

Executive committee meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on October 27, in Copenhagen

Present: Messrs Johansson, Karis, Suominen, Gonggrijp, Erikstad, Andersen, Zarlenga and Wimbledon. Interesting items on the agenda were:



Roma May 1996

The major most important item on the agenda was discussion of the Rome meeting, ProGEO '96. Dr Francesco Zarlenga kindly travelled all the way from Rome to report on progress. The extensive arrangements and organisational contacts were related and discussed: hundreds of geologists had been contacted in connection with the meeting. There was general approval of arrangements and sincere thanks were conveyed to Dr Zarlenga and the organising committee for their work so far. The President warmly welcomed and looked forward to our coming meeting in Rome.



Hungarian competition

In Hungary there is each year a popular competition for secondary school children to write an essay relevant to geoconservation. Winners go to a special camp in one of the country's National Parks, which as ProGEO knows are something special. Dr Ödön Rádai, our Second Secretary and national Hungarian representative, would like ProGEO to help spread such a competition, which operates so successfully in Hungary, to member countries in Europe. It was agreed that Dr Rádai be asked to write an item for the

newsletter on this inspiring activity, and perhaps a fuller paper for publication could follow.



Poster Competition!

It is intended to produce a glossy poster, or series of posters, for ProGEO; and we hope to do this in time for the Rome meeting. Those who attended Sofia or Sigtuna will have seen the marvellous poster of the Belogradchik pinnacles produced by our Bulgarian colleagues for the Sofia conference. Have you good quality slides / transparencies of outstanding natural features or landscapes: cliffs, profiles, earth pillars, natural arches, cuestas, coasts, glaciated terrains, volcanoes? If so, can you contribute by allowing these to be reproduced on a ProGEO poster?

WANT TO BE A PRIZE WINNER IN ROME? Then please send your best slides to the Executive Secretary.



Geosites

Geosites is a project conceived by IUGS and UNESCO, and designed to put together a global inventory of key geo(morph)ological sites, and a database. ProGEO is acting as an agent on this project in Europe. It is intended to select and document sites by countries, but in a regional setting, that is a natural geological setting. So sites will be selected to characterise, for instance, the Precambrian Shield or the Variscides, or Pleistocene glaciation. It is necessary therefore to form regional networks of colleagues to work on such a project of selection and documentation, because it is above all a comparative exercise.



Regional working groups

The first three regional ProGEO working groups have been set up: one each for Central (#2), SE (#1) and N Europe (#3), under the chairmanship of Prof. Zofia Alexandrowicz, Prof. Ivan Zagorchev and Dr Steen Andersen, respectively. Are you interested in contributing to one of these groups?

Are you interested in forming another network of contacts in another part of Europe to work on Geosites? Have you ideas on how best to proceed? If so, write to the Executive Secretary for more details.



Election Committee

It was decided at the Sigtuna meeting to set up an election committee. This has been done, and it consists of the President (Dr C-E Johansson) and the two past presidents, Dr George Black and Dr Walter Krieg. A draft document laying out election procedures has been prepared by the Executive Secretary and this is currently under consideration by the new committee.



New bank account

New bank account for ProGEO is:
Deutsche Bank Hamburg,
account ProGEO
(A.Grube); Bank code
number: 200 700 00;
account number 63 14 918

From the president

I have the vision that Politicians, Planners, Decision-makers, Scientists and People will be aware of the Geological Heritage of Europe before the next Century. Awareness will form a sustainable basis for "Agendas 21".

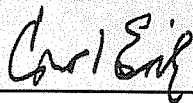
We have the Mission to enable conservation of our Geological Heritage and make it well accessible.

We have a Strategy to promote protection of Geosites of Europe, with its geological and morphological history, processes and ecological functions.

To perform our Strategy and Mission it is necessary to raise awareness, and to get tasks done by forming networks, cooperating with other conservationists, making good PR, involving key persons, and establishing guidelines for conservation, management, and information of geosites.

I wish good luck to all involved in selecting and establishing Geosites in cooperation with IUGS/UNESCO and those working on the ProGEO manual. Our General secretary has a real key function particularly in the task first mentioned.

At present we discuss Dan Grigorescu's very interesting *draft classicification and criteria of Geosites* in a Nordic perspective. At a meeting in Copenhagen representatives from Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Holland, Norway and Sweden initiated a *North-European subgroup* following the Southeast-European model. We also had the opportunity to meet Francesco Zarlenga and discuss, e.g., *ProGEO '96 in Italy*. The arrangements are certainly in good hands. The congress will be a milestone on our way into the 21st Century. Good examples and results in line with our Strategy are welcome as contributions at the General Assembly, and in *ProGEO News*.



