

# International Union of Geological Sciences

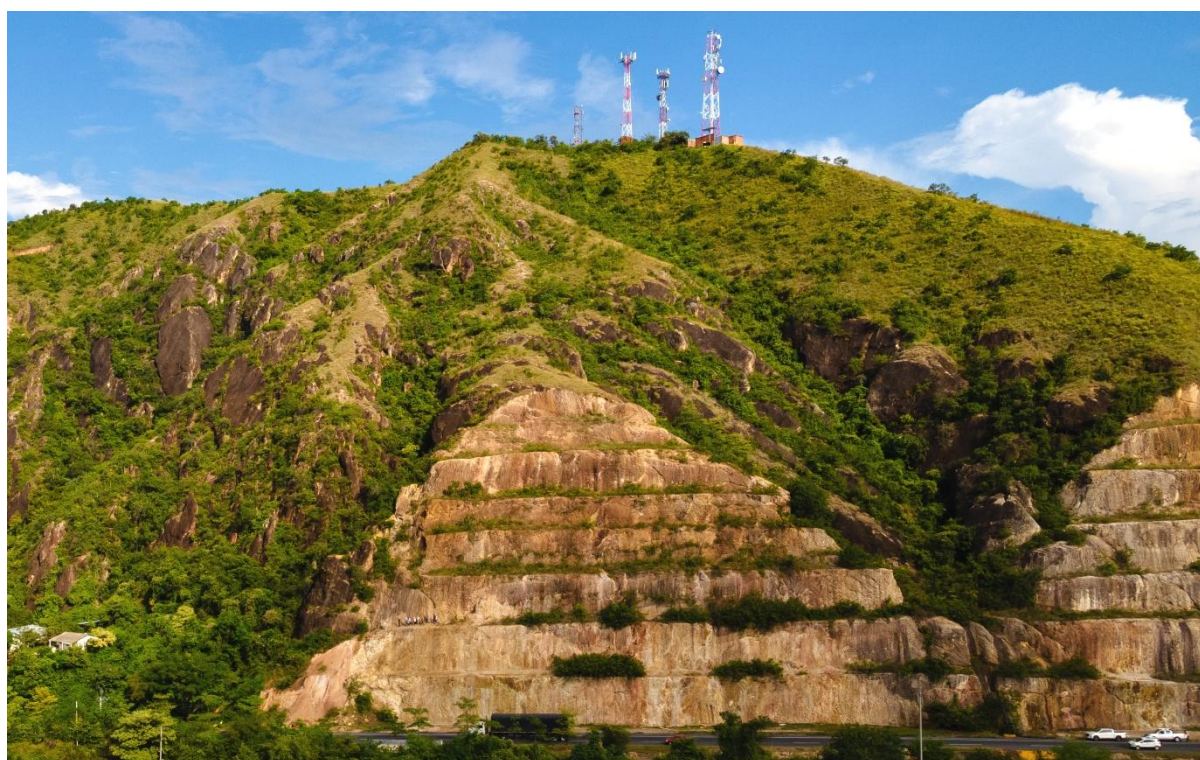
[www.iugs.org](http://www.iugs.org)



**NEWS FROM IUGS  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**NEWS FROM IUGS  
MEMBERS**

**EVENTS IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
IUGS**



*Eocene strata of the Chicoral Formation in the Upper Magdalena Valley, Colombia. The Conglomerates of the Gualanday Group are mainly composed of clasts of chert and siliceous mudstone derived from the Oliní Group (Lower and Upper Lidita formations). The outcrop along the Espinal–Ibagué road was visited in a field excursion led by Prof. Jorge Gómez Tapias of the Colombian Geological Survey during the 82<sup>nd</sup> IUGS Executive Committee Meeting and Latin American Geoscience Workshop in Bogota. Photo: David Amado Painter/Colombian Geological Survey*

