

GEOHERITAGE AND UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS



Dr. Asier Hilario Orús

Chair, International Commission on Geoheritage. IUGS
Global Geoparks Network Advisory Committee
Senior evaluator UNESCO Global Geoparks
Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage
Convention

252 natural sites
93 sites related to Earth Sciences.
51 Countries



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks

161 UNESCO Global Geoparks
44 Countries

GEOHERITAGE AND UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

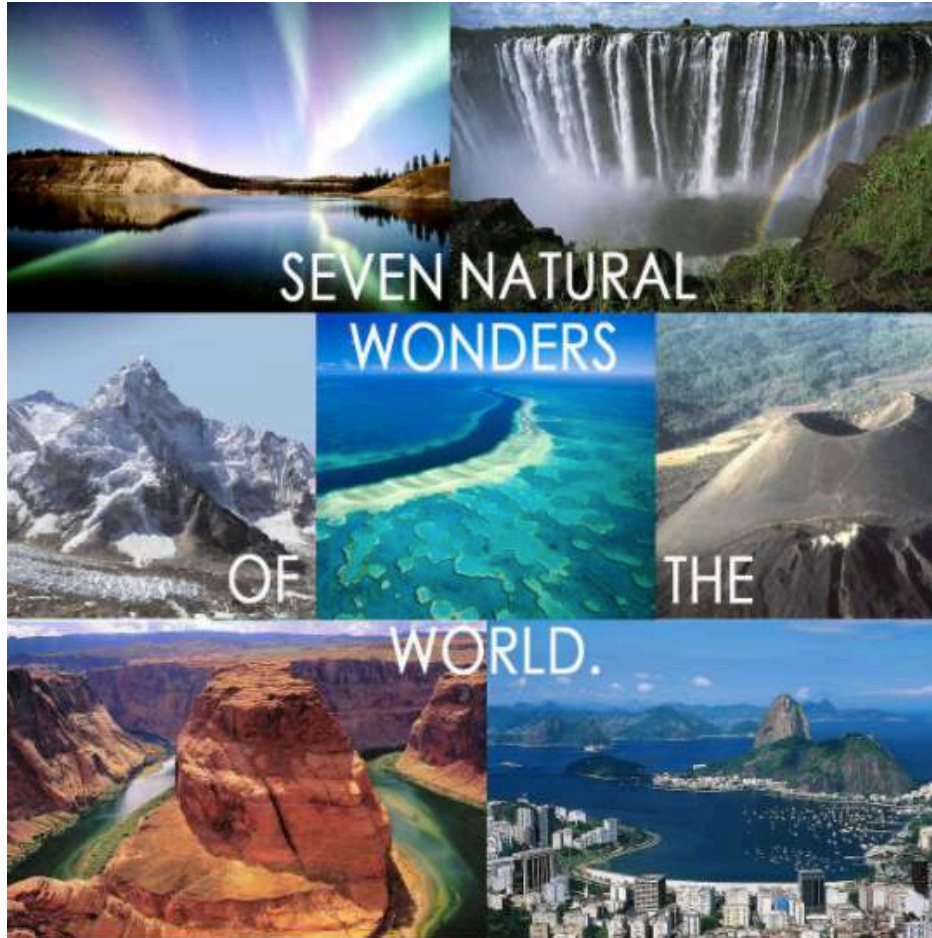


Why are we talking about Geoheritage and Geoconservation?



As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near to the heart of the world as I can"

John Muir (1838-1914)



- 1.- Mount Everest (Nepal)
- 2.- Harbour Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- 3.- Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
- 4.- Victoria falls (Zimbawe)
- 5.- Paricutin Volcano (Mexico)
- 6.- Grand Canyon (USA)
- 7.- Northen lights

