

Editorial

MOTHER EARTH

Like a rose amid a charred black ruin
Of war-ravaged London or Berlin,
From chaotic swirling rocks in darkness
Embodied by the Greek god Erebus,
A blue living orb spun forth
As goddess Gaia, or mother Earth.
Her life and soil filter water and air
And bind the hills with grace and care.
Erebus still strikes with volcanic plume,
And asteroid impact spreading doom.
But life has grown since it began
In tilted balance, more yin than yang.

Greg Rettallack, professor of Geological Science, Oregon, 1995

In 2011, Bolivia was the first country in the world to enact legislation which secured the same rights for nature as for people. Its core consists of seven rights guaranteed to the „Mother Earth“. They include: the rights to life and undisturbed life cycles and processes, the diversity of Life, clean air, water necessary for the sustenance of living systems, equilibrium (homeostasis), the restoration of damage caused by humans, and the right to live free from pollution.

This event is a paradigmatic change in the field of environmental law, stemming from the philosophy of Andean ethnic groups and their spiritual perception of nature.

Geotourism is also based on the holistic philosophy of Gaia. The „Goddess of the Earth“, represents the same level of paradigmatic change in the field of tourism. It makes tourism research an even more multidisciplinary field of study.

The knowledge and search for relationships between the Abiotic, Biotic and Cultural diversities called by Professor Dowling “The ABC approach”, is important for geotourism understanding and implementation. Such highly qualified interpretation of the Gaia heritage (geological and other related heritage of visited landscape) constitutes an efficient tool for enhancing environmental awareness, in geotourism destinations, many of which lie within in geoparks. Each geotourism destination should evaluate its geological heritage in a professional manner so that its geotourism potential is realized with an informed respect.

Let us extend your knowledge of this “Gaia Tourism” by reading the first monothematic issue on the subject in the scientific journal *Czech Journal of Tourism!*

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