

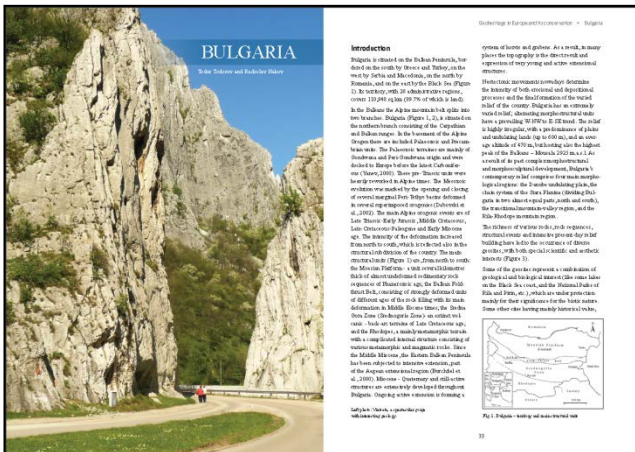
New book: Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation

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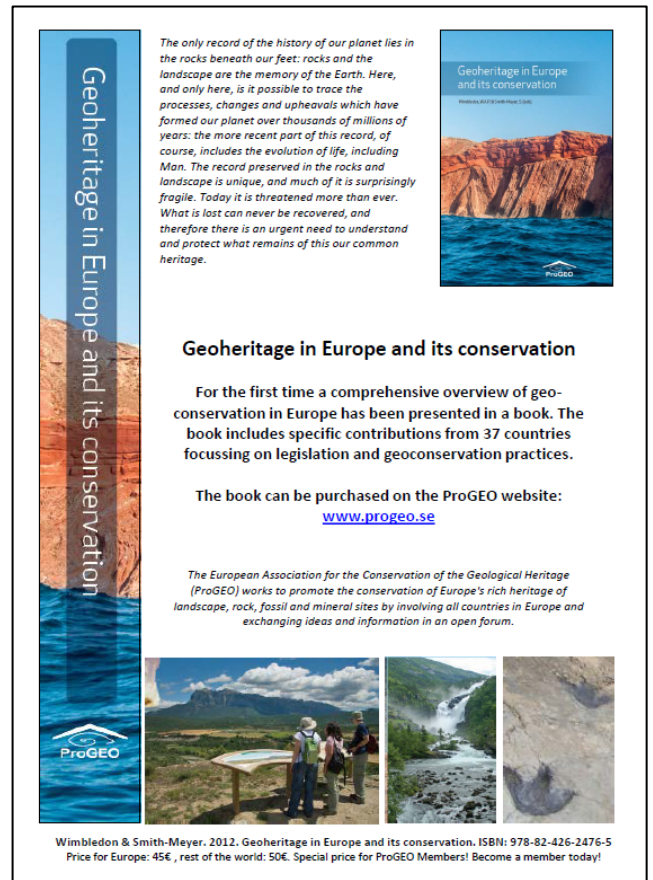
Europe is diverse in geology, landscapes, countries and history. The new ProGEO book, *Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation*, gives an overview of the different situations re geoconservation in Europe. It is the first time such an overview is produced.

The book has contributions from 37 countries. Each country has its own chapter of about 8 – 14 pages. Each chapter follows the same pattern and starts with a general introduction; a short overview of the most important geoheritage of that country and its history of geoconservation. These paragraphs are followed by a description of the geoconservation policies and strategies as well as the legal frameworks for protection.

ProGEO works to promote the conservation of Europe's rich heritage of landscapes, rocks, fossils and mineral sites by involving all countries in Europe, exchanging ideas and information in an open forum, and



Above a page from the Bulgarian contribution, below illustrations from the book cover and to the right, the flyer.



Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation

The only record of the history of our planet lies in the rocks beneath our feet: rocks and the landscape are the memory of the Earth. Here, and only here, is it possible to trace the processes, changes and upheavals which have formed our planet over thousands of millions of years: the more recent part of this record, of course, includes the evolution of life, including Man. The record preserved in the rocks and landscape is unique, and much of it is surprisingly fragile. Today it is threatened more than ever. What is lost can never be recovered, and therefore there is an urgent need to understand and protect what remains of this our common heritage.

Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation

For the first time a comprehensive overview of geoconservation in Europe has been presented in a book. The book includes specific contributions from 37 countries focussing on legislation and geoconservation practices.

The book can be purchased on the ProGEO website: www.progeo.se

The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (ProGEO) works to promote the conservation of Europe's rich heritage of landscape, rock, fossil and mineral sites by involving all countries in Europe and exchanging ideas and information in an open forum.

Wimbledon & Smith-Meyer. 2012. *Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation*. ISBN: 978-82-426-2476-5
Price for Europe: 45€, rest of the world: 50€. Special price for ProGEO Members! Become a member today!

taking a full part in conservation in a global setting, including the formulation of conventions and legislation. Europe is diverse both with respect to geology, landscape, countries and history. Geoconservation practices and legislations vary between the countries, but there is also a mutual basis for geoconservation throughout the continent. The book gives an updated overview of this variation. It describes how the management of geodiversity and the geological heritage is established in the different countries and gives also comments on lack of management and other challenges for geoconservation.

The book is dedicated to the late Dr. Gerard Gonggrijp of the Netherlands, who proposed the production of this book at the beginning of the 1990s. His early death prevented him to see the book become a reality. Gerard Gonggrijp also was one of the founders of "The Working Group for Earth Science Conservation", as ProGEO was called in the early days, and its first executive secretary. He thought the book would be an important product in achieving the ProGEO aims of

sharing information and that it could act as a source for inspiration for the different countries. The book is also dedicated to our first president George Black who has made his footprints visible in European geoconservation to the benefit for us all.

More information on ProGEO website: www.progeo.se. On the website you can order the book. NB! Special prize for ProGEO members and you will also find a flyer (see above) that can be used for information purposes.



Symposia 1.1 on Geoheritage, Geoparks and Geotourism

34th International Geological Congress, Brisbane, August 2012

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There was a total of some 6000 attendees at the 34th International Geological Congress (34th IGC) held in Brisbane, Australia in August. The Geoheritage, Geoparks, and the Geotourism subtheme was well attended by Geoheritage practitioners, educators, geoscientists, and those engaged in the geotourism industry, from across the globe. With sessions running over three full days, this was the biggest international gathering of geoscientists and those affiliated with the discipline of Geoheritage to meet both in Australia, and at any previous IGC. As such, it provided a unique opportunity to present the state of play in Geoheritage, the progress made in issues related to Geoconservation and Geoparks, and the advances in Geotourism.

In the Geoheritage, Geoparks, and the Geotourism sessions, convened by Bernie Joyce and José Brilha, there were a total of 44 oral presentations, which included Keynote presentations by Kevin Page (Plymouth University, the United Kingdom), Patrick McKeever (UNESCO), Ross Dowling (Edith Cowan University, Western Australia), and Jonathan Tourtellot (National Geographic), and 15 posters.

The final day of the Geoheritage, Geoparks, and the Geotourism sessions concluded with a session entitled Final discussion and plans for the future led by José Brilha.

The Convenors, Bernie Joyce and José Brilha, Margaret Brocx (National Convenor for Geoheritage, the Geological Society of Australia), Lars Erikstad (NINA and the Natural History Museum, Oslo, Norway), Bernie Joyce (Melbourne University, Victoria, Australia), Changxing Long (Global Geoparks Bureau, China), and Angus M Robinson (Leisure Solutions, New South Wales, Australia), are acknowledged for the major contribution that each of them made to the smooth running of the Symposia.

Manuscripts are being sought at present for a special volume of Geoheritage. A full Conference Report is being prepared by Ian Lewis (Kanawinka Geopark, Australia), and will be published in the journal Geoheritage in the near future.



From the opening ceremony of IGC 2012 in Brisbane. Photo from <http://www.34igc.org/gallery.php> with permission from IGC organizers.

News from ProGEO elections in Bari September 2012:

New ProGEO president: José Brilha

New executive committee:

- Lars Erikstad - Executive Secretary
- Sven Lundqvist - treasurer
- Hanneke van den Ancker
- Francesco Geremia
- Dusan Mijovic
- Radoslav Nakov
- Gunnel Ransed
- Rein Raudsep
- Irimi Theodossiou-Drandaki
- Jan Urban

Working group leaders meet in the committee as vice presidents together with past presidents.