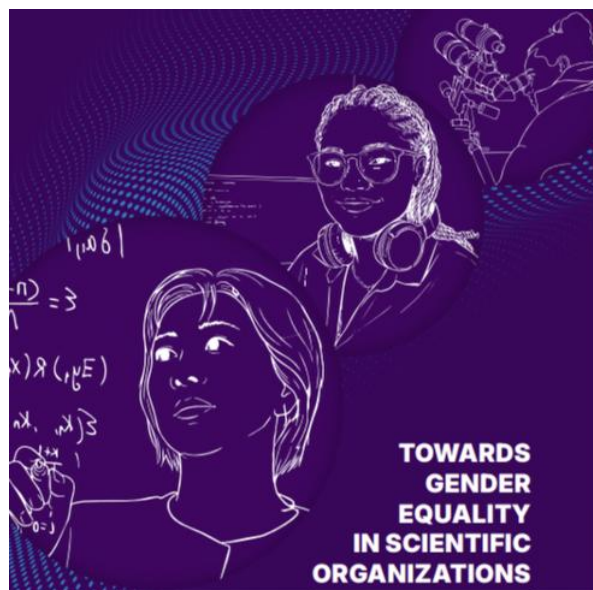
## E-Bulletin at a Glance

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## I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 1) Gender Equality in Science: the SCGES report

IUGS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Science (SDGES) in 2020. The purpose was to support women and girls' equal access to science education, acting as an observatory to highlight the importance of diversity. As stated in the MOU: "SCGES is composed of one representative from each partner. A chair and a vice-chair are designated by agreement between these representatives; they serve for a term of two years." At present, IUGS is represented by councillor Lola Pereira, who will be replaced by councillor Farnoosh Farjandi at the end of the former's term (August 2026). Up to now, IUGS has sent annual reports that are available at the SCGES site: <https://gender-equality-in-science.org/what-does-the-scges-do/scges-annual-report/>



*Cover of the report*

Periodic meetings have been maintained with the SCGES, and a successful outcome in the shape of a report was achieved: "**Towards Gender Equality in Scientific Organizations: Assessment and Recommendations**". This report is the result of a detailed work during more than a year, based on questionnaires, data acquisition from scientists and organizations around the world, analysis, synthesis, and finally the written report. The outcome is very impressive, and it is available at the SCGES site: [https://gender-equality-in-science.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Towards-gender-equality-in-scientific-organizations\\_final.pdf](https://gender-equality-in-science.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Towards-gender-equality-in-scientific-organizations_final.pdf)

To cite this report: International Science Council, InterAcademy Partnership and Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (February 2026) Towards gender equality in Scientific Organizations: Assessment and Recommendations. Authors Léa Nacache, Marie-Françoise Roy, Catherine Jami. DOI: 10.24948/2026.03.

## II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

### 1) News from the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

#### Annual One-Day Field Sampling Tutorial for Students of the University of Athens

Training the young generation of geologists is a priority of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). On Thursday, 19 February 2026, CGGB organised a joint field sampling training event in collaboration with the IUGS-affiliated Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health for the students of the MSc Earth Sciences and Environment course of the [Department of Geology and Geoenvironment](#) at the [National and Kapodistrian University of Athens](#) (NKUA); the tutorial was open to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Dr Alecos Demetriades (CGGB Chair) and Prof. Ariadne Argyraki (CGGB Public Relations Officer), assisted by Dr Zacharenia Kypridou (CGGB Deputy Treasurer), facilitated the delivery of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual One-Day Field Sampling Tutorial**, a hands-on training initiative designed to familiarise students with internationally recognised geochemical sampling procedures. The students received practical, in-field instruction on standardised techniques for collecting rock, residual soil, stream water, active stream sediment, and overbank

sediment samples, following the protocols described in the *IUGS Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network*

The field training was conducted at carefully selected sites within the NKUA Campus and the greater Athens suburban area, allowing participants to apply sampling methodologies under real environmental conditions. Emphasis was placed on selecting correct sites, avoiding contamination, documenting, and handling samples to ensure data quality and comparability at the international level. A special focus of the 2026 tutorial was the sampling of soil developed over carbonate rocks in karstic terrains under Mediterranean-type climatic conditions. Students examined and sampled *terra rossa* soil, discussing its geochemical signature, formation processes, and environmental significance (see photographs). Beyond technical skills, the event fostered a culture of methodological rigour, international standardisation, and collaboration — key elements in building the next generation of geoscientists capable of contributing to geochemical mapping surveys. Through initiatives such as this, IUGS and its affiliated organisations continue to strengthen capacity building and promote excellence in applied geoscience education.




