



Fig. 1. The glint at lake Ilmen

## Ilmenskiy Glint: a valuable geosite under threat

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The Ilmenskiy Glint is a picturesque and multicoloured precipice, extending for 8 km along the south-western shore of Lake Ilmen (Novgorod Region). It is the best exposure of Upper Devonian deposits on the Russian Platform. The rock wall is in average 10m high, with vertical or nearly vertical slopes (Fig.1). The exposed deposits are composed of limestone, dolomite, clay and sandstone, including numerous fossils, such as brachiopods, gastropods, molluscs as well as bone fragments of fishes, shells of charophytes algae.

The glint is most expressive and scenic in its eastern part, where one can see clear alternations of multicoloured terrigenous-carbonate layers in the colours of blue-green, red and yellow-brown on the vertical walls (Fig. 2). In some places one can observe dislocations, caused by influence of a glacier, dated back to 200 000 years BP (Fig.3).

The glint is also of interest in terms of paleoecology, because it is possible not only to observe marine, lagoon and continental series, but also to study the paleoclimate of the region in Late Devonian time. In addition, there are fresh and mineral springs with medical characteristic in the glint area.



*Fig.2. Lower Frasnian deposits*

The Ilmenskiy Glint has been known as a target explored by many researchers since the 18th century. Russian academician I. Leman (1719-1767) was the first, who described it. In 1849, the famous English scientist R. Murchinson described and determined many fossil species there.

The geosite attracts attention not only a lot of specialists but also schoolchildren, students and tourists. It is the place of field geological training for students of the Saint-Petersburg State Mining Institute.

Taking into account the high scientific and educational significance of the Ilmenskiy Glint, the geosite was assigned the official status of the regional significance nature monument in 1977. According to the RF Law "On Specially Protected Nature Areas" (1995) any activity in the nature monument which could change and destroy a geosite is forbidden. However, rules of protection are constantly violated.

Russian geological community has found out that active sale of real property and smoothing of the territory take place today. In addition a large tourist centre is planned to be constructed in the vicinity of the geosite. A rich soil layer has already been stripped off and removed and has resulted in the damage of the geological exposures (Fig.4).

Construction near the geosite can hasten landslide activity and gradually destroy the glint, and this is a violation of the law. Members of the public organization "Ecology" believe that the main reasons of the present critical situation in the area of the nature monument "Ilmenskiy Glint" are:

1. Borders of the protected area are not indicated in the nature monument's documentation (passport).



*Fig.3. Dislocations of the Lower Frasnian deposits by glacier*



*Fig.4. Talus of the glint deposits*

2. The RF Law “On Specially Protected Nature Areas” (1995) has a low status in the region and rules and regulations are poorly observed.

3. The lack of sufficient information for local population concerning the significance and irreplaceability of geosites.

4. Shortage of high-skilled specialists among employees of the Committee for Environmental Protection of the region.

5. Insufficient financial support for protection of nature monuments or for nature monument protection in the region.

Different public and scientific organizations (Novgorod club “Ecology”, Russian ProGEO group, Paleontological Society of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg State Mining Institute, Novgorod State University) have repeatedly communicated to the mass media, the Governor of the Novgorod Region

and the public prosecutor of the region to prevent the violation of the law as regards the legal protection of the “Ilmenskiy Glint” nature monument of regional significance.

Marina Vdovets has sent a letter to the Governor of the Novgorod Region on behalf of ProGEO with the request to take necessary measures for the conservation of the Ilmenskiy Glint as a valuable geosite of scientific and educational importance not only of the Novgorod Region, but Russia as a whole.

All these efforts have suspended the construction activities in the area of the Ilmenskiy Glint, but the struggle for the conservation of this important geosite must continue. At present, necessary documents are being prepared aimed at changing the status of the geosite to the federal significance nature monument. It could help to improve and strengthen the protection and conservation of the geosite.

## GEOTOP 2010, The 6th International Symposium on Conservation of Geological Heritage, Hagen, Germany, 29th May – 2nd June 2010.

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The Ruhr Area GeoPark was established in 2004 and became integrated in Germany's national network of Geoparks in 2006. This combined with the area's status as the European Capital of Culture for 2010, made Hagen, at its core, an ideal location to hold ProGEO's 6th International Symposium on Conservation of Geological Heritage in parallel with the 14th Annual

Meeting of the German Society for Geosciences.