WORLD CLASS TOURISTIC DESTINATIONS

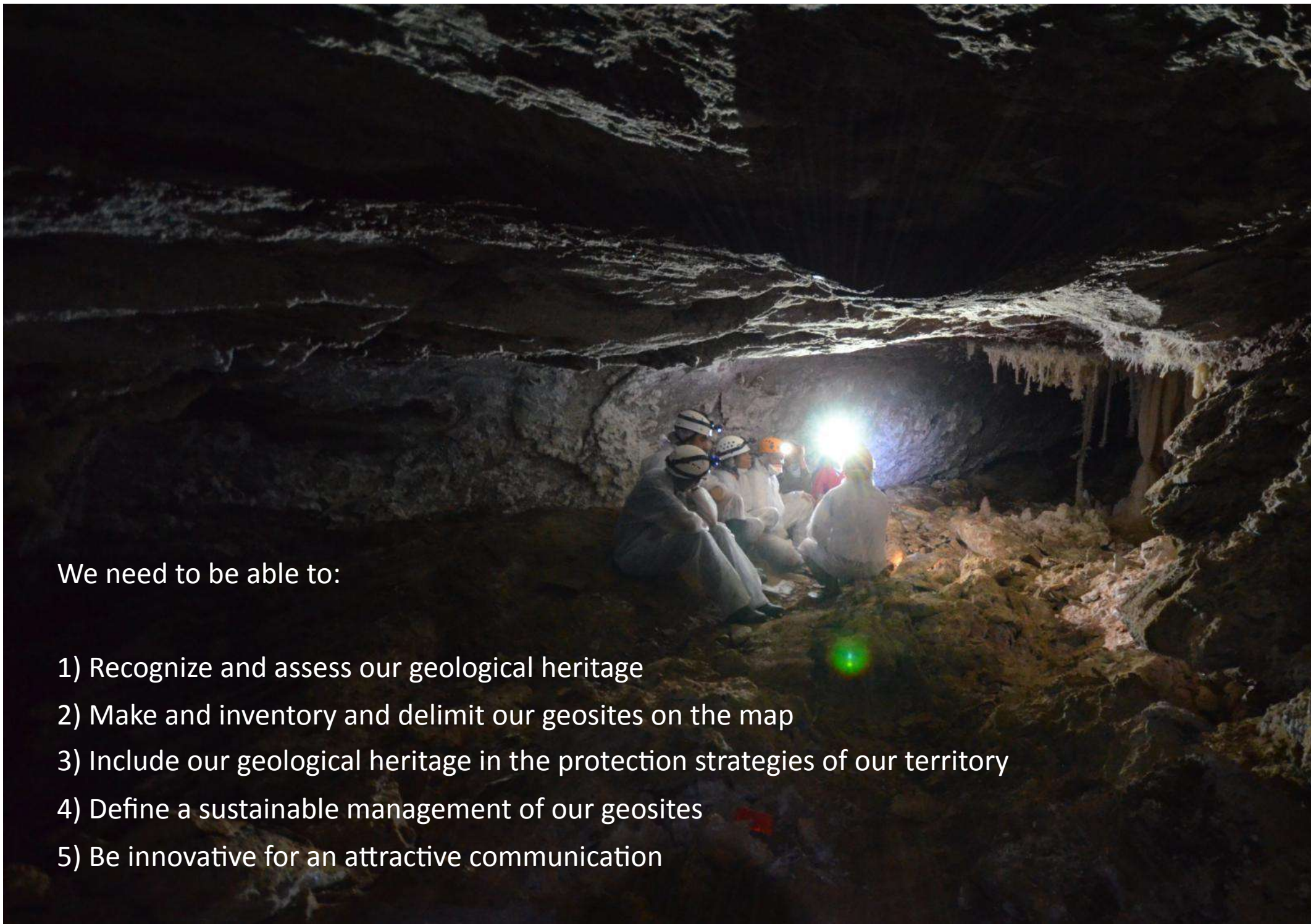




Why are we talking about Geoheritage and Geoconservation?

- 1) **Conservation:** Because it is part of our natural heritage that we must protect for future generations. It is the memory of the Earth.
- 3) **Using:** Because Geotourism and Geo-education represent a great opportunity to empower local communities, strengthen local economies and foster sustainable development. We can offer surprising experiences!





We need to be able to:

- 1) Recognize and assess our geological heritage
