

ProGEO – Conservation of geoheritage in Europe

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PrpGEO (The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage) is an association which promotes the conservation of Europe's rich heritage of landscape, rock, fossil and mineral sites. ProGEO is open to all who are interested in geology and geoconservation. It has activity and members in more than 30 European countries.

The Objectives of the Association are to improve the status of geological heritage conservation throughout Europe. ProGEO works through national groups, regional working groups and international conferences and symposia, and through collaboration with other international bodies

ProGEO had its beginning in 1988 in Leersum, the Netherlands, when "The European Working Group on Earth-Science Conservation", was founded. The formal start for ProGEO as an association took place in 1993 and it was officially registered in 2000. ProGEO is today an affiliated organization of the IUGS and a member of the IUCN.

The protection of valuable geosites is a responsibility of all countries and their governments and each country should promote a list of geosites with conservation value. This requires a systematic inventory and evaluation of sites in every country.

Finland has participated in ProGEO activity almost from the beginning. However geoconservation has still been fairly insignificant in Finland. Although there has been a lot of geological inventories in Finland, the decisions to protect geologically valuable sites have rarely been based on systematic inventories or classifications until the early eighties. From the late 1980's there have been several national inventories concerning geological sites in which the sites have been classified into different categories according to their value.

References:

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