

THE FIRST SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE GEOSITES PROJECT: A LIST OF GEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS SET BY CONSENSUS.

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The Geosites project, initiated by the IUGS Global Geosites Working Group and also supported by UNESCO, aims to produce a global inventory of the earth's geological heritage. This global inventory requires a systematic methodology, which is based on the selection of geological frameworks with international significance, in every country. These frameworks are tectonic events, time or regional geotectonic elements, etc.. (Wimbledon et al. 1996). The second step of this methodology is the selection of the most valuable and representative sites of these geological frameworks (geosites). Fortunately, the geological diversity of Spain provides a great number of frameworks with global significance; in addition, the high quality of outcrops (due to topographic and climatic reasons) will allow the selection of illustrative geosites. In this paper a list of Spanish geological frameworks set by consensus is presented. It was prepared following the Geosites Project methodology without taking into account the National Inventory of Geosites, which is in progress and covers a 40% of the Spanish territory. The Geological Survey composed a preliminary list, which was sent to all the University Departments of Geology, Mining Schools and Research Centers, for its analysis, discussion and improvement. The result of this request was the selection of 25 "frameworks" which are the first Spanish contribution to the Geosites Project.