

# IUGS Task Group on GeoHeritage

## Annual Report Plan of action for 2011

The proposal of Geoheritage task Group was approved in 2010 and mentioned to me in November.

Therefore, the report is quite short.

### 2010 activities

Besides some action on Geoheritage properly, we tried to join other organisation dealing with Geoheritage at international level. That is why we participate to :

- Meeting in Agadir (Morocco, May), on palaeontology conservation.
- Meeting in Caravaca (Spain, September) setting up a good connexion with ProGEO : being the French representative I took part of the creation of SW ProGEO group. This group will meet for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time with the first assembly of Geoheritage TG, in Lille next year. This is **a need to reinforce the links between these organisations.**
- meeting in Rabat (Morocco, December) on Geoheritage and education

We also established **new contacts** for Geoheritage :

1- in Africa (see report of visit) in **Kenya** to prospect the possibility of including geology in touristic tours of wild animal parks (Marsabit and Samburu, North Kenya) and explore the possibilities of making geological reserves (Patrick de Wever & JYves Reynaud).

2- with **ICOMOS** (International Council on Monuments and Sites) : explaining their monuments and sites are primarily due to geology. *A discovery for them.* Visit in meeting and field (La Rochelle, France, JYves Reynaud)

3- with “**Grands sites network**, which were created in 2000 and today brings together Grands Sites that include exceptional, fragile, protected and listed cultural landscapes that are both well-known and emblematic.

### Plan action for 2011

GeoHeritage requires a wide scope of interests from the geoscientific community. It must deal with research, education, outreach and history of science. Moreover, the processes differ between individuals and national cultures as well as the ability for influencing regulation (national or international laws) even if terrenes and terrains cross national boundaries.

The IUGS GeoHeritage Task Group will have to address a number of key issues; the most pressing involves dealing with a number of different regulations which occur in different countries on the one hand, and to help other countries to develop their own regulations where

none exist. This question is therefore acute both in developed and developing nations. A data base will be set up.

The Task Group will provide a much needed umbrella for coordination on Geoheritage issues included in different responsibilities in which IUGS is currently involved. There are global networks for some related concepts, such as the Global Geoparks or the World Heritage List of UNESCO. It is at work in some parts of the world, as it is case of the ProGEO network dealing with geosites, but nothing exists for the majority of unrecognized geosites around the world. The ability to address the issue remains elusive for most nations and organizations. Through the leadership of individuals and organizations with background in this particular issue, the IUGS Task Group on GeoHeritage will try to facilitate the development of national and international awareness and understanding of the underlying concepts.

Three main objectives will be addressed:

1- To develop an inventory of geoheritage sites. The large majority of these sites are isolated (a quarry, a single outcrop) and probably will never belong to any kind of geopark but they are valuable for education and for testimony of the history of the earth. Several organization (national, disciplinary i.e. paleontologists) are working or have the will to work on them. Their list and content should be available from any computer

2- To compile the regulations on trade of ex-situ objects (fossils, mineral, meteorites) existing in different countries, which are usually difficult to obtain. The availability of this information on a website would be of a great help to geologist and other kind of people who have to deal with that matter (customs, ...)

3- To provide a single point of reference and coordination for the current diverse and disparate activities in geoheritage being undertaken by the Union.

This first full year we will set up new activities and establish our “road book” for the future. We will therefore fix the comity, and try to find a common agreement on the priorities. This should be written during our first general meeting in October, in Lille (common meeting with the SW part of ProGEO) .

<b>Budget</b>	
1- Meeting GeoReg (1st general meeting for Geoheritage taskGroup)	2200 €
2- Meeting Morocco « Geoparks in Africa » November 2 persons see below)	2000 €
3- Overhead + housing, management of database	1000 €
4-Temporary Job internship	500 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>5700 €</b>

### **1- First General meeting during le GeoReg meeting in Lille (october) :**

2 persons : Carmen Hidalgo (Spain, general secretary of Geoheriatge TG) and José Brihla (ProGEO representative Portugal) : 2x 1100 = 2200

GeoReg Lille october 23-27, 2011; The GeoReg Forum is dedicated to geosciences of the regions (France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom ... It aims at promoting communication between regional, national, or European actors of all geoscientific matters.

This first GeoReg Forum, co-organized by France and Belgium. Its prime objective is to revitalize the Regional Geosciences, by fruitfully convening experts from academia (universities, CNRS, ...), industrial-commercial national agencies (BRGM, IFREMER, ...), private and public applied geoscience companies (quarries, consulting firms, ...), industrial companies (Total, Areva, ...), museums, scientific-technical-industrial and artistic cultural centers, and associations of both professionals and amateurs.

A **full day will be devoted to geological and geographical heritage**, teaching-education, popular science, Web sites, including the ProGEO session (meeting of the SW Europe working group, convened by P. De Wever)

**2- The First International Conference on African & Arabian Geoparks : *Aspiring Geoparks in Africa and Arab world.*** El Jadida, Morocco, 21-28 November, 2011 (sponsored by UNESCO, IUGS ....)

Registration and housing (not travelling) : 2 persons

2000 euros

3- Overhead, housing the database on Geoheritage regulations and conservations according to different countries. Settling the database.

4- data capture (by a student or secretary)