



Steps in creating a methodology for interpreting a geodiversity element -integrating a geodiversity element in the popular knowledge

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Conserving geodiversity and especially geological heritage is not very well integrated in the general knowledge as biodiversity is, for example. Keeping that in mind we are trying, through this research, to find a better way of transmitting a geological process to the general public. The means to integrate a geodiversity element in the popular knowledge is through interpretation. Interpretation “translates” the scientific information into a common language with very well known facts by the general public. The purpose of this paper is creating a framework for a methodology necessary in interpreting a geodiversity element – salt - in Buzau Land Geopark. We will approach the salt subject through a scheme in order to have a general view of the process and to better understand and explain it to the general public. We will look into the subject from three scientific points of view: GEODIVERSITY, ANTHROPOLOGY, and the SOCIO-ECONOMICAL aspect. Each of these points of view or domains will be divided into themes. For GEODIVERSITY we will have the following themes: Formation, Accumulation, Diapirism process, Chemical formula, Landscape (here we will include also the specific biodiversity with the halophile plants), Landforms, Hazard. For ANTHROPOLOGY will contain themes of tangible and intangible heritage like: Salt symbolic, Stories and ritual usage, Recipes, How the knowledge is transmitted. The SOCIO-ECONOMIC aspect will be reflected through themes like: Extractive methods, Usage, Interdictions, Taxes, Commercial exchanges. Each theme will have a set of keywords that will be described and each one will be at the base of the elements that together will form the interpretation of the geodiversity element – the salt. The next step will be to clearly set the scope of the interpretation, to which field of expertise is our interpretation process addressed: Education (Undergraduate or post-graduate Students), Science, Geotourism, Entrepreneurship. After putting together the elements derived from the key words, and establishing the purpose of the interpretation, the following step will be finding the message to be sent through interpretation. The last step of the framework will be finding the proper means to transmit the interpretive message: panels, installations, geo-routes, visitors centers, landart, virtual/augmented reality. This framework would represent a methodology to be followed when interpreting scientific knowledge about a geological process. Thus, this approach – the geodiversity reflected through the anthropological and socio-economic aspects- would be a successful method for showing the general public how a geological element influenced their lives, drawing them closer to Earth Sciences.