



## **The National Geoheritage Inventory in France, from knowledge to outreach**

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In 2002, France established by law a "Natural Heritage Inventory" on its entire territory defined as "an inventory of ecological, fauna, flora, geological, mineralogical and paleontological resources". For the first time, geology or "geological sciences" are clearly mentioned and are now fully part of the Environmental Code. The State was committed to making an inventory, which has been officially launched in 2007.

To register a geological site in this inventory and to allow its official dissemination, two steps are required: first, each region proposes a list which is worked out by local partners specialized in geological science. Then each geological site identification is validated by the National Museum of Natural History which is in charge of the national scientific validation of informations. At the end of the process, they are disseminated on the website of the INPN (National Inventory of Natural Heritage, <https://inpn.mnhn.fr/accueil/index>) which is the national platform data promoting biodiversity and geodiversity in France.

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of its official launch, more than 1100 geosites are now available on the website, and more than 4000 geosites are expected at the end of the year. For each site, more than 100 fields can be filled in, including at least 30 required fields to obtain their validation at the national level. Each geosite is stored in a database with its geographical coordinates. An exchange standard has been defined to facilitate the circulation of the data. This standard corresponds to the INSPIRE convention and it can be downloaded on the internet.

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