



Issues and challenges for integrating geodiversity and geoheritage in nature conservation and sustainable development agendas

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As one of the primary challenges for progressing geoconservation, we identify the need for better integration of geodiversity and geoheritage both in nature conservation and in environmental, social and cultural heritage policies and strategies more generally. New approaches in geoconservation are beginning to recognise the wider intrinsic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values of geodiversity and geoheritage. Significant challenges remain, however, to implement a more holistic approach in practice and to place geoconservation on a comparable footing to biodiversity conservation. In particular, we highlight a number of interlinked issues: 1) incorporating geoconservation and geoconservation principles in protected area planning and management and in the sustainable management of natural systems; 2) supporting biodiversity conservation in both the terrestrial and marine environments, including adaptation to climate change, through the "conserving nature's stage" approach; 3) integrating geoconservation into the ecosystem approach and the valuation of natural capital and ecosystem services; 4) normalising geoconservation in civil society, recognising the connections with people, place and human well-being and the ecosystem services and economic and social benefits provided by geodiversity and geoheritage; and 5) contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Mainstreaming geodiversity and geoheritage in these areas requires developing the scientific basis of geoconservation and adopting an outward-looking approach that promotes the values of geodiversity and geoheritage beyond the geoscience community.