- 2) Make an inventory and delimit our geosites on the map
- 3) Include our geological heritage in the protection strategies of our territory
- 4) Define a sustainable management of our geosites
- 5) Be innovative for an attractive communication



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks



Why are Geoparks so successful?

We live in a BEAUTIFUL world...





We live in a STRANGE world...

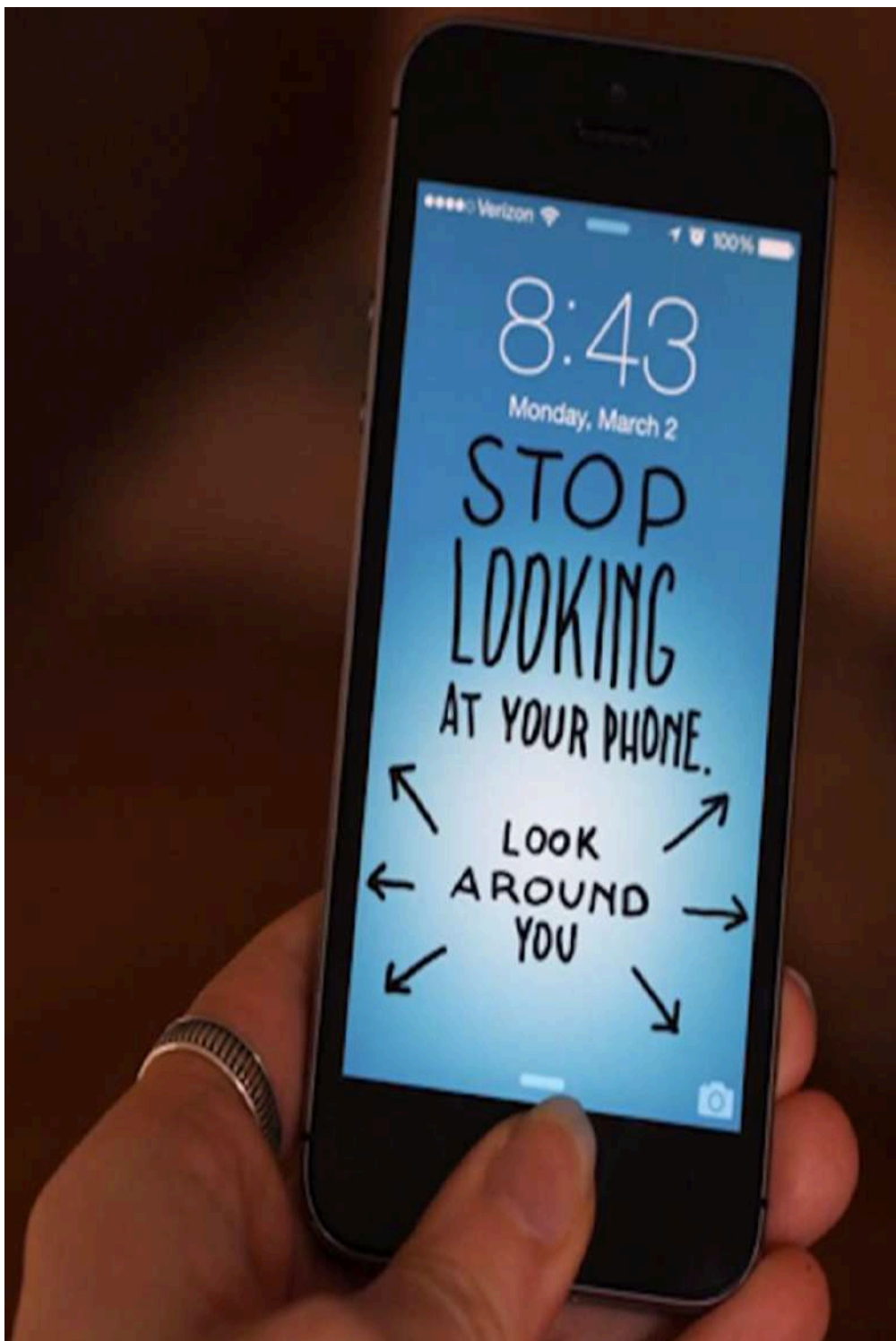
More than 50% of the world population lives in big cities. 70% in 2050

LONELINESS of the city



Where is this?





