ProGEO NEWS

No.1 http://www.sgu.se/hotell/progeo/ 2002

"Flower's Glacial Lake". Photo: Denis Mani.

Lura Geopark Albania

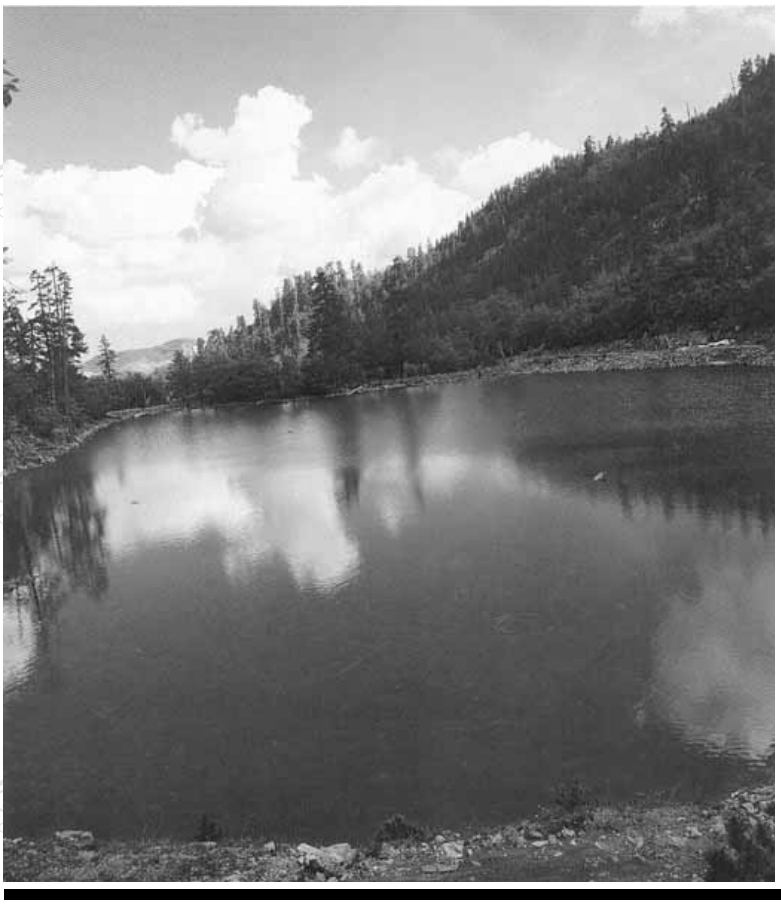
In the western part of the Dibra district, bordering the Mirdita region, we find the Lura-Deja mountan chain. The Lura Mountain reaches 2121m.a.s.l. and due to the landscape characteristics it is known as "Kunora e Lures" (Lura Wreath). On the eastern slope of Kunora e Lures we find the Lura National Park, established by a decision of the Council of Ministers of Albania in 1966. The park has a surface of 1300 Ha and average altitude of about 1350m.a.s.l. From the Krej-Lura village in the north up to the Pela peak in the south there is a coniferous forest consisting mainly of pine. This forest covers a wide belt at the altitude intervals of 1200-1800m.a.s.l. to the west of the Fushe Lura, Borie Lura and Gurra Lura villages.

In this belt of beautiful pine trees we can find many glacial lakes. In the Lura mountainous region many traces of glacial activity of the Wurm glacial period are preserved. 12 glacial lakes, several moraines and complex cirques, erosion ridges, passes, gorges and river canyons are registered here. The Lura landscape fashioned by geology of special scientific importance, especially by stratified ultrabasic

rocks, amphibolites and regional faults as well as the glacial features listed above, is one of the most interesting geoparks of virgin ecosystem, offering a unique diversity of natural attraction.

The Lura Ecosystem consists of the Lura mountain forest which is famous all over Albania. The most widespread trees in this forest is beech *(Fagus silvatica*), which begins from 900-1000m above the sea level up to the most upper level of the forest (1900-2000m). At the altitudes of Nezhda e Lures (1600-1700m) black Pine *(Pinus nigra)* are predominant, while at the most upper levels (1700-2000m) separate trees of *Red Pine (Pinus heldreichii, P. Leucodermis)* and *White Pine (Pinus peuce Griseb)* are found even on rocky slopes.

The *beech* and *white fir* (*Albis alba Mill)* are predominant on the eastern slopes, while *black pine* is predominant on the western slopes of Kunora e Lures-Deja chain. Some *beech trees* of secular age are of very thick pillar. At altitudes of 1900-2100m alpine pastures are found and in the glacial lakes *higrofile plants* such as *Water-lily (Nymphanea alba L.)* grow with big, white flowers, which during summer time covers almost all the lake surface.



"Black Glacial Lake". Photo: Denis Mani.

In the Lura forest up to the very resent years there are registered a wide variety of wild animals and birds such as the brown bear *(Ursus arctos), (Lynx lynx), (Martes martes L.),* roebuck *(Capreolus capreolus L.)* and heath cock *(Tetrao urogallas L.).* In the lakes amphibians *(Triturus vulgaris and T. cristatus)* are found.

