



Design popular geomorphological itineraries for geological heritage promotion and conservation in the Verra Glacier basin (Aosta Valley, NW Italy)

M. Chiarle (1), **M. Giardino** (2), M. Giuliano (1), G. Mortara (1)

(1) CNR-IRPI, Italy, (2) Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università di Torino, Italy
(marco.giardino@unito.it)

Alpine glacierized basins offer a large sample of geomorphological features related to present and past processes active in high energy and high altitude environments. Landforms produced by water-driven and gravity-driven processes (floods, debris flows, rock falls, and weathering...) combine with those produced by cryosphere dynamics (glacier and ground ice dynamics), creating unique landscapes that excite the curiosity of both scientists and tourists. On purpose planned geomorphological itineraries can be a useful tool either to promote geodiversity knowledge and geoconservation, either to give rise to tourists' awareness about geomorphological hazards, improving thus their safety conditions.

We illustrate a proposal for a set of geomorphological itineraries in the Verra Glacier basin, which take advantage of the existing trail network. A choice of itineraries will be provided, according to trail difficulty and geomorphological subject. Steep rock walls, moraines, rock glaciers, debris fans, roche moutonnée, rock falls accumulations, etc., form the complex and fascinating landscape of this glacial valley, next to the Monte Rosa Massif, and offer the possibility of illustrating many of the geomorphological processes that shape alpine areas. The project is set out in a first phase of geosites cataloguing, and in a second phase of geosites popularization, which entails the proposal of a set of itineraries and the design of a popular scientific guide-book.

The project is carried out in the framework of the national project Cofin-MIUR 2004 "Promotion of the Geomorphological Heritage for a sustainable tourism".