



# ProGEO

the european association for the  
conservation of the geological heritage



declaration  
Digne-les-Bains

Digne, 1991

## Declaration of the Rights of the Memory of the Earth

1. Planets, like people, have their own life history - they are born, they mature and die. For planets, as for people, each life history is unique: the time has come to recognise the uniqueness of the Earth.
2. Our planet, the Earth, is the only bond which unites all mankind. We are, each and everyone of us, linked to the Earth, and it is the link between us, and indeed all life
3. The Earth is 4.5 thousand million years old and the cradle of life; life which has undergone many metamorphoses and renewals through geological time. Its long evolution, and slow maturation, have shaped the environment in which we live.
4. Our history and the history of the Earth cannot be separated. Its origins are our origins, its history is our history and its future will be our future.
5. The surface of the Earth is our environment. This environment is different, not only from that of the past, but also from that of the future. We are the Earth's companions for the present, but are only transient, and with time we will pass.
6. Just as an ancient tree retains the record of its life and growth, the Earth retains memories of the past inscribed both in its depths and on its surface, in the rocks and in the landscape, a record which can be read and translated.
7. We have always been aware of the need to preserve our memories – our cultural heritage. Now the time has come to protect our natural heritage. The past of the Earth is no less important than that of Man. It is time for us to learn to protect this Earth heritage, and by doing so learn about the past of the Earth, to learn to read this 'book', the record in the rocks and the landscape, which was mostly written before our advent.
8. Man and the Earth share a common heritage, of which we and our governments are but the custodians. Each and every human-being should understand that the slightest damage could lead to irreversible losses for the future. In undertaking any form of development, we should respect the singularity of this heritage.
9. The participants of the First International Symposium on the Conservation of our Geological Heritage, including over 100 specialists from more than 30 nations, urgently request all national and international authorities to take into consideration and to protect this heritage, by all the legal, financial and organisational measures that may be necessary.