

# International Workshop

20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Association of Moroccan Geomorphologists

## Geomorphosites, lever of local socio-economic development.

From European experiences to Maghrebian and African projects



## Beni Mellal, Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines 2 – 4 October 2014

### Organisation

University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco

Research Laboratory «Landscape Dynamics, Risks and Heritage», Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Beni Mellal, Morocco

Institute of Geography and Sustainability, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Moroccan Association of Geomorphology

M'Goun Geopark Project

### With the collaboration of

Regional Council of Tadla Azilal

Wilaya of Tadla Azilal

Azilal Province

Azilal Provincial Council

Regional Tourism Council

### Under the auspices of

Working Group on Geomorphosites, International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG)

Commission on Geomorphological Heritage, National Committee of Geography, France (CNFG)

# Argument of the Workshop

Geomorphosites are geomorphological objects, which are, so far, relatively well inventoried, assessed and promoted in developed countries (European and Anglo-Saxon countries). They play an important role in the spatial development of these countries. In the Maghreb, and more generally in Africa, is the geomorphological heritage also favorable to be reconsidered as a lever for local, regional and national development? Do economic, social and cultural mutations of the southern Mediterranean countries initiate a new context where the issue of geoheritage and patrimonialization of geomorphological properties (geomorphosites, geosites) may emerge in connection with the projects related to Environmental protection, the Geo-Eco-Tourism development (and even more globally to the economic attractiveness).

The geological and geomorphological heritage of the southern Mediterranean countries is particularly rich and varied, notably characterized by karstic forms and very specific geological structures with sinkholes, combes, cluses, limestone pavements, canyons, caves, travertine waterfalls, springs and dry valleys etc. Although this potential is very weakly valued, it is nevertheless this great richness in varied landscapes and of high patrimonial value, that explains for example in Morocco, mainly in Tadla-Azilal region, the project of classification, at national level, of a large part of this region in geopark "M'Goun". A geopark is a protected area, within well-defined boundaries, which covers several communities, and which is actually constituted of a geological heritage and a particular geomorphology, either for its scientific interest, for its rarity or even for its educational value. The geomorphosites of various sizes are the witnesses of the history of the Earth and of life as well as the evolution of landscapes (geosites). They may be supplemented by sites of ecological, archaeological, historical value. In effect, the richness of territories does not only lie in the natural heritage, but also in a rich and diverse cultural heritage: tangible (Zaouiat, ksour, marabouts, granaries, architecture, traditional costumes, etc.) and intangible (customs, moussems etc.).

A number of regional development actors already wonder about issues related to the enhancement of the geomorphological heritage attempting to appropriate them to the cultural, political and economic context of their countries. The objective of this workshop is to enable geomorphology experts and local actors from the Maghreb and African countries to build upon existing European experiences in material recovery and socio-economic development and try to adapt these experiences to requirement on the ground.

This workshop is intended for both academics (geographers, geologists, geomorphologists, economists...) and the regional planning stakeholders and decision makers to reflect on the role of the geomorphosites in the local socio-economic development.

## Topics

The conference is organized around six axes (2-3 October):

- Topic 1** Geomorphosites, law and regulation.
- Topic 2** Geomorphosites: definition, inventory and assessment.
- Topic 3** Geomorphosites and geoparks: which relationships?
- Topic 4** Geomorphosites and geo-ecotourism: which relationships?
- Topic 5** Geomorphosites and socioeconomic development.
- Topic 6** Geomorphosites and patrimonialization issues.

A field trip on the geomorphosites of the Region Tadla-Azilal is organised on 4 October 2014.

## Languages

English, French, Arabian

## Deadlines

- 30 April 2014** Deadline for submission of abstracts
- 1st June 2014** Confirmation of oral communications and posters
- 1st July 2014** Second circular
- 15 Sept. 2014** Deadline for submission of full papers

## Costs

The conference registration fee is **100 €** for researchers, academics and policy-makers of developed countries, **40 €** for researchers and operators in developing countries. This price includes coffee breaks, the conference bag given to all participants, including the booklet presenting the program and abstracts of papers and a CD-ROM incorporating the entire communications and excursion.

Participation is free for students.

Payment of registration fees will be on site, in Dirhams.

Accommodation is to be managed and paid by the participants. A list of hotels will be proposed in the Second Circular.

## Organizing Committee

**Yahia El Khalki**, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco  
**Hassan El Abbassi**, University of Choib Edoukali, El Jadida, Morocco  
**Abdellatif Rouiha**, University of Choib Edoukali, El Jadida, Morocco  
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**Farid Jaa**, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco  
**Fatima-Zahra Salih**, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Morocco  
**Emmanuel Reynard**, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

## Scientific Committee

**Paola Coratza**, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, IAG Working Group on Geomorphosites  
**Fabien Hobléa**, University of Savoie, France, IAG Working Group on Geomorphosites, Commission on Geomorphological Heritage, CNFG  
**Emmanuel Reynard**, University of Lausanne, Suisse  
**Yahia El Khalki**, University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Beni Mellal, Maroc  
**Dominique Sellier**, University of Nantes, France, Commission on Geomorphological Heritage, CNFG  
**Michel Monbaron**, University of Fribourg, Suisse  
**Heidi Megerle**, Hochschule Rottenburg, Germany  
**Christian Giusti**, University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), France  
**Abdellah Laouina**, University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco  
**Driss El Fassi**, University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco  
**Rachida Naffa**, University Hassan II-Mohammadia, Mohammadia, Morocco  
**Brahim Akdim**, University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Fès, Morocco  
**Aude Nuscia Taïbi**, University of Angers, France  
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## Requests

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Website: <http://www.unil.ch/igul/page16728.html>

## Abstracts to be sent to:

to:

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 Prof. Emmanuel Reynard, Université de Lausanne, [emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch](mailto:emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch)

**Deadline: 30 April 2014**

## Intensive Course

# Geomorphosites. Definitions and methods of investigation



## Beni Mellal, Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines 1st October 2014

### Course presentation

This one-day intensive course is aimed at students (Master's, PhD) interested in geomorphosite issues. It will deal on definitions and characteristics of geomorphosites, as well as various investigation methods (assessment and mapping).

### Practical information

The course is organized by the Working Group on Geomorphosites of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG). The course will be taught by Paola Coratza (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) and Emmanuel Reynard (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

### Languages

English and French (Language choice will depend of the language and provenience of students).

### Costs

Participation is free.

### Applications

Until 30 April 2014 by Emmanuel Reynard, [emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch](mailto:emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch)

indicating: name, surname, University, e-mail adress, study level (Master's or PhD), language