

Geological Heritage of Serbia – Idea, Conservation and Strategic policy

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First hints of the geological heritage in Serbia are red in the journal Geological Annals of Balkan Peninsula of 1891. Eminent geologists who founded the Serbian Geological Society referred in many articles to some geosites as *curious for their* exceptional characters. Nevertheless, it was in 1924 that the first recommendation for protection of Earth heritage has been made.

The Law on Protection of Cultural Monuments and Natural Rarities was enacted in 1945. It stipulated that rarities of geological, paleontological, mineralogical/petrological, geomorphological, botanical, zoological natures should be placed under governmental protection by acts of an institution established in 1948 under the name The Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments and Natural Rarities (now Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia).

The system-related law for the Republic of Serbia – Law on Environmental Protection (1991) defines fundamental principles of nature protection, conservation, and use, which establishes active public attitude to nature. Based on this law, and Law on Nature Conservation (2009), a system is defined of environmental and nature control measures, procedure of legal protection and management of nature reserves, financing protection activities, and improvement of environmental conditions. These two law, and a number of other statutory laws and by-laws regulate protection, conservation, and use of geodiversity and geoheritage.

According to legislation there are over hundred valuable sites of the geological heritage In the Republic of Serbia, which are protected or incorporated in national parks, natural reserves or they are “simply” natural monuments.

Key words: geoheritage, conservation, legislation, strategic policy, Serbia.

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