German Workinggroup on Geotope-Protection

This years meeting of the German Workinggroup on Geotope-Protection was held in Vienna between the 10th and the 17th September 1995. It was the fourth meeting of the working group since 1992 and states the solid basis of the group.

The meeting was well organised by L. Kreutzer and H.P. Schönlaub and attracted around 50 persons. The thematic focus during the

symposium lay on the relationship of geotopes and tourism, legal aspects as well as the conflict between geoconservation and nature conservation. The 5-day postsymposium excursion led into the alpine regions of Austria, showed modern concepts of touristical use of geosites (Geopark concept) and included some of the most important geosites of central Europe.

The next two meetings will be held in Koblenz (27-30-03-96) and in Dresden (1997).

Guests are welcome.

Alf Grube

Membership in ProGEO

Altogether 35 persons have paid fees of some amount for the years 1993, 1994, 1995 as well as 6 corporate members. There is a number of missing and/or incorrect fees. The persons concerned will be asked to pay missing fees; the treasurer will start to send reminders in the near future.

To the readers without membership: Support ProGEO by beeing members as soon as possible!



European Landscape Convention

On the 8th of November a hearing was held on a draft proposal for a European Landscape Convention. I was there to comment the draft version.

This convention should fill the gaps there are in the complete set of existing conventions. The main comment that I had was that a European Landscape Convention should be ab "Umbrella" Convention including all other Nature, Landscape and Cultural History (including Archeology) conventions, because landscape is including everything.

The second important point was to pay more attention to the basis of the landscape the geo(morpho)logical expression of the landscape. We will see what will be decided in the future!

Gerard Gonggrijp

ProGEO '96: the Second International Symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage - Roma, May 1996

Have you returned your form to Rome to book for the May symposium? Our colleagues in Italy are working hard to make the meeting a success, please assist them in their efforts by an early reply. If you have not received details of the meeting and a booking form write to :the address given below, so that you receive the second circular.



ROME INTER- NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 21-25 MAY 1996: PROGEO '96 SPON- SORING BODIES:

Italian Association of Pedologists -
Regional Centre for the
documentation of cultural and
environmental heritage (Latium
Regional Administr.) - Communal
Administr. of Roma - National
Council of the Geologists -
Consorzio Civita - Department of
Earth Science (University of Naples
"Federico II") - Department of
Environmental and Territorial Science
(University of Reggio Calabria) -
Department of Geological Science
(Third University of Rome) - ENEA -
Sperimental Institute for the soil
defence - Ministry of the
Environment - Geological Service of
Italy - Italian Geological Society -
Italian Society of Environmental
Geology (Sigea) - Italian Society of
Soil Science - Regional
Administration of Emilia Romagna
(Assessorship for Territory,
Planning, Environment) - WWF
Italia.



SCIENTIFIC GOAL OF THE MEETING:

The work of this meeting will

mainly focus on a comparison
between World-wide, European and
Italian experiences and the
investigations of problems regarding
the future and the conservation of the
Earth-sciences, the laws, the
instruments of policy management
and conservation; the role of the
governmental organisations
(Ministries, Universities, Research
Institutes, Schools, etc.) and non-
governmental organizations (NGOs).
The themes of which will be:

IUGS/UNESCO Geosites initiative -
World-wide experiences - European
experiences - Italian experiences -
Role of the governmental and non
governmental organizations - Role of
the information and diffusion Papers
will be accepted in English or Italian
as an extended abstract (maximum 2
pages with a fig. in the text), which
will be published in a pre-print
volume; in particular, the most
interesting works (25-30) will be
chosen for oral presentation and
discussion of 15-20 minutes. The
remaining works will be enclosed in
a poster session.

Each session will be opened by an
invited report, to bring into the
focus the theme of the session. After
the conclusion of the meeting, if
economic resources are available,
there will be an examination of the
possibility of publishing the
proceedings (Mem. of Geol. Survey
of Italy or Mem.Soc.Geol.It.). At the
meeting's conclusion, a social dinner
will be organized in a typical Roman
restaurant (23/May).



INTRA-CONGRESS EXCURSION:

During the congress an excursion
will be organized into the City of
Rome to visit the most important
geological sites with archeological
relationships.

POST-CONGRESS EXCURSION
(2 days 24-25 May) Many excursions
will be organized to visit different

geological sites in Italy.



APPROXIMATE COSTS

(indicative) - Attendance at the
meeting = approximately 300.000
Italian/Lire (admission free for
students) - Attendance at the social
dinner = 70.000 Italian/Lire -
Attendance at post- congress
excursion = 200.000 Italian/lire. -
Attendance at intra- congress
excursion = 20.000 Italian/lire.



