



*Participants of the Workshop on the path over the dune of Curonian Spit (photos by G.Skridlaitė, A.Damušytė)*

## **Coasts and climate change Baltic problems in approach of EU**

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The workshop on Sea-Level Rise & Climate Change – changing processes and sustainable management of the low-lying coasts of the Baltic states, Poland and Russia (INFRA 26246) was held in April 7–9, in Palanga, Lithuania.

This event was organized by TAIEX – DG Enlargement EC in co-operation with Geological Societies of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (Northern Europe), European Federation of Geologists, EUCC – The Coastal Union and PROGEO – WG3 (Northern Europe).

The participants of the Workshop came from geological and environmental organizations, ministries such as Ministries of Environment, representatives of Regional Authorities and organizations involved in planning and water management, professionals and university earth scientists as well as civil engineers from Germany, Holland, Belgium, Great Britain, Denmark, The Baltic states, Poland and Russia. The event was attended by 47 participants. Mr. V.J. Paleckis, EP for Lithuania and member of Committee of Climate Change of the European Parliament welcomed the conference with his presentation.

On April 7th an excursion was organized to the Curonian Spit and the lagoon and harbour of Klaipėda. In this excursion discussions about management problems of the town and harbour of Klaipėda was important together with general management problems linked to coastal destruction and



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the protection of the World Heritage object (The Curonian Spit).

The aim of the workshop was to present and to discuss the current state of implementation of EU legislation and practical initiatives for a sustainable development and management of the low-lying coastal areas threatened by sea level rise and other climate change related problems.

Coastal erosion is already a widespread and serious problem in managing coasts in the Baltic area (see: [www.euroasion.org](http://www.euroasion.org)). Awareness in the Baltic countries on the effects of sea level rise and climatic change on the coast and coastal zone management, Natura-2000 habitats and geological heritage destruction is still relatively low. Knowledge by the professional organisations about practical solutions is limited.

This workshop was meant to raise the knowledge and expert level of the three Baltic states and Poland by presenting and discussing practical solutions and applied research needed to combat these problems. Legislation, organisational issues and best practices from other European regions were presented. The issue of raising public awareness about coastal management problems also was addressed in this workshop.

The participants were updated on problems and solutions related to sea level rise and climate change induced coastal zone management problems, applied research, policies, regulations, legislation and organisational issues. All presentations and other material

of this event are available through website of Lithuanian Geological Survey. [www.lgt.lt](http://www.lgt.lt).

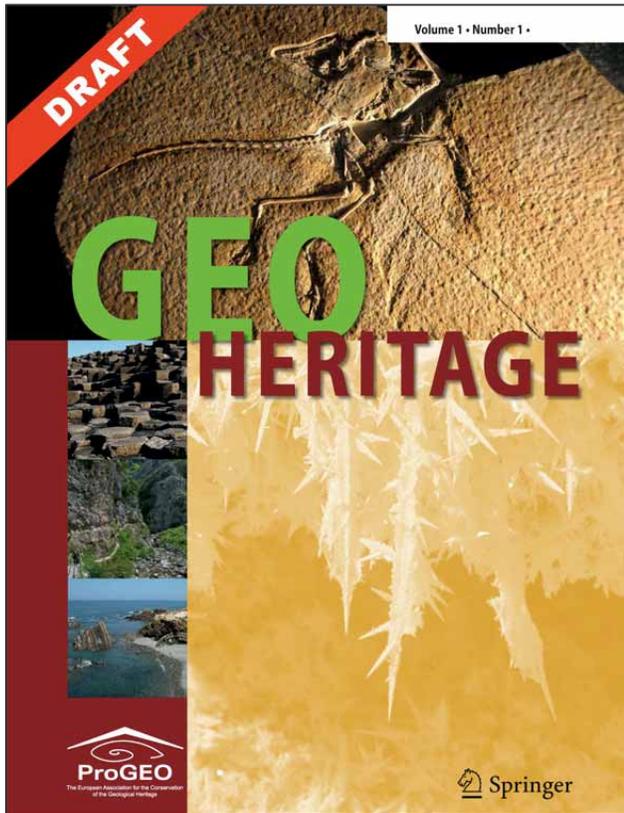
## International Conference: Geological heritage – bridge joining countries

Papilė, Venta Regional Park, Lithuania, September 10-12, 2008.