The Lura National Park is characterized by mountainous alpine climate with cool summers and cold winters. Average temperature is 7,7 ^{o}. Total amount of precipitation is 1482 mm/year. Thickness of snow in winter is normally 1-1,5m., rarely up to 2m. at the highest levels of Kunora e Lures.

Geological framework of the Lura geosystem. The Lura forest and nice glacial remains lies in the Lura ultrabasic massif (Mirdita tectonic zone), constituted by harzburgite and dunite-harzburgite rocks. They are clearly stratified as result of primary crystallization of ultrabasic fusion, dipping to the east with high angles (from 40 ^{o} up to 70 ^{o}). Some chromite ore bodies are found as well. At the bottom of the ultrabasic rocks to the west of the Gurra Lura village amphibolites crop out as sequences of the bottom of ophiolites, representing rare phenomenon similar to the Omann outcrops. The Lura ultrabasic massif to the east contacts with limestones of the Korabi tectonic zone through a regional fault. The limestones are of a Upper Triassic-Lower Jurassic age, and contain *megalodonts, stromatolites*, thin *radiolarite* siliceous beds. To the west flank the Lura ultrabasic massif is covered by neritic limestones of the Lower Cretaceous, which are considered as the "roof" of the Albanian ophiolites. In the carbonate formations and in the ultrabasic rocks, there are formed some canyons, erosion pyramids, and passes such as: Seta canyon, Kreja tower (2078m), Kunora e Lures pyramid (2121m), Maja e Runjes (1991m), Kreshta e Bakullise (1766m) and the Maja e Madhe (1787m) ridges and one tectonic cliff (200-300m high) at the altitude of 1600-1800m.

Travelling. From Tirana to the Lura National Park, the road crosses molasses of the Pre-Adriatic Depression, up to the town Miloti, leaving on the eastern side the ancient historic town Kruja. In Miloti, the long metallic " King Zogu"

bridge crossing the Mati river with nice fluvial landscape, are famous. The road follows the Fani river crossing the Krasta flysch and thin bedded plate limestones near to the town of Rubiku. Here on the eastern side it is copper plants, while on the right side the small town of Rubiku with a catholic church, are situated in the beautiful landscape on the top of a rocky hill. This church has been the center of Benediction meetings since ancient times. Here we also find outcrops of basalt pillow lavas. Near to Rresheni town, the road enter the Burreli depression with molasses, and further it cross the Mirdita volcanic basic ophiolite sequences up to the town of Kurbneshi, built between carbonate rocks forming the long, narrow Uraka valley. Along this part of the road to the northeast up to Merkurthi and Fushe Lura villages some erosion pyramids can be seen on the eastern ridge and to the west nice waterfalls.

Trips through Lura Geopark:

- From the Fushe Lura village to the Farka Plain, then to the northern group of glacial lakes (Cow lake, Tusha lake, Big lake, Rasat lake) and back to Fushe Lura village.
- From the Fushe Lura village to the Kunore e Lures ("Lura Wreath") Peak, along the mountain ridge to 2070 m.a.s.l. peak, and further to the south, turning to the east to the Hoti glacial lake, then through the Dushka plain and pine forest back to the Fushe Lura village.
- From the Fushe Lura village to the Gurra Lura village, westward to the southern groups of glacial lakes (Dry lake, Black lake and to Flower lake), to the west of the peak 1606 m.a.s.l. and to the Horse plain and mountain. On the way back you can watch the Seta canyon.
- In the Peshkopi District there is the Korabi mountain (highest in Albania), and some other interesting and important geotops such as the Mali Bardhe and Banjat gigantic white salt domes, thermal water springs, the stratigraphic sections of Paleozoic rocks, oldest in Albania, Triassic sections with *ammonites,* native sulfur in Kerçishta village etc. are found

The Lura National Park has very high ecological value and do also posses significant geological and geomorphologic values as well. It represents an unique geopark of geotouristic, scientific and didactic interest.

Afat Serjani

ProGEO homepage

A success so far

A log of hits on different Geological Survey of Sweden web pages and sub-pages is continuously recorded since 1999. On request, statistics about all aspects of homepage traffic can be obtained.

Recently, such a report for December 2001 was presented. To our surprise, the ProGEO homepage turned out to be one of the most used in the whole set of the Survey´s pages. About 11.5 % of all main page opened folders were found under /hotell/ progeo/, which equals c. 15 000 monthly hits.

I do hope this inspires all of you to use our homepage as it is intended; to publish all kind of news, however small, concerning geoconservation and related activities.

Lars Karis

Reminder

During the last year we have tried to establish an up-to-date membership file with all necessary data for full service to the members of ProGEO. As a base we had a membership list from the late ´90, which in part was inadequate. The system of invoice with a registration form is a mean of correcting wrong addressing and transmission of e-mail.

Still we have a series of names of previous members from whom we had no life-sign. We urge all persons receiving this newsletter and still want to remain a member of the Association either to return the filled registration form or to contact me at the e-mail address **gunnel.ransed@sgu.se** .