FOCUS

INITIATIVE

AUTHENTICITY

JUDGEMENT



iDENTITY

Global Change

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
Issue 71 8 March 2012

ANTHROPOCENE

The geology of humanity

Urban expansion
No sign of slowing

Natural catastrophes
2011 breaks records



www.igbp.net
Earth-system science for a sustainable planet

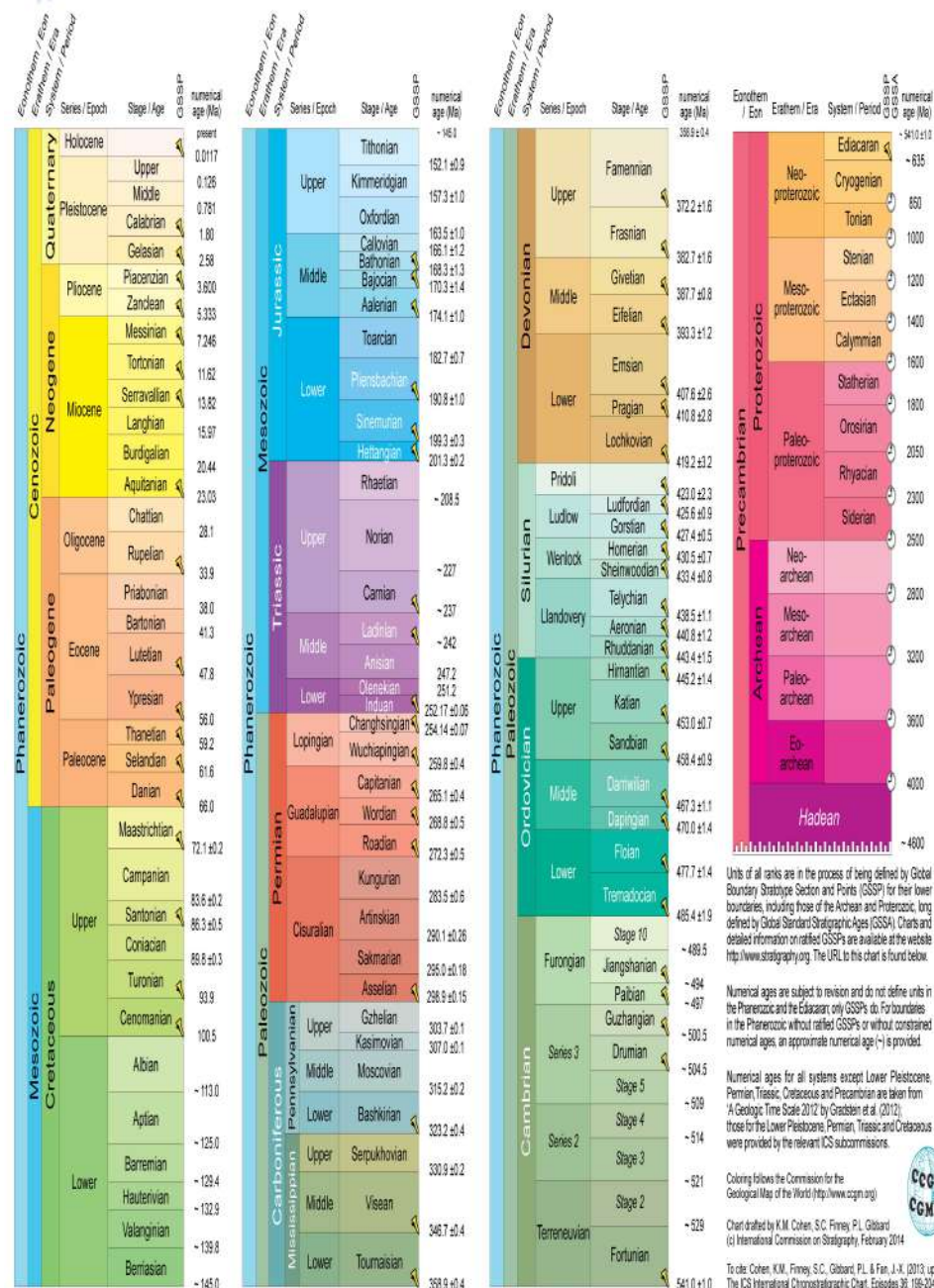


INTERNATIONAL CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHIC CHART

www.stratigraphy.org

International Commission on Stratigraphy

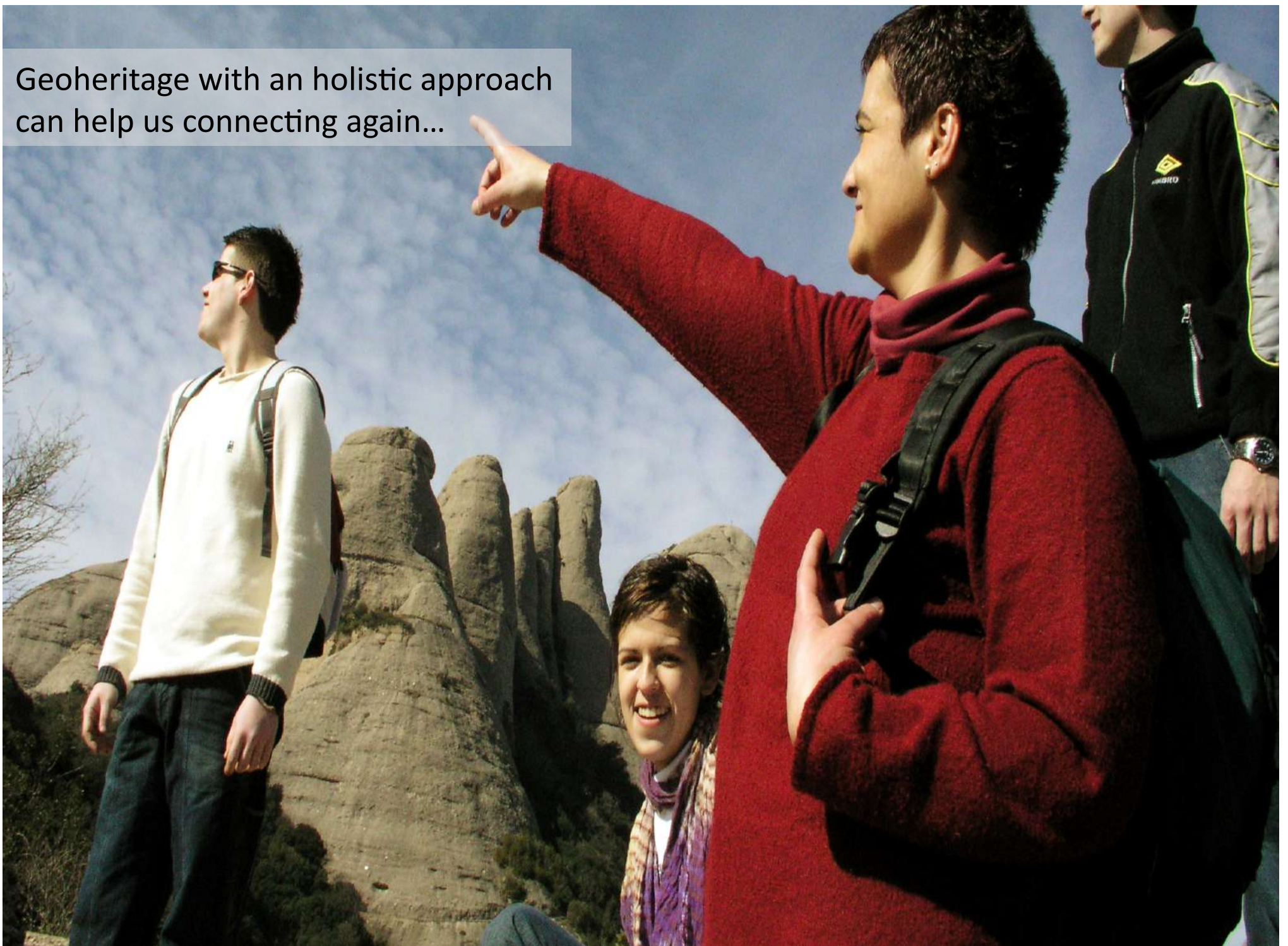
v 2014/02



Loosing connection with our mother Earth...



Geoheritage with an holistic approach
can help us connecting again...



