



Unique geosites of Russia: conservation and recreation potential

International conference 27-29 June 2013, Russia, St. Petersburg, Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI)

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The international conference "Unique geosites of Russia: conservation and recreation potential" was organized by the Federal Agency on Mineral Resources and Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI). It was held at VSEGEI on 27-29 June, 2013.

The conference was aimed at the development of strategies for conservation and efficient use of Russia's geosites, elaboration of recommendations on the use

of geosites in regional geological studies of the Russian Federation, preparing proposals for the use of geosites for geo-tourism.

40 participants, mainly from Russia, attended the conference, and there were six ProGEO members among them. Besides Russian colleagues, the Head of the Geological Survey of Finland Dr. Elias Ekdhall and 3 participants from China attended the conference as well.

During the scientific sessions, the following topics were discussed:

- substantiation of geosites selection and conservation;
- stratotypes as geosites of great scientific significance, their conservation, and use for research and education;
- informational technologies and geosites;



Fig 1. The group of participants on the bank of Lake Yastrebinoe

- importance of geosites as an efficiency factor in the development of the touristic potential of areas;
- legal framework for the protection of geosites and their use in the field of tourism;
- geoparks in China and Finland.

After the scientific sessions, a two-day excursion to the Island of Valaam on Lake Ladoga (Republic of Karelia) and to Lake Yastrebinoe (Saint-Petersburg Region, near the border with the Republic of Karelia) was organized. The Island of Valaam is the largest in the cognominal archipelago. The Valaam Archipelago has been assigned the official status of a nature park. Participants observed exposures of the Late Proterozoic magmatic rocks mainly represented by gabbro-dolerites, as well as spherulites and other traces of the last continental glaciation such as numerous compositionally diverse moraine boulders, polished rocks, etc. (Fig. 2; Fig. 3 - was taken by V. Gorbatsky). In the 14th century, an orthodox monastery was founded in the Island of Valaam (Front picture and fig. 4). The excursion devoted to the history of the monastery as well as a concert of spiritual singing was organized for the participants.

Lake Yastrebinoe is located in a depression between the steep granite ledges of the Baltic Shield, rising up to 45 meters (Fig. 5 - was taken by V. Gorbatsky). Its length is 2 km and shape is highly elongated from the north to the south. Steep rocks are popular among the amateurs of mountain tourism (Fig.6).

Lake Yastrebinoe has been assigned the official status of a regional significant nature monument. However in 2006 the authorities of the Republic of Karelia issued a license for the organization of rubble quarries near the lake. As a result of a public campaign against this project, including the activity of the Russian ProGEO members, the license was withdrawn.

The impressions from the excursions were unforgettable owing to picturesque nature, interesting communication with participants as well as a particular atmosphere in the monastery and spiritual singing touching the soul.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The following resolution was approved at the meeting and sent to the RF Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment:

1. Apply to the RF Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment with the following suggestions:

1. Propose a number of amendments and supplements to the legal acts in the sphere of subsoil and environmental protection relating to the conservation of the geological heritage. In particular:

- *elaborate regulations concerning geoparks as an additional category of officially protected areas, and make corresponding amendments in the law "About Specially Protected Nature Areas"*
- *elaborate and introduce amendments to the list of obligatory measures for subsoil users to preserve the local fragments of mineral deposits of particular scientific and educational value (reference geological sections, geological and structural elements), set up geological museums at mining enterprises in order to make representative collections of rocks, minerals, and ores from specific mineral deposits.*

2. In the framework of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment activity organize a special program on environmental subjects, including the statement and funding of the following works:

- making a list of the international, national, and regional significant geosites, which have not had an official status of protected areas yet, followed by preparation of the necessary documentation to assign them this status according to their importance (in particular this should be applied to geosites of the international and national importance). For example, it is referred to stratotypes proposed as GSSPs as well as to stratotypes and hypostatotype of stratigraphic units of the general and regional stratigraphic scales;
- preparation of the concept of rational and regulated use of protected areas as well as a list of geosites having an official status of natural monuments, on the basis of which it is advisable to organize permanent environmental excursion-tourist centers such as Sablinskiy (Saint-Petersburg vicinity).

