THE ROLE OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF AFRICA IN STRENGTHENING THE CONTINENT’S POSITION IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

Dr Gabi Schneider, President: OAGS + Director: Geological Survey of Namibia
The mandate of the OAGS is to foster and sustain geosciences programmes and excellence on the African continent, in the quest for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation, with special reference to mineral resource assessment, sustainable land use and development, hazard mitigation and environmental protection.
OAGS BACKGROUND

❖ OAGS was launched on 02 February 2007 in Pretoria, South Africa as an initiative of the New Partnerships for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) through the African Mining Partnership (AMP)
❖ AMP in turn was established to champion the NEPAD mining and mineral initiatives through harmonizing the mineral and mining legislative framework in Africa and optimizing the value of mining for the benefit of all.
❖ Membership in the organisation is open to all countries within Africa
❖ No membership fees are presently charged.
The OAGS consists of representatives from numerous African countries. South Africa was elected to be the secretariat of the organisation. Presidency and Vice-Presidency (2) changes every three years. The current Presidency is with Namibia, and the two Vice-Presidents are from Moçambique and Niger. The incumbents were elected in September 2013 in Accra, Ghana, and will be in office until the AGM of 2016.
MISSION STATEMENT + MADATE

To provide comprehensive information, support and capacity-building to Geological Surveys across Africa and to assist member countries in their development through the establishment of information sources and means of technology transfer for their own use and for the attraction of investment and establishment of greater public and government understanding of the strategic importance and offerings of Geological Surveys.

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Leading provision of support to Geological Surveys in Africa through supply of information, capacity-building and technology transfer

- Innovation
- Creativity
- Responsiveness
- Dedication
OBJECTIVES

- To collaborate in the creation of regional and continent-wide promotional maps, documents and publications that inform decision-makers in government and industry on matters relating to the applied geosciences.
- To enhancing the capacity of Geological Surveys in Africa.
- To share knowledge and expertise in geosciences, technologies, management and opportunities.
- To advance the training of African geoscientists.
OBJECTIVES CONT.

- To jointly address African geoscience issues of common interest and to promote the contribution of geosciences to African affairs
- To assist African decision-makers to obtain technical advice from the members of the OAGS
- To provide a geo-science network between the Geological Surveys
- To ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation
- To support the programmes and objectives of the African Mining Partnership (AMP) and the AU
FUNCTIONS OF AFRICAN GEOSURVEYS

Source: OAGS survey
AFRICA AND THE GLOBAL ARENA

- Africa has vast resources of important and strategic minerals.
- Important mineral-rich countries are on the African continent.
- Exploration is booming and African minerals receive renewed interest.
- But large areas of Africa remain under-explored, and Africa received only 17% of global exploration expenditure (South America 25%) in 2012.
- In 2012, Africa received only 14% of global mining investment (South America 29%, North America 20%).
- Mineral extraction is crucial for economic development.
- To develop Africa, mineral beneficiation and value addition must also be promoted.
INFORMATION PROVIDING AND SHARING

- **Generation of data**
  - Mapping
  - Geophysics
  - Economic Geology
  - Geochemistry
  - Engineering and Environmental Geology
  - Palaeontology

- **Sharing data**
  - Other Geological Surveys
  - Universities and Research Organisations

- **Provision of data to stakeholders**
  - Mineral investors
  - Other Ministries
  - General Public
PROMOTION OF MINERAL POTENTIAL

• In today’s IT world, investors need access to geo-scientific data:
  - Logically presented, well structured
  - Comprehensive
  - Easy to use
  - Digital

• Geological Surveys must have:
  - Digital geological map production
  - Well equipped + functional laboratories
  - Regional geochemical surveys
  - Historical archives as digital data bases
  - Airborne geophysical surveys
GEOINFORMATION
PROMOTION OF MINERAL POTENTIAL

- Obtain and archive historical data
- Built capacity and generate new data
- Compilation of saleable products from both
- Marketing of these products
- Bring African countries on an equal level
- Conduct research on value addition opportunities
GEOINFORMATION

Easy access through good facilities + the web

Ownership of data rests with the individual Geological Surveys
Husab – one of the most significant discoveries in decades
- Resources of 267 million lbs
  @ 488 ppm U₃O₈
- 15 million tpa ore
- 6500 tpa U
- 1480 million US$
DEVELOPMENT

SMALL SCALE MINING
- Interpretation of geological data
- Taylor-made assistance
- Alternative resources
- Training
- Value-adding
- Marketing
- Environmental issues
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BENGUELA CURRENT COMMISSION

RESOURCES:
- Fish
- Crustaceans
- Mari-culture products
- Minerals
- Hydrocarbons
- Tourism
THANK YOU!

Not all great resources are in the ground......*

www.oagsafrica.org

* Raw Materials Group