The form can also be obtained from the ProGEO home-site. This year, and only this year, we have a most liberal view on late membership payment until the end of March 2002 for full membership status.

Gunnel Ransed, Treasurer

ProGEO Workshop

1st CIRCULAR Modena (Italy), June 19th - 22nd 2002

This Workshop is the first official meeting opportunity for two research groups working on the topic of geomorphological sites (geomorphosites): the **I.A.G. (International Association of Geomorphologists) Working Group "Geomorphological sites"** and the **Italian Research Project COFIN 2001-2003 "Geosites in the Italian landscape"**
This Workshop aims at:

- promoting a first discussion on the activity already in progress between the components of the two research groups;
- defining the state-of-the-art of the investigations on geosites, with particular attention to those with a geomorphological character;
- comparing, connecting and tracing the course of the respective research activities;
- outlining future perspectives and activities connected to the IUGS International Geological Congress which will take place in Florence in August 2004.

REGISTRATION FORM

WORKSHOP **Geomorphological Sites: research, assessment and improvement**
Modena (Italy), June 19th - 22nd 2002

First name: Last name:
Title:
Institution:
Address:
ZIP code: Country:
Telephone: Fax:
E-mail:

Please send to:
ORGANIZING SECRETARY – Dr. Paola Coratza
c/o Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia
Largo S. Eufemia, 19 I - 41100 MODENA (Italy)
Tel.: +39 059 2055855/57 Fax: +39 059 2055887
E-mail: coratza.paola@unimo.it

This Workshop, which is specifically addressed to the components of the two research Groups, is open to all Italian and foreign researchers interested in this topic and willing to co-operate to the research on geomorphosites.

The general programme is as follows:
19 June: meeting of the COFIN Research Project
20 June: workshop with invited and/or non-invited lectures, reports and posters
21 June: excursion in the Modena district Apennines
22 June: meeting of the IAG Working Group.

Those interested in participating are kindly requested to fill the registration form here enclosed and send it, possibly by e-mail, to the Organizing Secretary:

ORGANIZING SECRETARY –
Dr. Paola Coratza
c/o Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra,
Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia
Largo S. Eufemia, 19
I - 41100 MODENA (Italy)

Tel.: +39 059 2055855/57
Fax: +39 059 2055887
E-mail: coratza.paola@unimo.it

A second circular will be sent out in March. More info: http://www.terra.unimo.it/geomorphosites/home.htm.

ProGEO WG1

Meeting in May

The meeting will be held in Turkey and arranged by our colleague, professor Nizamettin Kazanci, chair of Jemirko group.

Tentative meeting schedule:

- May 26, 2002 arrival to Ankara
- May 27-28, up to afternoon; talks
- May 28 afternoon: go to fields
- May 29- June 1, fieldwork
- June 2, 2002 Departure from Ankara.

Irini Theodossiou-Drandaki

Cave in Slovenia

ŠKOCJANSKE JAME

Škocjanske jame near Divača is the largest and the most interesting cave system in Slovenia. It is situated not far from the Slovene-Italian border and has a length of about 5800 m. Since 1986 the cave is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List of natural and cultural monuments. Škocjanske jame is a part of the Public Service Agency Park Škocjanske jame which covers a wider vicinity, including collapsed dolines and other nearby natural and cultural monuments. A Palaeolithic site has been discovered in the cave system, showing traces of human activity of the Epigravettien culture in the Late Glacial sediments.

As early as in the middle of the 17th century, J.V. Valvasor visited the entrances of the cave system (Fig. 1). We may consider him as one of the first who took a serious interest in this part of karst and started a new era of explorers and describers of karst in general. The systematic exploration of Škocjanske jame started in the first half of the 19th century connected with searching new possibilities of water supply. The natives knew the entrance chambers for centuries, as they used them as shelters when in danger. But the first to swim from the main swallow-hole to the Mala Dolina collapsed doline, was J.Eggenhofer in 1815. At that time the picturesque nature near the swallow-hole became so famous that the provincial government developed the first pathways.

Later, in a period of some decades the passages between the collapsed doline and the last swallow-hole were explored. In 1884 the most intensive explorations started led by the Caving section of DÖAV (German-Austrian Alpinist Society) of Triest and A. Hanke. After some years the explorers reached the extreme part of the cave in the Hanke's channel and called it Dead Lake. The upper passage, called Silence cave, rich in speleothems, was