Apply to the Federal Agency on Mineral Resources with the following suggestions:

- draw up methodological recommendations on the revealing, classification, and evaluation of the scientific significance of geosites, their inclusion in the register of protected areas and sustainable use;
- develop the legend of geosites for the state geological maps at 1: 1 000 000 scale and update the legend for the maps at 1: 200 000 scale

We hope that the conference will contribute to the protection of valuable Russian geosites.



Fig. 6

A Geoheritage Specialist Group within IUCN

IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas has agreed in principle to the establishment of a Geoheritage Specialist Group. Its purpose will be to provide advice and guidance on all aspects of geodiversity and geoheritage in relation to the management of protected areas, to help integrate geodiversity into IUCN's programmes and to promote the links between geodiversity and biodiversity. A workshop held in Korea in September 2013 to develop the proposal was attended by ProGEO members Enrique Diaz-Martinez and John Gordon. Among the immediate planned outcomes will be a chapter on managing geoheritage in IUCN's Protected Area Governance and Management E-book and a contribution to a session on the links between geodiversity and biodiversity at the World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014. Membership of the Group will be open to individuals and organisations such as ProGEO through active participation in the activities of the Group.

The ProGEO facebook page

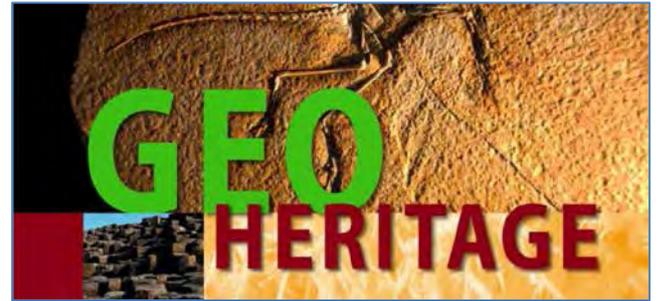
The page is a success, we have achieved more than 800 "Likes" since it was created. But to continue to have this attention from the people, and update this webpage quite regularly, we need your cooperation!

In each month, we post photos of geosites from a certain country. Already published photos of Portugal (April); Norway (May); Greece (June); Spain (July); Bulgaria (August) and Russia (September). These photos are being well received by users once they are among the most viewed, commented and shared. To continue this activity, we asked you to send around 15 photos of geosites with a small description and location (see the GSSP example in the webpage).

Furthermore we intend to publish information about geoheritage-related events that are happening in your country (conferences, courses, seminars, etc. even with no collaboration of ProGEO), short news (that you could enlarge to be published in ProGEO News), anything that can promote geoheritage in your country.

Please, send all your contributions to

mariana1763@gmail.com.



Geoheritage is now indexed in ISI!

The journal Geoheritage has been selected for coverage in Thomson Reuter's products and services. Beginning with volume 3(1) for 2011, this publication will be indexed and abstracted in:

- Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®)
- Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition
- Current Contents®/Physical Chemical and Earth Sciences

Geoheritage is the official journal of the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (ProGEO) and has been published by Springer since 2009.

The journal has published 88 papers so far, covering different perspectives of geoconservation and research in all continents.

This international recognition of geoconservation as a science has only been possible thanks to all our readers and authors, particularly those who submitted papers during 2009 and 2010! Referees working with the journal since the beginning and the members of the editorial board all play an essential role in strengthening geoconservation worldwide.

The journal Geoheritage is waiting for your manuscripts!

Bill Wimbleton and José Brilha
Editors-in-Chief (2009-2012)

Journal's website:

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12371>



Planning for the future of geoconservation

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2013. Geoconservation for science and society. Special issue of the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, 124, (4).

In 2011, with environmental, social and economic change posing many challenges and generating new opportunities for geoconservation, the Geologists' Association hosted a conference in Worcester, England, aimed at bringing the geological and geoconservation community in the UK together to consider these challenges and opportunities and to plan for the future. The thinking that emerged from the conference has recently been published in a Special issue of the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association made up of 16 papers.

The papers describe what has already been achieved in geoconservation to date. They also explore the opportunities for, and approaches to, marine geoconservation, the importance of protected sites to science and engineering, how to engage in the ecosystem approach, a range of new geoconservation techniques, the importance of partnerships with archaeologists, strategies for communicating with the public and politicians, and ways of engaging with communities and working with volunteers. A paper by Lars Erikstad explores the opportunities for geoconservation at a European level whilst Larwood, Badman and McKeever explore the progress at a global scale.

