

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

PANAFGEO-2 MID-TERM MEETING: STRENGTHENS AFRICA-EU GEOSCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

19th May 2023: Brazzaville, Republic of Congo - The PanAfGeo community convened in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, for the mid-term meeting of the PanAfGeo-2 project. Held at the Grand Lancaster Hotel from May 15th to 16th, 2023, the meeting focused on reviewing project progress and engaging with stakeholders from the Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS) and other organisations.

The opening ceremony on May 15th featured notable officials and representatives from EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) members, the European Union (EU), the Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS) members and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The opening speakers were: i) The representant of Mr. Dieudonné Bantsimba, The Mayor of the city of Brazzaville, ii) Mr. Jean-Claude Guillaneau, PanAfGeo-2 Coordinator, iii) Dr. Julie Hollis, EuroGeoSurveys Secretary-General, iv) Dr. Rokhaya Samba Diene, OAGS President, v) S.E.M. Giacomo Durazzo, Ambassador of the European Union in the Republic of Congo, vi) Mr. Guillaume Prevost, the representant of the Ambassador of France in the Republic of Congo, vii) Mme Fatoumata Barry Marega, UNESCO Resident Representative in the Republic of Congo, viii) S.E.M. Pierre Oba, State Minister, Minister of Mining Industries and Geology of the Republic of Congo.

Dr. Rokhaya Samba Diene led a session, titled “Go Further” on the future of the PanAfGeo-2 project. Speakers discussed perspectives and advice, including Mrs. Catherine Ghyoot from the European Commission DG-INTPA, Dr. Nicolas Charles and Mr. Jean-Claude Guillaneau, PanAfGeo-2 Coordination, and Pr. Félix Toteu, President of the PanAfGeo Advisory Board.



The General Assembly, held in the afternoon, presented the mid-term results for the eight work packages of the PanAfGeo project. These packages covered geoscientific mapping, mineral resources assessment, artisanal and small-scale mining, geoheritage and geothermal energy, geohazards and environmental management of mines, governance in geological surveys, geoscientific information management, and communication, dissemination and dialogue.



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On May 16th, the Advisory Board, led by Prof. Félix Toteu, convened to discuss and provide recommendations for the project. The meeting also featured stakeholders who presented their activities and collaborations with the PanAfGeo project, showcasing synergies. Led by Dr. H Théveniaut, French Geological Survey (BRGM), participants had the opportunity to hear from i) Mrs. Pascaline Makani Omgba (AWIMA President), ii) Mr. Arisekola Tunde (AMDC Senior Advisor), iii) Mr. Urbain Fiacre Opo (Acting Director-General of Mines of the Republic of Congo), iv) Pr. Dona Kampata (Geological Survey of the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Notable attendees at the mid-term meeting included Ambassador Piotr Myśliwiec, the Poland ambassador to Angola (also accredited to the Republic of Congo), who contributed to the discussions and highlighted the importance of geoscientific cooperation between Africa and Europe. Additionally, Pr. Stanisław Wołkowicz (Polish Geological Institute) shared his vision of a proposed book project, entitled "Geosciences in Africa," to be based on contributions of members from the PanAfGeo network.

Following the mid-term meeting, a governance workshop was held, focusing on strengthening the Geological Surveys of Africa. Led by Dr. J. Donker of Geological Survey of the Netherlands (TNO), responsible for Work Package F, the workshop was aimed at organisational strengthening, with a focus on data management as a thematic case study.

The meeting was officially closed by S.E.M. Pierre Oba, the State Minister and Minister of Mining Industries and Geology of the Republic of Congo.

This mid-term meeting of PanAfGeo-2 showcased the progress made in Africa-EU geoscientific cooperation, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange for a stronger Africa.

The media coverage of the mid-term meeting is available [here](#).

Photographs from the mid-term meeting are available on the Flickr platform [here](#).

About PanAfGeo-2:

PanAfGeo is an EU co-funded initiative that began in 2016 and is supported by the European Union and the African Union through the Africa-EU Partnership. The project allows trainees to acquire state-of-the-art tools, methods and experienced knowledge in 8 geoscientific skills. The project supports the training of geoscientific staff from African Geological Surveys through a diversity of innovative training methods. A brochure outlining the aims and plans for PanAfGeo-2 can be found, [here](#). For more information, visit the PanAfGeo-2 [website](#).

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