



Essential Geodiversity Variables - the missing link between science and policy

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Essential biodiversity variables (EBVs) and their predecessors, essential climate and ocean variables (ECVs and EOVs, respectively), have proven to be extremely useful tools in capturing complex environmental characteristics and processes for the advancement of scientific research, sustainable stewardship and policy. Yet, the existing essential variables framework almost completely ignores geodiversity - the wealth of abiotic features and processes of the land (sub-) surface, including geology, geomorphology, hydrology and pedology – despite of their immense importance for eco/geosystem functioning, human well-being and natural resource management. I will present the essential geodiversity variable (EGV) approach which is aimed at complementing existing essential variables by providing a framework for definitions of relevant measurements capturing key elements of geodiversity from which scientists and policy makers can draw. I will present the newly launched EGV webpage, discuss the current state of EGVs, show means of integrating the EGV approach with other essential variables and describe ways of contributing to the further development of this essential variable concept.