

INTRODUCTION



Location of the French island of Corsica in the Mediterranean

The 8712 km² of the French island of Corsica exhibit a remarkable geodiversity with world renowned geological landscapes, a rich history of mining exploitations and numerous under-exploited thermal water springs. Like at the French national scale, the geoheritage of Corsica is not considered as an economic and sociocultural potential.

However each year, 3 millions of tourists visit the island of Corsica and mainly for its remarkable geological environment made of secluded clear sand beaches and wild mountains.

Despite some sites with international labels as the Scandola reserve, the Corsican geoheritage is not only considered but also threatened by an urban development and a lack of efficient regulation on the preservation of geoheritage sites.

The Geoheritage Inventory of Corsica was started since 2008 by the Regional Directorate for Environment, Development and Housing (DREAL) of Corsica, which is an agency affiliated with the French Ministry of Environment and by the Regional Scientific Council for the Natural Heritage of Corsica (CSRPN). The Regional Committee for the Geoheritage (CRPG) is composed of a dozen of voluntary members (geologists, hydrogeologists, spelologists, paleontologists...).

RESULTS

=> 38 sites with a geological interest are registered in the Geoheritage Inventory of Corsica:

- 11 with an international interest (***) - 19 with a national interest (**) - 8 with a regional interest (*)

whose a lithotype (Napoleonite)

=> spread over the entire island in the 4 geological domains of Corsica:

- Old Corsica mainly made of Granite
- Alpine Corsica with schistous and metamorphic rocks
- Recent Corsica mainly composed of sedimentary formations
- Corte area (collapsing zone between Old and Alpine parts)

=> placed in 1 of the 6 geological thematic:

- Petrography/Mineralogy (12 sites)
- Sedimentology/Paleontology (12 sites)
- Mines and Quarries (4 sites)
- Hydrogeology (4 sites)
- Landscapes (5 sites)
- Museum (1 site)

=> described in considering: typology, size, age, geological interest, pedagogy, touristic economy, scarcity of the site, conservation state and protection (capturing tool: i-géotop - attribution of a score of patrimonial interest).

38

Jurassic peridotite of the Monte Maggiore
Péridotites jurassiques du Monte Maggiore
(a) Gabbro lode in the peridotites
(b) Focus on the plagioclase thin lode in the peridotites
J. Ferrandini, 2012 and E. Pereira, 2016

10

Monolith of Algajola (Corbara) and open quarry of Carboniferous granite
Monolithe d'Algajola (Corbara) et carrière de granite carbonifère
(a) Focus on the granitoides details
E. Pereira, 2016

02

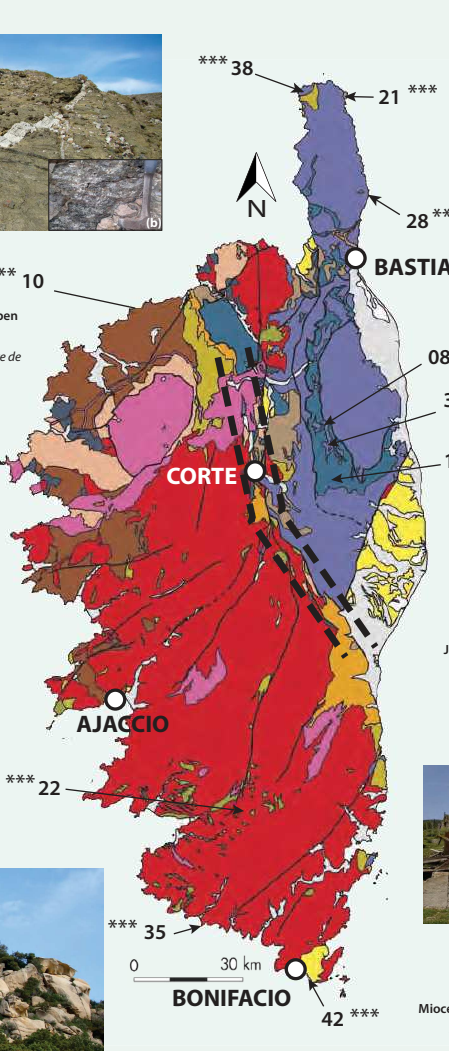
Permian rhyolitic columnars of Scandola
Orgues rhyolitiques permienne de Scandola
E. Pereira, 2016

22

Napoleonite: Carboniferous Orbicular Diorite of Sainte-Lucie-de-Tallano
Diorite orbiculaire carbonifère de Ste-Lucie-de-Tallano
M.M. Ottaviani-Spella, 2016

35

Granitic Taffoni of Roccapina and surroundings
Taffoni granitiques de Roccapina et de ses environs
M. Ferrandini, 2012



21

Pleistocene fauna in the rock shelter (North-West) of Punta di a Coscia
Faunes pléistocènes de l'abri sous roche (nord-ouest) de la Punta di a Coscia.
E. Pereira, 2002

28

Cretaceous sheath folds of the Cap Corse
Plis en fourreau crétacés du Cap Corse
M. Ferrandini, 2009

08

Ferruginous and carbogaseous spring water of Orezza
Sources ferrugineuses et carbogazeuses d'Orezza
(a) Bottle of Orezza mineral water
C. Maurin, 2007

34

Jurassic metamorphic gabbro with smaragdite (Verde di Corsica) of Carcheto-Brustico
Verde di Corsica (Vert d'Orezza) jurassique de Carcheto-Brustico
E. Pereira, 2015

14

Arsenic mine (Jurassic formation) of Matra
Mine d'arsenic (formation jurassique) de Matra
(a) Focus on Arsenic crystals
N. Frissant, 2013 and E. Pereira, 2016

42

Miocene calcareous cliffs from Bonifacio to Capo Pertusato
Falaises calcaires miocènes de Bonifacio à Capo Pertusato
J.L. Perez, 2012

Simplified geological map of Corsica (from Rossi, 2000)

PERSPECTIVES

In a second step, to highlight the first 38 sites of the Corsican geoheritage, a regional communication effort will be conducted through public and educational conferences, touristic brochures and meeting with local communities and territorial organisations. The actions taken currently in the framework of the preservation of the natural patrimony (Natura 2000, Heritage Sites...) could be also applied for the geosites. Nowadays, the legal protection of the sites is possible with the publication of the decree of December 2015 on the protection of the geological sites. The current inventory is not representative of all Corsican geological specificities. More twenty sites will come to enrich this first inventory in the coming years.



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