An introductory overview paper attempts to capture the messages coming out of the conference and the published papers, and suggests some actions, that if taken by relevant bodies and partners, should ensure that geoconservation remains an important and integrated part of the way in which we manage and promote the natural and built environment in the changing world in which we live.

Zoning of the National Park "Bjeshkët e Nemuna"

ProGEO-Kosova

Fadil Bajraktari, progeokosova@yahoo.com

ProGEO-Kosova in cooperation with the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of Pristina is implementing the project "Zoning of the National Park Bjeshkët e Nemuna". The "Bjeshkët e Nemuna" mountains were declared a national park by the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo in 2012. The park covers an area of 62,488 ha.

ProGEO-Kosovo has during the zoning process identified a large number of geo-sites and geo-monuments of different periods of geological formations such as glacial cirques, glacial lakes, tectonic ruffs and caves. Given the scientific, geological, geomorphological, speleological and hydrological values, many geo-monuments and geo-sites are proposed to have the status of strictly protected nature reserve.



Guri i Kuq (Red Rock)



Malet e Strelcit (Mountains of Strelcit)



Malet e Roshkodollit (Mountains of Roshkodoll)



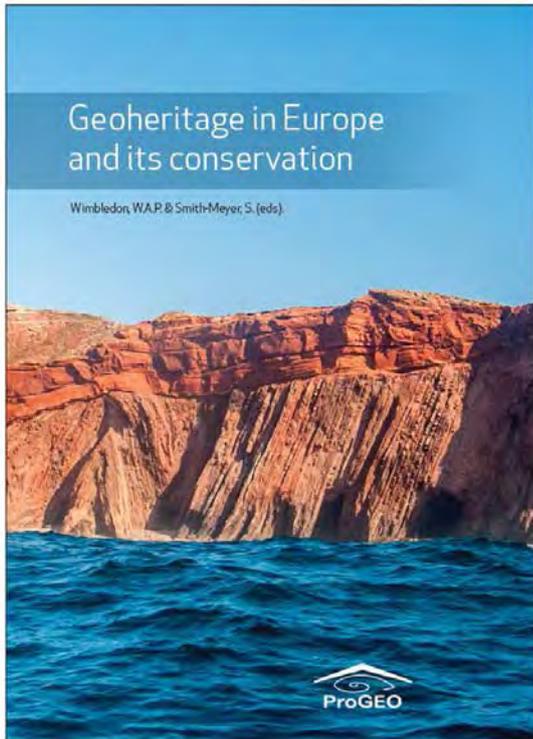
Maja e Prilepit (2066m) (Prilepi's Peak)

Ukrainian Facebook Page

Check out the new facebook page of ProGEO in Ukraine:

<https://www.facebook.com/ukraine.group.progeo>





One year with Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation

Dear members,

Having now enjoyed one year of spreading and using our book *Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation*, it is time to reflect on a few good examples. There is more that can be done and we need to do more.

New ways

Having handled the book orders for one year, I want to share some positive experiences. There is a wonderful way to support the spreading of the book, and that is when organisations/authorities decide to buy a number of books for their own targeted distribution. It is a perfect way of finding a strong national or local distribution. Both The Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) and The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) have bought a number of copies to use for their own distribution to a wide range of strategic persons. This effort has been a very smooth and appreciated gesture, and is in my point of view a much-needed complement to the few free copies ProGEO has been able to distribute so far. So, instead of using your energy trying to convince certain organisations to buy a book (an important effort as well of course), we need now to redirect this energy to one or two employers that would benefit from buying a quantity of books.

I would therefore like to ask you all to discuss with your organisation or employer, about the possibility to buy a number of copies for a preferred distribution. If we are able to make an employer see the mutual benefit of this way of spreading the word, the decision to buy books is perhaps not that far away. PLEASE investigate this terrific opportunity to strengthen our message in our countries.

Prices

The external price of the book is now lowered to 40 euros (Europe) and 45 euros (global). The web site has been updated with these numbers. The member price is still 15 euros per book like before.

We haven't yet had any discounts or price reductions for large orders. We would now like to offer quantity discounts. It should be stressed that the book business is handled by ProGEO. The principle for buying a number of books is either to distribute them as free copies, or to resell them within a community for the purchase price (zero sum situation).

To Institutional members we offer

10 copies for 30 euros each
24 copies for 25 euros each

To non-commercial organisations (authorities, societies etc.) we offer

10 copies for 35 euros each
24 copies for 30 euros each

The reason 24 is chosen, is because it is the amount per box that is delivered from the printer. They are ready packed.