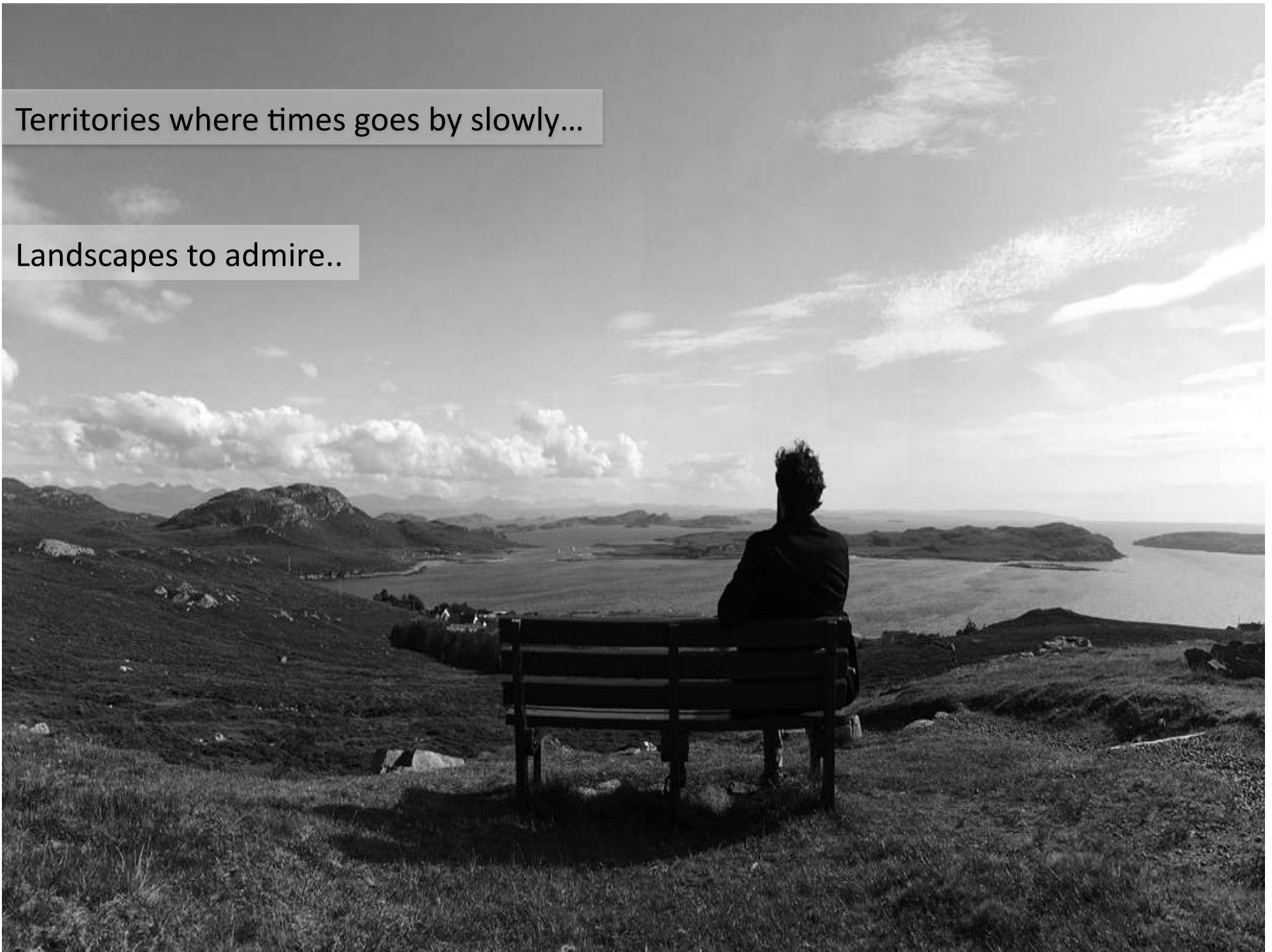
The memory of the Earth. Deep time



Javier Carballo

Territories where times goes by slowly...

Landscapes to admire..



“Time is a moving image of eternity”



Geographies change landscape changes
Nothing is forever

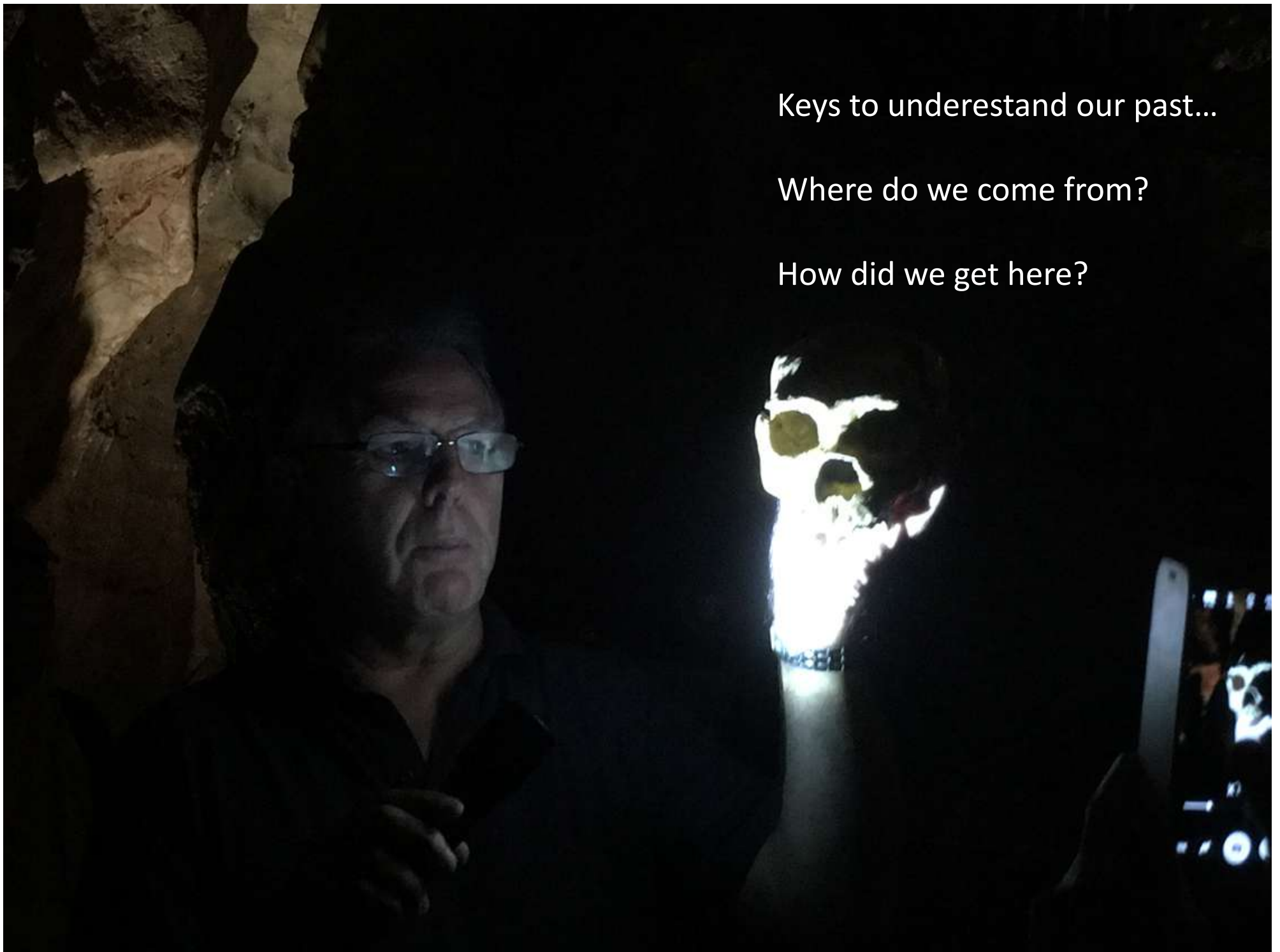


It is only a matter of time

Keys to understand our past...


Where do we come from?

How did we get here?



Laboratories for Climate Change...



