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*From the pre conference field trip. Erratic on the Wicklow mountain. Photo: Jon Markussen*



## Landscape and Geology

If the opening picture should give the impression of dark clouds gathering over ProGEO and the geo-conservation community, it is far from intended. On the contrary, the picture is from the pre-conference field trip of the conference **Natural and Cultural Landscapes – The Geological Foundation**. Arranged by the Royal Irish Academy with the support of among others, ProGEO. The picture can symbolise the meeting point between geology and land-

scapes, full of contrasts and possibilities, exiting and beautiful.

Indeed, the theme for this conference was full of perspective for geologists, especially in their meeting with a wider public where management and policies are formed.

The program started with a tree quarter long lecture given by the Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney: Bog Bank, Rock Face and the Far Fetch of Poetry. He took us on a trip into Irish poetry, geology and landscape that underpinned the true multidisciplinary property of the conference, and was followed up with overviews of Irish, geology and landscapes.



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*The conference gave room for many ProGEO activities. Here the North European working group after a meeting. Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin*

The rest of these three days from the 9th to the 11th of september was filled with presentations grouped into 8 sessions under the titles:

- Integrating geodiversity and biodiversity
- Geosites: The central and eastern european experience
- How do humans influence their landscape
- Protecting and managing our landscapes: International and national scale
- How should we manage landscapes at the local scale
- How can we help people to know and enjoy their landscape
- Tourism and recreation
- Where do we go from here?

In addition it was a poster exhibition that added to the impression of well planned



*Giant Causeway, Northern Ireland. World Heritage site and a symbol of Irish geology, tourism and geoconservation. Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin*



*An original and well functioning information system on Giants Causeway. Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin*

and successful conference.

The last session had the form of discussions and work to produce a declaration of importance first and foremost designed for Irish geoconservation and landscape planning, but also important for the international audience. The declaration is sited on the next page.

It was also arranged a post conference field trip touring the coastal areas from Dublin, around the coast of Northern Ireland, through Donegal and visiting famous sites as the Giants causeway and the Marble Arch caves. The new Cuilcagh mountain European Geopark was also visited and formed an important part of the excursion for many of the participants. The Geopark initiative is important and it was very useful to include a visit in one of the European Geoparks.

The conference was important and good as a follow up of previous conferences within geoconservation. Especial the focus on the links between geology and landscape, and the links to the public, politic and planning, did represent a push forward for the international community involved with geoconservation, geodiversity, biodiversity and landscape planning.

*Lars Erikstad*



*The western coast of Ireland near Sligo. Butiful beaches and wonderful geotopes, stratigraphy and fossil sites was presented. Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin*



## **NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: THE GEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION.**

### **DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATES at the Conference in Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland, September 9 – 11, 2002**

Sustainability of our environment relies upon informed, integrated and balanced decision-making on all land use issues relating to our natural and cultural landscapes. Therefore, the delegates will work to promote the geological heritage as a central and essential consideration in the management of landscape.

To achieve this, we :

- **commit to developing an integrated, holistic approach by establishing a Forum open to all individuals and organisations interested in the geological heritage of Ireland.**
- **acknowledge that local landscapes can best be managed through the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process. Opportunities need to be identified whereby all stakeholders can benefit from a caring approach to this heritage.**
- **advocate that maintenance and conservation of geological heritage sites in private ownership be placed upon the same footing as that attaching to archaeological and architectural sites.**
- **commit ourselves to producing easily understandable geological information, and making it readily available to individuals, communities and organisations.**
- **advocate that public bodies include earth science considerations in their decision making, and seek appropriate professional advice on such matters.**
- **recommend that all geological site documentation be prepared to a transparent and common standard for dissemination.**
- **endorse the initiatives advanced by UNESCO, the IUGS Geosites programme, ProGEO and the European Geoparks Network, as complementary mechanisms to advance conservation of geological heritage in Europe and elsewhere.**

Agreed and adopted in Dublin, September 11, 2002.



## ProGEO – Albania Trip

ProGEO - Albania Spring Trip was held on 17th of May, 2002. 18 participants took part in the trip, among them Albanian members of ProGEO and other geologists, geographers, mining engineers etc.

The trip passed important Albanian tourist attractions as the Dajti National Forest, Selita tourist spot and Mali me Gropa geotourist aesthetic landscape.

