

## Book review

Guidelines for geoconservation in protected and conserved areas

by: **Terri Cook**

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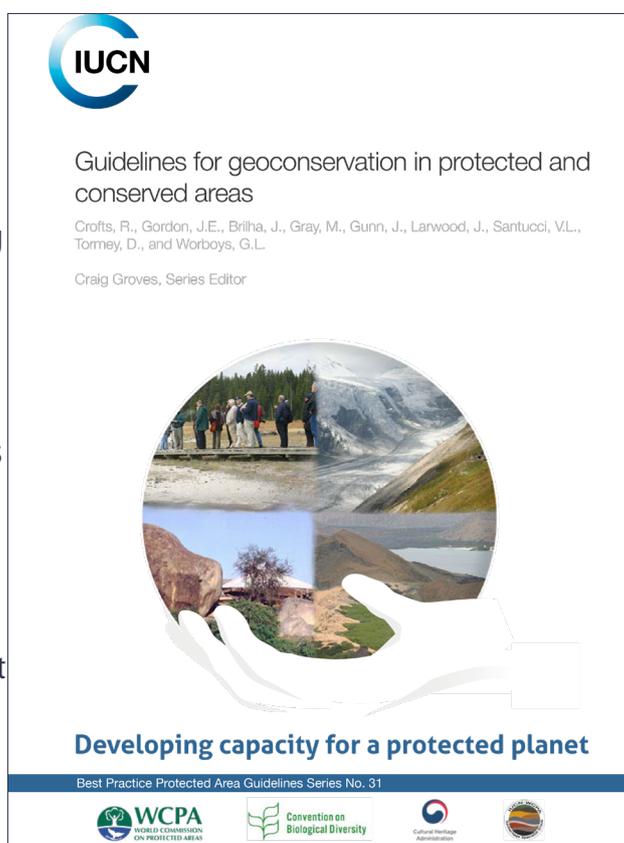
This book is the latest addition to the series of Best Practice Guidelines published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN WCPA). The goal of the series is Developing capacity for a protected planet by providing authoritative guides on best practice for establishing protected areas and managing and preserving natural heritage. The volumes provide extensive references to help protected area managers and rangers around the world. This volume is the first to focus on geoheritage.

Working in cooperation with the union's Geoheritage Specialist Group and led by the UK's Roger Crofts, the authors emphasize that the starting point for geoconservation is the appreciation that geodiversity and geoheritage are part of the Earth's natural heritage, but compared with biodiversity, their conservation and management only recently began to be considered in a more structured way. The authors state that the perceived robustness of rocks and landforms means they are not subject to change or damage by human activities. However, the volume explains how the elements and features that showcase Earth's remarkable diversity (geodiversity) can be easily damaged and therefore require active management. Hazards posed by volcanoes and other geological features also require visitor management. Fortunately, they argue, there exists a sound theoretical and practical framework for conserving this shared heritage, as well as a great deal of geoconservation expertise that can be drawn upon.

The authors wrote this book to help protected area managers and rangers, many of whom are not geoscientists, to better understand the interdependence of biodiversity and geodiversity and to provide the practical information they need to improve the conservation and management of geoheritage and geodiversity at their sites. The resulting publication includes a detailed introduction, an extensive glossary, and a helpful table on page 3 that summarizes the 145-page document. Protected area professionals will appreciate the book's numerous case studies from around the globe that highlight proven geoconservation management techniques and best practices, as well as the many links and references to key sources for additional information and guidance.

The authors begin the volume by highlighting the purpose, content, and best usage of these new guidelines. Sections 1–3 emphasize the importance of using standardized definitions to enhance international communication, outline the overarching geoconservation concepts, and highlight the key principles for guiding geoconservation in protected areas. Section 4 focuses on the steps needed to establish areas that protect geoconservation at local, regional, or national scales, as well as ways that managers can incorporate geoheritage values in areas that are already protected.

Section 5 offers detailed guidance on how to manage geoheritage. This includes management planning, operations, ways of incorporating spiritual and/or cultural values, and monitoring, evaluation, and research. Examples from around the globe offer important practical context.



Because many human activities can impact Earth's surface, an analysis of threats to geoheritage features and processes is an important element of geoconservation planning. Section 6 outlines the basic concepts of vulnerability and sensitivity, lists the principal threats, and emphasizes the importance of assessing risk and impacts from these threats in settings ranging from mines and quarries to coastal, fluvial, and agricultural settings. This section also addresses the potential impacts of geotourism, with examples that help illustrate how geoconservation needs to focus on protecting not only the geoheritage features, but also the visitors drawn to these sites, many of which have inherent risks.