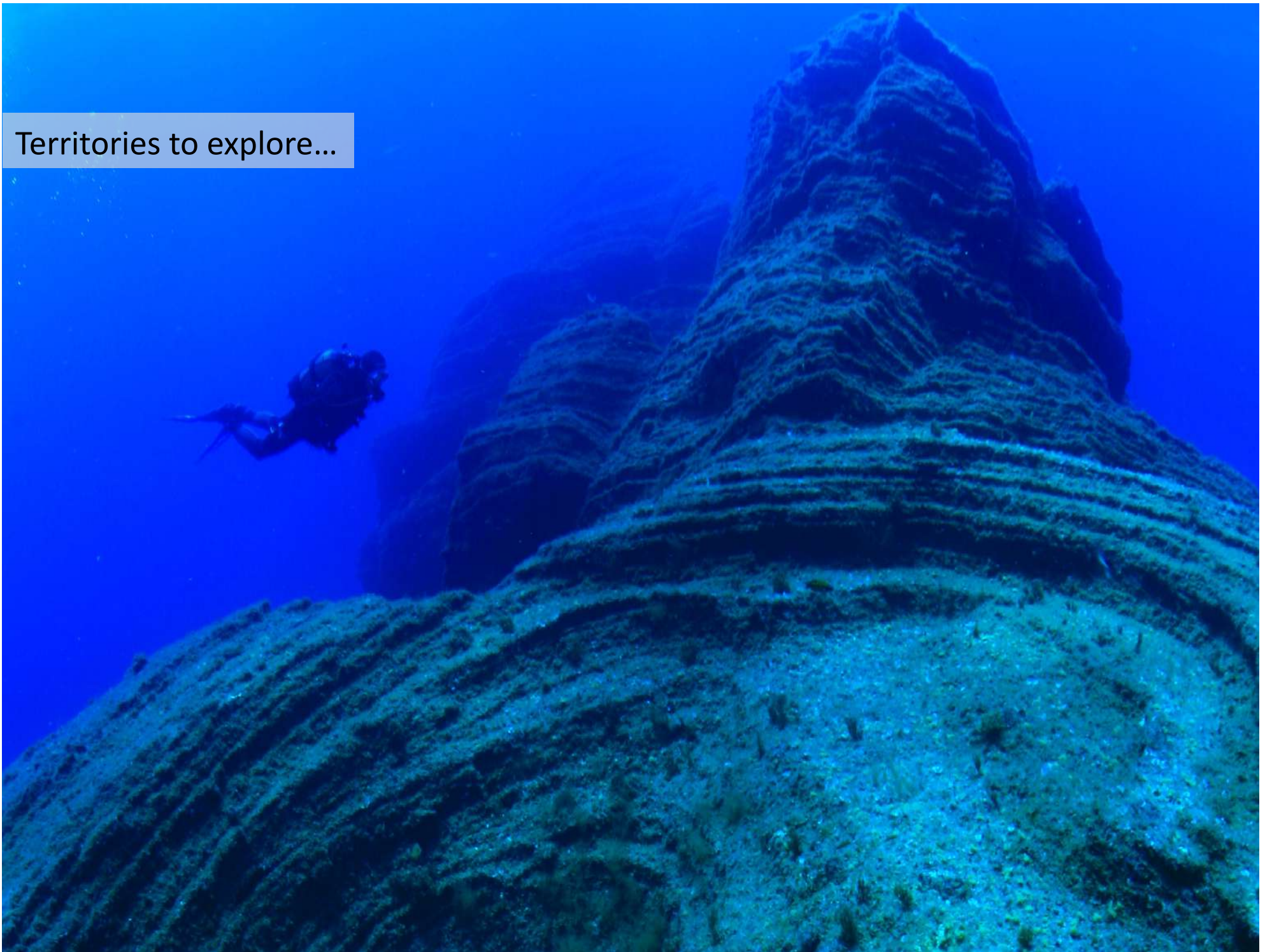
A group of hikers, seen from behind, are standing on a reddish-brown rocky path. They are wearing various backpacks and outdoor gear, looking up at a towering, layered rock formation. The rock face shows distinct horizontal strata and some vertical fissures. The scene is outdoors, likely in a national park or geological site.

History of life
Big catastrophes
Big opportunities...

We live in a dynamic Earth...



Territories to explore...



.... But there are many more reasons



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



Territories of science and conservation...