BOOKING:

To receive the second circular please
contact:

**Dr Francesco Zarlenga,
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ITALY**

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e-mail: zarlenga@casaccia.enea.it

If you have not booked, please do so
soon!



The newsletter

We have succeeded in issuing three
numbers of ProGEO News in 1995.
The editor will be able to continue
the work in 1996 thanks to a grant
from the Norwegian Directorate for
Nature Management.

The small change in layout in this
issue is a sign that this also will
imply possibilities to develop the
newsletter further. Ideas and
contributions are indeed welcome!

The role of local and regional authorities in nature conservation in towns

This symposium, held in Bratislava and organized by the Slovak Agency for the Environment and the Council of Europe on 11th and 12th December was according to the programme, focused on biological aspects. In a one-page note sent to the organizers I have tried to draw the attention of the participants on the possibilities of protecting geological sites in urban areas and to look for fitting in geomorphological patterns into the design for new developing urban areas.

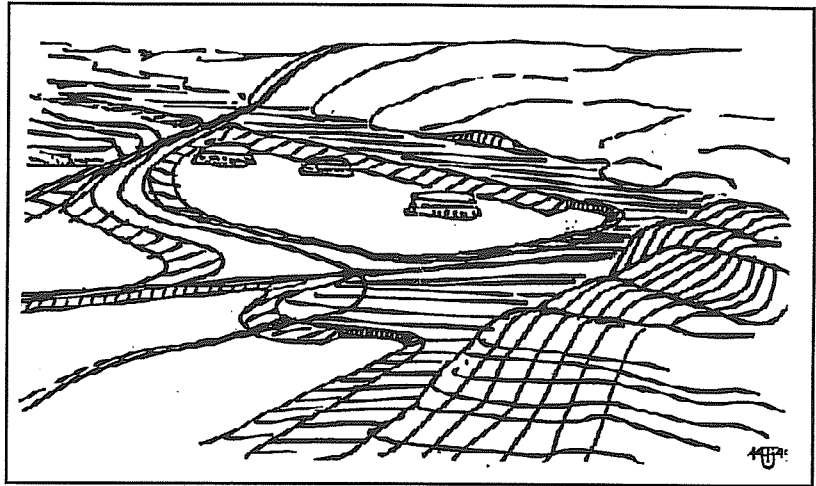
Gerard Gonggrijp



A hearing of geotope conservation in Denmark

The Danish council of Nature Conservation together with the National Agency of Forest and Nature have organised a hearing of protection, management of, and information about geological sites.

The hearing was attended by more than 100 persons. The chairman of the council, Jette Baagøe took this as a sign of great interest for geology even if geology up to now has been neglected in the nature conservation legislation.



Several ProGEO members were invited to speech on the meeting to put the Danish issues into an international context. This was followed up by a panel discussion that ranged over a wide, but practicable range of aspects of geological conservation and management practises in Denmark.

Among important issues the authenticity of landscape was stressed. It was a general scepticism towards restoration of landscapes in the form where it is impossible to identify the human impact in the resulting landscape.

This was illustrated by the logo of the hearing (picture above), showing a restoration idea of a gravel pit that indeed included some kame-like formations in a groundwater lake, as platforms or viewing points for geological information.

It was also stressed very clearly that geological sections should be included in the restoration plans if possible, a point that seems to give consequences in new legislation in Denmark.



More Nordic News

The role of ProGEO in modern Society is noted in the 1994/95 Annual Report from the Geological Survey of Sweden. The most important Missions of our Association are reviewed in the context of international cooperation.

The national cooperation between the Geological Survey, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and the county administrative boards will include, e.g., accurate selection, delimiting, and descriptions of geosites, and landscapes of National interest. This will be performed in connection with a new revision and registration of areas of National interest according to the Natural Resources Act.

We also intend to develop our cooperation as to documentation of and information of sites and areas protected as National parks, Nature reserves, and Nature conservation areas that are the main conservation forms in Sweden.

At a Nordic ProGEO meeting in Stockholm, December 14, the principles and definitions of Geosites and Landscapes were discussed, with Dan Grigorescu's draft as a constructive model.



Steen Andersen of Denmark leads the Nordic work. We hope to involve the IUGS Secretariat residing in the office of Norway's Geological Survey in Trondheim.

Carl-Erik Johansson



Geotrip

The 16th of September was Geotrip day. Within the frame of the European Nature Conservation Year it was the intention to draw the public's eye on Earth sciences in general and on geoconservation in particular.

The activities proposed ranged from excursions for the general public, leaflets to exhibitions, etc.