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The outcrops of Jurassic rocks in Venta river valley have been known since 1811, when Dionizas Poška, a famous writer and collector of antiquities visited Papilė village and collected number of fossils. However the first scientific investigations were carried out in 1825-1826. Due to its long history of investigations rich collections of fossils from Papilė now are disposed in geological museums in many European cities. The Jurassic outcrops in Papilė town and its vicinities are unique in the Baltic region. The course of the river valley with its outcrops was established as a geological protected area in 1960 and the outcrop in Papilė was established as a geological natural monument in 1964.

**Topics of the Conference:** - Jurassic geoheritage in the Baltic Region and Poland, network of Jurassic parks. - Cross-border geological heritage and ecotourism. - Geodiversity – holistic value. - Geoparks. - History of geological investigations – cultural heritage



## “Geoheritage”

### Journal on Geodiversity, Geological Heritage and Geoconservation

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Geoheritage will be the first ever peer-reviewed journal dedicated to all aspects of inanimate natural heritage – geo(morpho)logical heritage – following rising awareness of these subjects amongst conservationists, geoscientists and society in general.

Geological heritage is here understood in a broad sense, integrating all subdisciplines such as geomorphological, stratigraphic, palaeontological, mineralogical and landscape heritage, amongst others, as well as the places and materials connected with geoscience and its progress. The journal will publish papers on scientifically important geosites, their characterisation, conservation and assessment. Key topics for papers also include geosites (at all scales), their science and conservation, interpretation and use, geodiversity, educational links, geotourism and geoparks.

### Aims and scope

The Geoheritage journal is an international journal dedicated to discussing all aspects of our global geoheritage, both in situ and portable. The journal will invite all contributions on the conservation of sites and materials - use, protection and practical heritage management - as well as its interpretation through education, training and tourism.

The journal wishes to cover all aspects of geoheritage and its protection. Key topics are:

- Identification, characterisation, quantification and management of geoheritage;
- Geodiversity and geosites;
- On-site science, geological and geomorphological research;
- Global scientific heritage – key scientific geosites, GSSPs, stratotype conservation and management;
- Scientific research and education, and the promotion of the geosciences thereby;
- Conventions, statute and legal instruments, national and international;
- Integration of biodiversity and geodiversity in nature conservation and land-use policies;
- Geological heritage and Environmental Impact Assessment studies;
- Geological heritage, sustainable development, community action, practical initiatives, geoparks;
- Conservation in the natural world, Man-made and natural impacts, climate change;
- Geotourism definitions, methodologies, and case studies;
- International mechanisms for conservation and popularisation – World Heritage Sites, National Parks etc;
- Materials, data and people important in the history of science, museums, collections and all portable geoheritage;
- Education and training of geoheritage specialists;
- Pedagogical use of geological heritage - publications, teaching media, trails, centres, on-site museums;
- Linking the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) with geoconservation.

The journal will publish research papers, review articles and short notes, as well as comments on papers already published in this journal or elsewhere. Occasionally, concise meeting reports and news of interest to the scientific, geoconservation, environmental, and educational community will be published. As the

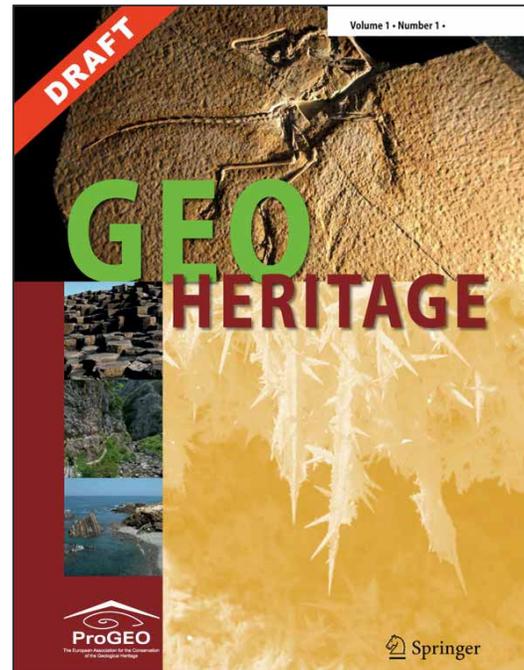
official journal of the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (ProGEO) and other partner organisations, Geoheritage will regularly publish the proceedings of the partner's international symposia.

### Target groups

The journal addresses geologists, biologists, geographers and landscape architects, planners and officials dealing with nature conservation, museum workers, archivists and curators, science historians, specialists in town & country (spatial) planning, environmental impacts, geotourism, and secondary teaching, as well as faculty staff, graduate and post-graduate students.

### Editorial board

Constituted by worldwide specialists from key organisations.



