



Rondane National Park in the background with alpine landforms surrounded by rounded mountain landforms typical for large parts of Scandinavia

New legislation in Norway

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Last year Norway got a new legislation for nature management (passed by the parliament in June 2009). The new legislation is called the "Nature Diversity Act", and replaces the "Nature Conservation Act" from 1972. Although a dominant part of the documentation leading up to the new legislation concentrates on biodiversity, habitats and species, it also consists of some important improvements for geoconservation. These are found linked to two major elements in the legislation

- The overall aim
- The link to local land use planning and the definition of habitats (nature types).

The part linked to nature conservation (establishing of nature reserves etc.) has also some changes that affects geoconservation, but these are not to be expected to change the practice significantly.

Geology is now specified in the legislation text. We must go back to the first nature conservation act of Norway from 1910 to find such specifications (Erikstad 1984, 2005). This old act states that: *"protected areas can be established to protect wild plants and animals and geological and mineralogical sites."* The first geotope protection according to the act was done in 1923 when an erratic in southwest Norway was protected. In new legislations in 1954 and in 1972 no such statements can be found. Special legislation is established on the islands of Svalbard. Here geotope protection is in existence as a similar specification.



1500 mill yrs old Precambrian rocks in the foreground discordant to the Cambrian - Silurian bedded limestones and schists in the background. Rognstranda – an important locality for Gea Norvegica Geopark. Photo: Gea Norvegica Geopark

The new act states its aim as, by nature conservation and sustainable use, that the nature with its biological, landscape and geological diversity and ecological processes can be preserved for the future.

In the legislation geological occurrences (geosites) are specifically mentioned for National Parks and Nature Reserves. Not so for Landscape Protected Areas, even if we have several examples of existing geological founded landscape protected areas today. As long as the natural and cultural landscape has a general value based on geological features (for example geomorphology, structural geology or mining) the possibility to establish such landscape protected areas should, however, be unchanged.

One of the old categories, nature monument, has been eliminated as a possible protection category. This affects especially geosites of an anthropogenic nature (road cuttings, quarries etc.). The new legislation specifies, however, that these areas can be handled as nature reserves, even if they do not show the nature character that nature reserves normally demands.

The new legislation has one of its major new features linked to the management of nature types of defined

importance. The term “nature type” basically is the same as “habitat” in an EU-context, but as the aim with the legislation is wider, the neutral terms nature type and nature diversity are used rather than habitat and biological diversity.

A nature type is defined as: *Homogeneous type of nature comprising all plant and animal life, and the environmental factors working there, or particular types*



Small old quarry in limestone limited by a volcanic dyke in a everyday landscape outside Oslo

of nature occurrences such as ponds, unproductive islets in fields, geological occurrences, etc.

These nature types make the foundation of definitions of selected, vulnerable or threatened nature types which calls for special action in land use planning. It is of course easy to feel inferior on behalf of geology by the setting of the examples in the text above, but it is important that geology now is included in the term "nature type" and can take its place in this part of the nature management that up to now has been for biodiversity alone. It will, however, be a challenge to define a framework for geosite vulnerability that can be used pushing candidates for selected geological nature types in this context. Good candidates may be caves and vegetation – free raised beach ridge fields.

The Norwegian Biodiversity information Centre (www.biodiversity.no) has worked out a new classification of Nature types for Norway for facilitate the new legislation. The new classification system is divided into a set of classifications on different scales (biotope, ecosystems, landscape parts and landscapes). The system reflects a higher degree of integration of geological and ecological features. Of special interest is the landscape parts that includes all rivers, lakes, fjords etc., classified both after systems relevant for the

European Water directive and on geomorphological criteria. The system also provides a specific set of criteria to describe internal variation within the classes. Landform (both in a geomorphometric and geomorphological setting) is defined as one of 6 sets of defined variation and this contributes in strengthening the integration of geology. It is produced an extensive background documentation of the system which can be found (only in Norwegian so far) on the homepage <http://www.biodiversity.no/ThemePage.aspx?m=150>.