Athens University students collecting the top samples of (left) *terra rossa* soil and (right) overbank sediment (Photographs by Prof. Ariadne Argyraki).

## 2) News from the Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE)


COGE continues 2026 with strong momentum, promoting innovative and globally connected geoscience education.

This month, we proudly recognise Prof. Caroline Tiddy (University of Adelaide, Australia) as our Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM). A leading expert in mineral exploration and Chief Scientific Officer at the MinEx Cooperative Research Centre, Prof. Tiddy demonstrates outstanding commitment to higher degree supervision, education innovation, and fostering equity, diversity and inclusion across the global geoscience community. Her dedication to mentoring balanced scientists across industry and academia embodies the spirit of GEM.


We also continue celebrating excellence through our recent interview with Prof. Amelia Calonge, Chris King Medal Awardee 2025, now available on the [COGE](#)



### GEOSCIENCE EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH (GEM)



**Caroline Tiddy**



**MAJOR: MINERAL EXPLORATION**

- Chief Scientific Officer, MinEx CRC
- Developing geochemical workflows to advance mineral discovery
- Supporting higher degree research students through supervision and CRC Education & Training programs
- Fostering EDI in the global geoscience community
- Promoting the next generation of balanced scientists for industry and academia

**HOBBIES: MENTORING, NETWORKING, RUNNING**

**GET TO KNOW OUR #GEMS BY VISITING THE COGE WEBSITE**

<https://iugscoge.org/>

[YouTube channel](#). In this inspiring conversation, she reflects on her professional journey and the importance of strengthening geoscience education for future generations.

In governance news, during COGE's 2026 General Assembly (27 February), our General Secretary, Dr Elvaene James, reported on her participation in the 82nd IUGS Executive Committee Meeting. The COGE 2026 Work Plan was presented, outlining new outreach and education initiatives for the year ahead. Explore our 2026 priorities [here](#).

Looking ahead, COGE proudly supports the 2nd International Colloquium on Learning and Teaching in the Geosciences (7–9 April 2026), a virtual event organised by the Institute of Geosciences from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. All the event details are [here](#). Preparations are also underway for the [GeoArt Contest 2026](#): “The Minerals That Move Your World.” This initiative invites students and professionals to creatively explore how minerals shape everyday life, strengthening the dialogue between science and society.

Finally, we invite passionate educators, researchers, and students to join the IUGS–COGE Social Media Team and help shape the global conversation on geoscience education. Join us in expanding our reach, amplifying impact, and connecting geoeducators around the world. **Follow COGE on Social Media and visit its [website](#) to learn more about its projects and upcoming opportunities.**

**FIND OUR NEWEST VIDEO**

Now in our  **YouTube channel**



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### 3) News from the Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

#### New Standard on Use of SEM-EDS for Forensic Examination of Geological Materials

In December 2025, ASTM International published a new standard: “E3501 – 25 Standard Guide for Forensic Analysis of Geological Materials by Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry” (<https://www.astm.org/search/result?q=e3501>). This standard will replace the proposed standard OSAC-2024-S-0012 on the OSAC registry. <https://www.nist.gov/standard/2561>. Once replaced, this ASTM International Standard will be freely available via the OSAC Website. If anyone has concerns or suggested improvements to this document, contact Libby Stern ([LStern@FBI.gov](mailto:LStern@FBI.gov)).

