



MINUTES OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS HELD AT THE CAPETONIAN HOTEL, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA ON THE 12TH OF FEBRUARY 2009

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

1. WELCOME AND CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Chairman welcomed all delegates present. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. A single change was made to the agenda, namely the addition of a presentation on the African-European Georesources Observation System (AEGOS) project, by Mr. Marc Urvois of the BRGM to the agenda following the presentation on OneGeology.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true reflection of discussions on the day.

3. OPENING REMARKS

In his opening remarks, Dr. Ramontja commended the commitment demonstrated by the increased attendance at the meeting, noting the difficulties of running an organisation involving so many players from across Africa. He expressed his hopes that the OAGS would grow to attain the strengths of the EuroGeosurveys, whose annual meeting he attended in his capacity as president of the OAGS. Dr. Ramontja noted the challenge to the organisation of limited financial resources and its implications for sustainability of the OAGS, suggesting the future institution of an annual or bi-annual conference with paid attendance to raise funds for the organisation and proposed that the matter of providing resources for the organisation be considered during the meeting.

He noted the achievements of the organisation over the past year to address communication challenges, namely the implementation of a website and a permanent secretariat for the OAGS, introducing Ms C Ashley, the Secretary of the OAGS to the meeting and thanking her for her efforts towards improving the functioning of the OAGS. The global financial crisis also presents challenges evidenced by retrenchments, reduced taxes and subsequently reduced government funding to scientific institutions. Dr. Ramontja urged the meeting members to contemplate means to meet the challenges, including lobbying partners from developed countries to assist in addressing the most critical issues.

PRESENTATIONS

4. ANNUAL REPORT ON OAGS PROJECTS

Copies of presentations made on the progress of the three OAGS projects are available as annexures to this document.

4.1. Role of Geological Surveys in the Development of Africa – South Africa

The strengths, weaknesses and other findings relating to Geological Surveys in Africa as highlighted by this project were discussed in a presentation given by Mr Magnus Ericsson of the Raw Materials Group. There was a very poor response to the questionnaire sent out by email, fax and telephone enquiry in both English and French with only 9 respondents achieved. Additional information was obtained to give a total of 20 countries through the questionnaire and website and literature research.

4.2. Geological Information for Small-Scale Mining (SSM) – Ghana and Nigeria

A presentation was made by Dr Thomas Kwasi Adu of the Geological Survey of Ghana discussing the role of Geological Surveys in supporting SSM and consequent development of Africa. Geological Surveys should facilitate: encouragement of SSM initiatives towards beneficiation strategies; provision of training and skills- and technology-transfer; and provision of information to support efficient and effective operation of SSM on the continent.

4.3. African input into the Geological Map of the World – Namibia and South Africa

A short presentation was given by Dr. Peter Zawada of South Africa's Council for Geoscience. The 1:2,500,000 seamless geological map of the world is complete, requiring only minimal editorial changes and is likely to be printed in the next few weeks. The map must be officially launched on a regional, possibly ministerial scale. Dr. Gaby Schneider then presented a short DVD on the OneGeology project, first shown at the launch of the OneGeology project at the IGC convention in Oslo last year. It was decided that a steering committee, comprising global representatives along the model of the United Nations micro regions would be developed. Dr. Schneider requested that the matter of a nominee to represent Africa be addressed in the course of the proceedings.

4.4. African-European Georesources Observation System (AEGOS)

Mr. Marc Urvois of the French Geological Survey, the BRGM, delivered a presentation on the AEGOS project – which is a follow-up to the SIGAfrique project – its objectives and the role of the Geological Surveys worldwide in the successful implementation of the project. Mr. Urvois called upon the participation of the OAGS members and the organisations within their countries for the support of the project and detailed the available means of support and contribution for the project as well as the conferences to be held throughout the phases of the project. Mr. Urvois closed his presentation with a notification of the call for proposals by the ACP, noting that countries wishing to submit proposals within the remaining month of the submission deadline may contact him as required.

4.5. Questions and Comments

Dr. Ramontja opened the meeting to the floor for questions on the presentations and the questions raised are summarised below.