The region around Hagen has a rich geological heritage – most famously linked to a cultural heritage of coal mining. But below and above the Carboniferous rocks are more geological highlights, including classic marine Devonian sequences with a Devonian-Carboniferous boundary stratotype and the clastic-dominated Upper Cretaceous sequences of the Münster basin - something quite different from the limestone-dominated sequences of the same age so widespread elsewhere in Europe.

This bedrock and its Quaternary evolution formed the context for a range of pre and post-symposium excursions where aspects of both geoscience and its presentation to a general public were key themes. Not surprisingly, however, strong links to cultural heritage, and especially industrial heritage, were presented during many visits, as in an area like the Ruhr, geology and



*Prof. Mutterlose, Bochum University, explains the geology of the Münster basin by means of an information panel atop the "Bismarck Tower" near Unna.*



*Dr. Wrede, head of the Ruhr Area National Geo-Park, leading the field trip to the carboniferous in the Ruhr Valley.*

society have been inexorably linked for hundreds of years, if not longer.

The main themes of the conference itself, which took place in the modern Stadthalle Conference Centre in Hagen, were “Geosites: resources for the Public” and “Palaeontology and Conservation of Geosites” and many interested perspectives were presented.

Unfortunately the global economic crisis and a bizarre excess of ‘rival’ geological meetings in 2010, inhibited some international participation in Geotop 2010 - but nevertheless, the Hagen meeting provided a fascinating and instructive insight into the nature of geological heritage conservation in Germany today.

Two key aspects of the latter became clear very quickly indeed. Firstly, federalisation of Germany has meant that almost every state has a different set of laws and principles governing the management of its geological heritage. These vary, for instance, from strong restrictions on collecting specimens to more open and, perhaps, more educationally-friendly (even more democratic) approaches.

Secondly, the establishment of the German National Network of Geoparks provides both an approval sys-

tem and support network for a wide range of geological parks of different sizes.

A major benefit of the latter system is that it is independent of the somewhat elitist European Geoparks Network with its quotas on entry and high-cost implications for maintaining membership – in short, more money can remain available in National Geoparks for site-based educational and scientific work – including employment (and this is a factor which is going to become more and more significant as budgetary cuts bite as governments cut public spending).

The Conference abstracts and field-trip guides were solidly published as Volume 66 of the Schriftenreihe der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften and hopefully many will ultimately be developed as papers for ProGEO’s Geoheritage journal.

Many thanks to Volker Wrede and colleagues in the GeoPark Ruhrgebiet e.V. for organising this excellent meeting and to the Department of the Environment of the City of Hagen and Hagen Touristik for their support.

## KOSOVO CAVES

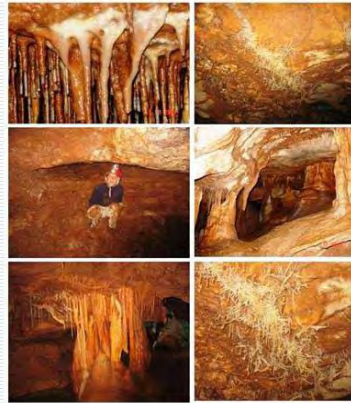
Fadil Bajraktari & Rizah Hajdari, ProGEO-Kosova  
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As the only organization that deals with geo-heritage values protection and conservation in Kosovo, ProGEO-Kosova has produced the booklet "Kosovo Caves" that is financially supported by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (SOROS).

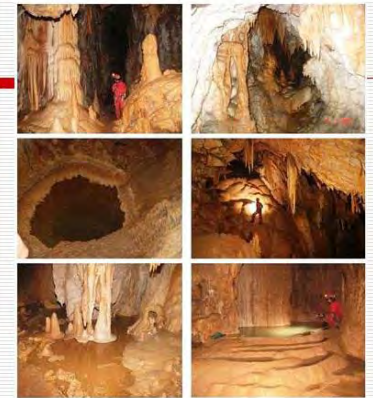
The booklet has 66 pages in total and it is illustrated with pictures from caves in Kosovo. This booklet includes 14 of Kosovo's caves, their geologic structure, and briefly describes the geo-morphologic, scientific, educative and tourist values. The booklet includes also figures on the caves as well as a map that shows the caves locations. Edition of this monograph from ProGEO-Kosova on "Kosovo Caves" is appreciated by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Tourist Department, Department of Geology, Department of Geography, environmental nongovernmental organizations, and others interested on nature protection.