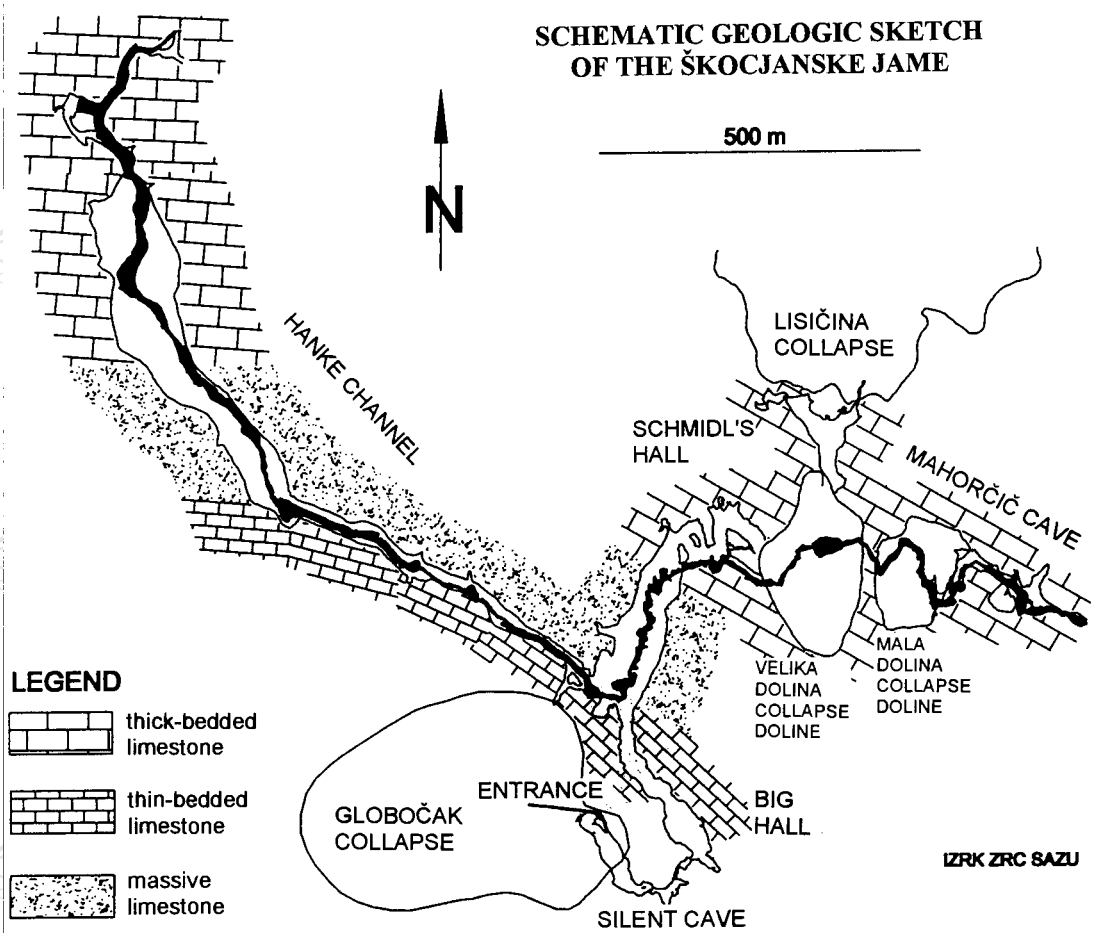


Fig. 1. Škocjanske jame map, longitudinal plan

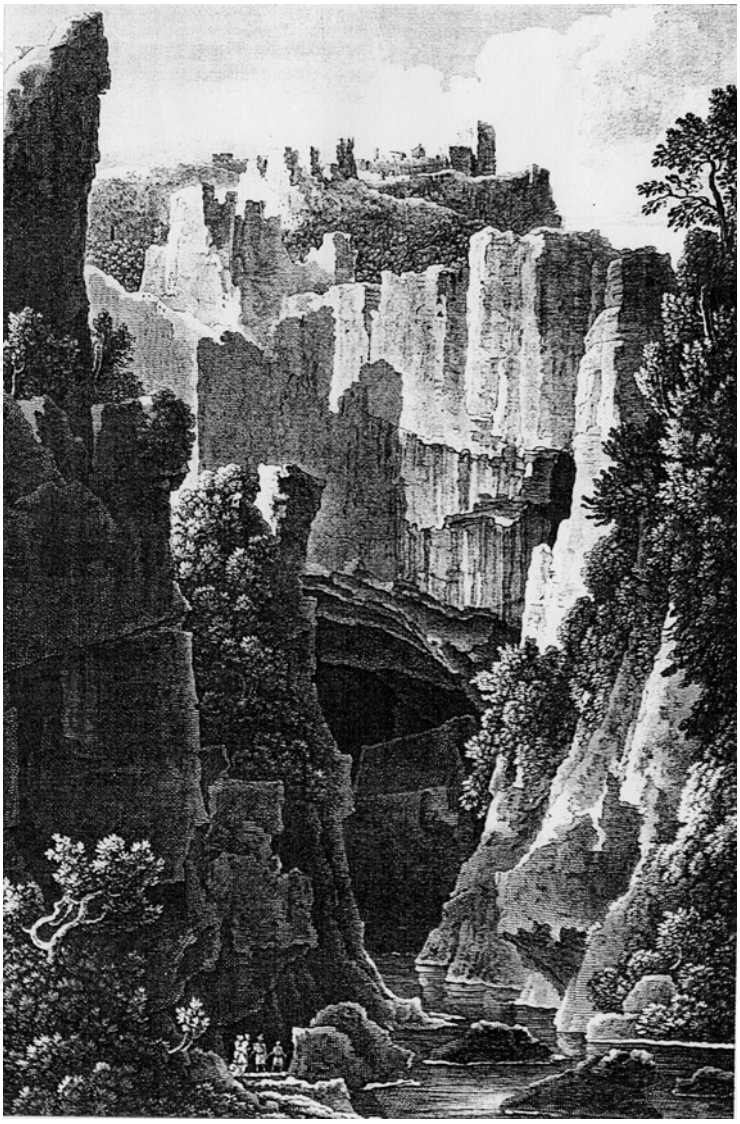


Fig. 2. In the Reka canyon, close to swallow-hole into Škocjanske jame, the river transported about 20 million of m^3 of limestone (drawing by Cassas, L. F., 1802)

not explored before the beginning of the new century. In 1991 after many attempts the siphon at the end of Škocjanske jame was dived and the continuation towards the north was established. In 1985 the passages that are displayed for tourists, were electrically illuminated.