#### ANSI Public Comment on Proposed ASTM Standard on use of Polarized Light Microscopy in Forensic Examination of Soils

ASTM International is developing a new document, WK96359 “Standard Guide for Polarised Light Microscopy in the Forensic Examination and Comparison of Soils.” ANSI will soon seek public comment on this proposed standard

See <https://www.nist.gov/adlp/spo/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/how-to-work-with-us/standards-open> for instructions on how to provide public comments. Alternatively, those interested in providing feedback can contact Libby Stern ([LStern@FBI.gov](mailto:LStern@FBI.gov)). An older version of this proposed standard is available at: <https://www.nist.gov/document/osac-2025-s-0011-standard-guide-plm-forensic-examination-and->

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[comparison-soilsregistry](#). The formal public comment period is expected to run from mid-February to the end of March 2026.

### The Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland

Rosa Maria Di Maggio has been invited by the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland to give a keynote lecture at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress, which will be held at the University of Manchester, UK, from 23 to 25 June 2026. Further information: [dimaggio@geologiaforense.com](mailto:dimaggio@geologiaforense.com)

### Edinburgh Science Festival, Scotland

IUGS-IFG has been invited to participate in the Edinburgh Science Festival, Scotland, which will take place at the National Museum of Scotland on 17 April 2026. IUGS-IFG will be represented by Lorna Dawson, Laurance Donnelly and Fabio Salvador. There will be a focus on international illegal mining and the illicit trade in minerals, wildlife crime, whisky fraud, and olive oil and honey.

Further information: [lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk) | [laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com](mailto:laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com) or [geologist@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geologist@hotmail.co.uk) | [salvador.fass@pf.gov.br](mailto:salvador.fass@pf.gov.br)

### Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC): The Somali Gold Rush

A report published in January 2026 draws attention to illegal, fragmented and unregulated gold mining in Somalia at 20 mining sites, operated by 18 commercial entities.

For a copy of the report: <https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/somali-gold-rush-milxo-mining/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-64162379>

### Sands of Change, London

An in-person and virtual one-day International Conference will be held at The Geological Society of London on 18 March 2026. This event is of interest to academics, practitioners, and those interested in the governance and mitigation of risks associated with illegal sand mining.

Further information: [laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com](mailto:laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com) | [duncan.pirrie@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:duncan.pirrie@southwales.ac.uk)

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sands-of-change-the-global-challenge-of-sand-mining-tickets-1409896601689?aff=oddtcreator>

## 4) News from the IUGS Commission on Geoethics (CG)

### Events on Geoethics at the European Geosciences Union 2026

The IUGS Commission on Geoethics, with the International Association for Promoting Geoethics, has organised three engaging events at the upcoming EGU General Assembly 2026 (Vienna, 3-8 May 2026).

The session *Geoethics: Linking Geoscience Knowledge, Ethical Responsibility, and Action* will feature contributions from colleagues across all five continents, following a narrative pathway that moves from the foundations of geoethics to critique and practice within the research world, to the exploration of the role of models and emerging technologies, to the challenging frontiers of geoengineering, and finally broadening to the macro-challenges of geopolitics and policymaking in times of crisis.

The Great Debate: *The Ethics of Using Artificial Intelligence in the Geosciences – Opportunities and Risks* will present the document *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics Recommendations for the Geoscience Community*, released by the Commission in 2025, and will open the floor for discussion. Finally, the short course *Grappling*

with *Geoethical Values and Principles: A Hands-on, Participatory Workshop* will complete the Commission's program at the congress.

### Distinguished Service Award 2026 by the Geological Society of London

The Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics, Prof. Silvia Peppoloni, has received the *Distinguished Service Award 2026 from the Geological Society of London*. The award recognises the extraordinary and transformative contribution she has made to the geoscience community through the development and dissemination of geoethics. With a pioneering vision, she has established and promoted an ethical framework capable of integrating scientific knowledge, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability, thereby redefining the way geoscientists interpret their role in society and in the face of major global challenges. Her commitment has consolidated geoethics as a recognised and essential component of the geoscientific debate worldwide, expanding the global dimension of the geosciences, enhancing their visibility, social impact, and cultural legacy.



*Silvia Peppoloni receiving the award from the Geological Society of London.*

### 5) News from the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA)

Screen capture of the IMGA webinar.

the concentration to acceptable levels.