In order to contribute in raising awareness of a wider public on the importance and values of geo-heritage, on 23/07/2010, ProGEO-Kosova has organized a roundtable with the subject "Caves, their state and management". This activity aroused interest of national

Cave in Gadime

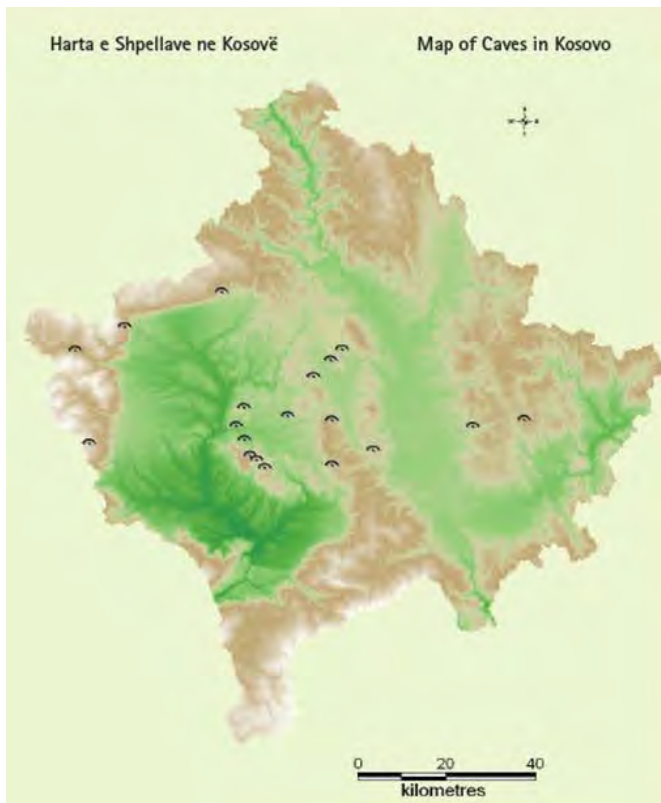


The Grand Canyon Cave



and local governmental institutions, media, environmental associations, resulting in a large number of participants. All participants actively participated in the roundtable and produced conclusions and recommendations that are to be submitted to the governmental institutions at both local and national level.

We expect that the roundtable as well as the booklet will help the institutions to understand the need to professionally address the caves management, and that all other stakeholders to continuing the commitment for further promotion of geo-heritage values of Kosovo



*List of evidenced caves in Kosovo*

Nr.	Cave's name	Protection status	Altitude	Municipality
1	Cave in Gadime	Protected	580 m	Lypjan
2	Cave in Radave	Protected	578 m	Pejë
3	Cave in Baicë	Protected	708 m	Drenas
4	Cave in Gllaneselle	Protected	740 m	Drenas
5	Cave in Kishnareke	Protected	654 m	Drenas
6	Grand Canyon Cave	Within the protected area of Rugova Canyon	637 m	Pejë
7	Cave in Panore	Proposed for protection	581 m	Malishevë
8	Cave in Dush	Within the protected area of Nature Regional Park of Mirusha	516 m	Klinë
9	Bozhuri Cave	Proposed for protection	528 m	Malishevë
10	Cave in Lladroviq	Proposed for protection	757 m	Malishevë
11	Cave at the last lake of Mirusha River Canyon	Within the protected area of Nature Regional Park of Mirusha	370 m	Malishevë
12	Kusari Cave	Proposed for protection	490 m	Gjakovë
13	Cave in Uçë	No status	—	Istog
14	Cave in Bresallc	No status	—	Gjilan
15	Peahteri Cave in Zatriq	No status	770 m	Rahovec
16	Endless Cave in Zatriq	No status	849 m	Rahovec
17	Azem Bejta Cave	No status	612 m	Klinë
18	Black scissors Cave	No status	562 m	Pejë
19	Cave in Pjetershtic	Proposed for protection	681 m	Shtime