Role of Geological Surveys in the Development of Africa

- Clarification on the differentiation between scientific and academic work;
- Concern that the survey may not have been conducted in French where necessary; and
- The way forward to leverage the findings of the report to benefit African Geological Surveys and raise awareness of the importance of the role of Geological Surveys.

Mr. Ericsson explained that the differentiation between applied scientific work and basic academic work is key to isolating the importance of applied scientific work for geological surveys in the future. He confirmed that the survey was conducted in French with all French-speaking countries and pledged to discuss means of gaining additional contributions from countries wishing to participate who have not already done so.

Geological Information for Small-Scale Mining

- Management and mitigation of the environmental impacts of Small-Scale Mining;
- Means of accessing mercury-free gold processing technologies and the cost thereof.

Dr. Adu explained the measures in place in Ghana, and the roles of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a special division of the Minerals Commission and the Ghanaian government. Prof. Malomo detailed the role of the National Environmental Agency and the Mines and Environmental Compliance Department within the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development in Nigeria. Both spoke of the roles of Geological surveys in supporting efforts in this regard. Dr. Ramontja indicated that the mercury-free gold processing technology is available from Mintek and may still be free-of-charge – confirmation is required. He offered to facilitate contact with Mintek.

African Input into the Geological Map of the World

- The link between the OneGeology project and the existing metallogenic map of Africa ;
- The omission of some African countries on the DVD shown earlier.

Drs. Zawada and Schneider confirmed that the metallogenic map could be made available to OneGeology by the facilitation of any one of the geological surveys who chose to do so and noted that the map is slightly more detailed than the OneGeology project tends to deal with. Dr. Schneider confirmed that any country not represented is invited to participate in the inclusive project which aims at worldwide coverage.

African-European Georesources Observation System (AEGOS)

- Difference between AEGOS and PANGIS;

- Nature of the meeting to be held in Tanzania in 2010 at the conclusion of the first phase.

Mr. Urvois explained that the AEGOS project will incorporate everything which was included in the UNESCO-established PANGIS project, however the primary concerns of the AEGOS project are, mapping, descriptions of ore bodies, descriptions and mapping of aquifers, and similar activities. The Dar es Salaam meeting occurs a year and a half after inception as a sort of mid-term review after phase 1. Phase 1 is the conception of infrastructure and formation of the structure. Members will present their results at this meeting. In the second year of work, project teams will present final results in Ougadougou. The project covers the three big regions of Africa namely, Southern, Eastern and Western Africa.

Communication

- Documentation not circulated in French;
- Addition of password-access area to the website for members to access information;
- Information on the geological organisations in Africa to be made available to members.

Mrs. Ashley confirmed the existence of a members' area on the website for documentation downloads and access to discussion fora. Submission of information and profiles by member countries is invited for publication on the website. Every effort is and will continue to be made to ensure that all documents are available in all three languages of the OAGS. Only communications such as the meeting invitation were circulated only in English. Meeting packs have been prepared in each of the languages and presentations, available only in English at the time of preparation, will be translated and made available on the website.

Meeting Participation and Commitment

Commitment to the organisation and its activities was discussed:

- Concern that without the draw of the Mining Indaba or facilitation of the Council for Geoscience, participation would drop further;
- Problems relating to funding are critical issues requiring resolution;
- Moving the meeting venue away from the Mining Indaba time and location at this stage may result in low attendance;
- OAGS should be held as a forum for geological surveys rather than mines departments.

Dr Ramontja pleaded for the commitment of members to the Algeria meeting, noting the difficulty of raising attendance for the meeting.

Marketing and Awareness

- Inadequate appreciation by and understanding of governments for the work of geological surveys;
- An international organisation must be put on the political agenda of member countries or it will die - this should be addressed quickly;
- Lack of awareness – populations ignorant of the role of geological surveys in mining and other areas with application for geoscientific information, such as construction and geohazards;
- Members should avail themselves of the league of information between Arab and African countries, available under the Arabic Organisation of Development Industries and Mines, which administers the database of all geological surveys in Arab countries.

The meeting adjourned briefly for refreshments.

