Assessment of Geomorphological Sites
- Publication of the Modena Workshop Proceedings
- IAG Workshop, Cagliari (Italy), 1-5 October 2003
- IAG Regional Conference, Mexico City (Mexico), 27.10 – 2.11.2003
- 32nd International Geological Congress (32IGC), Florence (Italy) 2004
- Conference on Geomorphology, Zaragoza 2005 and publication of a book on Geomorphosites
- Education and sharing information
- Printing of flyer and poster

1. ASSESSMENT OF GEOMORPHOSITES

In the framework of the COFIN Italian National Project, Paola Coratza and Cecilia Giusti have elaborated a methodology for the quantitative assessment of Geomorphological Sites. As the assessment of Geomorphosites is one of the main topics of the research activities of the Working Group, anyone who could be interested in the assessment methodology is strongly invited to collaborate. Who wants to test the methodology in various environments and various countries can contact Paola Coratza or Emmanuel Reynard. They will send any further information. The results of the case study will be presented at the 6th IAG Conference at Zaragoza and collect in a volume on Geomorphosites that we plan to publish before the 2005 International Conference to synthesise the work of the WG.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MODENA WORKSHOP

Paola Coratza informs on the state of advancement of the *Il Quaternario's* (Italian Journal of Quaternary Sciences) Special Issue as output of the IAG Workshop "Geomorphological Sites: research, assessment and improvement" held in Modena (Italy) last June. Twenty four papers have been received and submitted to referees. The special issue is supposed to be published before the end of Spring 2004.

3. IAG WORKSHOP CAGLIARI (ITALY), 1-5 OCTOBER 2003

A Workshop named “Geomorphological Sites: assessment and mapping” was held in Sardegna (Italy) the last 1-5 October 2003, organised by Prof. Ulzega, Prof. Di Gregorio and Dr V. Panizza. This meeting marked the second (after Modena) official meeting of two research groups: the Working Group of the I.A.G. “Geomorphological sites” (International Association of Geomorphologists) and the COFIN 2001-2003 Italian Research Project “Geosites in the Italian landscape”. The main themes of this meeting were the assessment and the mapping of Geomorphological Sites.

4. IAG REGIONAL CONFERENCE, MEXICO CITY (MEXICO), 27.10 – 2.11.2003

A half-day symposium on the theme "Geomorphological sites: vulnerability and assessment" was held during the last IAG Regional Conference (Mexico City, 27.10 – 2.11.2003). The aim of the symposium was to present and discuss examples of evaluation of geomorphological sites, especially in a context of vulnerability (e.g. inventories of sites of importance, geomorphological evaluation in

the context of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), evaluation and protection of dynamic processes, etc.). The symposium was also a forum for presenting the activities of the IAG Working Group "Geomorphological Sites: research, assessment and improvement". The chairmen of the symposium were E. Reynard and E. Latrubesse.

5. 32ND INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (32IGC), FLORENCE (ITALY) 2004

The Geological Conference in Florence in August 2004 will be the occasion for the members of the Working Group to present papers especially in the T.17 sessions (Geosites, Geoparks, Geotourism). The IAG is holding a Topical Symposium (T.17.01) on "Geomorphological sites in a cultural integrated landscape", convened by Mario Panizza (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) and Emmanuel Reynard (University of Lausanne, Switzerland). The Symposium will be concerned with the role of Geomorphology in the knowledge of natural assets in connection with cultural heritage and will discuss Geomorphology as a component of cultural landscape. Case studies dealing with different examples and methodologies will be welcome.

The deadline for Abstract Submission is 10th January 2004. Abstracts should be submitted electronically via the Congress website <http://www.32igc.org>

6. SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOMORPHOLOGY, ZARAGOZA (SPAIN) 2005

The Sixth International Conference on Geomorphology taking place in Zaragoza in 2005 will be the last meeting of the Working Group, where the final expected products will be presented during a symposium organised by the WG.

A volume will be printed with "guidelines", that wish to represent a standardised proposal of a research methodology on Geomorphological sites. These guidelines will also describe a quantitative assessment of Geomorphological sites, and a methodology for the mapping of Geomorphological sites. These "guidelines" will result in a publication in which all the researchers of this WG will cooperate and which will be presented at the Sixth International Conference on Geomorphology (Zaragoza, 2005). The structure of the volume could be the following:

Part 1: Geomorphological Sites

1. Geomorphological Sites: definitions
2. Geomorphological Sites and Culture
3. Geomorphological Sites: Vulnerability and Protection
4. Geomorphological Sites Mapping
5. Geomorphological Sites and Environmental Impact Assessment
6. Geomorphological Sites and Tourism

Part 2: Assessment

8. Quantitative assessment of geomorphological sites
9. A method for the assessment of geomorphological sites
10. Case studies

Part 3: Geographical Reports

7. EDUCATION AND SHARING INFORMATION

During the meetings the need for more education about geomorphological processes and landforms came out. In fact, experience shows that in most countries, geomorphology is not part of the programmes of the obligatory schools and knowledge about geomorphological processes and landforms is relatively low in the population. The WG should be engaged to promote actions aimed to increase the awareness and sensitivity not only of the scientific world and institutions but also of society in general.

In order to share information and research activities on the topic of geomorphosites held all over the world please let them circulate contacting Emmanuel Reynard (Emmanuel.Reynard@igul.unil.ch) or Paola Coratza (coratza.paola@unimore.it). A website with information and case studies will be prepared in 2004.

For information on Geomorphosites in Australia see Professor Bernie Joyce's web page:
<http://web.earthsci.unimelb.edu.au/Joyce/heritage/heritage.html>

8. FLYER AND POSTER

A flyer about the activities of the Working group has been realised. It could be sent or distributed by the members when they are making presentations, public lectures or when they are attending conferences or workshops. With the same objective, a poster presenting the Working Group and its activities has been done. The poster could be used during conferences and workshops in order to diffuse the WG activities. Please ask to E. Reynard or to P. Coratza for more information.

9. VARIA

The suggestion was made that the WG should not only share experiences within workshops and conferences, but should also carry out research activities.

Lausanne/Modena, 15 December 2003

Emmanuel Reynard, Chairman
Paola Coratza, Secretary