



**CALL FOR
CONTRIBUTIONS**

International Conference

Geomorphosites 2026 – Heritage Geomorphology

25 years of research on geomorphological heritage
A tribute to Prof. Mario Panizza

7–12 September 2026
Sion, University of Lausanne

Unil.



Context

Research on geomorphological heritage initiated at the end of the 1990s. Some years before a first international conference on geoheritage was organised in the Réserve géologique de Haute-Provence at Digne-les-Bains in 1991, with the proceedings published in 1994. Within the geomorphologists' community, Mario Panizza (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) developed a specific line of research on geomorphosites (Panizza, 2001) and stressed the links between geomorphology and culture (Panizza and Piacente, 2003). As the president of the International Association of Geomorphologists, he gave the impulsion for the creation of a new Working Group on Geomorphological Sites, which was accepted at the 5th International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo, in August 2001. Emmanuel Reynard (University of Lausanne, Switzerland) was elected chairman of the working group and a first action was the Conference "Geomorphology and Tourism", organised in Lausanne and Finhaut, Switzerland, in September 2001.

In the successive years, several workshops were organised in Italy (Modena, 2002; Cagliari, 2003), and in 2006, a first intensive course for young geomorphologists was organised in Val de Bagnes, Switzerland. It was followed by several others in Greece, Portugal, France, Morocco, etc. A first series of thematic volumes of scientific journals was dedicated specifically to geomorphological heritage (*Il Quaternario*, 2005; *Géomorphologie*, 2005; *Geographica Helvetica*, 2007), particularly methods for assessing and mapping geomorphological heritage. In 2009, a first textbook on geomorphosites was published (Reynard et al., 2009). Since 2012, the working group organises thematic sessions on geoheritage and geodiversity at the European Geoscience Union (EGU) General Assembly, in collaboration with other scientific organisations, and now in each international and regional IAG conferences, specific sessions are dedicated to geomorphological heritage. In recent years several thematic volumes on geomorphological heritage and synthesis papers on geomorphological heritage (Reynard and Coratza, 2013; Coratza and Hobléa, 2025) have been published, and dozens of PhD theses have been defended. Geomorphological heritage is now a well-established field of research.

It is to mark the 25 years of the IAG Working Group on Geomorphosites that the University of Lausanne is organising an international conference on geomorphological heritage as a tribute to Prof. Mario Panizza, who passed away in 2025. The conference is organised under the auspices of the International Association of Geomorphologists, in collaboration with the IAG WG on Geomorphosites, the Swiss Geomorphological Society, the Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark and University Savoie Mont Blanc.

The general topic of the Geomorphosites 2026 Conference is "**Heritage Geomorphology**". Geomorphologists not only should be able to mobilise the whole spectrum of geomorphological knowledge to assess the scientific value of geomorphosites. Because geomorphosites present also additional values related to aesthetics, human history and culture, they should also be open to other issues related to human and cultural geography. Moreover, geomorphologists should be involved in the management of geomorphological heritage in collaboration with other heritage specialists. All these competences form what can be called Heritage Geomorphology.

References

- Coratza P., Hobléa F. (2025). The specificities of geomorphological heritage, in: Reynard E., Brilha J. (Eds.) *Geoheritage. Assessment, Protection, and Management*. Amsterdam, Elsevier, 155-176.
- Panizza M. (2001). Geomorphosites : concepts, methods and example of geomorphological survey. *Chinese Science Bulletin*, 46, Suppl. Bd, 4-6.
- Panizza M., Piacente S. (2003). *Geomorfologia culturale*. Bologna, Pitagora Editrice.
- Reynard E., Coratza P., Regolini-Bissig G. (eds) (2009). *Geomorphosites*. München, Pfeil.
- Reynard E., Coratza P. (2013). Scientific research on geomorphosites. A review of the activities of the IAG working group on geomorphosites over the last twelve years. *Geogr. Fis. Dinam. Quat.*, 36, 159-168.

Programme

The event is divided in three parts:

- I. An **Intensive Course on Geomorphosites** for young geomorphologists on 7th and 8th September 2026. The course is divided in two parts: classroom lectures in Sion UNIL Campus on 7th September and fieldwork in the Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark on 8th September 2026. The intensive course is open in priority to Master's and PhD students.
- II. The **Conference "Heritage Geomorphology"** in Sion UNIL Campus on 9th and 10th September 2026.

Keynote speakers

Prof. José Brilha, University of Minho, Portugal

Prof. Paola Coratza, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

Prof. Piotr Migoń, University of Wroclaw, Poland

Ass. Prof. Claire Portal, University of Poitiers, France

The final program of sessions will be published in the second circular.

III. **Excursions:**

11th September: Verbier Mont-Fort (Interpretation products and Geotourism) or Lavaux Terraced Vineyard (UNESCO World Heritage site)

12th September: Derborence (historical rockfalls in the 18th century) or Aletsch Glacier (UNESCO World Heritage site)

Call for contributions

Contributions are welcome on the seven following topics related to Heritage Geomorphology:

- ◆ Managing geomorphological heritage in a context of global changes
- ◆ Geomorphological heritage and other types of natural and cultural heritage
- ◆ Geomorphology and intangible cultural heritage
- ◆ Social science approaches in geomorphological heritage studies
- ◆ Geoeducation and geointerpretation as a way for environmental change awareness
- ◆ Geomorphosites and their contribution to Earth science history
- ◆ Heritage recognition and heritage trajectories of landforms

Abstract submission: Proposals including the title, the author(s), an abstract (max. 2500 characters) and the preference (oral communication or poster) and corresponding author can be submitted by **31st March 2026** to the following address: <https://conferences.unil.ch/Geomorphosites>

We accept only one abstract as first or corresponding author per participant.