The world's leading nature conservation organization incorporates geoconservation in its agenda

Enrique Díaz-Martínez, President of the Commission on Geoheritage of the Geological Society of Spain (SGE), Vicepresident of ProGEO
 Mail: e.diaz@igme.es

IUCN is gradually incorporating geoconservation into its agenda. It is a slow process, currently ongoing and hopefully with no stepping back!

We began with this process in 2008 with the incorporation of the Geological Society of Spain (SGE) as the first IUCN member explicitly promoting geoconservation within IUCN, and directly submitting a motion for approval at the IUCN General Assembly that same year in Barcelona (4th World Conservation Congress). The result was an official resolution calling for geoconservation-related events to take place at the next congress:

http://intranet.iucn.org/webfiles/doc/IUCNPolicy/Resolutions/2008_WCC_4/English/RES/res_4_040_conservation_of_geodiversity_and_geological_heritage.pdf

Some steps were taken in the following years. In late 2011, Hans Friedrich, director of the European Regional Office for IUCN, told me that IUCN would not include the geoconservation terminology and concepts into its 2013-2016 program unless there was an explicit resolution in that direction approved by IUCN's General Assembly at its next congress (South Korea, September 2012). The conclusion was simple: we needed to submit a motion at this upcoming IUCN congress asking for that change. So there we went! But funding in times of financial crisis does not come easy: none of the proponent organizations (Geological Society of Spain and ProGEO, both of them members of IUCN) could afford to send not even just one of their representatives.

The conclusion was obvious, and the joint effort of these two organizations, with some help from the Geological Survey of Spain (IGME), allowed to at least raise funds to pay for one person to go. The program of activities at the congress was intense, as there was also the compromise from the previous IUCN congress to organize events for the Forum of this 5th IUCN Congress.



Contacts with friends and colleagues are crucial for support of motions. Enrique Díaz (SGE and ProGEO) with José Courrau (Costa Rica and IUCN Secretariat).

Here is a brief summary of the work done:

- Thur. Sept. 6: Flights, registration, opening ceremony and reception.
- Fri. Sept. 7: Inauguration, mount poster for display, prepare presentations and notes for course.
- Sat. Sept. 8: Intensive course (Conservation Campus), meeting of members of Spanish Committee of IUCN to coordinate efforts in support of motions.
- Sun. Sept. 9: Write blog and press note, participate in workshops.
- Mon. Sept. 10: General assembly, poster session and more workshops. Inaugural meeting of WCPA Expert Group on Geoheritage.
- Tues. Sept. 11: General assembly, round table (Knowledge Cafe), poster session, contact group on motion 56.
- Wed. Sept. 12: Write review and summary of contact group conclusions, presentation of documentary film (Flysch, the whisper of the rocks), general assembly (until 10 pm).
- Thur. Sept. 13: Fieldtrip to Jeju Island Geopark, participation in local traditional festival.
- Fri. Sept. 14: General assembly (all day until midnight), voting of motion 56.
- Sat. Sept. 15: General assembly and closure of congress.
- Sun. Sept. 16: Return flights.



Poster presented at the congress, on how geodiversity underpins biodiversity. This project facilitated getting funds from the Geological Survey of Spain (IGME).

Hans Friedrich kindly supported our events at the congress and publicized them before the meeting:

http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/europe_at_the_congress/?10547/WORKSHOP-Contribution-of-geoconservation-to-nature-resilience

The bad news first: we had very low (and I mean it: LOW) participation in the events organized at the IUCN congress in Jeju (South Korea): 6 participants in the course, 1 in the round table and 0 in the documentary. And the worst thing is that this is taking place in a congress with more than 10,000 participants in the Forum and more than 1,000 participants in the General Assembly.

So, it is obvious that geoconservation is not in high demand (...yet) at the World Conservation Congress. The subject will take some time to enter the official paradigms of nature conservation, but we are getting there... and trying hard to improve the situation. We

must acknowledge that, for too many people in our societies, geoconservation is an unknown subject. That is why most of us dedicate so much time to public outreach, geoheritage interpretation and dissemination to general public of all ages and backgrounds, as well as politicians and administrators involved in decision-making.

