THE DIGNE DECLARATION, 1991

International declaration of the rights of the memory of the Earth

1 - Just as human life is recognized as being unique, the time has come to recognize the uniqueness of the Earth.

2 - Mother Earth supports us. We are each and all linked to her, she is the link between us.

3 - The Earth is 4.5 billion years old and the cradle of life, of renewal and of the metamorphosis of life. Its long evolution, its slow rise to maturity, has shaped the environment in which we live.

4 - Our history and the history of the Earth are closely linked. Its origins are our origins, its history is our history and its future will be our future.

5 - The aspect of the Earth, its very being is our environment. This environment is different, not only from that of the past, but also from that of the future. We are just the Earth's companion with no finality, we only pass by.

6 - Just as an old tree keeps all the records of its growth and life, the Earth retains memories of its past... A record inscribed both in its depth and on the surface, in the rocks and in the landscapes, a record which can be read and translated.

7 - We have always been aware of the need to preserve our memories - i.e. our cultural heritage. Now time has come to protect our natural heritage, the environment. The past of the Earth is no less important than that of human beings. Now it is time for us to learn to protect, and by doing so, to learn about the past of the Earth, to read this book written before our advent: that is our geological heritage.

8 - We and the Earth share our common heritage. We and governments are but the custodians of this heritage. Each and every human being should understand that the slightest depredation mutilates, destroys and leads to irreversible loss. Any form of development should respect the singularity of this heritage.

9 - The participants of the 1st international symposium of the protection of our geological heritage, including over a hundred specialists from over thirty nations, urgently request all national and international authorities to take into consideration and to protect this heritage by means of all necessary legal, financial and organizational measures.

Written on the 13th June 1991, in Digne, France.
THE MALVERN RESOLUTION, 1993

Malvern Conference on Geological and Landscape Conservation 1993: Resolution endorsed by closing session of conference

Resolution (amended version)
The Malvern International Conference 1993

- believes that there is need for an international Earth science conservation convention;
- recognises that the justification for, potential scope of, and objectives of, such a convention should be examined in depth; and
- supports the establishment of an international task force which will pursue, and report back on, these propositions.

Action Plan

(1) The following delegates at the Malvern Conference have agreed to form a task force, for a period of two years in the first instance, with the purpose of:
- progressing the Malvern International Conference 1993 Resolution taking account of the conclusions of the Workshops at the conference;
- facilitating the organisation of a successor conference to the Malvern International Conference 1993;
- expediting the creation of an international organisation for Earth science conservation which will, on formation, take over the functions of the task force.
Dr P. Creaser (Australia)
Prof. P. Jacobs (Belgium)
Mr G. Martini (France)
Ms A. Spiteri (Malta)
Mr C. Stevens (United Kingdom)

(2) The international task force will seek the support of delegates and others in carrying forward its report, and widen its membership as necessary.

(3) The Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the United Kingdom (Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY, UK) will provide a secretariat to support this task force for a period of two years after which time it is anticipated that a permanent international organisation will be in place.

(4) The task force will report back annually in writing to the delegates who attended the Malvern International Conference 1993 until either a permanent international organisation is in place or a successor conference is held, whichever is the earlier.

22 July 1993 Malvern

THE ROME DECLARATION, 1996

ProGEO is an open association whose primary aim is the promotion of geoconservation. GEOSITES is a project, under the auspices of IUGS and with the support of UNESCO, to devise a global inventory of geological, geomorphological and landscape sites.

Italy has an important place in the geology of Europe. Through this conference it has been shown that a wide range of activities are already making an important contribution to European geoconservation. The following declaration sets the European context. It is followed by an integrated Italian strategy.

1. Geoconservation is regarded by society as an essential part of the protection of our natural and cultural heritage. Achievements in geoconservation (=geotope conservation), as well as any successes making the public aware of geological heritage, are based on modern Earth-science data and up-to-date descriptions of geological features. Thus scientific knowledge underpins all worthwhile activity on GEOSITES: upon this cornerstone ProGEO policies are founded.

2. ProGEO is the European geoconservation network - we hope that its structure is adopted elsewhere in other regions of the world. We agree to work towards links with other regional networks.