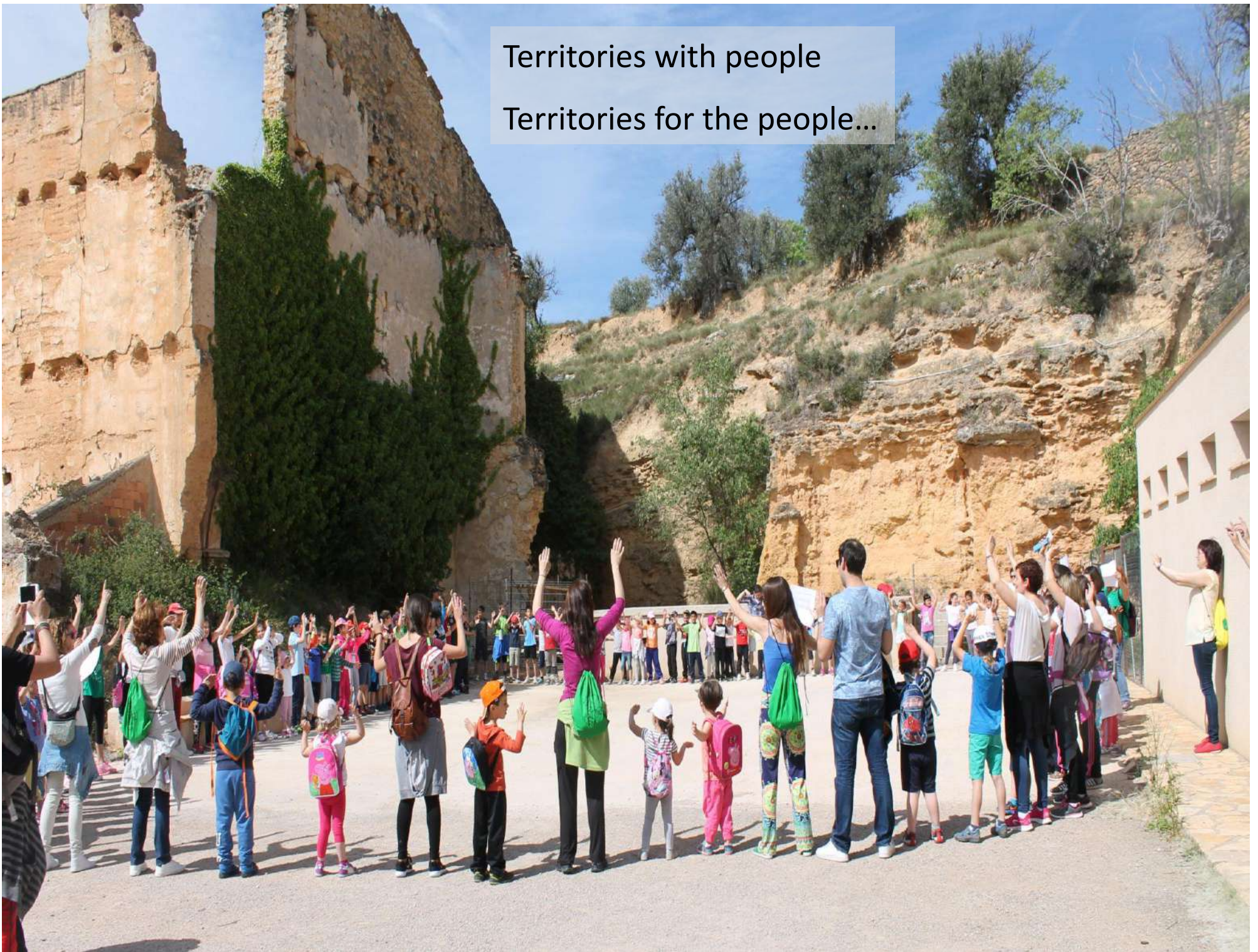




Territories of education...

...territories with future

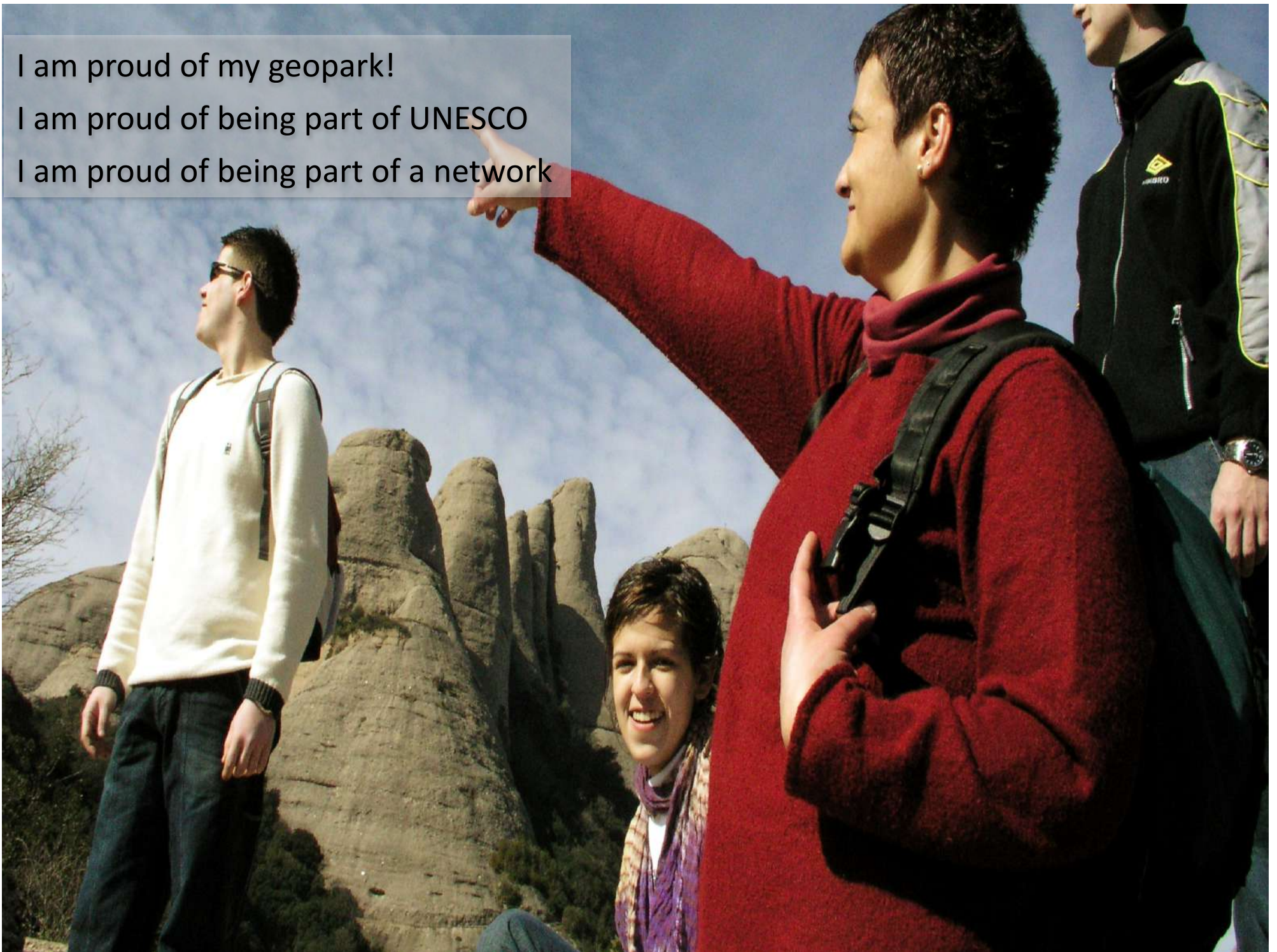
Territories with people
Territories for the people...





Ongoing training, intense courses.....

I am proud of my geopark!
I am proud of being part of UNESCO
I am proud of being part of a network



Territories of passion...



What is the role of the IUGS?

What is the role of the scientific community?