The webinar was very well attended. More than 70 researchers from all around the world, including students and young researchers, participated in the viewing of the webinar and also in the questions part of the session, which was very enlightening to comment and try to understand specific cases. Some exchange of messages took place after the presentation, which hopefully will trigger international collaborations in the field of Medical Geology.

The International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) has started the dissemination activities this year with a webinar on Radon: a deadly gas.

Radon derives from the disintegration of uranium, releasing radioactive alpha-particles. If radon is inhaled, it can go to the lungs, producing lung cancer. Radon can accumulate indoors, and researchers aim to reduce its concentration. This webinar will explore how to control radon concentration through a three-step protocol: 1) Knowing the problem through onsite measurements; 2) Identifying the source of the problem through research; and 3) Implementing measures to decrease

The full recording of the webinar can be found at the IMGA website: <https://medicalgeology.org/resources/webinars/>

## 6) News from the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

### Announcing the 5th International Congress on Stratigraphy

We are excited to invite the global stratigraphy community to *STRATI 2026 – Exploring the Depths: Bridging Tradition and Innovation in Stratigraphy*, taking place from June 28 to July 3, 2026, at Suzhou in Jiangsu Province, China. Visit our website at <https://strati2026.org/>.

The STRATI congress is the official meeting of the International Commission on Stratigraphy held between meetings of the International Geological Congress. STRATI meetings serve as a cornerstone of international stratigraphic research, fostering dialogue and innovation across continents with a legacy rooted in Europe. As Earth science challenges and opportunities become increasingly interconnected, STRATI 2026 represents a pivotal opportunity to enhance global cooperation. Hosting this edition in Suzhou reflects the International Commission on Stratigraphy's (ICS) dedication to promoting inclusive worldwide scientific exchange and addressing shared priorities in stratigraphic research.



This congress comes at a critical time for the Earth sciences. The rising demand for data integration, harmonised chronostratigraphic frameworks, and collaborative solutions to planetary-scale challenges, including climate archives and resource sustainability and calls for renewed global synergy. STRATI 2026 will act as a catalyst for these efforts, not only strengthening the traditional research in stratigraphy and high-resolution geochronology but also leveraging advancements in open-access digital platforms that empower scientists worldwide.

We envision STRATI 2026 as a milestone in our collective progress. Over six days, participants will share knowledge through thematic sessions, workshops, and field excursions across iconic geological regions. Together, we will explore how stratigraphy can bridge disciplinary divides, refine global standards and correlations, and illuminate Earth's history with unprecedented clarity.

## 7) News from the IUGS Journal *Episodes*

### New Special Issue in Episodes March 2026: "Empowerment of women in geoscience towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality)"

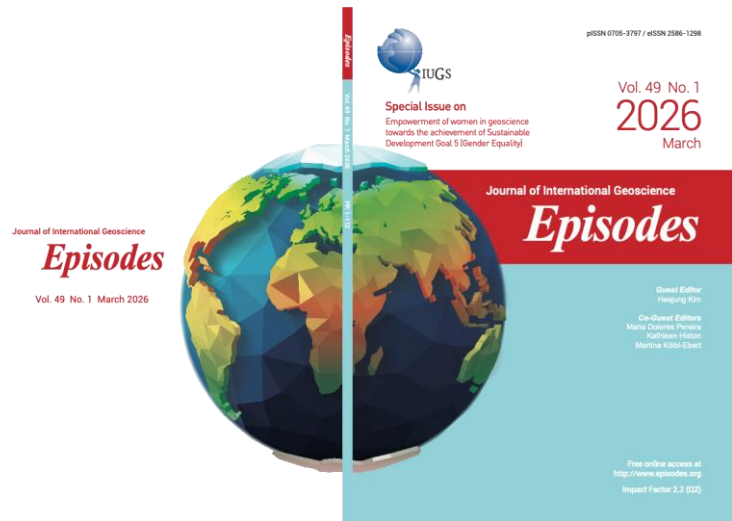
The new Special Issue of Episodes, "Empowerment of Women in Geoscience toward the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality)," emerges from the recognition that addressing gender disparity in geoscience is not only a matter of equity but also a necessary condition for scientific excellence, innovation, and sustainable development. At the professional level, gender imbalances limit the diversity of perspectives, restrict scientific creativity, and, ultimately, weaken the capacity of geoscience to respond effectively to global environmental and societal challenges.