The new legislation represents an improvement for geology in Norwegian nature management, but it will for a large part be up to the geological society to take the chance and make a push forward for geoconservation in Norway. Up to now the interest has been moderately positive or neutral. Participation more on the level that can be observed among biologists, will probably be necessary to achieve significant results.

Erikstad, L. 1984. Registration and conservation of sites and areas with geological significance in Norway. - Norsk geogr. Tidsskr. 38: 199-204

Erikstad, L. 2005. Use of geological/geomorphological information in landscape planning - in Durham, E. Geodiversity planning and management. Earth heritage: World heritage Newsletter (Issue No. 3).

GeoTop 2010

(14. Internationale Jahrestagung der Fachsektion GeoTop in der DGG and 6th International Symposium on Conservation of Geological Heritage)

Geosites: Resources for the Public / Palaeontology and Conservation of Geosites

May 29th 2010 – June 2nd 2010 in Hagen (Westf.), Germany

Sessions on: Palaeontology & Conservation, Geosites, Ruhr Area, Geodidaktik, Geoparks, Mining Heritage, Geotourism, Geodiversity and Geosites & Methods

Organisation: GeoPark Ruhrgebiet e.V. with support of The City of Hagen, Dept. of Environment, and HAGEN Touristik

General information on the conference:

www.dgg.de

<http://geopark.metropoleruhr.de/geopark/geotop-2010.html>

Information, Inquiries for late registrations and field trips:
Dr. Volker Wrede

Fon: (+49) 2151 897-439

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Moving dunes in Słowiński National Park

Introduction to the Geoheritage of the Kaszuby region

Kaszuby (Kaszëbë, Cassubie, Kashubia) is a historical, and geographical region in northern Poland (Eastern Pomerania) stretches from the Słupia River basin to the delta of the Vistula. Kaszuby over the centuries has been a land of influences of many cultures – Slavonic, German and even Scandinavian - which has left its imprint on the local art and architecture.

Kaszuby native inhabitants are Kashubians, a people with a distinct language, more different from the standard Polish than any other of the Polish dialects. Geographically, Kaszuby encompasses two different landscape zones; the coast and inland - the lake districts. The coast of the Baltic Sea in the Kaszuby region is formed by dunes and sandy beaches as well as by cliffs.



Young post-glacial landscape in the Kaszuby Lakelands



Moving dunes in Słowiński National Park

One of the most important and interesting elements of the geoh heritage on the Baltic coast is Słowiński National Park, which is situated in the most northern part of Kaszuby. The park reserves the most beautiful part of the Baltic southern coast, with the biggest sandy moving dunes in Europe. Winds ripple their surface, forming elongated waves, parabolas, mounds, hills and vales. The most active dunes move at a rate of up to 10 meters a year.

The predominant features of the Park's landscape are

the coastal lakes, beaches and dunes of different relative heights. The biggest dune, which is overgrown with pine forest, is the highest (56.5 m). The lagoons are very shallow water reservoirs, surrounded by reeds and sedges, which make good shelters for a rich fauna of water birds. Swamps, moors and meadows spread out around the lakes, especially on their southern shores, and those are dissected by numerous rivers and outlet canals. The name of the Park originates from an old ethnic Slav progeny group, who has lived in this area for ages. An open air museum in Kluki, which presents their culture, is one of the Park's attractions.

The Kaszuby Lakeland represents a typical young post glacial landscape with frontal moraine ridges, outwash plains, deep subglacial tunnel valleys and lakes.

On the eastern part of Kaszuby region lie the capital of Pomerania – Gdańsk, located on the southern coast of the Gulf of Gdańsk. Gdańsk is a city with a thousand years of history and full of priceless monuments of the past.

Pomerania welcomes ProGEO Working Group for Northern Europe to its International Conference on "GEODIVERSITY, NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE KASZUBY REGION" 6-10th September 2010 www.progeo.se (coming events)



Kaszuby Lakeland landscapes, Ostrzyckie Lake and the Wieżyca hill (the highest point on the European Lowland).