1 Collaborate with all the international associations, organizations and programs where geological knowledge is needed (world Heritage, IUCN, UGGP, NATURAL MUSEUMS...) to help them to identify and assess the geological heritage. We need to be able to work in bigger and multidisciplinary work-teams.

- International geological significance ([UGGP](#))

- Outstanding examples representing major stages of earth history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms or significant geomorphic or physiographic features. ([World Heritage Convention, criterion VIII](#))

2 We must develop **our own proactive program** of indentifying, documenting and proposing sites and collections of international recognition by IUGS:

- [Global Geosite program](#)

- [Global Collection program](#)

- [Global Heritage Stone resources](#)





INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON GEOHERITAGE (ICG)

Angela Ehling

Asier Hilario

Zhang Jianping

Juana Vegas

SUBCOMMISSION ON GEOHERITAGE SITES AND COLLECTIONS

Benjamin van Wyk de Vries

Ezzoura Errami

SUBCOMMISSION ON GEOHERITAGE STONES

Gurmeet Kaur

Victor Cardenes

<https://www.iugs.org/commissions>

MAIN GOALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON GEOHERITAGE (IUGS)

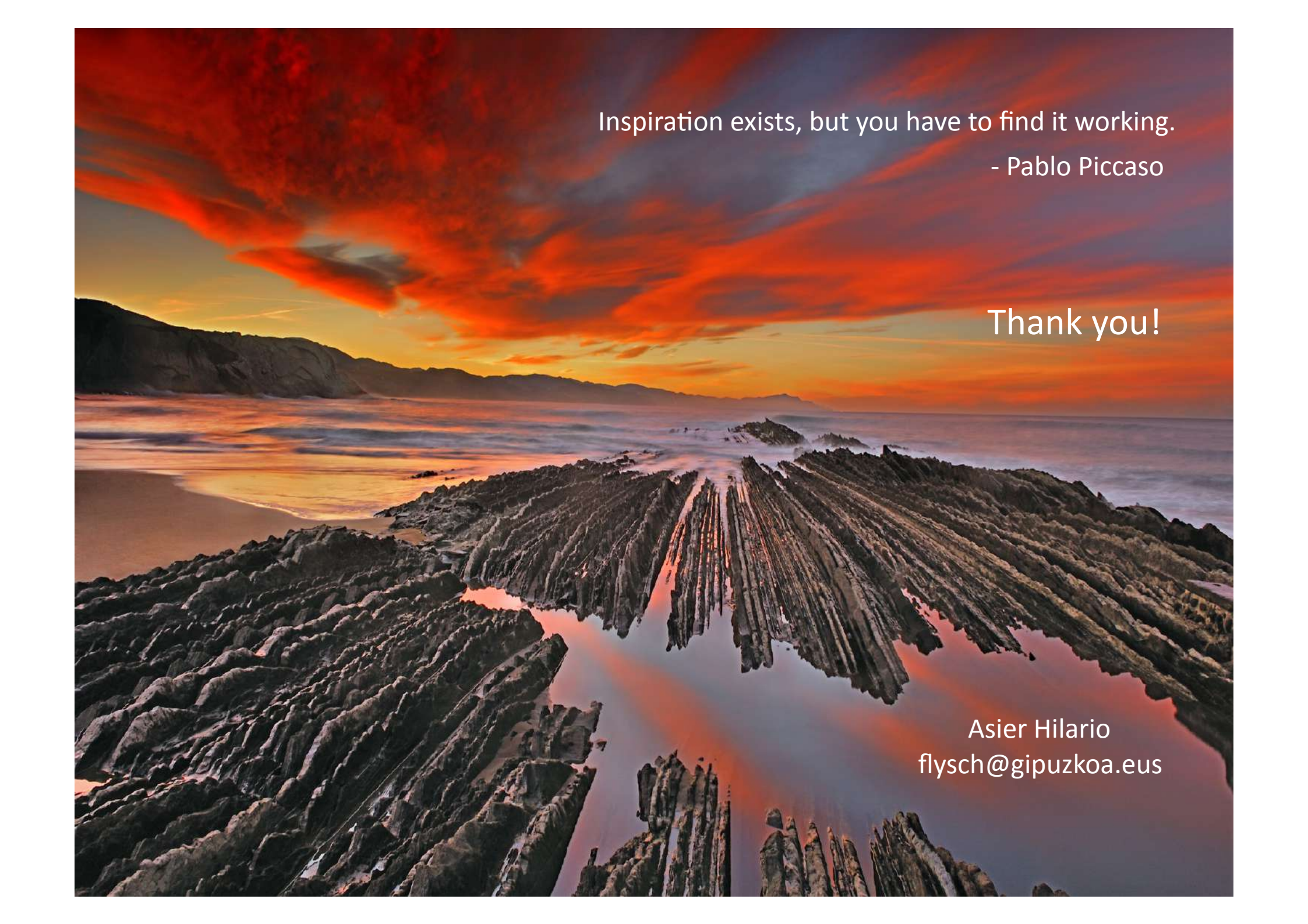
The expectation of the IUGS Executive Committee is that the Commission will come to be the global leader in Geoheritage activities.

Organizational goals:

- 1) Clarification and recruitment of [voting members](#) for all sub-commissions with a regular geographical distribution
- 2) Definition of [statutes and guidelines](#) for the ICG
- 3) [Coordination](#) among different sub-commission and working groups within a common strategy of the ICG

Operational goals:

- 1) Definition of clear criteria and protocols to define geoheritage sites of [global significance](#) as well as museum collections and heritage stones for official IUGS recognition.
- 2) Strengthening the relationship between [IUGS and UNESCO Global Geoparks](#) with and effective desktop assessment and other activities.
- 3) Improvement of the [visibility](#) of IUGS linked to Geoheritage initiatives worldwide.



Inspiration exists, but you have to find it working.

- Pablo Picasso

Thank you!

Asier Hilario
flysch@gipuzkoa.eus