The good news is that our motion was approved at the last congress of IUCN in Korea and adopted as a resolution:

<http://portals.iucn.org/2012motions/?q=node/462>

Here is a brief article published during the congress:

http://iucnworldconservationcongress.org/news__press/interviews/?11023/Geodiversity-makes-its-debut

"Geodiversity makes its debut at the Congress Forum!

11 September 2012

For the first time an IUCN Congress Forum is addressing geoconservation action taken towards the proper management and conservation of geodiversity and geoheritage, that is, the non-biological side of our natural diversity."

The key operating statements in the resolution are:

- to ensure that, when reference is made in the IUCN Programme 2013-2016 to nature in general, preference be given to inclusive terms like nature, natural diversity or natural heritage, so that geodiversity and geoheritage are not excluded,

- to initiate a discussion in the regions on the conservation and management of geodiversity and geoheritage, in collaboration with IUCN members and other organizations, in the spirit of the abovementioned request and with the view to giving consideration to this issue for the next intersessional programme,

- to promote and support local socioeconomic development initiatives, such as UNESCO Geoparks, based on the sustainable use of geoheritage, including the proper management of geoheritage in protected areas, and

- to promote and support, in collaboration with UNESCO and IUGS, the elaboration and extension of the inventory for the Global Geosites Programme, as well as other regional and international inventories of sites of geologic interest.



Members of the Spanish IUCN Committee at the congress. Support from as many IUCN members is welcome for motion approval, and these groups are a good source.

All these new working principles officially approved by IUCN can now be used by all those working towards geoconservation in their own territories, as these resolutions affect ALL members of IUCN, and most national governments are members of IUCN through their environment or nature-related administrations (ministries, agencies, etc.). The preliminary principles stated in the resolution are also key to understand the background and support initiatives at each country.

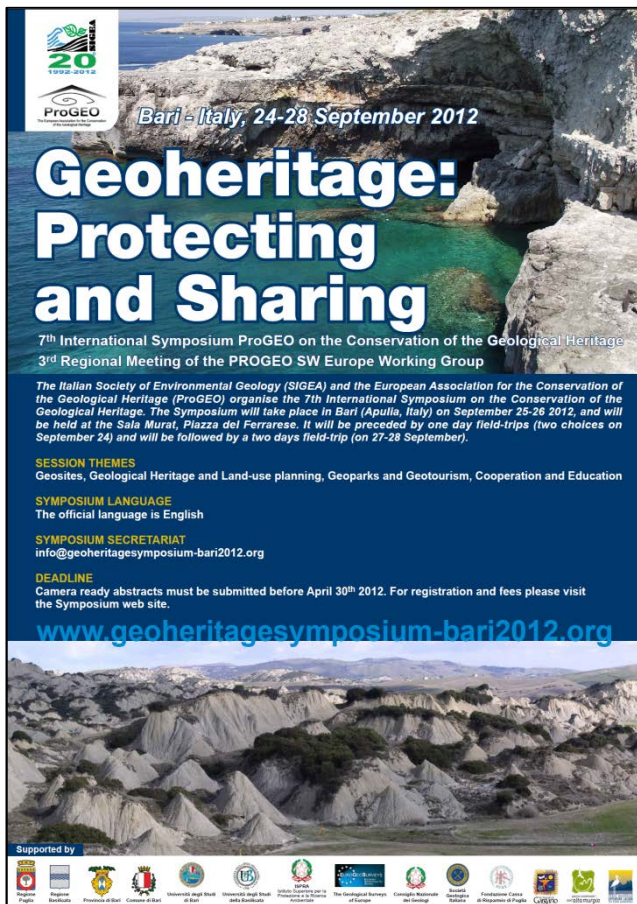
The SGE, ProGEO, and now also IUCN, want to support all efforts towards geoconservation. So please contact us for information and help towards these objectives."