## New book: Geoconservation – concept and terms by Nizamettin Kazancı

Prof. Dr. Hulya Inaner, [hulya.inaner@deu.edu.tr](mailto:hulya.inaner@deu.edu.tr)

The book is published by JEMİRKO (the Turkish association for the conservation of the geological heritage and is a Contribution to the Year of Planet Earth

The book is a result of geological heritage works in Turkey. Before starting to review the book, it is right to congratulate the author who is from University of Ankara and the chairman of the Turkish Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (JEMİRKO), formed in 2000 as the Turkish representative of the

European Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGEO).

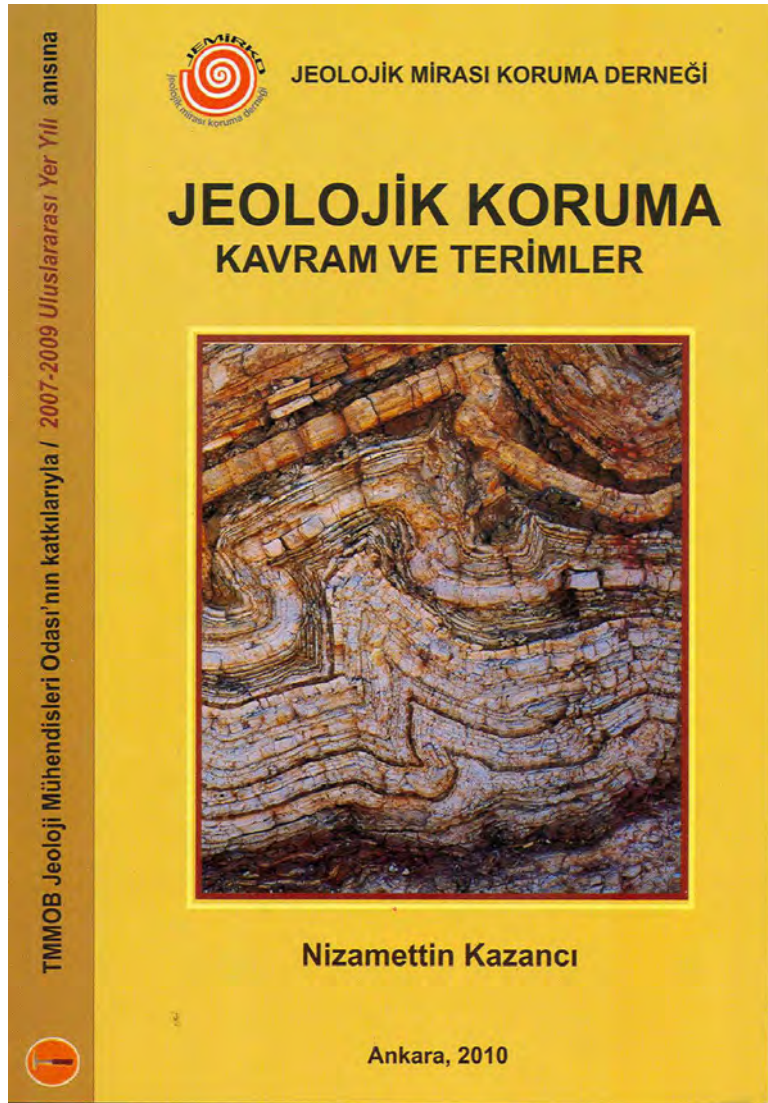
The author of the book, Prof. Dr. Nizamettin Kazancı is vice president of ProGEO and representative and coordinator of the Southeastern European Working Group 1 (ProGEO-WG1). JEMİRKO is involved in the subject in order to investigate the typical localities, geological units pertaining to sight, excellent representatives of very well-known events or processes, very rare observed geologic components as part of the geological heritage that needs to be conserved. These can be fossil beds, tectonic structures, typical sections, geographical shapes, minerals, ores, rocks etc.

These sites are necessary for learning about the Earth itself and develop the earth-sciences on all levels. Every geologic unit destroyed is taking away a piece of the geologic evolution of our Earth and makes us poorer both with respect to common experience and science.