## Geotourism and mining heritage

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The fourth international conference GEOTOUR 2008 was recently arranged in Krakow, Poland. The conference was held at the AGH-University and Technology where an education program in

geotourism has been in operation for 10 years.

IAGt – the International Associations for Geotourism - <http://www.iageotour.com/> - was the main organizer of the conference. The aim of the Association is to facilitate information exchange, business, research and teaching partnership and other collaborative activities among its members. The Association



From the Poster display (photo: Lars Erikstad)



*Beautiful structures in the wall of the Bochnia Salt Mine (photo: Lars Erikstad)*

integrates the tourism with the Earth and environmental sciences, promotes the universal beauty of abiotic nature, mining heritage sites as touristic attractions and interdisciplinary scientific research.

The conference attracted nearly 80 presentations and posters under the topics:

- Geotourism - regional and local perspective
- Mining Heritage
- Geoparks and geosites
- Science in geotourism
- Computer sciences, economy and marketing in geotourism



*From a chapel within the mine. Photo: Lars Erikstad*

After the sessions it was a one day excursion to the areas north of Krakow. The first stop was the Bochnia Salt Mine. The salt body is 3,5 km long and from a dozen to 200m wide. Mine workings extend at the depth of 70-448 metres below the surface level.

Salt mining in this district dates back to the thirteen century although salt production is known to date back to the Neolithic period. During medieval history of Poland the salt industry was the main source of income to the royal treasury. The mining stopped in 1995 and have since the developed into a tourist treatment activity. The mine has a status as a historical monument and had in 2007 a visiting number of 130 000.

The visit to the mine was a great experience. A lot of the walls showed great rock exposures with structures and patterns of great geological interest and beauty. The mine was well kept and seemed to be well managed. Installations such as a horse powered treadmill and a wooden slide added to the experience.

A more traditional Geosite of an abandoned quarry in Zegocina was also visited. This quarry showed well-bedded flysch deposits. It is a part of the polish GEOSITE network (<http://www.iop.krakow.pl/geosites/> ). The site was signposted, but alas – only with polish text. Comparing the site photograph in the guidebook with the situation today, it was clear that the site had problems with overgrowing. The relationship between



*Overgrowing of the Zegocina quarry (Photo: Lars Erikstad above, GEOTOUR 2008 field guide below)*

ecological management in favour of trees and vegetation and geological management in favour of visible outcrops was discussed as an important issue.

Management issues were also discussed at the site of a regional protected area, the Brodzinski Tors. These tors was beautifully located in a wooded area and obviously visited by a lot of people both seeking geological experiences (as part of a geological trail), looking on attractive or strange landforms and for pure recreation. The Saturday we visited the site the forest was full of bilberry-picking people enjoying the berries as much as the general countryside. The tors were signposted, but management-problems were indicated by graffiti on the main tor.

The relationship between geotourism and geoconservation was in this way clearly demonstrated and indicates a possible and fruitful cooperation possibility between IAGt and ProGEO.



*Graffiti on the Brodzinski tors (photo. Lars Erikstad).*

## Geoconservation events this summer:

- Vth International ProGEO Symposium October 1–5, 2008, in Rab Island, Croatia
- International conference Geological heritage – bridge joining countries, 10–12 September 2008, Venta Regional Park, Papile, Lithuania
- IGC33
- International Geological Congress, Oslo 2008

Please find more information on:

[www.progeo.se](http://www.progeo.se)

## Northern Europe Geodiversity, Geoheritage & Nature and Landscape management

ProGEO Meeting WG3 - 23 April 2009  
Drenthe, The Netherlands

**Objective & Setting** The objective of the WG3 Northern Europe meeting of ProGEO, the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage, is to promote national and combined WG3 activities within the selected themes.

The province of Drenthe, situated in the north of the Netherlands, will host the conference. Programme field trips will focus on glacial landforms, stream management, sea-level rise, climate change and how to handle high population pressures. Two further post-conference field trips are organized around these themes.

- Theme 1 -Climate change, nature development, peatlands and water management: challenges for geoheritage
- Theme 2 -Geodiversity-Biodiversity
- Theme 3 -Geoheritage, archeological and cultural heritage
- Theme 4 -Geodiversity, landscape & spatial planning
- Theme 5 -Geoheritage and geodiversity, education and tourism
- Theme 6 -Geoheritage, geodiversity, cross-border and regional cooperation
- Theme 7 -Geoconservation in lakes, seas and subsurface

Deadline for abstract submission December 2008

For more information contact: [info@geoheritage.nl](mailto:info@geoheritage.nl)



Deadline for the next issue of ProGEO NEWS: 15.10.2008

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