The Reka river disappears into Škocjanske jame. Its source is at the border of a flysch area which it flows over for 50 km. The water basin on flysch covers 335 km^2. At the contact with limestone the river cuts a deep canyon (Fig. 2) and then it disappears into the Škocjanske jame. One of the reasons that the contact karst is so well developed around Škocjanske jame, is a great amount of water; maximal discharge is 387 m^3/s, and the average discharge is about 9 m^3/s. This is the biggest Slovene sinking river. The rate between low and high water clearly shows the climatic conditions of the area.

In the Vreme valley the river has shaped the largest blind doline in Slovenia, transporting about 242 million of m^3 of carbonates. In the Reka canyon in the Vreme valley, close to the swallow-hole into Škocjanske jame, about 20 million of m^3 of limestone are eroded. The Reka river flows underground to the Timavo springs near Tržič (Monfalcone) east of Trieste, a distance of about 40 km and then flows into Adriatic Sea. Today the underground Reka can be reached in Kačna jama through a shaft, 12 km long and 280 m deep, not far from the swallow-hole and in Labodnica (Grotta di Trebiciano), lying 13 km above Trieste.

Near Škocjanske jame, there are many collapsed dolines, more than 150 m deep in massif bedded limestones with rudist bioherms and biostromes of the Coniacian, Santonian and Campanian age. Artificial entrance is dug out in the Maastrictian limestone. Close to the cave there are Paleocene limestones and slightly to the north of passes the Divača fault.

The upper level of Škocjanske jame, representing only a smaller part of the system, is dry and well decorated (Fig. 3). Other parts are active channels with variously large chambers. One of them is Martel's chamber, 306 m long, 126 m wide, covering 12.000 m^2 of cross-section surface with 2,2 million m^3 of volume. This is one of the largest cave chambers in the world. In some parts the cave channel narrows very much and during heavy rain the water level may rise for 100 m.

There is no wonder that the explorers made some mistakes when they surveyed the cave. Several times in the history of the research of the cave, cave plans appeared with mistakes. The last major one was corrected in 1991 when a precise laser theodolite measurements showed that the correct direction of a part of the Hanke's channel should be corrected for about 30^0.

A vast literature related to Škocjanske jame exists in particular in the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU, Postojna where one of the richest libraries with karstological topics is found. More than 230

authors has published more than 600 different articles and contributions; the first one dates to immemorial year of 1599. F. Imperato tried to prove, helped by various floaters, the then still hypothetical connection between Škocjanske jame and the Timavo springs. This is probably one of the oldest water tracing experiment. The texts related to Škocjanske jame are found not only in professional journals but also on more than 70 symposia and congresses, 20 guide-books and in more than 30 monographs.

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Martin Knez and Rajko Pavlovec

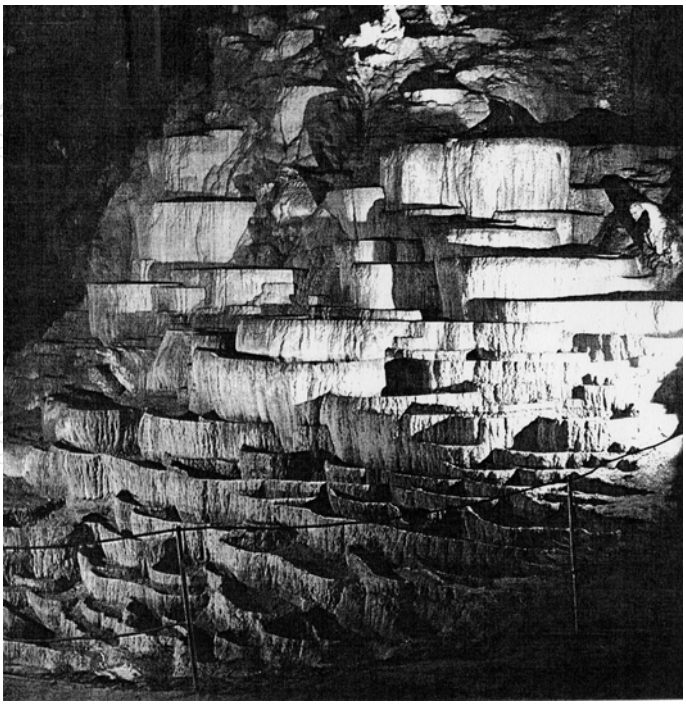


Fig. 3. One of largest massive gours in Europe and a symbol of Škocjanske jame

ProGEO Seminar

FINISH SEMINAR IN APRIL

The Morphological Landscape Ecological Vision of Pori's Environment (MME-Project) and Ympäristö ja Terveys - lehti are organizing an international conference in PORI, Western Finland on 3-4 April, 2002 at The Ark Nature Centre/Satakunta Museum

"Geoinformatical methods in Geomorphological and Landscape Ecological Planning on County and Local Level"

Interested persons are invited to send abstracts ("A-4" in length and in digital form, Word/email) by 15 March 2002.

