

Use of GIS database for the enhancement of the geological heritage in Algeria

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Algeria is the largest country in the African continent and contains a large number of sites with geological and geomorphological interest. But till now, the Algerian geoheritage is poorly known and these sites need to be inventoried, protected and enhanced for education, tourism and scientific purposes.

We initiated a project named “GeoAl” whose main objective is to create a database within a GIS framework to inventory the main geosites in Algeria with outstanding values. This database will be posted on the web for public access and allow users to discover on the entire map of Algeria various sites with all the information concerning them, including photos and available scientific literature. The database will be updated gradually with the progress of the inventory in Algeria.

This database will help to promote the establishment of geoparks in Algeria which constitute the most appropriate tool for both protection of natural resources and creation of an economic engine for a given region, with the development of geological tourism, craft industry and small business through the creation of activities necessary for the functioning of such institutions.

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