Section 7 provides detailed advice for managing special types of protected and conserved areas. These include caves and karst, glacial and periglacial landscapes, mineral and palaeontologic sites, and volcanic areas, with illustrative examples of each category. Lastly, Section 8 summarizes general principles and practices for interpretation, education, and public outreach, including tips for communication via both by conventional and new media.

Throughout this volume, which is dedicated to co-author Graeme Worboys, the authors emphasize that geoconservation differs from biological conservation, and effective management of geosites therefore requires an understanding of both geological timescales and Earth's dynamic nature. They argue convincingly that geoconservation requires systematic management that often differs from traditional bioconservation approaches. These may include making space for natural processes to evolve, rather than attempting to fix or control them, especially in light of climate change.

The expertise summarized in this first best practice guide on geoconservation offers an important and systematic basis for protected area professionals and custodians to build upon.

The publication's authors include Roger Crofts, José Brilha, John Gordon, Murray Gray, John Gunn, Jonathan Larwood, Vincent Santucci, Dan Tormey, and Graeme Worboys.

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## New perspectives geoconservation, protected and conserved areas

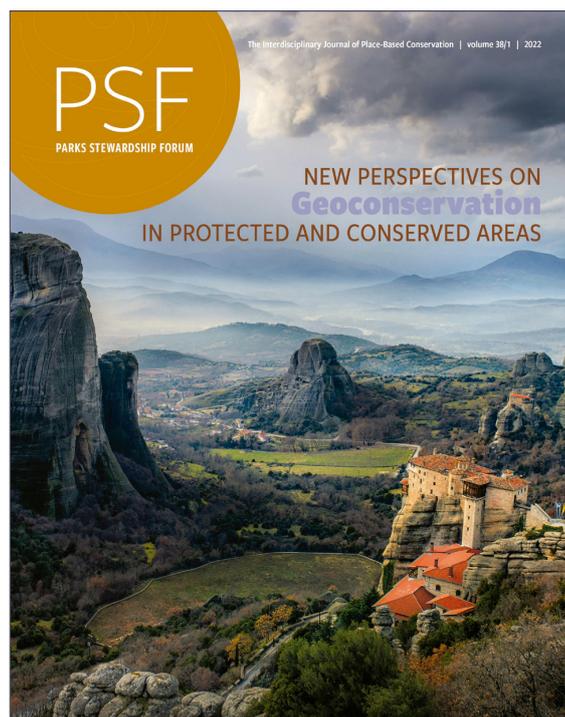
by: **Roger Crofts**

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The conservation of geoheritage is still not fully integrated into protected and conserved area management. Many features, such as caves and springs, volcanoes and other landforms, and paleontological sites are all important to care for, both in their own right and as part of "nature's stage": the physical environment in which species exist. Important recent advances in geoconservation may be about to change that. The twelve featured theme articles in the new issue of Parks Stewardship Forum take stock of where things stand, summarise recent developments, and discuss the challenges that must still be met to make geoconservation an integral part of nature conservation — and, in some cases, cultural heritage management.

The papers are written by members of the IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group as a follow up to the Best Practice Guideline on Geoconservation. An overview of progress and challenges by Crofts opens the papers, followed by an assessment celebrating 50 years of geoconservation by Brilha. Four papers examine the implications of changing the setting in which geoconservation takes place: Gray makes links to the Ecosystem Approach, Gordon and colleagues articulate the 'nature's stage' approach, Gordon and colleagues set out the challenges of climate change for geoconservation, and Gray and Crofts consider the link to the Sustainable Development Goals. In getting the message over Tormey articulates new approaches to communicating geoconservation. The final section deals with new approaches in different settings: Gunn for caves and karst, Tormey and Casadevall for volcanic landscapes, Larwood and colleagues for palaeontological features, Goudie for desert environments and Migon for rock landscapes.

The contents can be viewed at Masthead and Table of Contents, PSF Vol. 38 No. 1 ([escholarship.org](http://escholarship.org)) and the papers can be accessed Parks Stewardship Forum ([escholarship.org](http://escholarship.org)).



# Spanish Geological Society

Geoheritage Commission

by: **Manu Monge-Ganuzas**

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At the General Assembly of the Geological Society of Spain, held in Manresa in 1993, was presented the proposal to create the Geological Heritage Commission (CPG-SGE). This proposal was approved and its act of constitution took place on January 14, 1994, in Madrid.

