A comprehensive assessment of geomorphosites in relation to both natural hazards and tourist fruition and activities

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ABSTRACT

In the framework of the relationships between geomorphological natural hazards and natural heritage, the studies carried on by the members of the AlGeo Working Group on “Geomorphosites and cultural landscape”, focuses mainly on monitoring evaluation rates of active geomorphosites in different morphoclimatic contexts, in order to evaluate risk scenarios in the context of tourism, and on the analysis of climate trends and quantification of rates of climate-related processes in areas of scientific and cultural interest. These lines of research are fundamental for forecasting evolutionary scenarios, especially regarding hazards and impacts on natural and cultural assets. There has been a growing interest in the mutability of geomorphological heritage (e.g. geomorphosites), as a consequence of both natural-climate and human pressure. Recent research has allowed inventories to be made for evaluating and analysing geomorphosites not only in term of their geomagnetic value but also for providing information on geohazards related to the intensity and frequency variation of climate-related superficial processes.

The workflow that leads to the creation of a geo-hiking map, which emphasises only the landscape elements that the tourist can recognise and observe, as well as the possible hazards, is composed by different step and is shown in figure (Coratza et al., 2008).

The geo-hiking map derives from the combination between the geo-tourist map and the geomorphological-hazard map: the first one is a map of the geomorphosites with useful cartographical information (signed paths, camps etc.), the second one shows hazard levels of different landslide types, snow avalanches and floods.

**REFERENCES**