The Conference Seminar will present the results of the MME- project i.e. Landscape structural map 1 : 100 000 and landscape ecological applications important for environmental planning at the Pori area. In addition, the seminar will be concerned with the landscape research started last September of Pori "University Centre" (a unit of the Humanistic Faculty of Turku University), the modern digital coloured vertical aerial photographing of the City of Pori (see internet: **www.pori/kartta/ortokuvat**) and their applications as well as general topics regarding geoinformation systems.

The congress fee will be 100 € (Euros) and 50 € for students or 50 € per day (30 € for students). Information about accomodation, possible short field trips etc. will be announced in attachments- (see also internet: www.pori.fi/tpk/MME-visio). The organizing committee is chaired by Civil Engineer Pekka Salminen, Technical Services Centre (TSC) of Pori and has docent Osmo Kontturi, TSC (Universities of Jyväskylä and Tampere) and M.Sc (geol), MBA, Harri Laaksonen, Tampere University of Technology) as secretaries.

Further information:
Planner Osmo Kontturi,
Technical Services Centre,
P.O.B. 95,
Fin 28101 PORI,

fax +358-02-621 1808, gsm +358-050-5950 127,
email: osmo.kontturi@pori.fi ,
see internet: www.pori.fi/tpk/MME-visio

Osmo Kontturi

A future for fossils

The Russian perspective

Some time ago a reprint of “Trade in rare fossils robs Russia of natural heritage” (“The Independent”, London July 23, 2001) landed in my lap. A few days ago it came to my knowledge that the scientist who try to make the world aware of what is going on there, Dr. Larisa Doguzhaeva, is presently a guest at the Museum of Natural History, Palaezoology Dept. in Stockholm. The very serious substance in the review urged me to contact her and to assess the matter in her own words. Dr Doguzhaeva was kind enough to give me an hour for a discussion. The seriousness of the situation was convincingly confirmed. Furthermore, another article in the Canadian “The Globe and Mail”, Feb. 6. 2002, “Gnawed to the bone” by Geoffrey York, gave another facet to the tragic picture.

The famous collections of the Moscow Palaeontological Museum, the oldest part almost 250 years old and intact as late as in the late ´80, is diluted step by step, and original specimens are turning up in the commercial markets in Europe and the Americas.

Another problem is the extensive exploitation of geological and archaeological sites in Russia. An example: Recently, particularly ammonite sites have been quarried and specimens with exquisite preservations were shipped abroad as “material of no scientific value”.

It is not hard to understand the situation many people in Russia have been experiencing during the last ten years. Reports of a difficult economic situation is unfortunately too common also to this day. However, to violate international agreements and conventions in order to obtain cash from abroad is a very destructive path to follow.

It is extremely difficult to understand the philosophy guiding the museums and traders, in Europe and North America, the US as well as Canada, professionals as well as non-professional geologists, when taking advantage of this situation, draining the famous collections in the Palaeontolgical Museum and other collections in Moscow. A simple mind like mine considers those who sell objects they do not own, and buyers who purchase such items and well aware of what kind of deal they are entering, as not very serious people.

Dr. Larisa Doguzhaeva, well-known cephalopod specialist working at the Moscow Palaeontological Institute

Likewise, to use excavators or bulldozers to ruin localities with superbly preserved ammonites or other fossils is extremely short-sighted and definitely counter productive to the goals for which ProGEO is working. Please, as a member of ProGEO, react on this and similar matters. Those of you who can influence traders and museums in Western Europe and in countries across the Atlantic, try to convince them to abstain from such affairs. In one way or the other, all of us can contribute to convey a more acceptable view of geoconservation and museum curation than the one presented here.

A copy of the article “Gnawed to the bone” with a more complete picture of this tragic history can be obtained from
http://www.globeandmail.com/series/index.html

Lars Karis

ProGEO WG1

Workshop

The workshop and its program was presented in ProGEO NEWS no 3 2001. One of the main objectives of the workshop was the comparative work on geological frameworks for defining geodiversity in our region, according to the model proposed in IUGS «Geosites project».

Further aims was to strengthen the network via communication and technology tools, cross-border geosites projects, geoparks initiatives and geotourism issues. A small publication on geological heritage sites conservation, in south-eastern European countries has been published for the workshop. A relevant CD-ROM also has been prepared.