The CPG-SGE's primary objective is to promote research, conservation, use, management and dissemination of Geodiversity and Geoheritage. Currently, the CPG-SGE represents the Spanish Geological Society in ProGEO (International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage) and in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). The Spanish Geological Society is a member of both associations.



Every two years, the CPG-SGE organizes scientific and informative meetings on geoheritage and geodiversity, which have resulted in numerous publications. The last meeting of the CPG-SGE took place in Tenerife in 2019.

After the technical stoppage that forced us to carry out the pandemic situation, we inform you that this year 2022 we are going to hold the XIV Meeting of the Geoheritage Commission of the Spanish Geological Society of Spain on July 4-8, 2022 in the Mountains do Courel UNESCO Global Geopark, in Galicia (Spain).

All information is available on the congress website: <https://www.reunioncpg2022.courelmountains.es/>

## ICG2022-24

Geoheritage, Cultural Geomorphology and Geotourism

by: **ProGEO**

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The session ICG2022-24 on Geoheritage, Cultural Geomorphology and Geotourism at the 10th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG2022). The Conference will take place as in-person event at Coimbra, Portugal, from 12-16 September 2022.

We aim to receive contributions focused on geomorphological topics covering any aspects relevant to geoheritage, geodiversity, geotourism, geoparks, world heritage, and protected areas, including current methods of research used by the international and national scientific communities, from the global to the local scales. Contributions are welcome on theoretical views and classifications, geomorphosites and geodiversity assessment approaches also in the context of climate change, studies linking geoheritage, human history and cultural heritage, geoparks and geoheritage conservation, management and promotion, geotourism practice and potential, educational aspects of geoheritage and geodiversity, and other relevant topics within these themes, under the scope of geomorphology.

More information can be found at:

<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/ICG2022/session/44362>.

Important deadlines:

Abstract submission is 22 April 2022.

Full details of the abstract submission can be found at: [https://www.icg2022.eu/scientific\\_programme/how\\_to\\_submit\\_an\\_abstract.html](https://www.icg2022.eu/scientific_programme/how_to_submit_an_abstract.html)



Further information about the ICG2022, and also about regulations related to COVID-19, can be found at:

<https://www.icg2022.eu>

# Opportunities for and role of geoscientists in Geoparks. The case of the UNESCO Global Geopark Famenne-Ardenne, Belgium.

Sophie Verheyden<sup>1,2</sup>, Serge Delaby<sup>3,4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> UNESCO Global Geopark Famenne-Ardenne, (serge.delaby@geoparkfamenneardenne), <sup>4</sup> Dép. Sciences de la terre - Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium

UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGG) are defined as ‘single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.’ (UNESCO website, 2021). UGGs need to be managed by a legal organisation and financed structurally. The presence of 1 full-time equivalent geoscientist in the organisation is mandatory. UGGs are one of the three UNESCO areas, besides Man & Biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites. UGGs represent an efficient tool to (1) increase the awareness of geological heritage and geosciences in general and of the related need of geological knowledge & research, and (2) create a wide platform for the dissemination of research results and for citizen science application.

‘Famenne-Ardenne’ is the first UNESCO Global Geopark (UGG-FA) in Belgium. The geopark was initiated by geoscientists and introduced successfully thanks to the collaboration between geoscientists (RBINS, U-Mons, U-Namur), actors of the touristic sector (Attraction & Tourisme, asbl., local ‘Maisons du Tourisme’, the Commission Wallonne de l’Étude et de la Protection des Sites Souterrains (CWEPS) and local policymakers. The geopark area is 915 km<sup>2</sup> for about 68000 inhabitants. It is situated in eight localities: Beauraing, Wellin, Rochefort, Tellin, Marche-en-Famenne, Nassogne, Hotton and Durbuy (Verheyden et al., 2016; 2020). The international value of the geopark relates to the close interactions between karstic phenomena and Humans (Fig. 1) along the ‘Caletienne’ a limestone band of 150 km long crossing Belgium from east to west. The region is known for its historical karst research. Moreover, several stratotypes are present in and around the geopark. Since the obtention of the label in 2018, several geotrails, educational activities, quarry-revalorization projects were finalized or started. Geoscientists have a role to play in supplying the scientific base of interpretations of geosites, or strengthen the links between geology and societal issues such as spatial planning, climate change and resilience against it, sustainable use of resources, etc.



