

PanAfGeo

Pan-African Support
to Geological Sciences and
Technology Africa-EU Partnership

Appui panafricain aux géosciences
du partenariat Afrique-UE

Apoio pan-africano às geociências
da parceria África-UE

WP-G TRAINING SESSION – THE FIRST PANAFGEO SESSION ON AN ISLAND COUNTRY

The second training session of WP-G was held in São Tomé on 7-18 November 2022. As proposed in the Grant Agreement, the WP-G designed a session to be delivered 100% in Portuguese and take place on an island country for the first time in PanAfGeo. It brought together seventeen delegates from five African Portuguese-speaking countries, i.e. Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cabo Verde and São Tomé & Príncipe, part of the PALOP (Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa).

It was jointly organised by BRGM, France (Dr. Marc Urvois, WP-G leader), LNEG, Portugal (Mr. Alain Francès and Mr. Pedro Gonçalves, WP-G trainers), and DGRNE - General Directorate of Natural Resources and Energy, São Tomé & Príncipe (José Bastos Do Sacramento, Director General). Locally, Mrs. Ana Sofia Ten-Jua De Castro, Mr. Paulo Soares de Barros de Ceita (DGRNE) were also instrumental to the successful organisation of this session.

The event was fully broadcast by TVS (Televisão São-tomense) and RTP Africa (Rádio e Televisão de Portugal – Africa / Portuguese TV channel dedicated to the African lusophone countries). The videos are available made available on the PanAfGeo YouTube channel, [click here to watch it](#).

The ten-day training was organised as classroom-type sessions including lectures (<25%) and hands-on exercises (>75%) on the laptop computers provided by PanAfGeo to each trainee. At the end of the second week, each trainee had to prepare and present a Return-to-Work Plan as his/her active contribution to the WP-G capacity building process.



A group picture from the training session



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The closing ceremony took place on November 18th afternoon and was introduced by Dr. Marc Urvois, followed by Mr. Souleymane Zoundi, WP-G co-leader and OAGS representative. Céline Andrien, Director of the EGS Secretariat, underlined the importance of strengthening the links between African and European Geological Surveys and acknowledged the success of this session and the networking of African geoscientists. The European Union was represented by Mr. Davide Morucci, EU Delegation to Gabon and São Tomé & Príncipe, who noted the complementarities PanAfGeo had with similar initiatives the EU has in São Tomé & Príncipe, and the importance of the collaborative networks established through such projects. Mr. Gabriel Makengo gave the closing remarks on behalf of Mr. Adelino Afonso Fernandes Rosa Sacramento, the newly appointed Minister of Infrastructures, Natural Resources and Environment. A representative of the French Consulate, Mrs. Siomora Viegas-le Roux, was also due to participate but unfortunately had to withdraw.

After the training certificates were formally handed over to each delegate, the concluding remarks were given by Mr. Alain Francès and Mr. Euclides Clemente Félix De Castro, Angola, spokesperson on behalf of the trainees. He highlighted the importance of having organised such a session dedicated to Portuguese-speaking African geoscientists and the difference it made to them having such a session provided fully in Portuguese, while most courses under the PanAfGeo project were so far limited to either English or French speakers.

In addition, Ana Sofia Ten-Jua De Castro stated that, unlike most of development projects terminating at the end of the financed activities, PanAfGeo provides the conditions whereby personal long term ties are created. This context encourages the South-South cooperation. She concluded: *"PanAfGeo is a trademark!"*.

The pictures of the training session is made available here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAi72F>

For more information about the PanAfGeo Project: <https://panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org/>