It was agreed on an action plan for the coming months On SE Europe Geosites. Each country will complete its frameworks ("contextual frameworks" Roma paper). Then revised versions of the Belogradchik lists or new lists will be compiled. Each country coordinator will undertake descriptions of each framework. Comparison of frameworks between countries will start as soon as possible and should be completed by May. By the next meeting in the WG in Turkey (see elsewhere in the newsletter), a regional framework list will be compiled, discussed and finalised. The final framework will be presented as a joint WG 1 paper at the Dublin conference in September.

The meeting agreed on the following declaration:
The participants in the workshop of SE European countries of ProGEO Working Group 1 consider that, after six years of active work, several main successes have been achieved:
1) all the countries of SE Europe are involved and have been integrated into the regional structure of ProGEO;
2) all countries share the same vision on geological heritage, although there are different approaches to its conservation;
3) all countries have made substantial progress in identifying and listing geosites constructing national inventories, incorporating them in nature conservation efforts, or in the promotion of geological heritage.

At the same time, the participants observe and suggest that the relevance of geology and geological

Arrival of the Progeo WG1 at Lesvos island. 29.9.2001

heritage still need to be better promoted in society. Both science and geoconservation need to be brought to the 'doorstep' of different 'target groups'. In the first instance, the philosophy of geological heritage should be introduced into the minds of more geoscientists, as well as being brought to the attention of nature conservationists, who in some countries still have yet to give their full attention to this heritage - which is, with animate nature, an essential part of the natural world. Cooperation at national and international levels is needed, not only in the evaluation of internationally important geosites, but also in legislation and the planning of policy-making.

There are many potential avenues for work and many opportunities, be it at the national level (through experts, politicians, and organisations) or internationally (through UNESCO, IUGS, EU etc) - salient possibilities and needs are:

in capacity building in geoconservation – above all through the involvement of geoconservationists in the work of, and within, governmental institutions

in providing more geoconservation know-how, through provision of more training, for instance, in focussed management of protected geosites, for instance, by spreading good practice in management planning on protected geosites, or through the training in interpretation skills

in adopting adequate nature protection legislation where it does not yet exist, or harmonisation of existing statutes to better cover the needs of geoconservation

in cross-border cooperation

in promotion of the geological heritage

in geoconservation/geological education, formal or informal - above all there is a need to maintain satisfactory levels of geology teaching in the curriculum, or to promote the inclusion of the essential basic elements into other appropriate curriculum subjects.

The meeting also discussed the preparation of a convention concerning geological heritage conservation and geotopes protection. This should be discussed on the next ProGEO International Conference in Dublin, next September. It was agreed to support the work for preservation of geological sites in Crete in addressing letters to planners of the area on behalf of ProGEO, ProGEO WG1, IUGS.

I

rini Theodossiou-Drandaki

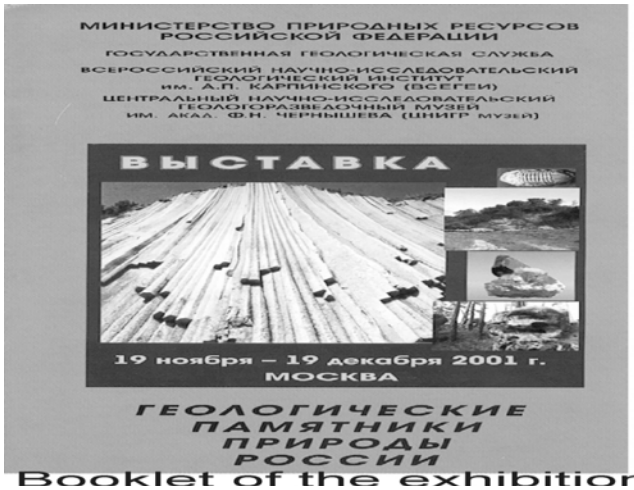
ProGEO

Geological natural monuments of Russia

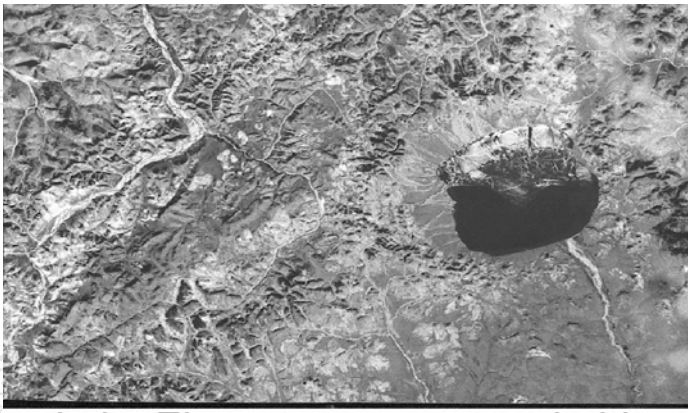
Exhibition in Moscow 19th november-19th december 2001

The exhibition "Geological natural monuments in Russia" was organized by the All Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI, St. Petersburg), Central Research Geological Prospecting Museum (CNIGR Museum, St. Petersburg) and the Precious Stone Museum (Moscow) in the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (MNR) in Moscow. Deputy Minister P.V.Sadovnik, Chief of the Communication Service of MNR N.B. Kleimenova, President of the Russian Geological Society V.F. Rogov, Director of VSEGEI O.V. Petrov, Director of VSEGEI Press V.I. Kolesnikov, Director of CNIGR Museum A.M. Karpunin and other MNR officials took part in the opening of the exhibition. The deputy Minister opened the exhibition and then A.M. Karpunin and A.V. Lapo held the first guided tour.