Figure 1 - Karstified limestone & speleothem decoration above the front door on a house in Han-sur-Lesse, Belgium. The picture is ~1m large.

Geoscientists help the geopark to increase the knowledge, including about its cultural dimension, and protection of the geopark’s geoheritage, and has a role to play in the international networking. Examples for the UGG-FA area can be found in (among others) E. Goemaere et al., 2021; Dejonghe and Jumeau, 2007, De Ceukelaere, et al., 2014, etc.

While the theoretical added value of the obtention of a UGG label seems obvious, it remains difficult to quantify on tourism, general economic development, education, sustainability or geoheritage protection and there is a crucial need for the development of common indicators. In the Famenne-Ardenne Geopark area however, this first UGG label obtained in Belgium four years ago, already brought a general awareness of the existence of a geoheritage and of a potential for more sustainable tourism among local policymakers. It for example, sets into light the individual sustainable tourism initiatives. Currently, the UGG F-A is involved, through several actors, in related geoscientific, touristic, political, or spatial management activities and offers some an (additional) international dimension to the area. We hope that this awareness will lead to a better protection of local geoheritage and avoid the destruction or devaluation, due in part to the real estate pressure. The label was one of several drivers for an additional dynamism in UNESCO-related and academic geosciences activities and clustering. UNESCO Flanders, together with several administrations dealing with spatial management and/or environment created an interactive website and developed a global strategy for spatial planning, including the UNESCO initiatives Man & Biosphere reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks. UNESCO tools, since fostering sustainable development and awareness of earth sciences, including climate change, can be considered as contributing to the Paris objectives and should therefore be reported by local and regional administrations in international assessments.

Further potential for UGGs exists in Belgium. In Flanders, several new projects are upcoming such as the Schelde-Delta aspiring UGG, a Flanders-Wallonia-Netherlands collaborative project in the chalk region of eastern-Belgium, including the former Pb-Zn extraction area. In Wallonia, the region around Mons for example, despite the low political support leading to the failure of a previous demand for a UNESCO label, is a target area to create a new UGG because of timely well-developed geological topics such as coal, geothermal energy and iguanodons but also because there would be a potential of important touristic and economic development. Since awareness is raising, it would be opportune for the area and for geosciences in Belgium, in general, to renew the demand for the UGG label in close agreement with UNESCO guidelines. Other potential regions are those known for historical coticule and slate industry in south-eastern Belgium (Goemaere et al., 2020) and/or the Meuse Valley, to increase the visibility of their geological and prehistoric heritage and use them for the promotion of a more sustainable touristic and general economic development.

To conclude, UNESCO Global Geoparks are a solid tool to increase awareness on the high societal value and the need for protection of geological heritage. They are a unique opportunity for geoscientists to disseminate research results towards a wider audience. In Belgium, despite the lack of common indicators to quantify the added value of an UGG label, we observed an increased awareness about related geoheritage issues, sustainability, as well as on general UNESCO activities, while the potential for similar initiatives is still high in Belgium.

### References

De Ceukelaire M., Dopéré F., Dreesen R., Duser M., Groesens E., Boulvain F., Coen-Aubert M., Tourneur F. and Peltier F., 2014. Belgisch Marmer. Academia Press, Gent. : 292p.

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Verheyden S., Quinif Y., Delaby S., Hallet V., Petit A. and Vankeerberghen M., 2016. The Calestienne Lesse&Lomme Geopark – A first step to a structured valorisation of the karstic heritage in Belgium. In Cornée A., Egoroff G., De Wever P, Lalanne A., and Durenthon F., (Eds) Actes du colloque International “Les inventaires du Géopatrimoine” 22-26 Septembre 2015, Toulouse. Mémoire hors-série de la Société géologique de France 16, 368p. : 331-343.

Verheyden S. Quinif Y., Thys G., Delaby S., Hallet V., Petit A., Vankeerberghen S. Vankeerberghen M., 2020. Le Geopark Famenne-Ardenne, premier géoparc mondial UNESCO en Belgique. In Commission Wallonne d’Etude et de Protection des Sites Souterrains, 2020. Atlas du Karst Wallon, Bassin de l’Ourthe Calestienne. SPW-Editions Atlas – Environnement. 560p: 66-69.

