



News at a Glance

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1. New projects to join the International Geoscience Program in 2020

The International Geoscience Programme Council, during their 5th Session of the annual Council meeting, decided to continue supporting 24 ongoing projects and approved 18 new projects, totalling 42 active IGCP projects in 2020. Below are the details of the

18 new projects which will join the long list of over 650 projects from 150 countries supported by the IGCP.



UNESCO is the only United Nations organization with a mandate to support research and capacity building in geology and geophysics, and the International Geoscience programme (IGCP) is our flagship. The IGCP has long been globally recognized amongst geoscientists as one of the most successful models for promoting international scientific cooperation in geosciences sharing a global vision for research. This joint venture created 48 years ago by UNESCO, and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) continues to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, advancing new initiatives related to geo-diversity, geo-heritage and geohazards risk mitigation with the financial supports of the Jeju Province



Development Corporation and UNESCO Chinese National Commission. The IGCP Council, supported by the Scientific Board, is responsible for evaluating project proposals according to the IGCP Guidelines, as well as for the quality assessment of projects in progress.

This year, the Council meeting was scheduled to meet between 13-16 March 2020, but due to COVID-19 precautions and safety measures, the evaluations were held online through teleconferencing between 12-16 March 2020. In this meeting, the progress of the 31 ongoing projects was assessed and 26 new proposals - submitted as of October 2019 according to the guidelines of the Council – were reviewed.

The details of IGCP 2020 projects and [UNESCO Secretariat 2019 IGCP annual report](#) can be accessed through [UNESCO's webpage](#).

UNESCO and IUGS would like to thank the IGCP community for their contributions and welcome new projects.

2. IUGS-sponsored Short Course on Metallogenic Cartography

A short course on Metallogenic Cartography was jointly organized in November 2019 by the International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits (IAGOD), the Argentine Geological Association (AGA) and the Geological and Mining Survey of Argentina (SEGEMAR). The short course, sponsored by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the Ibero American Association of Geological and Mining Surveys (ASGMI), was presented by a total of 12 SEGEMAR specialists and three international IAGOD experts, and was attended by a total of 26 participants. Generous IUGS scholarships were provided to ten PhD students from various Latin American universities and the attendance of a further ten geologists from the Geological Surveys of Colombia, Honduras, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Portugal, Uruguay, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic was also supported by ASGMI. All participants came away with both increased knowledge of metallogenic cartography as well as a significant amount of information to be used in their future research and mineral exploration activities. See more details on the course [here](#).



IAGOD aims to organize similar modular courses in other countries and invites host proposals. Visit the [IAGOD website](#) for future announcements.



Fig. 1 - The enthusiastic audience during the IUGS-sponsored Short Course on Metallogenic Cartography.



Fig. 2 - Group photo showing course participants.



Fig. 3 - IAGOD President Eduardo Zappettini engaging with course participants.



Fig. 4 - Andreas Dietrich during his presentation on porphyry copper deposits.



3. 7th SGA-IUGS-SEG-UNESCO Short Course on African Metallogeny

UNESCO in association with IUGS, the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA) and the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG) will organize a short Course on African Metallogeny, in Namibia, from 23 to 27 November 2020.

The course, entitled “Energy Metals for a Sustainable Society”, will address geological, technical, and societal challenges associated with “energy metals” that are needed for low CO₂ footprint clean energy systems.



Fig. 5 - Landscape in Namibia.

The global demand for electricity is expected to grow from about 27 TWh in 2019 to about 41 TWh in 2040. Coupled with the low-carbon energy transition this creates new opportunities for the mining industry. The renewable energy sectors require huge amounts of metals for energy production, transmission, and storage. “Energy metals” are also key to manufacturing



the advanced materials needed for communication products, electric mobility, and lightweight design. As a major energy consumer, the mining sector itself is a significant player in energy transition. The mining industry is required to provide raw materials for energy transition and this needs to be done in a sustainable and socially acceptable way.

In Namibia, mining accounts for 25% of the country's revenue. Namibia hosts world-class, high-grade polymetallic deposits and stratabound copper-silver-cobalt deposits, world-class base metal and uranium deposits (world's 4th uranium oxide producer), and unique lithium, vanadium, germanium, gold, REE and diamond deposits. Namibia is also processing zinc from zinc-oxide ores.

Internationally recognized experts will give lectures, lead workshops and field trips to bring together people from academia, industry and government.

See the leaflet [here](#).



Fig. 6 - Springboks.



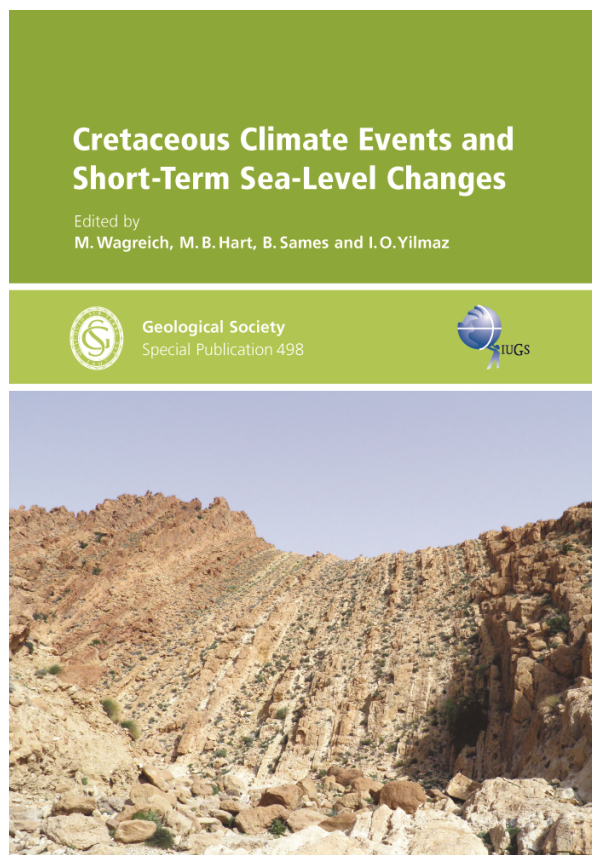
4. IUGS SP498 Cretaceous Climate Events and Short-Term Sea-Level Changes published