The exhibition consisted of 3 interrelated parts. The first part concentrating on geosites of federal and world significance presented on a map in the scale 1:2,500,000" was prepared by Andrei Lapo and Marina Vdovets (VSEGEI). About 300 geosites were plotted on the chart. Posters prepared by the CNIGR Museum in collaboration with VSEGEI were the second part of the exhibition. Classifications of different types of geosites and information about geosites in all 7 Federal Okrugs of Russia were presented on boards with numerous photos. The third part of the exhibition was represented by glass cases with samples from different geosites which were plotted on



Booklet of the exhibition



Lake Elgygytgyn - most probably astrobleme
Space image: V.I. Zacharov

the chart and described in the information on the boards. This part was organized by the CNIGR Museum and the Precious Stone Museum jointly.

During the exhibition period, specialists from VSEGEI, CNIGR Museum and the Precious Stone Museum was present with guidance to the visitors. In addition, Andrei Lapo and Marina Vdovets gave lectures concerning the geological heritage of Russia for students of the Moscow universities and institutes and also for members of the All Russia Society of Nature Conservation.

Due to accommodation of the exhibition in the MNR, not only Moscow citizens and Ministry officials could visit it, but also those, who came to the Ministry on their business trips.

Andrei Lapo, Marina Vdovets

Meeting of Portugese ProGEO members

ProGEO members of Portugal met last January (12nd and 13rd) at the Natural Monument of Serra de Aire Dinosaurs Footprints in the Serras de Aire e Candeeiros Natural Park (Central Portugal).

The main purpose of the meeting included the annual report of the activities of the group, which has been formally established in Portugal last year, as well as the definition of a general work plan for 2002. The most important resolution of this meeting was the discussion and the definition of the methodology to implement the Geosites Project aims, among the Portuguese geologists. Several working groups have been established according to a preliminary set of future frameworks of global significance to be proposed for Portugal, after a wide discussion among each group to be drawn up by consensus in the near future.

Final results of this first step are expected by the end of 2002, including the selection of the most valuable and representative geosites of the Portuguese frameworks. A meeting for this purpose will be held in this Natural Monument, which happens to record the largest Middle Jurassic dinosaur tracksite known and the world´s longest sauropod trackways.

Maria Helena Henriques

Serra de Aire Dinosaurs Footprints Natural Monument (Central Portugal); for further information send an e-mail to pnsac@icn.pt.

Change of e-mail addresses

Note the following new addresses:

- Todor Todorov:
  uptech@tea.bg
- Lars Erikstad:
  lars.erikstad@nina.no

Adresses

Afat SERJANI
Geological Research Institute
Blloku "Vasil Shanto", Tirana,
Albania
ispgj@ingeol.tirana.al

Lars Karis / Gunnel Ransed
Geological Survey of Sweden
Box 670
S-75128 UPPSALA
Sweden
Lars.karis@sgu.se
Gunnel.ransed@sgu.se

Martin Knez
Karst Research Institute
Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences & Arts
P.O.Box 59,
SI-6230 Postojna
Slovenia
knez@zrc-sazu.si

prof. dr. Rajko Pavlovec
Department of Geology
University of Ljubljana
Aškerčeva 2,
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
rajko.pavlovec@ff.uni-lj.si

José B. R. Brilha
Earth Sciences Department
University of Minho
Campus de Gualtar
4710-057 Braga
Portugal

A.V. Lapo / Marina S. Vdovets
VSEGEI
Sredny pr 74
199026 St Petersburg
Russia

Irene Theodossiou-Drandaki
Inst. of Geology and Mineral Exploration
70 Mesoghion st.
115 27 ATHENS
Greece

Deadline for contributions to next issue of ProGEO NEWS: 15.05.2002

ProGEO: European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage**. Address**: Box 670,SGU, SE-751 28 Uppsala, Sweden. **Treasurer:** Gunnel Ransted. **Bank**: SWEDBANK, SE-105 34 Stockholm, Sweden. Swiftcode: SWEDSESS Clearingno: 8381-6, Account no: 973 296 517-4. **Membership subscription:** personal: €25/yr., institutional: €150/yr. **President:** Dr. T. Todorov, Geological Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, George Borchov St. 24, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria. **Executive Secretary:** W.A.P. Wimbledon, Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology University of Reading, Whiteknights, READING RG6 6AB, United Kingdom.
ProGEO NEWS - A ProGEO newsletter issued 4 times a year with information about ProGEO and its activities. **Editor:** Lars Erikstad, NINA, Box 736 Sentrum, N-0105 Oslo, Norway, Phone: + 47 23 35 51 08, Fax: +47 23 35 51 01, e-mail: lars.erikstad@nina.no. Contributions preferred on diskette (Word- or ASCII-format) or by e-mail if possible.

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