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 geysers of Geysir and the National Park of Yellowstone, the giant cones of Lassen Spur in the United States, the Giant's Causeway of Northern Ireland, the Danube Delta in Romania and the Balkan mountains, the fjords of Norway, the Alps and the volcanoes and geyser 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
• EUCC European Union of Coastal Conservation
• GEPSEE Task Force a joint Geodiversity 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 Geodiversity

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).