



Conference

Geoheritage: the foundation for sustainable geotourism

2018 April 26th and 27th, Municipal Theater
Sasso di Castalda – Potenza (Italy)

Presentation

Seven years ago, *Sasso di Castalda* in southern Italy was selected as a location for a national conference on Geological Heritage. Several researchers attended this conference and numerous and interesting scientific works were presented. The main topic of the *Sasso di Castalda* Conference was the study and census of the geosites as a first step towards the application of the strategies useful for geoconservation and valorisation of this inexhaustible natural resource.

The *Sasso di Castalda* Conference in 2010 provided information for the researchers and local administrators on how to utilize, in a sustainable way, the geological heritage. One of the most meaningful actions was to reaffirm the importance of the specific laws that help guarantee the preservation of the geological heritage. Currently, these laws are being promulgated in several Italian regions, including Basilicata.

In order to better understand the current state of the art and carry on with the study and the geoconservation of the numerous geological peculiarities of the national territory a new conference has been organized. The symposium is aimed at emphasizing the new techniques applied to the valorisation and the geoconservation of the geosites.

Geotourism allows people to combine the discovery of the unique geology of an area with other natural and human resources. Geotourism is a form of tourism that is developed in accordance with the "*European Landscape Convention*". As such, it is able to create a mechanism that brings benefits to local population, supports the sustainable use of resources, and allows reinvestments in the management and protection of the geodiversity.

Geotourism can be considered as a tool for implementing the knowledge and the utilization of the natural heritage. It is based on the principles of environmental sustainability, which all territory managers should adhere to. I think that the conference can be a stimulus not only for researchers, but also for administrators and in general for those who work in the territory. Investing in basic studies about geoconservation and valorisation of our geological heritage leads to a sustainable tourism and to new job opportunities for young people.

Mario Bentivenga

2018 April 26th, at 9:30

SESSION A - Study of the geoheritage

Italy is a country characterized by a high geodiversity because of its geological complexity and the relatively young geomorphological evolution.

Geodiversity, a poorly-known resource, has got an unexpressed potential for economic growth and allows defining many geosites (geomorphosites, urban geosites, geoarcheosites, etc.) that form together the geological heritage.

The aim of the session is to highlight the importance of a scientific approach when studying geosites in order to properly define their peculiarities. This approach must be followed during territorial planning for a proper process of geoconservation, valorisation and geological heritage management.

Chairman: prof. Giacomo Prosser – University of Basilicata

SESSION B - Geoheritage and landscape

The European Landscape Convention contains the following definition: "Landscape designates a part of territory, as perceived by populations, whose features derive from the action of natural and/or human factors and their interrelations." It is therefore of a great importance the geological history of an area and all those processes that over time have created the current scenery.

The natural matrix of the landscape has a major influence on both biotic and anthropic processes, which together characterize the dynamism of a particular area. In particular, in this session we want to give space to the description of the processes that create the different landscapes. Those processes and their effects are well showed in particular places such as the geosites.

Chairman: prof. Mauro Coltorti – University of Siena

SESSION C - Territorial planning and geoheritage

The territorial planning is a fundamental tool for implementing of geoconservation, more precisely for the protection of geosites, witnesses of the geologic history of our country and an inexhaustible resource for the entire community. The planning uses more frequently new technologies and simulation models based on geographic information. The opportunity to extract knowledge from geographic data places geological heritage in a modern perspective and inspires strategies for the development of a territory.

The goal of the session is therefore to put together all contributions on these topics, in order to share examples of good practices and guidelines to emulate.

Chairman: prof. Beniamino Murgante – University of Basilicata

2018 April 27th, at 9:30

SESSION D - Techniques for geological heritage enhancement

The exploitation of geosites is a natural evolution of their preservation. Geosites represent testimonies of our history and instruments to reflect on the relationship between man and environment. The establishment of geoparks and geoinitinerary, whose knowledge is favoured by modern media (web-GIS platforms, social media, etc.), is an evolutionary stage of community policies for development of natural and environmental resources. In this session we will discuss examples of geosites valorisation in protected and non-protected areas, talking about the different techniques adopted and the relative economic implications.

Chairman: prof. Gilberto Pambianchi – University of Camerino

SESSION E - Sustainable geotourism

Handing down the geological heritage to future generations and promoting the culture of the environment are goals that required sophisticated management strategies and techniques that are described by growing scientific literature. Education, information, dissemination and geotourism today can benefit of advanced technological support (multimedia, increased and virtual reality, etc.) that can spur scientific culture in a capillary way and attract visitors and tourists from all over the world. The session aims to point up the issues related to the management of geological heritage: an important resource could help sustainable tourism and economic and employment growth.

Chairman: prof. Giuseppe Mastronuzzi – University of Bari “A. Moro”