The Guest Editors of the Special Issue are members of the IUGS, its commissions and working groups: Heejung Kim (International Medical and Geology Association-IMGA), Dolores Pereira (IUGS Executive Committee

2022-2026, IMGA), Kathleen Histon (International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences-INHIGEO), and Martina Kölbl-Ebert (INHIGEO).

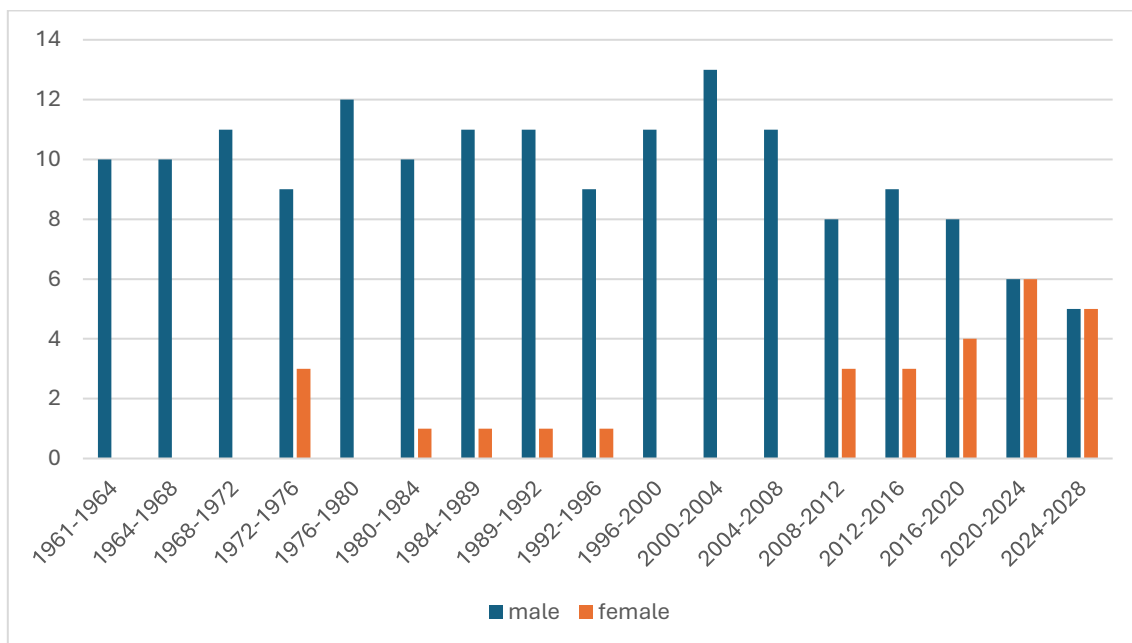
The Special Issue aims to critically examine the structural, institutional, and sociocultural factors that hinder women’s full participation and advancement in geoscience. The goal is to highlight successful initiatives, best practices, and role models that can inspire and support the next generation of geoscientists, regardless of gender, while contributing to the development of more inclusive and equitable scientific communities.

Six articles address these objectives from multiple complementary perspectives, offering historical reviews of women’s contributions to the geological sciences and proposing initiatives based on good practices to close the gender gap in the sciences.



Susan Turner’s paper directly addresses the gender situation in the IUGS EC, and the Special Issue Editorial underlines the case of this EC as a good practice to follow, as it has reached full gender parity in recent years.

Please visit the website: <https://www.episodes.org/main.html> for more information about the special issue.



Evolution of the gender composition of the IUGS executive committee, from its creation to the last election in 2024 (Data compiled by D. Pereira).

## 8) News from the International Commission on GeoHeritage(CG)

The **Third 100 IUGS geological Heritage Sites** and the newly designated IUGS Heritage Stones and Geo-Collections will be announced in a unique event hosted by the Algarvensis Geoparks (Portugal) from 4–8 November 2026.