I should not finish without thanking all those who collaborated with the motion and the development of the events at the congress, providing material for the intensive course, participating in the round table, and helping with the whole process. Good memory is certainly not one of my qualities, so bear with me if I am not exhaustive. In Spain this included Manu Monge (Basque government), Nadia Herrero (Catalonian government), Paco Guillén (University of Murcia), Carlos Santisteban (University of Valencia), Ana Crespo (University of Granada), and Ángel García-Cortés, Luis Carcavilla, Juana Vegas and Ángel Salazar (IGME), all of them members of SGE, as well as colleagues in SEO-Birdlife (Juan Carlos Atienza and David Howell), DEPANA (Puri Canals), Ministry of Environment, and Spanish Committee for IUCN (Carlos Sánchez and Inés

López). Also crucial were Lars Erikstad (NINA of Norway), Keijo Nenonen (GTK of Finland), Tim Badman, Graeme Warboys and José Courrau (WCPA of IUCN), Andrés Alcántara (IUCN-Med), Eladio Fernández-Galiano (Council of Europe), Kyung Sik Woo (University of Korea), Patrick McKeever (Earth Sciences at UNESCO) and Roger Crofts.



Participants in the round table before the "public" arrived.



VII International Symposium ProGEO on the conservation of the geological heritage - “Geoheritage: Protecting and Sharing”

Bari (Apulia, Italy) from 24th to 28th September 2012

Professionals, researchers and students dealing with geoconservation, geotourism, education, land-use planning and other topics related to the theme of “Protecting and Sharing the Geological Heritage” met at Bari (Apulia, Italy) from 24th to 28th September 2012 for the seventh International Symposium ProGEO on the Conservation of the geological heritage.

The meeting was promoted by SIGEA (The Italian Society of Environmental Geology) and ProGEO (the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage). It was structured in a plenary session and four thematic sessions on:

Geosites, the recent developments in geodiversity assessment methodologies and geosites inventories in



From the opening session

Europe and, also, to discuss the legal framework supporting geoconservation strategies;

Geological heritage and land-use planning, land-use planning, threats and constraints and to promote the best practices and lessons learned in regional and local land use planning;

Geoparks and Geotourism, to encourage a possible convergence between geoconservation and geotourism and to discuss sustainable management policies and geosites exploitation within geoparks;

Cooperation and Education, international cooperation and local initiatives for the education and divulgation of science and to establish links between geoconservation specialists, mainly in Mediterranean area.

Important contributions was presented by Luca Demicheli (EuroGeoSurveys General Secretary) on boosting the EU economy: geology and the tourism sector, Patrick De Wever (IUGS GeoHeritage Working Group Coordinator, Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, France) on the Geoheritage in France from inventory to geotourism, Mario Panizza (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) on Geoheritage and Geodiversity: concepts, methods, examples and management and Cristina Giovagnoli (ISPRA, Italy) on the “Geositi” project: an inventory for promoting a better knowledge of Italian geological heritage, Lars Erikstad (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway) on Geoconservation in land use planning, Francesco Geremia (SIGEA, Italy) on the role of the Environmental Geology in the development of Geoconservation management strategies, Gianvito Graziano (President of National Council of Geologists in Italy) on valorization of geological heritage: which opportunities for geologists, José Brilha (University of Minho, Portugal) on geoconservation education, research and outreach: the experience of the University of Minho and Alexandru Andresanu



From the lunch and poster area

(University of Bucharest, Romania) on learning earth science outside the classroom.

For more information, please visit the web page: <http://www.geoheritagesymposium-bari2012.org>

Evidently, most of the participants were from Italy, but a significant presence of participants was coming from Portugal. It was probably around 140 participants registered with a total of 90 presentations (55 posters and 35 oral communications) from a variety of European Countries, mainly from Eastern Europe.

During the International Symposium, the General Assembly of ProGEO and the third meeting of ProGEO Regional Working for SW Europe took place in Bari (Italy) on September 26th, 2012. The last one was very informal sharing and up-to-date of information on current research in geoconservation (e.g. geosites assessment, classification, mapping, management and legislation).