3. We uphold ProGEO's move towards regionalisation as the ideal functional framework.

4. ProGEO supports the regional and national contextual criteria and frameworks already adopted for GEOSITES.

This symposium approves fully and recommends the systematic approach adopted for GEOSITES (including soils and landscapes), working in clear regional, structural and stratigraphic frameworks, avoiding the ad hoc methods of the past. We look for the incorporation of geological sites and terrains in World Heritage sites as soon as possible; however, this should be done with care and balance, and inclusions under World Heritage should be based on the sound GEOSITES method.

5. GEOSITES offers great, previously unanticipated, gains in terms of improved communications and working. It is proposed to form a Task Force to examine the possibilities for enlarging and building upon the geosite concept, and the possibilities for Lithosphere/Geosphere reserves.

6. We intend to have a geological/tectonic framework and the network of GEOSITES established for Europe in 1998, meshed with national and regional networks, developing descriptive documentation gradually.

A STRATEGY FOR ITALIAN GEOCONSERVATION

7. We intend to exert continuous pressure on the competent authorities and public opinion, so that existing laws are applied. In that way the Conservation of the Geological Heritage may be guaranteed, as well as offering wider employment possibilities for new generations of geologists and other competent specialists.

8. A major step foreseen is the promotion of a national inventory of geoconservation sites/geotopes which have international and/or national value. Concurrently we will promote regional inventories, inviting the Authorities to operate autonomously, both within the technical-scientific context agreed at a national level, and in accordance with the IUGS GEOSITES criteria.

9. We intend to promote the opinion that full weight should be given by States and Regions to geotope selection, conservation and management, placing this in the wider context of environmental, territorial and cultural planning.

10. We are aware that an important factor in the protection of the cultural heritage is knowledge. Therefore we consider of paramount importance the propagation of Earth Sciences at various educational levels, ranging from elementary school to university.

Postscript
This conference looks forward to meeting again next year to advance the cause of European geoconservation, to consider the evolving Geosite list, and in two years in Sofia for ProGEO "98", to discuss a draft European list which ProGEO will submit to IUGS and UNESCO.
THE MADRID DECLARATION, 1999

Preamble: Geodiversity is a natural phenomenon. It is the physical underpinning of both the biotic and the abiotic world.

Our cultural, economic and historical development is intimately linked to the complexity and controlling influences exerted by the physical (geological) world.

1- Integration of geoconservation into nature conservation policies should take place, with full cognisance of the fundamental importance of geodiversity.

2- This integration must be achieved applying proven methods founded on good geoscience.

3- Nature conservation organisations have responsibility for the protection of our geological heritage (including the physical landscape) as a component of the natural heritage. They need to be assisted by Geological Surveys and the Geoscientific Community.

4- Mobilisation of scientific opinion and concerted contributions towards geoconservation make it possible to undertake integrated consideration of natural environment protection, including both biotic and abiotic elements.

5- A first step to achieve the integration of geoconservation into nature conservation would be an evaluation of the Geological Heritage in already protected areas, followed by the promotion of interpretative initiatives, in order to increase social awareness of Geoconservation.

6- One vital element in any strategy towards more effective geoconservation is raising awareness of geoscience and of geological heritage. This must be achieved in school curricula, and through training.

7- We endorse the production of a southern European integrated Geosite framework and site/terrain list

8- We restate our enthusiasm and commitment for the regional working groups of ProGEO and their co-ordination of the work of national ProGEO committees.

9- We support the effective application of existing nature/geological conservation legislation.

Written on the 25th November 1999 in Madrid
The MADRID DECLARATION, 1999

IIIrd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ProGEO ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE, MADRID - DECLARATION

The Madrid Declaration was approved unanimously by the plenary session of the III rd International Symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage. Before its reading, it was introduced to the plenary session by the executive secretary of ProGEO. In this section, both words of introduction and the Declaration are included.