IUGS programs for the designation of Sites, Stones and Geocollections have become a global reference. Only in 2026 will more than 500 experts from 24 international organisations representing 70 different nations participate in this global and collaborative endeavour. This special event will bring together experts from various IUGS commissions and scientific organisations for three days, during which new sites, stones and collections will be announced and presented to the global community. This special multidisciplinary celebration is organised as a dynamic forum to exchange ideas about Geoheritage's main opportunities and challenges while enjoying presentations by global experts.

The IUGS event will be hosted by Algarvensis Geopark in an unforgettable setting in front of the Atlantic Ocean. Different field trips will give you the opportunity to visit some of the most remarkable IUGS sites, stones and collections in Portugal.

Do not lose this opportunity! Save the date and join us in this unique event.

Please visit the website: [www.iugs-geoheritage.org](http://www.iugs-geoheritage.org) for more information.



# IUGS GEOHERITAGE 2026 EVENT

**NOVEMBER 4-8**  
ALGARVENSIS GEOPARK. PORTUGAL



## SAVE THE DATE !!

Join us in this unique event.

**ANNOUNCEMENT & PRESENTATIONS**

THE THIRD  
**100**  
IUGS GEOLOGICAL  
HERITAGE SITES

+ NEW IUGS  
**HERITAGE STONES**  
GEOCOLLECTIONS

Keynote lectures on Geoheritage  
Discussion workshops

**FIELD TRIPS TO IUGS SITES**

**MONCHIQUE ALKALINE COMPLEX**  
**UNCONFORMITY OF TELHEIRO BEACH**

**Post-conference options**

Algarvensis geopark, Peniche section / Dinosaur footprints from Serras de Aire and Candeeiro / Giant trilobites of Canelas / Guimarota Mammals and vertebrates

ALGARVENSIS  
GEOPARQUE

[www.geoparquealgarvensis.pt](http://www.geoparquealgarvensis.pt)

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## 9) News from the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

### INHIGEO Anniversaries – New Contribution

**Occasion:** Died 200 Years Ago

**Author:** Andrea Candela (ITALY)

**Title:** A Geological and Intellectual Biography of the Italian Geologist Scipione Breislak (1750–1826)

Scipione Breislak (1750–1826) was a leading Roman geologist and a central figure in European earth sciences at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although primarily renowned as one of the most distinguished Italian Vulcanists—maintaining that magmatism and volcanic activity were fundamental to orogenesis and the formation of the Earth’s crust—he is equally well-known for his adherence to Plutonist theories.

Please open the link to know more: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>



Portrait of Scipione Breislak (1750–1826).

### III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



Rome, Italy: 28-29 April 2026

MENA EARTH Science Congress

<https://www.ierек.com/events/mena-earth-science-congress-mesc#introduction>

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## IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS:** Please adhere to the guidelines below when submitting your news for publication in the E-Bulletin:

- **Number of words:** Maximum **300** words with links to the other sources for more details about the activities.
- **Font and Size:** (Heading 1: Roboto 16, Heading 2: Roboto B12, Heading 3: Roboto-Regular 12, Heading 4: Roboto B 11, and body: Times New Roman 11)
- **Photographs:** Maximum two high-resolution (inserted in the text with **caption**) and attached as **JPG** to your email.
- **Language:** Kindly make sure your text is corrected for language
- **Deadline for submission to Editors:** We kindly request that you submit your news by the end of each month. For instance, news for June is supposed to be published in July. Submit your news to the Editors:

**Dr Wei Jun ZHAO** (IUGS Councillor), Shenyang Centre, China Geological Survey, China

Email: wilsonwjz@outlook.com

**Dr Farnoosh Farjandi** (IUGS Councillor), Geological Survey of Iran, Iran

Email: farnooshfarjandi@gmail.com

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- 2) **CONTACT INFORMATION:** To be added to or removed from the IUGS E-Bulletin subscriber list, please email to: [secretariat@iugs.org](mailto:secretariat@iugs.org).