



# IUGS

## GeoHeritage Task Group

**Annual Report 2011  
Plan of action for 2012**

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (IUGS)**

### **1. TITLE OF CONSTITUENT BODY**

IUGS Geoheritage task group

### **2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES**

Through the leadership of individuals and organizations with background in this particular issue, the IUGS Task Group on GeoHeritage works to facilitate the development of national and international awareness and understanding of the underlying concepts. The Task Group also helps to understand and recognize the various types of geosites (educative, recreative, protective ...) around the world and to promote in developing countries the will to develop their own geoheritage.

The Task Group works mainly through modern means of communication including discussions, meetings and information exchange via email and teleconferences, although some meetings may be required from time to time to anchor some decisions. As a consequence this group will function at little cost to IUGS and member organizations.

Three main objectives addresses:

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 organizations (national, disciplinary i.e. palaeontologists) 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 GTG is one year old (November 2010)

### *Steering committee*

Prof. Patrick DE WEVER (France) *Chairman*  
Prof. Carmen HIDALGO (Spain)  
Prof. Jacques CHARVET, VP IUGS, deleg. European Geoparks Network (France)  
Mr. Colin SIMPSON, Councilor IUGS, delegate to UNESCO GGN Board (Australia)  
Prof. Ezzoura ERRAMI, IUGS councillor, contact with the African geoheritage  
Wesley HILL, IUGS councillor, contact with IUCN for the UNESCO world heritage  
Prof. Jose BRILHA, (Portugal, Editor in Chief GeoHeritage)  
Dr. Enrique DIAZ-MARTINEZ (Spain national ProGEO representative)  
Dr. Luca DEMICHELI (Belgium, EuroGeoSurveys)  
Pr. Zhao Xun (China, IUGS Beijing Office for GeoHeritage)

## **3- 2011 activities**

Besides some action on Geoheritage properly, we joined other organisation dealing with Geoheritage at local , national and international level. That is why we participate to several meetings in Europe and Africa.

### **3.1- First General meeting during GeoReg meeting in Lille (October) :**

GeoReg Lille (october 23-27, 2011); The GeoReg Forum was dedicated to geosciences of the regions (France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom ...). The aim was to promote communication between regional, national, or European actors of all geoscientific matters. Its prime objective was to revitalize the Regional Geosciences, by fruitfully convening experts from academia (universities, CNRS, ...), industrial-commercial national agencies (BRGM, IFREMER, ...), private and public applied geosciences companies (quarries, consulting firms, ...), industrial companies (Total, Areva, ...), museums, scientific-technical-industrial and artistic cultural centres, and associations of both professionals and amateurs.

Two **days were devoted to geological and geographical heritage**, teaching-education, popular science, Web sites, including a specific ProGEO session (meeting of the SW Europe working group, convened by P. De Wever). It gathered representatives from 10 countries.

It appears to be a real success since several countries declared they discovered what were doing other countries (geoheritage is not obvious to outreach outside its own community). There professionals and amateurs, industrial and academic people, were joined. A frank success.

### **3.2 - 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 ....)

This meeting organised by Professor Ezoura Errami gathered participants from more than 10 countries ... countries among which several out of Africa.  
A several days field trip was a good occasion to discuss, to test according to different filling and experiences what was possible to be considered as attractive for a general public or for geologists.

### **33- Data base for regulations on geoheritage :**

We began to set up a database dealing with the regulations occurring in different countries. At the moment we succeeded to get regulations, besides those of UNESCO, for 9 countries (2 others are in process ). They are :

International (UNESCO),

National :

- Cabo Verde, Croatia, France, Italy, Mozambique, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom

- in process : Poland & Brazil

Beside those contacts we also established contacts for Geoheritage in Africa 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), Two PhD students should begin a work on Geoheritage, association of geological and human-social approaches.

### **34- Budget :**

6000 US\$ were devoted to GTG by IUGS for 2011.

This amount correspond to 4127,30 euros (received june 6<sup>th</sup> 2011)

Expanses 2011

Georeg Lille

Travel L. Erikstedt	154
E. Diaz-Martinez	535
J. Brilha	363
G. Egoroff	513
A. Cornée	612
M. Guiomar	372

FICAAG El Jadida

JY Reynaud	818
P. De Wever	760

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4127 euros

## 4- Plan action for 2012

### 41- Regulation DB :

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, ...)

Acting as an oily mark we will try to extend our contacts for regulation (more complete infos for each country and more countries involved (specifically trying to get answers from English-speaking countries) and set up a more appropriate presentation of the database presenting.

### 42- Geosites database

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 or disciplinary i.e. paleontologists) are working, or have the will, to work on them.

We will also begin to set up a data base with geosites with some organisms which already work on this such as PROGEO.

### 43-Future meetings :

#### 1- IGC Brisbane august (August)

The Theme 1 of the scientific programme is called "Geoscience for Society". This theme encompasses the roles of the geosciences in decisions and approaches that are of wide public interest, including **geological heritage** and **geotourism**; geoscience underpinning **conservation**; geoscience **education**; communicating geoscience to the public; museum collections; forensic geoscience; and gemstones. And particularly the *Symposia 11 is called Geoheritage, geoparks and geotourism*. This Symposium will examine the importance and diversity of geoheritage. Key topics will include the identification and quantification of geoheritage, geodiversity and geosites, the significance of geoconservation, UNESCO's geoparks, as well as the growth of geotourism

#### 2- PROGEO- Geoheritage: Protecting and Sharing (September)

7th International Symposium ProGEO on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage  
3rd Regional Meeting of the PROGEO SW Europe Working Group  
Bari, Italy 24-28 September 2012

ProGEO organises an International Symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage. People (professionals, academics, students) dealing with nature conservation, geotourism, geoparks, education, management, sustainable development, planning and decision-making, and other topics related to the theme of "geoheritage" are invited to participate.

## 2- Inventory and geoheritage in France (Paris, 14-16 November)

This meeting will be devoted to offer a general overview of the state of the art for inventories in Europe. This will be an opportunity to begin the Geosites database. It appears necessary, before publishing geosites, to check if the inventories were conducted on comparable bases.

## 44- Budget 2012 :

Budget	
1- Meeting ProGeo Bari Italy	1100 €
2- Meeting IGC Australia symposium Geohertage Auguste	3000 €
3- Running costs, overhead, housing, management of database	1000 €
4-Temporary Job internship	700 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>5800 €</b>

Patrick De Wever