Introduction to the Declaration (words addressed to the plenary session by W.A.P. Wimbledon, Executive Secretary of ProGEO)

I have been asked by our chairman, Dr Garcia Cortés, and the organising committee of this excellent meeting, to introduce the final Symposium Declaration. Before I do that, I would like to steal a few moments to set the scene and the context for this meeting, and this declaration. This is the III rd International Symposium on the Conservation of the Geological Heritage, following those in Digne and Roma. The organisers of these important meetings are with us here: very great thanks to them. Digne gave us an ethos and showed us what we wanted to do (and did not want to do) in Europe as an association, and Roma gave us the balance and made the association a whole, with all regions fully engaged.

ProGEO has come a long way since Digne declaration, a colourfully worded exposition of our ethos. In the time since, ProGEO has made many and major practical contributions, the "geo" part of the Council of Europe's European Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy came from ProGEO. Our association played a major part the drafting of that document, and also in getting geology more to the fore in the Operational Guidelines for the selection of World Heritage Sites, when UNESCO (WH centre) revised them. The proposed Geoparks initiative of UNESCO (ES Division) has been guided by a number of leading ProGEO members, determined to give scientific sites a prominent place. Through its determination to identify a European geosite list, based on the best scientific opinion, ProGEO has led the way in the work of the International Union of Geological Sciences, work that is now being replicated in Asia and Africa.

ProGEO continues to work for the strengthening of ties and the healthy integration of Geoconservation within Nature Conservation. This holistic, all-embracing, approach was promulgated long ago by ProGEO. Though we see that there is enormous sense in working with other disciplines for practical conservation, we regard geoconservation as indivisible, like geosciences it supports; it is varied, but its individual parts constitute a continuum, the same principles of geoconservation encompass all types of site. This is important, because it is a key element in our fight to have geoconservation recognised in all countries and at all levels, not to have it seen as some subsidiary to archaeology, biology, or another discipline. It would be the biggest mistake to let geoconservation be weakened by fragmentation so that, for instance, fossil or mineral sites or landforms were arbitrarily protected, and geology in all its richness forgotten. In this, cross-border co-operation helps avoid harmful factionalism and parochialism. There is a growing determination to conserve geo-diversity wherever it is significantly represented in the rock and landform record. New and productive links have been formed with the International Union of Geological Sciences through participation in its Geosite programme and Working Group. In 1998, at a ground-breaking meeting in Bulgaria, ProGEO compiled the first ever European listing of Geosite frameworks, for consideration by our community of geoscientists and conservationists. Recently has come Greece, a magnificent first for its dynamic organisers, leading the way in geoconservation training and education. In all these things, ProGEO regional groups should play their part.

I would like to use this opportunity to say a few words of thanks, to all who contributed to this creative meeting: we have all learned much - on tourism, on training, on modern technology, as well as our established preoccupations of site identification, selection and management of statute and the planning process - the things that keep many of us busy in our daily working lives. Anyway, thanks and many thanks to all who have reached out to us to communicate their message.

I have said various words of adulation and genuine words of thanks. Words play an important part in the modern world. Buzz words, catch phrases, words that people readily remember. ProGEO has given the world several new words. You hear them now every day: "geoconservation", "geosites", "geodiversity", "geoheritage". This commonplace, easy language is important, if we are to catch people's imaginations, to involve them, to overcome the lingering mystery of geoscience and geoconservation. We are mostly specialists and we love our fancy long words, and we love to confuse all with our jargon. But there is no great mystery. As the Digne Declaration said, the geological record that we try
to conserve is a book, it our geological heritage, and it can be read by all with little help. It is our shared heritage. It is also the record of life and the substrate on which all present life now exists.

Of course, the greatest achievement of ProGEO in recent years - in parallel with papers, innumerable national and regional workshops, and three international symposia - is the fact that we have formed a movement, a geoconservation movement!

This has been a very busy, productive and informative meeting. Paul Dingwall kindly came all the way from New Zealand to represent IUCN and attend this conference. It was encouraging to hear him say so clearly in his keynote talk that ProGEO was globally taking the lead of geoconservation, and setting the agenda. ProGEO's easily remembered name has now a certain popularity! I am overjoyed at the way in which our Spanish colleagues have guided us at this meeting, playing their rightful role in our movement. We are mostly privileged foreigners here. I take this opportunity, the only one I will get, as the Secretary of ProGEO, to thank IGTE for its leadership, to thank our Spanish colleagues, whom we esteem very much, for their unfailing courtesy and care. I thank them all, and the organising committee in the person of Dr Daniel Barethino.

