

DECLARATION OF REYKJAVÍK

Accepting that geoheritage is an intrinsic part of natural heritage and geodiversity is an integral part of natural diversity, the participants in the 8th International ProGEO Symposium, 'Geoconservation Strategies in a Changing World', held at Reykjavík, 9-10 September 2015:

Recognise

- the intrinsic values of geodiversity and geoheritage, and their wider values for science, education, culture and ecosystem support;
- the need to protect geodiversity and geoheritage as part of nature conservation;
- the fundamental links of geodiversity and geoheritage with biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape;
- the ecosystem services that geodiversity delivers for nature and the benefits geoheritage provides for people;
- the need for geodiversity management to address the challenges faced by society such as climate change, natural hazards, sustainable use of resources, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation; and
- the duties of national governments to implement IUCN resolutions concerning geodiversity and geoheritage¹.

Recommend that

- geoheritage should be conserved for its own values, and all IUCN protected area management categories have a role to play in the conservation of these values;
- geodiversity and geoheritage should be fully integrated into the selection, management and monitoring of all protected area categories as part of a holistic ecosystem approach that recognises the value of both geodiversity and biodiversity processes in nature conservation;
- in the face of human pressures and climate change, geoconservation guiding principles and geodiversity-informed strategies for nature management are essential to ensure benefits for people, particularly in protected areas and geoparks;
- geoheritage inventories based on clear criteria, and accounting for geodiversity and geoheritage sites already lost, should be the starting point for geoconservation activities; this includes assessment of values, vulnerability and potential uses, and provides a secure basis for conservation of significant, unique and representative sites and elements at different administrative (local, national, international) levels;
- the values of geoheritage should be communicated using appropriate messages, means and language for different audiences, and geoheritage interpretation should engage directly with people's experience and cultural heritage;
- the geoconservation community should contribute actively to integrating geodiversity and geoheritage into nature conservation strategies and related initiatives such as natural capital evaluation, revision of EU Directives, and development of sustainability goals;
- the inclusion of geoconservation policies in national and local legislation and plans, namely on land-use planning and environmental impact assessment, is actively pursued; and
- geoconservation concepts are integrated at all levels of the educational system and there is a stronger recognition of geoconservation as a geoscience in the academic and scientific environment.

¹ In particular IUCN Resolution 4.040 (Conservation of geodiversity and geological heritage) and IUCN Resolution 5.048 (Valuing and conserving geoheritage within the IUCN Programme 2013-2016).