At all, 13 countries responded and organised happenings on the 16th of September in their own way. The following countries reported their plans and some also their results:



Albania (planned)

Mr. Afat Serjani

A symposium on Geology and Environment planned for 14-16 September had to be moved to 14-16 November. An Geoconservation excursion is planned with students and specialists.



Belorussia (planned)

Mr. Valery Vinokurov

The Geological Institute has planned an excursion to Geological Monument "Parks of Sone" for school children and students.



Estonia (planned)

Mr. Rein Raudsep

Excursion for the general public in all counties of Estonia.



Germany (planned)

Mr. Alf Grube

Several articles for papers and journals.



Hungary (planned)

Mr. Ödön Radai

The tradition is an every year excursion, not on a fixed day. This year the theme was: Geosites, Nature Conservation in the Year of Nature 1995. The excursion will be held in the Gerecse Hills to discuss geological background and management problems.



Lithuania

Mr Jonas Satkunas

The Geological Survey organized a



Macedonia

Mr. Sokol Klincarov

The Institute for the Protection of Nature organized a trip to the Ravine of Matka with interested people (and journalists). It was announced in the papers the day before. All the participants were interested to participate in future excursions of this type.



Netherlands

Mr. Gerard Gonggrijp

With the help of individuals and institutes 40 excursions on bike, on foot and by coach have been organized under excellent weather conditions. A few natural museums were open for this occasion. In three museums people could ask for information about stones, minerals

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and fossils in their collection. Three lectures for the general public were offered. Two articles on geological bike tours were published in popular magazines. One geological monument was established and there was a lot of publicity.

The public and the organizers were enthusiastic. All organizers wanted to continue for the future. The national broadcast paid attention on Geotrip two times. The national press campaign failed (one exception) but the local press was more active.



Poland

Mrs. Zofia Alexandrowicz
Mr. Jan Urban

Organization of a symposium on the conservation of the Crystal Caves and other geosites in Wieliczka Salt Mine (6-8 April). Exhibition devoted to the Crystal Caves in the Salt Works Museum (7 April- 10 July). Programme on Geoconservation and Geotrip Day on Cracow Broadcast in June. Excursions in South and Central Poland (16 Sept.). Series of articles for popular magazines (September).



Serbia

Mr. Dusan Mijovic

The Institute of Nature Protection of Serbia and the National Committee for Geo Heritage organized a coach trip to a spectacular site, Beograd Reserve Cave Devil. Guests were invited from the universities (geologists, pedologists and geographers), a big geo company, museums and journalists.

This trip was a great success! Symposium on Geoconservation in Serbia on 16 and 17 November. Geologists, geographers and pedologists from all over the country discussed geoconservation items.



Slovenia

Mrs. Brank Hlad

Involved were: some organisations, individuals and schools. 5 excursions took place, 2 were cancelled because of the bad weather conditions. A lecture about fossils was organised. 21 schools participated in various programmes. The Nature Protection Administration of the Republic of Slovenia published two leaflets for this occasion and they were circulated among the participants of the excursions and were sent to schools. For the future there is a wish and an interest to continue organizing these activities, especially schools are interested.



Switzerland

Mr. Peter Jordan

The Swiss Working Group on Geotope protection planned 16 excursions, all over the country. But because of early snowfall, 4 excursions had to be cancelled. All the excursions were focused on existing Nature and Geo trails. Although the day was not a very favourable one, many interested and motivated people showed up. The local media paid good attention to the excursions.



United Kingdom

(planned)

Mr. Bill Wimbledon

Two excursions in Wales have been planned.



Organizing one "fixed"

Geotrip Day on a European level is not very easy. We meet several problems like:

-the weather conditions. In September it is still too hot in the southern countries. In October it is too cold for the northern parts of Europe and

even early May may be a problem. -mobilizing guides. In May and June universities and surveys are doing their fieldwork and teachers are involved in examinations.

-Saturday or Sunday. In The Netherlands Saturday is shopping day, Sunday is the traditional day for outdoor activities. Maybe a Geotrip Weekend is a solution. Everyone can decide either for one day or both days.

-Most of the organizers want to continue in the future, but an every year happening is not easy to realize for everyone.

-For publicity reasons there is of course a strong need for coordination, so a fixed day or weekend every year or every two years is a necessity to make the Geotrip Day or Weekend popular and successful.

In January I will send all representatives/organizers a questionnaire on the subject so we can decide what to do for the future.

Gerard Gonggrijp



Manual

There are still problems with the contributions for the manual! The papers slowly cross the border of The Netherlands. Please send your contribution as soon as possible. Because the impact on national and European policy level is not so effective if we just have halve the number of contributions:

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY!!!

Gerard Gonggrijp