INTENSIVE COURSE (7-8 September)

CHF 50*

including documentation, coffee breaks, lunch and dinner on 7th September, picnic on 8th September, transportation from Sion Unil Campus to Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark

** The course is limited, in priority for Master's and PhD students. Depending of the available room, participation of other persons is possible, fee is CHF 100.*

CONFERENCE (9-10 September)

CHF 120*

including documentation, coffee breaks, two lunches

** For students (Bachelor's, Master's or PhD) the fee is CHF 50.*

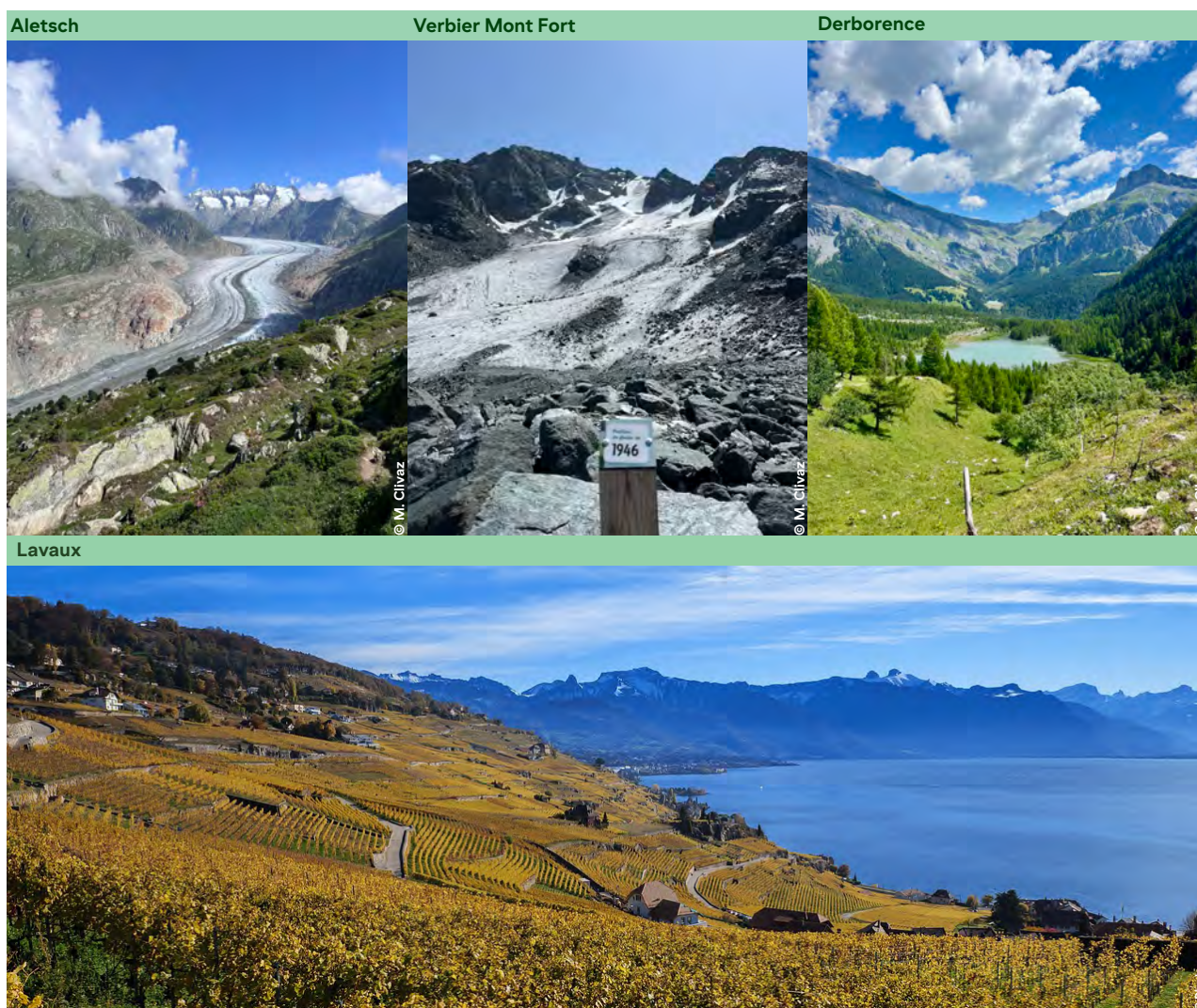
Conference Dinner

CHF 80

EXCURSIONS (11-12 September)

Four excursions are planned. Dates and fees will be published in the second circular

- ◆ Verbier Mont-Fort
- ◆ Lavaux
- ◆ Derborence
- ◆ Aletsch Glacier



Grants

The **International Association of Geomorphologists** and **Swiss Geomorphological Society** offer grants for the participation of young geomorphologists to the Intensive Course and the Conference.

Further information regarding eligibility criteria and application procedures will be available in due course on the website conference.

Organizing committee

Rihab Abdelkebir, University of Lausanne

Lisa Angiolini, University of Lausanne

Jonathan Bussard, University of Lausanne

Mélanie Clivaz, University of Lausanne

Emmanuel Reynard, University of Lausanne

The Scientific Committee will be announced in the second circular.

With the support of :

Institute of Geography and Sustainability, University of Lausanne

Interdisciplinary Centre for Mountain Research, University of Lausanne

International Association of Geomorphologists

Swiss Geomorphological Society

Swiss Geoheritage Commission, SCNAT

Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark

Information

Conference Website :



<https://go.unil.ch/rqdsv>

Abstract Submission :



<https://conferences.unil.ch/Geomorphosites>

Registration for the Intensive Course, the Conference and the excursions will open on 30th April 2026.

Contact : geomorphosites2026@unil.ch

