



## **Nominating a tectonic landscape on the World Heritage List, a case-study**

Cecile Olive-Garcia

Local Council of the Puy-de-Dome, World Heritage department, Clermont-Ferrand, France (cecile.olive@cg63.fr)

After a 10 year experience in setting up and defending a UNESCO World Heritage geological nomination, this presentation aims to give an empirical insight into this international process and the differential use of science, subjective perception (aesthetic and 'naturalness'), and politics. At this point in the process, new protocols have been tested in order to improve the dialogue, accountability and transparency between the international stakeholders. These are, the State parties, the IUCN, the scientific community, and UNESCO itself. Our proposal is the Chaîne des Puys - Limagne fault ensemble, which illustrates a complete rifting process through its different morphologies. The project's essence is a conjunction of inseparable geological processes, underpinned by continental rifting. From the start, we proposed a combined approach, where a property is seen in its entirety, and the constituent features seen as interlinked elements reflecting the joint underlying phenomena. While scientific assessment methods are developing rapidly, our challenge is to find the right balance between sound science and World Heritage language, being able to determine what this concept of heritage refers to. It also tackles the question of how to reinforce the links and dialog between geological organizations and the heritage and nature conservation bodies.