The geomonumental aspect of the tour was build up round the visit to three main themes:

1- The stratigraphical section of Tirana-Dajti-Selita-mali me Gropa which consist of:

- Molasse formations with coal beds and a lot of fossil's beds of the Tirana syncline (Pre - Adriatic Depression).
- A platform carbonate section with rudists and gastropods of the Kruja zone with transgressions and the Dajti bauxite deposits.
- The flysch section of the Krasta zone "Derja Suite" which is about 500m thick, a typical flysch for the Barremian-Aptian districts. It represents the single full outcropped section in the Dinaride-Albanide - Hellenide mountain chain.

2- Mali me Gropa (The honey comb mountains). It represents a miraculous landscape with karst processes in carbonate rocks. Karst forms at 1500 – 1800 m. above sea level on gentle slopes of the mountain and results in spectacular and interesting forms similar to honey combs. Karst holes, wells,



Participants on the Albanian ProGEO trip

cones, valleys are found in many different sizes, situated with a strange regularity. They are covered by alpine grass and flower meadows with a lot of rare plants, mainly carpinus type, forming a specific karst ecosystem.

3- Aesthetic erosional landscapes sites of the Priska, Selita Molla, Shtylla mountain passes and the western slopes of the mountains which forms the natural entrance to this mountain area, with caves, natural sandstone and carbonate walls.

The ecological aspect of the tour was represented through the obvious links in this area between the geological foundation and ecological conditions, and by the management that is developed in special areas. The Dajti National forest park (2 957 Ha) for example has been under preservation since 1966. In 1994 by the park was extended up to 10 269 Ha, including the Brari and Priska Mountains.

The Dajti Mountain or "the Natural Balcony of Tirana" as it is called, is covered by *Fagus sylvatica* and *Carpinus orientalis* forest. At higher levels *Juni-*



Mali me Gropa (Honey Comb mountain) full of karst valleys dolines, holes and wells, a typically karst ecosystem



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*Mali me Gropa (Honey Comb mountain) full of karst valleys dolines, holes and wells, a typically karst ecosystem*

*perus oxycednis* and different species of *carpinus* dominates.

At lower levels mediterranean plants as *Pinus heidreichi*, *Juniperus L.*, *Crataegus L.*, *Carpinus betulus* and in some places *Rosa sp* dominates. Some rare endemic plants such as: *Ramunda sersica* on eastern slopes at 1500 – 1550 m is also found. In Dajti forest there are some kinds of wild animals and birds.

In Mali me Gropa especially spring flowers such as: *Festuca sp.*, *Sesleria sp.* and *Carex sp.* Is found as parts of a typical karst ecological system.

There are opened some old and new quarries damaging natural equilibrium and aesthetic views of the landscapes. The exploration of carbonate rocks for building purposes, cutting of forests and waste along the roads, represent a destruction of a wonderful nature and calls for management action to better the balance between human activity and the natural environment in the area.

*Afat Serjani, Mehmet Spaho & Enton Bedini*



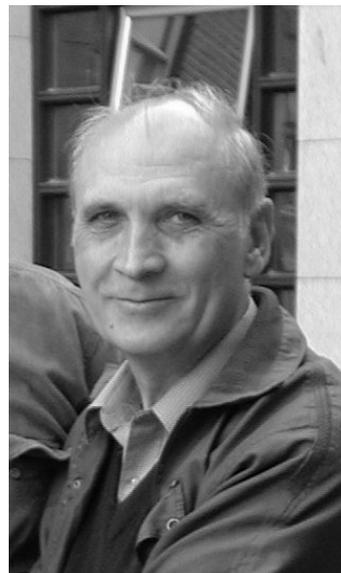
## From the secretary

### Dublin results

The Council of ProGEO met at Dublin Castle on the Sunday evening before our sponsored conference organised by the Royal Irish Academy and our colleagues in the Irish Geological Survey. We, firstly, marked the loss of Gerard Gonggrijp in a minute's silence. The Council's discussions centred on consideration of a strategy for the next two years. The Council agreed that a key element in this is the pro-

duction of the 'manual', a volume describing the status of conservation in all our ProGEO countries. This volume we agreed to have written by May 2003 (guidance on revised format will be produced in October 2002). Our discussion showed we were all committed to publishing this volume as a commemoration of our friend Gerard, whose brain-child it was. The volume will therefore describe the national laws and practical state of conservation in every country, and it was agreed would have a bibliography, and a glossary of terms. Todor Todorov will co-ordinate production of country texts, help by the secretary at the editing stage.

