

## **The Brazilian Commission on Geological and Paleobiological Sites (SIGEP)**

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The General Director of the National Department of Mining Production (DNPM) created the Brazilian Commission on Geological and Paleobiological Sites (SIGEP), in 1997, with representatives indicated by other eight governmental and non-governmental organizations, under the chairmanship of the DNPM. Its main goals are to set up a database of Brazilian geological and paleontological sites; select the most important ones to evaluation and possible indication or to the Global Indicative List of Geological Sites (GILGES) or the World Heritage Committee – UNESCO. Seventy geological and paleontological sites have already selected and its features were summarized to publication in the book *Brazilian Geological and Paleontological Sites*, to be edited by the Commission.

The database has already included ninety geological and paleobiological sites. The majority of sites occur in the Northeast Region of Brazil (29%), followed by the South (26%), the Southeast (22%), the Central-West (16%) and the North Region (7%).

According to its typology, there are three distinct types of sites. The sites of geological nature (stratigraphical, tectonic-structural, petrologic, sedimentary, paleoenvironmental, geomorphological, mineralogical and metallogenetic) are the most dominants in relation to the paleontological and the speleological ones, identified up to date. Each one of all the sites described represents magnificent registers of the history of the Earth and the evolution of life.