5. PRESENTATION ON THE 35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC) – SOUTH AFRICA

A short presentation was delivered by Dr. Peter Zawada on the role of the OAGS in the IGC, which should be seen as an African collaboration. He said that the IGC should be seen as a platform for capacity building and the establishment of long term scientific links and will involve many African countries. He encouraged pre- and post-conference excursions within Africa, saying that these would not be restricted to a specific region and should be encouraged where they fit into the planning and interests relating to the IGC.

STRATEGY

6. STRATEGY OF THE OAGS

Dr Ramontja requested inputs on organisational strategy and development of OAGS' vision and mission statement. Members concurred that the meeting timeframes were too short and proposals included the development of a steering committee to avoid delaying the process to the next meeting. Initial

brainstorming could be conducted via email and tele-conferencing and a business, marketing and communication plan should be put in place to facilitate smoother communication and greater meeting attendance.

Resolution:

- Kenya will host a strategy meeting of the Executive Committee with invitations issued to all member countries – a date will be proposed via the Secretariat. Outcomes will be presented at the annual meeting.
- The Secretariat will develop a mission, vision and strategy proposals and circulate it to members for their review and comment prior to the strategy meeting.

The OAGS mission, vision and objectives should be carefully crafted to target possibilities of funding for meetings via sponsorship by bodies such as UNESCO. The indirect link with the AU via the AMP must be emphasised to further the OAGS' addition to country political agendas.

Resolution:

- UNESCO, UNECA and other EU fora will be invited to the future meetings of the OAGS.
- The President will lobby for the addition of the OAGS as a permanent, separate item on the AMP agenda.

Ghana pointed out that the alignment between the mandate of the OAGS and overall agenda of the AMP provides opportunities for AU funding and that programmes should be tailored to maintain this link.

7. WAY FORWARD

7.1. Role of Geological Surveys in the Development of Africa

Malawi proposed that issues of capacity-building and institutional development noted in the report be highlighted and a way forward be developed which must be aligned with the AMP programmes. The Chairman suggested the development of a second bulletin with a summary page capturing key issues highlighted in the report, which will be of help.

Members discussed the matter of funding with the two diverging viewpoints being implementation of membership subscriptions versus the difficulty of attaining the necessary authority as public institutions for their implementation. The Chairman suggested approaching organisations such as mining houses for sponsorship of activities such as the annual meeting and the running of the Secretariat. He recommended that costs for the organisation and its programmes be quantified to support any requests for funding.

Resolution:

- The Secretariat will quantify the costs of running the organisation and circulate this to members for their consideration.

7.2. Geological Information for Small-Scale Mining

Resolution:

- The findings of this project should be developed into a document for publication – members may contribute to the recommendations of the report.

7.3. African Input into the Geological Map of the World

Resolution:

- Dr. Schneider of Namibia was nominated to represent Africa on the OneGeology Steering Committee.

7.4. African-European Georesources Observation System (AEGOS)

Resolution:

- The meeting decided to endorse and provide support to the AEGOS project.

8. ACTION PROGRAMME FOR 2009

The following proposals were put forward for an action programme was developed for the coming year:

Development of Regional Geological Maps of Africa

South Africa proposed development of a programme by the OAGS for the compilation of small-scale regional maps prior to 2016 in preparation for the IGC. Communications have been initiated with CGMW,

the coordinators of the geological map of the world, and may lead to funding for the programme. Work done by some private institutions such as mining companies should not be ignored as a resource.

Resolution:

The following programme structure was proposed by South Africa:

- Maps will be produced in a 1:2,500,000 scale, which is effective for clear representation;
- Africa will be split into three regions: Southern; Eastern; and Western and Central Africa;
- A programme manager will be appointed from each of these major map sheets;
- Funding will be sought to support the coordination of the programme;
- Drs. Peter Zawada and Frik Hartzler were nominated and accepted as overall programme coordinators.

GeoTourism/GeoSites

Kenya’s proposal for the compilation of an atlas of GeoSites was accepted by the meeting. Algeria volunteered to lead this project and Malawi nominated Kenya as co-leader. Mali reminded the meeting of the importance of developing criteria for the classification of sites as a first step and all agreed.

Resolution:

- Algeria and Kenya to lead the project for the development of an African atlas of GeoSites.
- All countries with work done in the area of GeoTourism to provide this information to the Secretariat for publication on the website.

