

SELECTED GEOATTRACTIVE FROM A BACKGROUND OF GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION IN THE GNEISS-MIGMATITE COMPLEX OF SOWIE MOUNTAINS, SW POLAND

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In recent years interest in geotourism is increasing dramatically. Traditional forms of recreation and mass events cannot satisfy new requirements concerning acquisition of knowledge about geography and geology together with culture and history of tourism destinations.

The Global Geopark Network assisted by UNESCO mobilizes experts from many countries to increase awareness about the importance of Earth sciences in achieving sustainable development of society. As geotourism has become a popular type of recreation in Europe, more attention is being paid to the conservation of scientifically important sites in Poland. The International Association for Geotourism established in Cracow, Poland aims to integrate tourism with Earth and environmental sciences to promote the beauty of geological forms, interdisciplinary research and to grant scholarship for students and scientists active in the field of nature and mining heritage protection. Numerous geosites initiated by the European Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGeo) are attractive destinations for GeoTrips, which can effectively promote work for geosociety as well as enhance the employment opportunities for the people who live there, bringing sustainable and real economic benefits. Published Polish scientists with interest in geoparks are seeking assistance of UNESCO regarding the Global Geopark Network to preserve landscape diversity.

The Sowie Mountains Block in the Sudetes located in SW Poland consists of a gneiss-migmatite complex of probable Precambrian or Lower Cambrian age. Many aspects of the magmatic and tectono-metamorphic history of these rocks are still poorly understood and under discussion. Rock-forming minerals including gemstones in the gneisses are good materials for education, but mostly they are not described in detail in literature. Furthermore polyphase deformations have formed cracks in rocks along which some ore minerals are deposited. Many unknown mines have been located in the middle part of the Sowie Mountains.

After bankruptcy in the textile industry, the center of Sowie Mountains, Gmina Walim is changing into tourist area, however, nature values, the eco-tourist character and mysterious history of the region are still not well known by visitors. This situation can be changed by competent promotion of geology and geotourism in this area. Showing importance of geologic features in this area is one step toward effective management and encouragement in the field of tourism realizing the mission and ideas of global geological heritages preservation. More effective promotion of nature-based outdoor activity, useful information as well as a sense of discovery of nature, the uniqueness and diversity of geology make traveling more interesting.

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