The conference dinner participants

International Information Session: State of the Art in the Discipline of Geoheritage - facilitated by the Geological Society of Australia

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On the 8th of August 2012 during the 34th International Geological Congress week in Brisbane, Australia, the Geological Society of Australia facilitated an international information session at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), entitled: State of the Art in the Discipline of Geoheritage. The session attracted 22 geoscientists from around the world who practice in the arena of Geoheritage, Norway, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Iran, Portugal, Uganda, Romania, the United States of America, and across Australia. The event was sponsored by the GSA Inc, the GSA (Qld Division), and Queensland University of Technology. A brief summary of this historic event follows.

Dr Laurie Hutton, the 2012 incoming GSA President, gave the opening welcome, followed by presentations by Dr Lars Erikstad, (Executive Secretary, ProGEO, Natural History Museum, Oslo, Norway, and Institute of Nature Research, Norway), A/Professor Jose Brilha (University of Minho, Portugal), and Dr Kevin Page (Plymouth University, UK).

Lars Erikstad spoke on the importance of raising the level of awareness of the values associated with geology and their link to national pride. Lars emphasised that it was important to recognize that geoheritage was diverse in scope and scale, ranging from minerals and fossils to landscapes in size. In addition, while there were different levels of significance attributed to Geoheritage, and where there were geological attributes that gave a site national significance, for example, the Silurian Rocks around Oslo. Other geoelements such as glacial erratics, which were common throughout Norway, although not normally valued at a national level, needed to be conserved as a component of the everyday landscape as a part of the geological history that give the area its geological significance.

José Brilha gave a global overview on the goals and objectives of geoparks and how they are organized under a Global Geoparks Network (GGN), assisted by UNESCO. China currently has 140 national geoparks, 36 of them included in GGN, the largest representation of a country. José emphasized that it was important to have a national agenda for geoparks, and stressed the importance of local support for the implementation and management of geoparks.

One advantage of a geopark is that it is not a protected area, so it does not carry some of the constraints that a designated protected area might carry. Geoparks are an innovative tool to promote a holistic territorial management, based on geological heritage but integrating all other natural and cultural assets of the territory. Comments made included the fact that Geoparks were important in community-building, and were also an important resource as an outdoor classroom for school children and for informal education addressed to general public.

Kevin Page spoke on the Challenges in the Conservation of Palaeontological Heritage and the importance of addressing the loss or damage to our fossil sites used for science and education. Fossil sites are also often used as tourist destinations and some are exploited for both private collection and commercial sale. Kevin stressed the importance of scientifically-informed geoconservation for addressing the potential problems which can be caused by these types of activity. Crucially, any steps taken to safeguard the scientific integrity of site should not unnecessarily inhibit use by educational and amateur groups whose contributions to geoscience can be quite significant, if appropriately directed. He also stressed that the development of geo-educational and geo-touristic facilities in the form of geoparks (*sensu largo*) and museum-based initiatives should not be confused with the development of systematic inventories to inform the selection and protection of representative, legally protected conservation sites. These are quite different activities and only the latter is truly an aspect of heritage conservation – although both processes can of course still run in parallel.



Group photograph of some of the attendees at the GSA Session

YES Network Women in Geosciences Roundtable

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Was held Thursday August 9, 2012 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Center during the IGC 2012. Conveners: was:

- * Tiffany A. Rivera, Roskilde University, Denmark
- * Ndivhuwo Cecilia Mukosi, Council for Geoscience, Limpopo South Africa
- * Joanne Venus, University of Leeds, United Kingdom, YES Network President 2010-2012
- * Ezzoura Errami, Africa Association of Women Geoscientists, Chouaib Doukkali University, Morocco

Keynote Speakers:

- * Kerstin Lehnert, Director of Integrated Earth Data Applications, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, United States
- * Margaret Brocx, Standing Committee for Geological Heritage, Geoheritage, Geological Society of Australia
- * Joanne Venus, University of Leeds, United Kingdom, YES Network President 2010-2012

Summary

Approximately 25 women (and 1 man) attended the Women in Geosciences Roundtable in person and 3

were present virtually.

