

## **Sources of Geomorphological Diversity – a perspective from the tropics**

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Geodiversity, like *biodiversity*, has become a catchword for concerns about conservation, especially of flora and fauna, living and fossil. But geodiversity also embraces stratigraphy, petrography, and physiography which is the domain of geomorphology. The study of *geomorphological diversity* requires the understanding of processes within evolutionary timescales, and of the links between rocks and relief. Geomorphologists have generally regarded their field as divided between the dynamics of surface processes and the evolution of landscapes, and this mirrors the dilemmas of physical scientists who struggle to reconcile ideas about the cosmos with an understanding of quantum mechanics. The sources of geomorphological diversity are, therefore, to be found in both the history of the planet and in the movement of sand grains on the river bed or species of iron in a saprolite. What links these spatial and time-scales? Should we now regard evolutionary geomorphology as important as evolutionary biology? Geomorphology has a global perspective, but we need to articulate and adopt new priorities in order to explore the potential of multiple scales of enquiry, both spatial and temporal, within which the sources of geomorphological diversity are to be found.