OAGS Annual Meeting

Algeria proposed that the Secretariat and the President devote 2009 to ensuring greater participation in the next annual meeting. The president and secretariat should ensure that the meeting is comprehensive and possibly adopts a two-day format, including concurrent mini-conferences and excursions as travel over long distances for a half-day meeting is inconvenient and costly. Venues other than Cape Town were also requested and the negative factor of limited and costly accommodation and vehicle-hire at the time of the Mining Indaba was also noted.

Resolution:

- The next annual meeting of the OAGS will be hosted by Algeria in 2010;
- Algeria to indicate appropriate dates for the meeting.

International Geological Congress (IGC) 2016

Nigeria proposed the adoption of IGC as a project with each country delivering regular progress reports on their activities towards IGC at subsequent meetings. The proposal was adopted by the meeting and it was decided that South Africa would coordinate efforts.

Resolution:

- IGC adopted as an official project of the OAGS with South Africa as project leader.

The action programme for 2009 is therefore summarised as follows:

Project/Action	Responsible
The Role of Geological Surveys in the Development of Africa • Member countries to submit their information for the questionnaire to Mr. Magnus Ericsson for the further elaboration of the report.	All
Geological Information for Small-Scale Mining • Findings to be developed into a document for publication – members to contribute to recommendations for the report.	Ghana, Nigeria, All
African Input into the Geological Map of the World • Dr. Gaby Schneider to represent Africa on the OneGeology Steering Committee pending official appointment.	Namibia
Development of Regional Geological Maps of Africa • Drs. Peter Zawada and Frik Hartzler to coordinate this project for the development of seamless geological maps of Southern, Eastern and Western and Central Africa.	Dr. P Zawada, Dr. F Hartzler
International Geological Congress (IGC) • Members to develop plans with regard to the 2016 IGC and communicate via South Africa as the project leader.	All, South Africa
Development of African Atlas of Geosites • Algeria and Kenya to lead the project on development of an African atlas of geosites.	Kenya, Algeria
Strategy Meeting • Strategy meeting date and format to be developed by Kenya and communicated via the Secretariat. • Secretariat to develop Mission, Vision and Values for circulation to members prior to the Strategy Meeting.	Kenya Secretariat
African Mining Partnership (AMP)	

• South Africa to lobby for the addition of the OAGS to the agenda of the AMP as a permanent, separate item.	South Africa
Finances	
• Secretariat to quantify the costs of running the OAGS and circulate this to members.	Secretariat
Annual Meeting of the OAGS - Algeria, 2010	
• Annual meeting date and format to be developed by Algeria and communicated via the Secretariat.	Algeria
• President and Secretariat to devise strategy to increase meeting attendance and propose new meeting format.	Secretariat

The Chairman urged members to cooperate with project leaders in their request for information to ensure the success of the projects.

9. INTRODUCTION OF THE OAGS BULLETIN

Algeria introduced the bulletin of the OAGS, detailing the background of the document's production, and the targeted distribution of the bulletin. The document structure and contents were expounded and means of distribution discussed. Members thanked Algeria for their work in producing the bulletin, noting it as an important first step for the organisation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE OAGS CONSTITUTION

The constitution was reviewed and the following refinements approved:

- Page 3, article 10, delete article 10.1.
- Amend all references to "full member" throughout the document in favour of the term "member".

The constitution was adopted with the changes made.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

It was noted that the existing terms are still valid. The Executive Committee was reexamined and the following representatives were recognised as officially holding office in the Executive Committee:

- Secretariat - South Africa
- President - South Africa
- 1st Vice President - Tanzania
- 2nd Vice President - ???
- SADC - Namibia
- North Africa - Algeria
- Central Africa - Chad
- East Africa - Kenya
- West Africa - Ghana

The current Executive Committee will hold office to the expiry of the existing terms and a new Executive Committee will be appointed at the next annual meeting in Algeria in 2010.

Resolution:

- The Executive Committee will meet a day before the annual meeting each year.

