



International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits

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THE VIEW FROM AFRICA

On 22nd and 23rd February 2024, the International Union of Geosciences (IUGS) held its Geoscience for Africa meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting aimed to identify the particular challenges to geoscience on this continent.



action plan included advancing geoscience education, the preservation of geological heritage, enhancing the visibility of geosciences in the public and in political decision-making, and the availability of laboratory facilities across the continent. Decarbonisation of energy resources and support for geological mapping were also considered significant, but the search for and development of mineral resources could have appeared with a much stronger focus.

For IAGOD, the principal priority was the mineral resource sector and, in particular, the role that Africa plays in the global supply of minerals and metals for the green energy transition. Despite being a metal and minerals net-exporter, Africa continues to suffer from a long-term underinvestment in exploration and investment. Few of the revenues from mining are reinvested into African communities, contributing to poverty, political instability, and deprivation in some of the principal mining nations. Artisanal mining with poor safety records continues to be a problem across the continent, as the poor seek to benefit from the local resources.



As a long-standing member society of the IUGS, IAGOD was represented by our two African councillors: Prof Thierry Bineli-Betsi (Botswana, Regional Councillor for Africa) and Ms Mary Barton (Namibia, Second Vice President at Large). The focus of the meeting was to identify the top priorities for action to advance geoscience on the continent. The

This activity is typically a direct consequence of the minimal reinvestment in (or a poor wealth distribution across) local communities. It is pertinent for multinational mining companies to recognise their responsibility in the continued deprivation of the continent. While environmental and social governance in mining developments is improving, it is still far less stringent and regulated in Africa than elsewhere. IAGOD strongly encourages the geoscience community to engage in improving the performance of the mining sector across Africa.

Mary and Thierry used the opportunity to promote IAGOD and engage with a wider range of institutions in Kenya. They presented talks at two mining departments as well as the Geo East African Conference and Expo 2024. Visits to the Taita Taveta University in Voi and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Juja (both in Kenya) facilitated dialogue with students around mineral economics, exploration, and mineralization, as well as careers in mining and geoscience.