I hope that these new ways are appreciated and used.

Sven Lundqvist



Earth Heritage, the UK's geological and landscape conservation magazine, is available in downloadable electronic format at www.earthheritage.org.uk. The magazine showcases geodiversity conservation and promotional activities and is published twice a year, in late winter and late summer. Back issues are also available.



The tide is going out on the road to Lindisfarne

Geological Heritage and Geoconservation at the north western edge of Europe.

ProGEO regional working group of Northern Europe meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, 16. – 20. September 2013,

Sylvia Smith-Meyer. ssm@nve.no

The meeting was located to Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, and very well organized by Lesley Dunlop. Around 30 persons from countries in northern Europe were represented, and we were welcomed by Lesley Dunlop and Keijo Nenonen, the leader of working group 3.

Several presentations were given under 4 different sessions;

- Geosites – recent developments, inventories, strategy and good practice.
- Geological heritage – conservation, preservation and promotion.
- Geoparks and geotourism.
- Education – local, regional, national and international initiatives for education.

All sessions ended with relevant and good discussions. It is extremely positive to come together and discuss different topics in a setting like this. The representation from different organization in the UK was good, and we were given information on the status on geo site and landscape management in the United Kingdom. UK have a robust and well established geoconservation legislation supported by a suite of policies, frameworks, action plans and guides to good management practice.

Status of the Geosite-project was presented from some of the countries and the possibilities to continue this project was lively discussed. Our book "Geoheritage in Europe and its Conservation" was also presented. The following discussion underlined that the work presented in the book constantly is under development and it would be a very good idea to follow up the book with updates and supplementary information on our website.

Relevant work from many countries was presented and from us coming from outside UK, the UK presentations was of particular interest.



The contact between limestone and an intrusive dyke at Lindisfarne demonstrated by Lesly Dunlop

The meeting was closed by a nice conference dinner. By the end of the dinner we were introduced to local traditional folklore clog-dance with impressive participation from key organisers!

Field excursions were arranged both before and after the scientific sessions. Monday 16 September we had an interesting field excursion to the Northumberland Coast – and were shown how geology, landscape history and tourism interlink. We visited Woodhorn Colliery – a former coal mine area now a cultural centre and of special interest was Holy Island with Bamburgh Castle and Lindisfarne. The island is within an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the ruined monastery is in the care of English Heritage.

Lindisfarne Castle has a long history and for us Scandinavians that have some of the Viking history within our heritage a site of significance.

We were introduced to the Whin Sill which appeared again and again through our field trips. This sill is generally regarded as the original sill of geological science and therefore is one of the district's most important natural heritage features.

The post symposium excursion went west of Newcastle to Hadrian's Wall, the Whin Sill and the North Pennine Openfield localities. This is a 19th century mining area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and also a Geopark.

The Roman Wall area of west Northumberland is geologically important for exposures of the Whin Sill in a landscape influenced by the action of ice during the last glaciation.

Friday we visited the County Durham, including the classic Magnesian Limestone localities of the Permian (linked to Limestone Landscape project) and Durham Cathedral – geological setting and building stones.



A lead ore mine in the North Pennine Geopark

Coming events:

The XX Congress of Carpathian Balkan Geological Association, CBGA 2014

The Organizing Committee of CBGA 2014 would like to invite you to attend the XX Congress of Carpathian Balkan Geological Association, a jubilee Congress, which will be held from 24 to 26 September 2014 in Tirana, Albania.

Please visit <http://www.cbga2014.org/>.

More information: info@cbga2014.org

European Geosciences Union General Assembly.

Special Session: Geodiversity and geoheritage in geoscience research (session SSS6.3/GM1.5).

Vienna, Austria, 7–12 April 2013.

Convener: Emmanuel Reynard. Co-Conveners: Hanneke van den Ancker, José Brilha, Erik Cammeraat.

Deadline to submit abstracts: 9 January 2013. Please visit <http://www.egu2013.eu/>.

Deadline next issue of ProGEO NEWS: December 15th 2013

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 is published on the internet

www.progeo.se

Please send your contributions 500 – 2000 words with photographs, maps and figures clearly marked as a ProGEO NEWS contribution to:

lars.erikstad@nina.no

If longer texts are needed, please contact the editor

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