Why are we here? We are here to take forward the agenda ProGEO has already published and which all the association has agreed. We have been here to work, to aid our Spanish colleagues and to work with them. We have come to take forward our shared aims, and to give some help in pushing geoconservation in Spain and Iberia along its road. This has been a successful venture.

We, as an association, have delayed coming to Spain for far too long, though all have been well aware of the progress made here by the Spanish Commission, ITGE, and our colleagues in ProGEO. In the years since Dr García Cortés and colleagues attended the Digne meeting, much has happened in Spain, and the proceedings of the meeting show that in full measure. Of course, I talk much of Spain, but we have in the last days been furthering co-operation in Iberia as a whole. Last night I had the honour to attend he first meeting of the Southern European Working Group of ProGEO covering Spain, Portugal, Italy and southernmost France, the latest of the association's regional working groups. The meeting discussed the first steps forwards regional collaboration and joint projects. The commitment and energy of colleagues in Spain, Italy and Portugal are obvious.

The Declaration. The two previous International Symposia, at Digne and Roma, produced declarations, laying down the guidelines, the fundamentals, for geoconservation and a way forward. The principles are therefore set. In introducing this declaration, I only need to say that it builds on those sound foundations, and much else that has been agreed and published, in Europe and in the Spanish Commission. This declaration is particularly addressed to supporting the agenda for geoconservation as it exists today in Spain through our colleagues. It is designed to support the efforts of those who work to make geoconservation a success in Iberia.

Mr Chairman, with your permission, and on behalf of the organising committee, I ask the support of all colleagues for this declaration, and wholeheartedly recommend it to this assembly.

W.A.P. Wimbledon
THE DUBLIN DECLARATION, 2002

DECLARATION ADOPTED BY DELEGATES
at the Natural and Cultural Landscapes Conference held in Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland, September 9 - 11, 2002

Sustainability of our environment relies upon informed, integrated and balanced decision-making on all land use issues relating to our natural and cultural landscapes. Therefore, the delegates will work to promote the geological heritage as a central and essential consideration in the management of landscape.

To achieve this, we:

- commit to developing an integrated, holistic approach by establishing a Forum open to all individuals and organisations interested in the geological heritage of Ireland.

- acknowledge that local landscapes can best be managed through the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process. Opportunities need to be identified whereby all stakeholders can benefit from a caring approach to this heritage.

- advocate that maintenance and conservation of geological heritage sites in private ownership be placed upon the same footing as that attaching to archaeological and architectural sites.

- commit ourselves to producing easily understandable geological information, and making it readily available to individuals, communities and organisations.

- advocate that public bodies include earth science considerations in their decision making, and seek appropriate professional advice on such matters.

- recommend that all geological site documentation be prepared to a transparent and common standard for dissemination.

- endorse the initiatives advanced by UNESCO, the IUGS Geosites programme, ProGEO and the European Geoparks Network, as complementary mechanisms to advance conservation of geological heritage in Europe and elsewhere.

Agreed and adopted in Dublin, September 11, 2002.

APPENDIX

We also consider that:

- the European Landscape Convention, ratified by the Council of Europe, provides a framework to further enhance awareness of the geological foundation of all landscapes.

- the Geodiversity Strategy statement developed by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, UK, provides a constructive set of principles for consideration and application elsewhere.
European Manifesto on Earth Heritage and Geodiversity

Earth heritage for our present and our future
Geodiversity links the Earth, its people and their culture. It forms the basis of the European society. Earth heritage, including landscapes, landforms, rocks, sediments, soils, minerals, fossils and waters, is an essential part of Europe’s natural heritage. A geological, geomorphological and soil heritage that needs to be safeguarded for present and future generations.