Another key element of our strategy was discussed, our next major meeting. It was agreed to hold our next full ProGEO Association meeting in 2004. Council decided that this meeting should be in the city of Florence, at the same time as the International Geological Congress, that is, in August 2004. ProGEO will sponsor a geoconservation workshop within the Congress, and this will be done in collaboration with the International Geographical Union and



*Prof. Todor Todorov was thanked for his work as Pro GEO president. Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin*



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the International Union of Geological Sciences. In addition, ProGEO will organise its own symposia and business meetings around the IGC activities.

The Council voted to elect the following to the new Executive Committee: Gunnel Ransed (Sweden), Irini Drandaki (Greece), Radoslav Nakov (Bulgaria), Rein Raudsep (Estonia), Daniel Baretino (Spain), Gerardo Brancucci (Italy), Jan Urban (Poland), Lars Erikstad (Norway), Dusan Mijovic (Yugoslavia) and W.A.P. Wimbledon (UK).

The Council gave thanks to Lars Karis for his time on the executive committee (Lars remains on Council and will continue to oversee our website). Veli Suominen stepped down as auditor of the Association's finances, with the thanks of the council, and Jonas Satkunas was elected as the second auditor to work with Carl Erik Johansson, Past President.

On day one of the Dublin conference, a general assembly and lunch for all ProGEO members was held. The accounts of the President, Treasurer and Executive Secretary were tabled. The general assembly elected Dr Francesco Zarlenga (INEA, Roma) as the new President of ProGEO. Thanks were given to Prof Todor Todorov for his four years hard work in the post of president. Numbers of postal votes were read out (and tabled) and a show of hands held also to change the Articles of the Association. The changes were agreed by a greater than 66% majority (the new Articles are already on the website). So both votes were very successfully concluded, and with worthwhile results!

The year 2003 will be used for regional working group meetings and intensive local collaborations: one regional meeting is already suggested in Yugoslavia for the southeast WG; the northern group will meet in Karelia, Russia in late May 2003; and discussions proceed on a meeting for the central WG.

The importance of our ProGEO web site was discussed at Council. All members were asked to contribute to their own national web page. Also, all may develop links of sites inside the countries to the ProGEO server at the Geological Survey of Sweden. All are asked to contact Lars Karis for advice on this, and to pass on contributions and suggestions. A new leaflet for ProGEO has been published: stocks are held at the SGU in Uppsala (contact Lars Karis for copies).

A large proportion of the delegates at the Dublin

conference were ProGEO members, which was very encouraging, and it was an opportunity to meet a number of new members. At the same time, we had some useful business meetings, between hectic, but very pleasant, evening engagements hosted thanks to Louise Thornhill, and Julia Kazakova and Il'ya Fishman, and a tour of Dublin nightlife largely guided by Barry Thomas.

*W.A.P. Wimbledon ProGEO Secretary*



## ProGEO –new web address

It was recently pointed out to me that the change of web address for the ProGEO Homepage had not been announced efficiently enough and was not known to all members. In order to correct that I will take this opportunity to once more stress this important change.

Our present Homepage address is

**<http://www.progeo.org.se>**

or, for lazy people, just progeo.org.se as the URL address.

The active link from our former address will be inactive as from November 1<sup>st</sup>, but the new address will remain on the link list until early 2003.

*Lars Karis*



## ProGEO NEWS

Traditionally ProGEO NEWS have been sent out as a printout by post. Recently we have tested to send it as a pdf-file (Adobe Acrobat) as an attachment to an e-mail. This seems to work fine if your e-mail system can cope with fairly large attachments.

Interested? Send an e-mail to the editor to be included in the electronic mail list or if you want to test this alternative.

*The editor*

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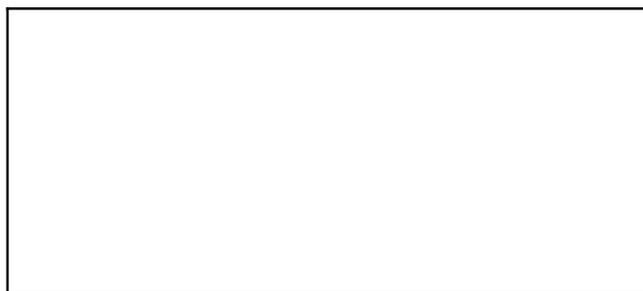
**Deadline for contributions to next issue of ProGEO NEWS: 15.12.2002**

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