Kerstin Lehnert presented the “scissor diagram” and other statistics that show men advancing their careers, while the percentage of women in science slowly declines from the time of receiving the first degree. Kerstin continued her presentation by describing her path to a career in geoscience, and especially the influence and support of her mother. Kerstin made it clear that the support from her family, particularly following the birth of her first child, played a substantial role to her success. After several years of caring for her child, and not focusing on her PhD, Kerstin returned to her studies. This decision came easily to her because of the motivation from her supervisors and mentors at her new job as a technician at the Max-Planck-Institute. Upon completing her PhD, she moved from her native country of Germany to the United States, where she began a career in geoinformatics at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Kerstin concluded her talk by summarizing her influences: parents, teachers, society and culture, and love. She encouraged the workshop participants to believe in themselves, take risks, find a mentor, and become engaged in the community.

Margaret Brocx spoke about how, as a first generation Australian, she became an Earth Scientist. While interested in choosing geology as a career, as a high school student, Margaret was discouraged from pursuing the geosciences because at that time, it was con-



Group Photograph taken after the Roundtable Discussion

sidered to be a male-dominated career involving remote work. Initially studying and working as a microbiologist, after more than a decade in this vocation, she resigned from her University position, and pursued postgraduate studies and a career in the Earth Sciences. Margaret stressed that while raising young children, that there are opportunities for becoming involved in Community Science, and gave examples of areas that she was involved in. Margaret explained that involvement in community groups is not only rewarding, but fills what would otherwise be a gap in Curriculum Vitae. Margaret is now one of the key global players in geoheritage and geoconservation. She emphasized (and advised) those present that women in science should be themselves, and to follow to their heart, even if it leads them to areas, and a career path, that is not mainstream.

Joanne Venus detailed her role with the YES Network both as President and serving on the Executive Committee. She continued to describe several statistics of women currently involved in the YES Network, particularly in leadership roles. Jo then described her experiences prior to becoming a geologist, and how she was influenced by her environment to pursue a degree that she did not desire. Once she set her sights on a geology degree, Jo worked diligently to obtain her degree and then a position with the British Geological Survey. After some time, she decided to pursue a PhD and talked about being a woman conducting extensive fieldwork. She also reminded the participants to engage in activities that interest them outside of geology, for instance, Jo is a competitive marathoner. Jo left us with some thought-provoking questions that led into the discussion portion of the roundtable, which was based around the perception of women in science.

The discussion portion of the roundtable, which lasted for about one hour, began by first watching and then discussing the EU-produced video "Science: It's a Girl Thing!"

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g032MPsJfA>

- a video which was created with the intention of recruiting women to science. The general consensus was that this video did not convey a positive message and that it came with female prejudices. The discussion turned to how women can become leaders in science. Some advice that was given was to volunteer on committees (national or international), and also to make these leadership possibilities for oneself by, for example, starting a local chapter at your university or a larger organization. The discussion took many turns to various topics through the remainder of the time, but the one piece of advice that kept recurring was "Be Yourself!"

Going forward, there were two areas that we felt the YES Network could make a contribution. First, it was noticed that the 34th IGC did not offer any child care for the conference attendees. Both mothers and fathers were often seen looking after their children within the conference center, perhaps while the other spouse was attending a talk. We believe that this is an opportunity for the YES Network to become involved.

At the next YES Network Congress that is held in cooperation with a large geologic meeting, YES Network members could qualify for a discount on child care at the conference venue by attending at least one YES Network event. This would allow for greater participation by YES Network members, as well as encourage families/parents to attend the conference. This type of activity would need to be organized in conjunction with the conference center and possible with a local child care organization.

The second area where the YES Network could be instrumental in supporting women in geosciences is by providing a mentoring system. Although details on this program were not discussed, this type of program has been successful within other organizations. The benefits are two-fold: YES Network members would receive essential mentoring from 'senior' women in geosciences and the YES Network could grow its membership and international network by offering this type of program. We are currently seeking volunteers for 1) YES Network Women in Geosciences Mentoring Program Coordinator; 2) Mentors; and 3) YES Network members interested in being paired with a mentor.

Thanks were extended to all who participated and contributed to the success of the Women in Geosciences Roundtable!

Contact for the mentoring program:

- **Jamie Arthur** (Arthur.jamie@gmail.com).

Deadline next issue of ProGEO NEWS: December 20th 2012

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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