12. GENERAL

AMP Affiliation

It was requested that the meeting be geared towards allowing the deliberations to feed into the next plenary meeting of the AMP. Changes in the structure of the AMP due to the relationship with the AU will result in the move of the Secretariat to Addis Ababa. Assessment of the changes will be necessary in order for the meetings of the OAGS to be held prior to those of the AMP.

13. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OAGS

A strategic session of the OAGS will be held in Kenya at a date to be communicated via the Secretariat. The next annual meeting of the OAGS will be held in 2010 in Algeria at a date to be communicated by the Secretariat pending discussions with Algeria to determine an appropriate date.

14. ATTENDANCE LIST

Delegate	Organisation	Country
1. Mr. Lhacène Bitam	Agence National de la Géologie et du Contrôle Minier (ANGCM)	Algeria
2. Mr. Yazid Rabhi	Agence National de la Géologie et du Contrôle Minier (ANGCM)	Algeria
3. Mr. Tiyapo Ngwisanyi	Acting Director: Geological Survey Department	Botswana
4. Mr. Mahamat A Troumba	Director of Geology: Ministry of Mines and Energy	Chad
5. Mr. Matthieu M Mbaitoudji	Secretary General: Ministry of Mines and Energy	Chad
6. Mr. Baudouin Itheta	Geologist: Ministry of Mines	DRC
7. Mr. Kasanda-Ngoy	Coordinator CTCPM: Ministry of Mines	DRC
8. Mr. Etienne Lufanka	Expert Economist: Ministry of Mines	DRC
9. Mr. Marc Urvois	AEGOS Project Manager: BRGM, France	France
10. Mr Jean-Claude Guillaneau	Director: BRGM, France	France
11. Mr. Richard Afenu	Manager: Minerals Commission	Ghana
12. Mr. Ellis P Atliglah	Technical Director: Minerals Commission	Ghana
13. Dr. Thomas Kwadi Adu	Geological Survey Department	Ghana
14. Mr. John Agyei Duodu	Geological Survey Department	Ghana
15. Mr. Moses Masibo	Ministry of Mines and Natural Resources	Kenya
16. Ms. Nyakallo Mpatuoa	Commissioner: Department of Mines and Geology	Lesotho
17. Mr. Ibrahim Abied	Director: Geological Survey of Libya	Libya
18. Mr. Jonasy Ramarolahy	Coordinator: Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources Minérales (PGRM)	Madagascar
19. Mr. Dominique Rakotomanana	Geologist: Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources Minérales (PGRM)	Madagascar
20. Dr. Leonard Kalindekafe	Director: Geological Survey of Malawi	Malawi
21. Mr. Waly Diawara	National Director: National Directorate of Mines and Geology	Mali
22. Mr. Ousmane Konate	Technical Advisor: Ministry of Mines	Mali
23. Mr. Adriano Silvestre Sênvano	National Directorate of Geology	Mozambique
24. Dr. Gaby Schneider	Geological Survey of Namibia	Namibia
25. Mr. Mazou Yessouph-Faudy	Geological Survey of Niger	Niger
26. Prof. Siyan Malomo	Director General: Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA)	Nigeria
27. Dr. Thibedi Ramontja	Chief Executive Officer: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
28. Mrs. Chantelle Ashley	Secretary: Organisation of African Geological Surveys	South Africa
29. Mr. Fhatuwani Ramagwede	Executive Manager: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
30. Dr. Peter Zawada	Executive Manager: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
31. Dr. Frik Hartzler	Senior Geologist: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
32. Dr. Luc Chevalier	Regional Manager, Western and Northern Cape: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
33. Mr. Maleka Monyepao	Business Development Manager: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
34. Mrs. Nthombi Mdluli-Jacha	Marketing and Communications Specialist: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
35. Mr. Jabulani Msiza	Security and Risk Manager: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
36. Ms. Cindy Petersen	Administrative Officer: Council for Geoscience	South Africa
37. Mr. John Odida	Assistant Commissioner: Department of Geological Survey and Mines	Uganda
38. Mr. Temba Hawadi	Director: Geological Survey of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
Invited Guests		
39. Mr. Gotthard Walser	World Bank	

15. CLOSURE

The Chairperson, Dr Ramontja thanked all members for their participation and urged their continued commitment to the organisation.

Meeting was adjourned at 13h35.