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XITH INTERNATIONAL ProGEO SYMPOSIUM

9-11th October 2023

Charnwood Forest, UK

ABSTRACT VOLUME

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Towards the creation of the ProGEO Latin America and Caribbean regional group: preliminary actions and perspectives

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DAY: Tuesday

TIME: 10:30:00 AM

SESSION: 6

PRESENTATION FORMAT: POSTER

ABSTRACT:

In 2021, during its 10th Symposium, the European Association for the Protection of Geological Heritage (ProGEO) gained international recognition. Founded in 1993, ProGEO has played a vital role in supporting geoconservation actions not just in Europe but worldwide, as evident from the increasing involvement of non-European countries. In this global scenario, the creation of regional branches has become a crucial issue.

In this context, a working group comprising ProGEO members from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay took the initiative to lay the foundation for a regional branch in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). As a first action, a trilingual online form was distributed across the region, with nearly 230 responses (64.5% Portuguese; 34.6% Spanish; 0.9% English). The form made it possible to create a database of those interested in participating in the activities of this new network, such as the first preliminary online workshop (93.9% positive) and a future executive committee (60.5% positive).

On April 2022, the workshop for the creation of the ProGEO LAC materialised and was broadcast on the YouTube channel of the Brazilian Association for the Defense of Geological and Mining Heritage (AGeoBR) (www.youtube.com/watch?v=xu_jEb6fsyw). The morning session provided insights into ProGEO's history, its role in geoconservation, its relationship with global conservation institutions, and the significance of regional groups. The afternoon session featured participants from twelve countries, which shared their perspectives on the state-of-the-art of geoheritage and geoconservation in their territories.

ProGEO's Executive Committee is currently reviewing rules on regional branches and their relation to the main office. This initiative represents a first step towards the integration of activities on the whole geoconservation chain in Latin America and the Caribbean. This involves inventories and their developments, achievement of appropriate statutory frameworks, and promotion of best practices for geodiversity and geoheritage management to address society's most relevant socio environmental issues. The formation of a diverse ProGEO LAC regional committee aims to unite efforts, foster collaboration, and leverage the region's geological heritage for sustainable development. It is intended to continue to develop collaborative and coordinated actions among geoconservation professionals in the region for the sustainable development of LAC and its communities.