Sea-level constitutes a critical planetary boundary for both geological processes and human life. This volume presents high-resolution sea-level records from globally distributed sedimentary archives of the Cretaceous involving a large group of scientists from the International Geoscience Programme IGCP 609.

Complete information can be found at:

<https://sp.lyellcollection.org/content/498/1>

About the cover: Cyclic marginal succession of the Orbata Formation (latest Barremian to earliest Albian, Jebel Chemsî, central Tunisia) recording short-term sea-level changes of the western Tethys on the northern margin of Gondwana. Photograph by M. Wagreich (2017).



5. Heritage Stones Subcommittee: extension of the activities of the IGCP-637

The IUGS Heritage Stones Subcommittee will continue activities on the recognition of natural stones in the context of architectural and cultural heritage. The project: Project 637 - Heritage Stones: a step towards to widen up the recognition of stones used in the building of heritage in emerging countries will work on the recognition of stones with emphasis on those from emerging countries from Africa, Middle East and South Asia.

More information on the new approved project can be found [here](#).



6. News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

IUGS Special Project

IFG is continuing the IUGS ‘Special Project’ to evaluate the current global scale of crimes that take place in the mining, minerals and metals industry, and assess geological methodologies and strategies, which may aid in the detection, prevention, management and mitigation of these crimes. During 2020, this will continue as a desk study, a meeting will then be held in South America when international travel is permitted after COVID-19.



Forensic Geology Soil Collection Training Video

In 2019, IFG supported a FBI led training video on the collection of soil for the provision of geological trace evidence, available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/o9dWZOj1U5A>. This transcript will be translated by the IFG Committee into Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Indian (Hindi), Italian, Japanese and Russian.

Forensic Geology in India

The Geological Survey of India has agreed to support the development of Forensic Geology in India. This includes conventional forensic geology applied to policing and law enforcement and environmental geoforensics.

IFG Web Site Upgrade

The IFG web site is in the process of being updated and upgraded. The new web site is expected to be available later in 2020.



EDITORS' NOTES:

CONTRIBUTING TO THE IUGS E-BULLETIN, WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

IUGS wishes to improve the co-ordination of the publication of information on **news, events and achievements** arising from IUGS activities (**not science reports or papers**). All IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives and IGCP projects are requested to provide a steady flow of material. Contributions from Adhering Bodies will also be welcomed.

To aid co-ordination and standardization, IUGS has introduced a preferred format and a monthly timetable.

Format of submitted material:

Contributors should provide:

For the E-Bulletin: 2 or 3 sentences with between 1 and 3 illustrations (photographs, diagrams etc.) with captions as separate .jpg, .gif or .png files with a resolution of 150 dpi; optimally accompanied, by:

For the website: a concise text of about 0.5 to 1 A4 page (up to about 600-700 words), if possible providing a web-link (e.g. to an IUGS activity website).

The short text in the E-Bulletin will be hyperlinked to any longer text which will be placed on the IUGS website. Items that are not in reasonably good English will be returned for improvement. Others will be edited for use of English if necessary. If proposed contributions are too long, they will be returned for shortening. All images must, if necessary, be copyright-cleared before submission.

Each contribution to the IUGS E-Bulletin, website and/or social media should be marked as to which target medium or media it should be published in. Each contribution should be sent, at the same time, to the following addresses:

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(Webmaster)
(Social Media Manager)



Timetable:

The idealized timetable for the E-Bulletin is:

1. IUGS sends a reminder to leaders of activities in the last week of each month;
2. Contributions should be provided by the 16th day of that month (**items arriving after that date cannot be included in the next monthly issue**);
3. IUGS will evaluate all submitted items in terms of urgency and will allocate these to the next monthly issue or a later issue and will also check that these comply with IUGS policy for publications and ethics;
4. The IUGS Team will aim to compile that month's E-Bulletin by the 25th day of the month and send it to the IUGS Secretariat;
5. The IUGS Secretariat will dispatch the E-Bulletin to the IUGS Community on, or before, the last day of each month;
6. Long versions of material will be posted on the IUGS Website in coordination with the publication of the relevant E-Bulletin.

This timetable will be varied, as necessary, to allow for public holidays that affect the E-Bulletin Team and IUGS Secretariat such as Christmas and Chinese New Year.

NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please mail to: silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it.
- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings this coming month. If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in this Calendar please mail to: giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please mail to: iugs.beijing@gmail.com or secretariat@iugs.org.
- Follow the IUGS on Social Media! We are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
- Check the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/>

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