JEMİRKO invites all the earth-scientists to activate the potential and strengthen the conscious of the geological heritage. The book will be made available on the website of JEMİRKO for the people who would be interested in this subject, forming a bridge between the scientific world and the public in general. Therefore the publication of the book is a very important event for geoconservation in Turkey.

This is the first book on geoconservation in Turkish. For international readers it lacks English translations, but it will be an important tool for members of JEMİRKO which has many members among geographers, geologists, geophysicists, geomorphologists, miners etc. The book's 60 pages contain 40 terms explaining the Turkish meaning of the terms and 46 illustrations describing geoconservation and geosite issues. It will be valuable of all geoconservationists and will also be a useful reference for students at different levels. We must also hope it finds its way to the general public to increase the awareness of the planet earth.

The book "JEOLJİK KORUMA KAVRAM VE TERİMLER" is a well-illustrated, easy readable volume. The colorful photographs explain the terms very clearly and understandable. I recommend it strongly for every individual and institutional library and also for the interested public.



Cover Illustration: Folds of gypsum bearing of Neogene lake sediment (Manyas-Balıkesir)

## ProGEO-Albania: activities 2009-2010

Afat SERJANI

ProGEO-Albania was founded on December 1997 as a non government association, and as a Branch of ProGEO. Since the foundation ProGEO-Albania have worked with many projects, studies, presentations and activities concerning geological sites (both nature conservation and geotourism). In collaboration and by financial support of Geological Survey of Albania there is compiled some important studies:

- The first study on geological sites of Albania
- The book: Geological Heritage and Geotourism in Albania, in both Albanian and English and a Geotourist Map of Albania in scale 1: 500. 000, supported by UNESCO.
- A book on Cultural and Natural heritage for medium schools by Merita Dollma is published.

Last year, ProGEO-Albania lost its first Chairman, Teki BIÇOKU (Chairman from 1997-2005). He died at the age 83, on November 20, 2009. For a long period he has was General Director of the Geological Survey of Albania, and in the last years, Chairman of the Academy of Sciences of Albania.

The popularity and interest for ProGEO membership it is growing between geoscientist and students, especially last two years. In 2008 ProGEO-Albania had 25 members, in 2009 30 members, and this year there are 45 members (of them 15 students). They are working in Geological Survey of Albania, in Institute of Geosciences of Albania, in Tirana University (Geographical Faculty) and in the Academy of sciences.

During the last years the activities of ProGEO-Albania have been coordinated with IYPE (International Year of Planet Earth).

According the idea and proposition of Gerard G. Gonggrijp, geotrips is arranged every year. Many of these has previously been reported in ProGEO NEWS.



*Prof. Dr. Academician Teki BIÇOKU  
(06.05.1926 - 20.11.2009)*



*ProGEO-Albania and ProGEO-Kosova participants of geotrip-2009, in Valbona Mountainous Amphitheater.*



*Limestone outcrops in Kelmeni Highland*

Another important document which inspires us to undertake new initiatives is the Resolution of the last IUCN Congress in Barcelona (October 2008) where geodiversity was identified as an object for out for consideration and protection besides biodiversity: "... That geodiversity is a crucial factor conditioning biology, culture and landscape in their multiple forms and that geological aspect of high value must be preserved for future generations...".

Cooperation with the ProGEO-Kosovo is also important and in 2009 a common geotrip was arranged.



## The ProGEO Executive committee elected by the ProGEO Council at the Hagen Conference 2010:

Gerardo Brancucci (Italy)  
José Brilha (Portugal)  
Lars Erikstad (Norway, Executive Secretary)  
Sven Lundqvist (Sweden, Treasurer)  
Dusan Mijovic (Serbia)  
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Jan Urban (Poland)  
Enrique Díaz-Martínez (Spain)

### President (elected at the Rab conference 2008):

W.A.P. Wimbledon (United Kingdom)



The highest peaks by carbonate rocks around Valbona Valley (Photo: Afat SERJANI)

## Deadline next issue of ProGEO NEWS: Desember 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

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 after ½ year:

[www.progeo.se](http://www.progeo.se)

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

[lars.erikstad@nina.no](mailto:lars.erikstad@nina.no)

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