Europe has outstanding examples of earth heritage and geodiversity
Mount Etna of Italy, the Giant’s Causeway of Northern Ireland, the Dorset Coast of the United Kingdom, the maar lakes of the German Eifel, the Wadden Sea from the Netherlands to Denmark, the caves of Slovenia, the Troodos Massif of Cyprus, the Cyprian Spit of Lithuania and Russia, the High Coast of Sweden, the Finnish Kvarken Archipelago, the Baltic Klint, the glaciers and fjords of Norway, the Alps and the volcanoes and geysers of Iceland are but a few examples of Europe’s rich earth heritage.

Earth heritage and geodiversity create opportunities for education, recreation and tourism...
Geological landscapes and sites, by themselves or in combination with their cultural, historical and ecological heritage, offer potential for sustainable tourism, education and landscape appreciation. European Geoparks are examples of the sustainable economic use of this resource.

...and increase the quality of life in rural areas and cities
Landforms, patterns and earth heritage sites contribute to the character of rural areas and cities, and help create a living space and environment of high quality.

The task of the EU: “safeguarding by development, safeguarding by protection”
The EU should incorporate Earth Heritage and Geodiversity in policy planning and related procedures. Unique earth heritage sites and landscapes should be given protected status. Sustainable development and restoration should respect and reflect the natural patterns and processes: the geology, the geomorphology and the soils.

The EU soil strategy is the instrument to realize these goals!

* EFG European Federation of Geologists
* EGN European Geoparks Network
* IAG International Association of Geomorphology
* ECSSS European Confederation of Soil Science Societies
* ELCC European Union of Coastal Conservation
* GEOP-SEE Task Force a joint Geheritage initiative of UNESCO, IUGS and IGU
* IUGS International Union of Geological Sciences
* Eurosite European Platform of Nature Management organizations
* IGU International Geographical Union
* Wadden Sea Team Environmental organizations along the Wadden Sea Coast
* IUSS International Union of Soil Sciences

* and many national European organizations for Geheritage

With reference to Recommendation Rec (2004) 3 of the Council of Europe on conservation of the geological heritage and areas of special geological interest (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on May 2004).
Final Declaration

The final congregation of the Braga Symposium is in accord in agreeing as follows:

1. We congratulate the organizing committee on achieving the presence of participants from more than thirty countries, from different continents, and in their promotion of the sharing of experiences and good practice, allowing us to learn from each other;

2. We urge, as at the last International Geoconservation Symposium, that, due to the fact that many geosites of paramount importance continue to be at risk in numerous countries, national authorities should pursue strategies in order to implement Recommendation Rec(2004)3 on Conservation of the Geological Heritage and Areas of Special Geological Interest of the Council of Europe;

3. We stress the importance of the integration of geoconservation issues in school curricula, as a contribution for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014);

4. We endorse all local, national and wider development of Geoparks, which must be based on sound and sustainable protection of the geosite resource;

5. We fully endorse and support the recent developments undertaken in Portugal by the national ProGEO Group with the collaboration of other national institutions, those efforts resulting in the definition of geological frameworks of international and national relevance;

6. We recommend that both Portuguese and Spanish specialists should renew efforts to achieve the definition of geosite frameworks of Iberian relevance; ultimately linking this work with that in other south European countries;

7. We recommend the Portuguese Official Authorities, namely the Nature Conservation Institute, to urgently integrate geoconservation into national strategies. Also it is an essential requisite that this Institute increases the geological expertise of its technical staff, in order to better assure the conservation of the Portuguese geological heritage inside and outside protected areas.

University of Minho, 16 September 2005
Declaração Final

Os participantes no IV Simpósio Internacional ProGEO sobre a Conservação do Património Geológico aprovaram as seguintes conclusões:

1. Congratulamos a Comissão Organizadora por ter conseguido reunir participantes oriundos de mais de trinta países de diversos continentes e por ter promovido a partilha de experiências e boas práticas, possibilitando uma aprendizagem mútua;

2. No seguimento do último Simpósio Internacional, e uma vez que muitos geossítios de excepcional importância continuam em risco em numerosos países, insistimos para que as autoridades nacionais desenvolvam as medidas necessárias de modo a implementar a Recomendação (2004)3 sobre Conservação do Património Geológico e Áreas de Especial Interesse Geológico do Conselho da Europa;