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## Oxford Geoheritage Virtual Conference 2022

by: **ProGEO**

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Oxford Geoheritage Virtual Conference 2022. As an attendee of our 2020 meeting and/or the Promoting Geodiversity workshop and/or Enthusiast of Geodiversity, we hope you will also be interested to attend and submit an abstract to this year’s OxGVC. The conference remains free to attend and submit an abstract to - all you need is an internet connection and an interest in geoheritage!

Please do feel free to share news of this year’s meeting with anyone you feel will be interested.

OxGVC 2022 will take place from June 6-9, with keynotes, talks, and flash talks being presented each day between 2pm and 5pm UK time (BST = UTC+1). This timing is aimed at maximising international attendance. For the first time there will also be an opportunity for poster presentations. OxGVC is all about geoheritage workers being able to meet online - the presentations will therefore be supplemented by an online space for attendees to meet, discuss, debate, and socialise.

[www.oxgvc.co.uk](http://www.oxgvc.co.uk)



# Events

2022

by: **ProGEO**

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- April 11-16 Geological Heritage and Cultural Geology  
Conference session  
74th Geological Congress of Turkey, Ankara  
<http://tjk.jmo.org.tr/index.php?kod=149&lg=en>
- April 30 GEODAY  
Annual outreach event  
Geopark Rab Island, Lopar, Croatia  
ProGEO-Croatia and Tourist Board Lopar  
<https://lopar.com>
- May 7-8 Geolodía (Geology Day)  
Annual event, Spain — in every province  
Sociedad Geológica de España (SGE)  
<https://geolodia.es>
- May 7-8 Down to Earth Exhibition Open Day  
National annual outreach event  
Dublin, Ireland  
Geological Survey Ireland and national Museum  
<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Decorative-Arts-History/Exhibitions/Down-to-Earth>
- May 7-15 GEOWEEK 2022  
Annual outreach event  
University Geoscience UK  
<https://earth-science.org.uk/geoweeek>
- May 11-13 [IS-3] Geoheritage, geoparks and geotourism  
Conference session  
35th Nordic Geological Winter Meeting in Reykjavík, Iceland  
Geoscience Society of Iceland  
<https://jfi.is/ngwm-2022>
- May 20-22 Days of Geology  
Annual event, France  
Société géologique de France  
<https://www.geosoc.fr/journees-nationales-de-la-geologie.html>
- May (to be confirmed) European Geoparks Week  
Festival of Geoparks  
UNESCO, Global Geopark Network  
<http://www.europeangeoparks.org>
- June 2-5 World Environment Day  
Workshop, hybrid  
Lake Conservation focused on lakes Burdur and Salda  
Sedimentology Working Group and Turkish ProGEO (JEMIRKO)  
<https://www.sedimentoloji.org>
- June 6-9 Oxford Geoheritage Virtual Conference  
Conference online; Oxford University Museum of Natural History  
Coordinators: Jack Matthews, Helena Tukiainen, Lubomir Strba, Taha Arrad, Lucie Kubalikova, Catalina Gonzalez  
<https://www.oxgvc.co.uk>
- July 1-15 Flotilla of Floating Universities  
Educational project  
Volga region  
VIII Scientific and Educational Expedition  
Lomonosov Moscow State University (Earth Science Museum);  
Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow; Tambov State Technical University, Tambov; Museum of Geology, Oil and Gas,
- July 4-8 XIV Meeting of the Geoheritage Commission of the Geological Society of Spain  
Meeting; Mountains do Courel UNESCO Global Geopark, Galicia, Spain  
Geoheritage Commission of the Geological Society of Spain  
Coordinators: Manu Monge Ganuzas  
<https://www.reunioncpg2022.courelmountains.es>
- July 7-9 ST4 - Geoconservation, Geodiversity, and Coastal and Marine Geoheritage  
Conference session  
X Symposium on the IberianAtlanticMargin, Bilbao, País Vasco, Spain  
Coordinators: Manu MongeGanuzas, José Brilha, Paulo Pereira  
<https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/simposiomia2022/st4-geoconservacion-geodiversidad-y-patrimonio-geologico-litoral-y-marino>
- July 18-22 Time Scaling Issues in Geoheritage  
Conference session  
IGU-UGI Paris 2022 Centennial Congress, Paris, France  
The International Geographic Union (IGU-UGI); French Committee of Geography (CNFG)  
<https://www.ugiparis2022.org/en/nbsp/4>