Geoevents, Geological Heritage, and the Role of the IGCP Caravaca de la Cruz (Spain)

September 15-18, 2010

Dr. Enrique Díaz-Martínez, e.diaz@igme.es

If you would like to participate in this international conference, please, remember that the deadline for abstract submission and registration is April 30th. Payment is due by June 8th. The meeting encourages the participation of young scientists.

*** Student Grant Awards:**

Free registration awards are available for graduate students and young PhDs (no more than 35 years old) who have contribution(s) accepted for presentation at the meeting.

A number of accommodation grants, in the Caravaca Youth Hostel, will be available for Graduate students and young PhD's (no more than 35 years old) who have contribution(s) accepted for presentation at the meeting.

These awards will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Applicants have to provide documents of their position, and age (e.g., PDF file of their passport or identity card; letter of their supervisor or other appropriate proof) with their request of a grant award.

The conference website has been up-dated: <http://www.ugr.es/~mlamolda/congresos/geoevents> New information about keynote speakers, field-trip itineraries, social activities, etc., has been included

*Important deadlines: Registration and Submission of Abstract due 30th April 2010 Hotel information will be sent by the end of May Payment of fees due 8th June 2010 3rd and last Circular sent end of July 2010

<http://www.ugr.es/~mlamolda/congresos/geoevents>

Bloc de camp

Isaac Camps, Geologists and science publisher

[Bloc de camp](#) (Field Notebook) is a blog dedicated to the geological heritage of Catalonia (country of Barcelona, NE Iberian Peninsula). It can be read in Catalan, Spanish and English.

This year we celebrate two years since reaching 50 items.

We invite you to visit our blog, we encourage you to collaborate and spread its existence.

<http://blocdecamp.blogspot.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bloc-de-camp/449717540176>

<http://issuu.com/blocdecamp>

Geosite of Arkitsa fault mirror

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The website:

<http://www.gopetition.com/online/33552.html>

asks for signatures for the protection of the geosite of Arkitsa fault mirror, significant for the international research, the education and the culture. This very place is currently used as area for uncontrolled deposition of discharge by the prefecture of Dafnousia.

The conservation committee of the Greek geological society, the geological society and several colleagues have sent letters to several state authorities. Now a petition takes place for signatures. Please sign and also spread the word to other interested.



The screenshot shows a blog post from 'Bloc de Camp' dated Wednesday 7 April 2010. The title is 'Meander of the abandoned quarry Burés (Bages)'. The text describes the location of the quarry at the junction of highways 122 and B-Castellbell Terrace, and provides directions to find the abandoned quarry. A photograph shows a large, eroded quarry face. The post also mentions an upcoming event 'Geolodia' and a petition for the protection of the Arkitsa fault mirror. The right sidebar includes a bio for Isaac Fields Gamundi, a 'subscribe via feed' section with dropdown menus for 'Writings' and 'All comments', and an email subscription form with a 'Subscribe' button. The footer of the sidebar says 'Delivered by FeedBurner' and has a Facebook icon.

Promoting geoconservation in Europe

The Société géologique de France invites all who are working on geoconservation and promotion of geological heritage to participate at the meeting and the special Session

"Geoheritage : from inventory to geotourism"

that will take place during the 23rd RST (geoscience meeting) of the SGF-FFG :

25-29 october 2010 in Bordeaux, France.

This session is organised by Patrick De Wever (Paris), Mireille Verna (Bordeaux) & Marie LoCascio (Saucats)

<http://www.rst2010.epoc.u-bordeaux1.fr/session8-3.php>

For more information, registration etc:

<http://www.rst2010.epoc.u-bordeaux1.fr/index.php>



Limestone erratic on a granite rock surface. Hvaler national Park - Norway

Deadline next issue of ProGEO NEWS: September 15th 2010

This issue is the only one for the first half year of 2010. This is due to lack of incoming contributions. Please do not forget to send contributions to ProGEO NEWS. Members are interested in things that happen all over the world, your experiences, geosites, everyday geotopes and landscapes, geoconservation and geotourism efforts! ProGEO news are also distributed generally on the internet after ½ year:

www.progeo.se

Please send your contributions 500 – 2000 words with photographs, maps and figures to:

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