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**PanAfGeo Project: Mineral resources**

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PanAfGeo “Geological knowledge and skills in African Geological Surveys” is a Pan-African project designed by EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) and the Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS) with the support of several partners, i.e. European Commission, African Union Commission, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) and Geological Society of Africa

Geological survey organisations and mineral exploration companies are the major users of geological maps. Geological maps are important basic tools for identifying areas of mineral potential and for selecting targets for further exploration work to locate new mineral deposits. The quality of geological data available is an important aspect for mining and exploration companies when selecting a country for more detailed investigation. Availability of professional and technical labour is also important.

The coverage and quality of geological and mineral potential maps in Africa vary from country to country; however, they are often insufficient for the needs of stakeholders, including mining and exploration companies. One challenge in many geological surveys in Africa is an inadequate number of skilled staff. There is a need for new technologies and training of staff in data and information processing and in evaluating and interpreting field and analytical data. Up-to-date geological data, including maps and inventories of mineral resources will help decision makers and stakeholders in the sustainable management and use of mineral resources, which are a major economic factor for many African countries.

The specific objective of this work package is to increase knowledge of modern data processing methods and to improve skills to compile thematic maps of mineral resources, and most importantly, add understanding on sustainable development of mineral resources.

To strengthen the knowledge and skills of African geological surveys an extensive training programme in the following areas will be implemented:

- Assessment and evaluation of ore and industrial mineral potential;
- Assessment and evaluation of resources suitable for construction materials, dimension stones and aggregates;
- Promotion and marketing of minerals, mineral potential and other georesources;

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- Understanding of the international mining sector;
- Sustainable management of mineral resources and multi-sector analysis.

The activities will cover:

- 1) Developing training programmes and implementation plans in co-operation with the African GSOs
- 2) Identifying institutions and organisations in Africa with appropriate facilities and willingness to participate in the training programmes;
- 3) Preparing training material and technical guidelines for mineral resource assessment and
- 4) Implementing the various training programmes (on-the-job sessions and training of trainers).