- August 13-24 National Heritage Week  
National annual outreach event  
Ireland  
Various geoheritage talks events included (to be confirmed)  
Heritage Council  
<https://www.heritageweek.ie>
- August 14-26 International Summer School "Madygen – 2022"  
Field workshop, Madygen Geopark, South Tian-Shan, Kyrgyzstan  
Under auspices of UNESCO International Geoscience Programme  
Tian-Shan Geological Society (Kyrgyzstan), Freiberg University of Mining and Technology (Freiberg, Germany), Kyrgyz State University of Geology (Kyrgyzstan)  
<https://geotianshan.org/en/expeditions/international-summer-school>
- August 22-26 Cretaceous Geoparks and GEOHeritage  
Conference session  
11th International Cretaceous Symposium, Warsaw, Poland, 2022  
University of Warsaw - Faculty of Geology and co-organizers  
<https://www.cretaceous2022.com>
- August 29/8 - 2/9 Jurassic geoheritage  
Conference session  
11th International Congress on the Jurassic System (Jurassic 2022), Budapest, Hungary  
ISJS and various Hungarian scientific institutions  
Coordinators: József Pálffy and István Főzy  
<https://jurassic2022.hu>
- September (to be confirmed) The Day of Geology  
Annual event, Norway
- September 3-6 Geodiversity Day  
Annual event, Turkey  
Geodiversity Festival  
JEMIRKO, JMO (Chamber of Geological Engineers), Nizamettin Kazancı  
Coordinator: Nizamettin Kazancı  
[www.jemirko.org.tr](http://www.jemirko.org.tr)
- September 10 The Day of Geology  
Annual event, Sweden  
<https://geologinsdag.nu/en>
- September 12-16 ICG 2022-24 Geoheritage, Cultural Geomorphology and Geotourism  
Conference session  
10th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG-2022), Coimbra, Portugal  
International Association of Geomorphologists  
Coordinators: Paola Coratza, Zbigniew Zwoliński, José Brilha, Nickolas Zouros, António Vieira  
<https://www.icg2022.eu>
- September 23-24 Lithuanian National Geoheritage Day  
Annual event, Birzai, Lithuania  
Contact person: [alma.grigiene@lgt.lt](mailto:alma.grigiene@lgt.lt)
- September 26-30 GEODIVERSITY, GEOHERITAGE, GEOTOURISM  
16th Conference of European Geoparks  
Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark, Baveno, Italy  
Organizers: Sesia Val Grande Geopark Board  
<http://www.europeangeoparks.org>
- October 1-8 GEOSITE DAYS  
National annual outreach event, Hungary
- October 3-5 I know, I see, I protect  
6th Slovenian Geological Congress; Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia  
Slovene Geological Society and SKIAH - Society of the Slovenian Committee of the International Association of Hydrogeologists  
<https://www.geo-zs.si/6SGK2022>
- October 6 International Geodiversity Day - various events  
Annual outreach event, Slovenia
- October 6 Geodiversity Day  
Annual outreach event; Hungary  
Hungarian Academy of Sciences in cooperation with Hungarian Geological Society
- October 6-9 From research to geotourism  
Conference, Croatia  
1st International Symposium Geoparks & Sciences, Rab, Croatia  
UNESCO IGCP Project 737-SMART  
[progeocroatia@gmail.com](mailto:progeocroatia@gmail.com)
- October 9-12 Geoheritage session; title to be confirmed  
Annual meeting, Denver, USA  
Geological Society of America 2022  
Tom Casadevall & other contributors  
<https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2022/home>

October 9-15 Earth Science Week

National annual outreach event, USA

American Geosciences Institute (AGI)

<https://www.earthsciweek.org/about-esw>

October 12 National Fossil Day

National annual outreach event, USA

National Park Service, AGI, & partners

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fossilday/index.htm>

November 7-11 Palaeontological heritage, geoparks and geotourism

Conference session

6th International Paleontological Congress, KhonKaen, Thailand

Palaeontological Research and Education Centre, Mahasarakham

University

<https://ipc6.msu.ac.th>



## Deadline next issue of ProGEO NEWS

June 10th, 2022

Please send contributions to ProGEO NEWS. Members are interested in things that happen all over the world, your experiences, activities, science, geosites, geoconservation and geotourism efforts!

June  
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ProGEO NEWS issued 4 times a year with information about ProGEO and its activities.

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Please send your contributions (unformatted word file 500 – 2000 words). Photographs, maps and figures should be sent as separated files (preferentially not included in the word file).

If longer texts are needed, please contact the editor.

ProGEO: international association for the conservation of geological heritage.

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