



National geodiversity assessment for geotourism purposes: a Slovenian approach

Blaž Komac and Matija Zorn

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Anton-Melik Geographical Institute, Gosposka ulica 13, SI – 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia (matija.zorn@zrc-sazu.si)

Using geographic information system we assessed the geotouristic potential for the territory of Slovenia. Geodiversity of individual landscape elements was calculated in relation to the variability of their polygons in a circle with a diameter of 1000 m using the relief, rock types, water and karst depressions as a specific feature of Slovenia. The final map was made by weighting method – each element got a subjective weight: rock types 50%, relief 30%, water and karst depressions 10%.

According to these criteria the landscapes with the highest geodiversity are in mountainous western and northern Slovenia with high density of watercourses (in non karstic areas), karst depressions and diverse rock types.

The purpose of the model is to highlight areas with high geodiversity that are lagging behind in geotourism development, and present areas with the highest geodiversity index where geoparks (e.g. Idrija and Karavanke) have already been established.