

RECLASSIFICATION OF GEOSITES BASED ON THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM OF TERRITORY ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

According to Law no. 115/2014 of 31.01.2014, the territory of the Albanian Republic is divided into 61 main municipalities. The new administrative reform, undertaken by government during 2014, obliges the AGS that all geoheritage data and information have to be adjusted accordingly for the 61 new municipalities. This project was preceded by a previous project (in 2014) for the creation of the geosites maps (L. Moisiu, 2014) covering the 12 regions of Albania. During project implementation, all historical data (data collected are of recent years, not earlier than 1995 and not later than 2015) and conclusions of the previous project are taken into consideration. The main documents consulted for the project belongs to the Ministry of Environment (decision of Council of Ministry (DCM) no. 682, 22.12.2002) "Natural monuments of Albania" and the first inventory of geosites in Albania (Serjani. A., Neziraj. A.1995)

The project team took in consideration the criteria of classifications used previously by international experts in regional level (GEA Holland (1976); Gonggrijp and Boekschoten (1981), Gonggrijp (1992), Serjani etj., 1999), since the geological similarities in regional level are more advantaged by geographical proximity, meanwhile for geosites, geology and its features, are defined custom criteria, which will be applied for all proposed geosites. The main criteria are grouped as follows: A- discriminants (integration, representation, rarity, paleogeography), B- undiscriminants (measures, such as size and surface, geometric configuration such as geologic elements, geologic age etc.) and C- additional (scientific, ecologic, aesthetic, cultural and accessibility). The group judged that the classification of the geosites should simplify from 12 into 7 principal groups in order to avoid the complexity of geological terms. (1-tectonic-structural, 2- paleontological-paleobotanic and paleoenvironmental, 3- stratigraphic-sedimentary, 4-petrologic-petrographic, 5- complex geomorphologic, speleological and landscapes, 6-hydrogeological and 7-mineralogical-economical, oil and gas resources). According to their importance, their size and extension, we have divided the rare geological phenomena in three groups: international, national and local.

A database has been built for nearly each geosite giving the name, their geographic and administrative position, a short description, geological phenomena, level of importance, values and other remarks.

At the end of the second year of the project, the 40 municipalities have their own geoheritage maps, covering more than 2/3 of the whole Albanian territory. The Geosites Maps will be delivered to their respective municipalities, helping them to know the potential geosites which are included on its own territory, to create or improve the conditions for the development of geotourism at municipality level and to disseminate the geological knowledge for community as well. We strongly believe that there are still new potential geosites to be discovered, because the geology and geomorphology of our territory is very reach.

Keywords: geosite, municipality, classification, criterion, maps.