



Geoscientific Knowledge & Skills
in African Geological Surveys

PanAfGeo



FINAL MEETING OF THE PANAFGEO PROJECT

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – 24 & 25 October 2019

PanAfGeo, a unique training programme in Africa

“PanAfGeo: Pan-African Support to the EuroGeoSurveys-Organisation of African Geological Surveys (EGS-OAGS) Partnership” is a training programme implementing the transfer of knowledge between European and African Geological Surveys and institutional strengthening of African national administrations in charge of geology and mining.

Through the programme, the EU encourages environmental protection, economic development and social inclusion across the African continent, and at the same time helps to secure a sustainable raw materials supply, facilitating transparent and more consistent minerals trade between EU and Africa.

PanAfGeo is truly innovative, being an example of a continental scale international cooperation and development project in the field of geosciences, providing first class training to public sector officers from African institutions, mostly Geological Surveys.

This 3-year programme (2016-2019), against an investment of around 10 million euros, has provided 42 training sessions for over 1,000 officers coming from 49 African countries, generating impressive impacts at political, institutional and technical capacity level in Africa; leading, for instance, to the set-up of a national geological agency (Geological Survey) in Democratic Republic of Congo. DRC is not just the first world producer of cobalt – a critical raw material for the EU hi-tech industry – the country also holds estimated mineral reserves worth over 20 trillion euros. The main mandate of a Geological Survey is to discover, map and assess the country’s mineral reserves, as well as support the government to enforce environmental monitoring and legal controls.

PanAfGeo has allowed trainees to acquire a state-of-the-art toolkit, best practice methods and the possibility to take part in field trips concerning seven geoscientific domains: Geoscientific Mapping, Mineral Resources Assessment (e.g. assessing the value of the country’s mineral resource endowment), Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (a primary source of income for hundreds of thousands in Africa), Environmental Management of Mines, Geohazards (e.g. natural risks, such as landslides), Geo-heritage (e.g. sustainable tourism), Geoscience Information Management (e.g. IT skills).

PanAfGeo is co-funded by the European Union through its Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG-DEVCO) and a Consortium of 12 European Geological Surveys led by BRGM - The French Geological Survey.

The Final Meeting:

On 24 and 25 October 2019, about 70 PanAfGeo partners from around 50 European and African countries gathered in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for the Phase 1 closing meeting. The Ministers responsible for minerals in Tanzania and



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Kenya were the guests of honour. Attendees included some of the project's main contributors: OAGS Executive Committee members, stakeholders and representatives of Geological Surveys in Africa and Europe and the European Commission.

An overview of all the PanAfGeo Project activities performed under each work package was presented and was followed by a feedback session. A complete review of the three years of training was presented by each WP leader. *The complete list of the PanAfGeo work packages are available here: www.panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org/about*

Several useful recommendations were provided by the PanAfGeo Advisory Board members during the panel discussions in the session "The contribution of PanAfGeo for African countries" by,

- *C. Ghyoot (European Commission, DG-DEVCO)*
PanAfGeo and the PanAfrican programme: context, lessons learnt and thoughts
- *G. Simubali (Geological Survey of Namibia)*
The case of Namibia
- *R. Samba Diene (Directorate of Prospecting and Promotion Mining-Senegal)*
The case of Senegal
- *I. Shaddad (African Minerals and Geosciences Centre)*
The case of an African Centre of Excellence
- *El Khlifi (Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment-Morocco)*
The case of Morocco

Further to these, four particularly relevant lectures were offered by,

- *C. Ghyoot (European Commission, DG-DEVCO)*
PanAfGeo: EU added value and synergies
- *E. Díaz-Martínez on behalf of D. Ponce de León Gil (IGME-Spain)*
Collaboration between Latin American and European geological surveys: current situation, proposals and perspectives
- *A. Nguno (OAGS, Geological Survey of Namibia)*
A report of the Technical Expert Group of OAGS
- *F. Larsen (EGS) and J.-C. Guillaneau (BRGM), followed by discussions and inputs from OAGS/ DG-DEVCO.*
Perspectives of PanAfGeo-2

Pictures of the PanAfGeo Project final meeting are available here:
www.panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org/portfolio/panafgeo-final-meeting



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The PanAfGeo Project: an overview (2016-2019)

Results and impacts:

PanAfGeo increased the technical competence of 1,074 trainees from 49 African countries (all except Burundi, Libya, Mauritius, Seychelles and Somalia). No other EU programme so far has ever had such a cross-continental geographical coverage, overcoming language (trainings in three languages: English, French, Portuguese), cultural and political barriers.

The European Commission's intention of increasing attention for more effective cooperation with Africa has therefore been fully met by PanAfGeo Phase 1, through its geoscience training programmes for officers of African Geological Surveys. The programme has clearly strengthened the partnership between EU and African countries in several areas, bringing substantial benefits to the societies in Africa and, indirectly, in Europe, through the establishment of stable institutional relations based on mutual trust and respect. The consideration of many African Ministers being present at various PanAfGeo events proves the impact generated at the highest decision making and political levels.

The future - PanAfGeo Phase 2:

Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement and the framework of possible work packages for PanAfGeo-2 were discussed at the final meeting in Tanzania, with an emphasis on additional activities that would lead to increased (institutional) capacity of African Geological Surveys. The key ambition is to align as much as possible with the new European Commission priority 'A stronger Europe in the World', by putting in place a more comprehensive and ambitious strategy for PanAfGeo-2 itself. One possibility might be offered by establishing a collaboration with other complementary projects (such as GMES Africa) in order to achieve synergies in land and geo-resources management. The latter is closely linked to climate change adaptation goals that are tackled within the proposed EU Green Deal, another of Ms U. von der Leyen's priorities as President of the European Commission. The cooperation between European and African Geological Surveys within PanAfGeo-2 will further strengthen the geological sector at government level in Africa and will, therefore, allow for the increased capacity in managing geo-resources and environmental matters by national administrations. This represents a step forward in the political commitment to the development of EU-Africa cooperation as described in [MIP Pan-African 2018-2020](#).

PanAfGeo-2 will thus encompass: (1) strengthening the level of geological knowledge and skills in national Geological Surveys through trainings; (2) enhancing the institutional and technical capacity and role of African national Geological Surveys; (3) contributing to improved mineral resources assessment, management and governance by national Geological Surveys in Africa, (4) increasing the activities of national Geological Surveys related to regional mapping and exploration, as well as upgrading their geoscientific information base and mineral inventories; (5) creating a Pan-African network of experts through the Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS), supported by the organisation of the Geological Surveys of Europe (EuroGeoSurveys); (6) supporting the European (Commission) and pan African institutions (African Union) in achieving their strategic policy goals on AU-EU cooperation.



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A major emphasis in Phase 2 will be put on governance and institutional strengthening, as well as on the links with EU policies, on cooperation with the AU and on the more direct and constant involvement of key EC services (DGs GROW, TRADE and JRC).

More information and application procedures can be found at www.panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org

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