3. Reforçamos a importância de incluir a temática da Geoconservação nos currículas escolares, o que constitui um contributo para a Década da Educação para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável das Nações Unidas (2005-2014);

4. Apoiamos o desenvolvimento de Geoparques de âmbito local, nacional e internacional, os quais devem ser suportados por uma estratégia sólida e sustentável de protecção de geossítios;

5. Apoiamos inteiramente as recentes iniciativas levadas a cabo em Portugal pelo Grupo Nacional da ProGEO, com a colaboração de outras instituições nacionais, que conduziram à definição de categorias geológicas temáticas de relevância nacional e internacional;

6. Recomendamos que os especialistas de Portugal e de Espanha renovem os esforços com vista à definição de categorias geológicas temáticas de relevância ibérica; posteriormente, este trabalho deverá ser alargado aos outros países do Sul da Europa;

7. Recomendamos às autoridades oficiais portuguesas, nomeadamente ao Instituto de Conservação da Natureza, que integrem a Geoconservação nas suas políticas nacionais. É ainda absolutamente vital que o quadro técnico deste Instituto seja reforçado no domínio da Geologia, de modo a assegurar uma adequada conservação do Património Geológico português, não só nas áreas protegidas como nos territórios não integrados nestas áreas;

Universidade do Minho, 16 de Setembro de 2005
DECLARAÇÃO DE ARACAJU

Proposta apresentada pelo “Simpósio 17 – Geoconservação e Geoturismo: Uma Nova Perspectiva para o Patrimônio Natural” e aprovada pela Assembléia Geral da Sociedade Brasileira de Geologia, durante o XLIII Congresso Brasileiro de Geologia.


O patrimônio geológico, representado pelos sítios geológicos e coleções de minerais, rochas e fósseis, guardam a história da evolução da Terra por processos cuja escala temporal é de milhões de anos. Associado ao patrimônio geológico existe o patrimônio da história da mineração que guarda o registro do desenvolvimento das técnicas e métodos utilizados na extração mineral desde os primórdios da humanidade.

O patrimônio geológico é bastante vulnerável, não renovável e está sujeito a vários tipos de ameaças decorrentes de atividades humanas não planejadas, e de vários processos naturais.

Iniciativas de geoconservação, que se referem à proteção do patrimônio geológico e incluem ações administrativas, atividades educativas e geoturismo, estão sendo tomadas em nível mundial, na medida em que a comunidade de geociências vem tomando consciência desta necessidade.

Recomenda-se que:

1) O patrimônio geológico brasileiro seja resguardado para as gerações futuras, como testemunho de uma história geológica particular;
2) A geoconservação seja promovida pelo desenvolvimento de políticas educativas de conservação da natureza e pela efetiva aplicação de medidas governamentais;
3) O governo brasileiro adote de forma abrangente o Programa Geoparques da UNESCO, fazendo com que o Brasil faça parte desta rede de proteção orientada por critérios universalmente aceitos;
4) Seja ampliado o conteúdo relacionado à Geologia nos currículos escolares do ensino médio e fundamental, reconhecendo-a como uma ciência fundamental para o desenvolvimento das atividades humanas ambientalmente sustentáveis;
5) Os cursos de graduação em Ciências da Terra, Turismo e correlatos, incluam disciplinas que disseminem o conhecimento sobre o patrimônio geológico e promovam o desenvolvimento científico, sob a ótica da conservação dos recursos naturais;
6) As empresas de mineração e do setor de petróleo e gás utilizem seus programas de educação ambiental e de responsabilidade social para fomentar, incentivar e financiar projetos na área de geoconservação;
7) Sejam desenvolvidos programas de geoturismo como forma de inclusão social;
8) Todo projeto de geoconservação seja baseado em um sólido conhecimento geológico da área, e que a comunidade participe e receba informação científica correta, em linguagem acessível, sobre o patrimônio geológico e os projetos a ele associados.

Aracaju/SE, 6 de setembro de 2006