

PanAfGeo+

The Pan-African Support to Geological Sciences and Technology

Call for Applications for PanAfGeo+ WP3 Training Session

WP3 - ASSM Mining of Development Minerals Training Session

Development of a guidebook on Development Minerals in Africa

- 30 November - 4 December 2026
- Douala, Cameroon
- English/French

MAIN CONTEXT OF PANAFGEO+

“PanAfGeo+” for “Pan-African Support to Geological Sciences and Technology, Africa-EU Partnership” is a project which supports the training of geoscientific staff from African geological surveys through the development of an innovative training programme. This programme includes the acquisition and development of important professional skills that complement existing qualifications and technical skills. The training programme is carried out by world-class geoscientific experts coming from African and European geological surveys.

PanAfGeo+ is funded by the European Commission (DG INTPA). The consortium of PanAfGeo+ consists of EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) and Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS) coordinated by the French Geological Survey (BRGM).

This programme enables trainees to acquire a state-of-the-art tool kit that contains methods and/or field work from eight geoscientific domains or work packages.

The “**PanAfGeo Charter for Trainees**” provides the general quality framework for selection of trainees who will attend the training sessions carried out in the frame of the PanAfGeo+ Project. This charter is awarded for the full duration of the PanAfGeo+ Project. Implementation of the Charter will be monitored and violation of any of its principles and commitments may lead to its withdrawal by the PanAfGeo+ project coordination.

The overall objective and impact of PanAfGeo+ is to improve the governance and sustainable use of African mineral resources and related infrastructures.

CONTENT & METHODOLOGY OF THE “WP3 - ASSM MINING OF DEVELOPMENT MINERALS” TRAINING SESSION:

Interest in Critical Minerals has increased significantly in recent years, and exploration activities have expanded across Africa. Several studies conducted by AfricaMaVal, the Intergovernmental Forum (IGF), the World Bank, and various bilateral donors have examined the potential involvement of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASSM) operators in the extraction of Critical Minerals.

These studies generally show that, due to mineralogical characteristics and the technologies required, the ASSM sector plays a limited role in the mining of Critical Minerals, with some exceptions such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and neighbouring countries.

Overall, ASSM activities in Africa - and globally - represent a relatively small share of total mining operations. However, numerous reports indicate that Development Minerals account for approximately 40% or more of ASSM activities.

It is therefore essential to develop a more comprehensive overview of Development Minerals mined by ASSM operators.

Under PanAfGeo-2, Geological Surveys from **all 54 African countries** were invited to participate in ASSM training and seminars. The training included presentations from each participating country, contributions from African experts, and valuable group work sessions.

In addition, each country prepared a **chapter describing ASSM activities** within their territory. These chapters focused primarily on the mining of metallic minerals, gold, precious stones, and other valuable export-oriented minerals. All these contributions were published in the PanAfGeo-2 Guidebooks on ASSM. **Link to guidebooks, [here](#).**

The **Work Package “ASSM” (WP3)** aims to strengthen knowledge and understanding of ASSM operators engaged in mining Development Minerals across Africa. It will also discuss how government authorities can better support ASSM operators in this sector. The programme seeks to cover all aspects related to Development Minerals in each country, including:

- Types of minerals
- Mining methods
- Environmental and health issues
- Economic aspects
- Organisation of miners
- The value chain from mining to market

This training session in Douala, Cameroon, organised under WP3 on ASSM, is coordinated by the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) and the Geological Survey of Cameroon, with technical and scientific support from the WP3 co-organisers and co-leaders: the Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA) and Recherche Minière et de l'Exploitation Artisanale, Central African Republic (CAR).

The training session will take place in Douala, Cameroon, from 30 November to 4 December 2026, in English and French with simultaneous interpretation. A final session will follow in Cape Verde in spring 2028, conducted in English and Portuguese.

Each event will consist of a four-day seminar followed by a one-day field visit to ASSM mining sites focusing on Development Minerals.

MAIN EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE:

During PanAfGeo-2, many trainees expressed the need for a **better understanding of Development Minerals** and their **importance to society**. Although several solid studies exist in a few countries, they do not provide an overall picture of the sector across Africa.

Furthermore, trainees in previous phases were mainly from Geological Surveys and expressed interest in including knowledge and experience from **other government entities and academia** in future training sessions.

The **ASSM Work Package (WP3)** aims to strengthen knowledge and understanding of ASSM operators mining Development Minerals throughout Africa. It will also explore how government authorities can better support these operators. The programme intends to address all aspects of Development Minerals in each country, such as:

- Types of minerals
- Mining methods
- Environmental, health, and economic issues
- Organisation of miners
- The value chain from mining to market

The training will include presentations from participating countries, lectures from African experts, and interactive group work. Notably, WP3 exclusively uses African experts to deliver the sessions. **Link to publications, [here](#).**

Based on contributions prepared by participants, new guidebooks on ASSM mining of Development Minerals in Africa will be developed following these training sessions.

TIME SCHEDULE:

- Publication of Call for Applications: 21 April 2026
- Application period: 21 April – 1 June 2026
- Application deadline: **1 June 2026 (midnight, CET)**
- Selection of applicants completed by: 15 June 2026
- Confirmation of participation by selected trainees: 20 June 2026
- Issuance of invitation letters, visa and travel arrangements: June - July 2026

WHO CAN APPLY?

The PanAfGeo+ “WP3 – ASSM” training session is open to all applicants who meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the **“PanAfGeo Charter for Trainees.”**

This training is primarily targeted at junior staff (under 45 years of age) from National Geological Surveys, relevant ministerial departments, and academic institutions involved in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASSM) for Development Minerals. We strongly encourage applications from a diverse range of candidates who are engaged in, or have a strong interest in, ASSM and the mining of Development Minerals.

The programme includes a one-day field visit to Development Minerals mining sites operated by ASSM miners. Therefore, participants are expected to be in reasonable physical and health condition.

Important Notes:

- The Letter of Commitment must be officially approved and signed by the Directorate of your institution.
- A maximum of two (2) applications per National Geological Survey, relevant ministerial department, or university department will be accepted for the WP3 selection process.
- Applicants who previously expressed interest in WP3 trainings may also be considered.
- Incomplete applications - including those missing a valid passport number or details confirming passport validity for at least six (6) months after the end of the training - will be automatically excluded. Please ensure your passport is valid before applying.

Portuguese-speaking participants are encouraged to apply for the session planned in Cape Verde (2028).

FUNDING OF THE TRAINING:

The PanAfGeo+ “WP3 – ASSM Mining of Development Minerals” training session is fully supported through funds of the European Commission.



Organisation of African Geological Surveys
Organisation des Services Géologiques Africains
Organização de Serviços Geológicos Africanos



The Geological Surveys of Europe



The following expenses will be covered:

- International travel (return flight from the participant's country to Cameroon) and local ground transport in Cameroon, in accordance with the WP3 programme;
- Visa fees (upon presentation of an official receipt bearing the participant's name);
- Accommodation, breakfast, catering and joint meals during the training session;
- Costs related to the field visit;

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO DAILY ALLOWANCES AND NO HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENTS ARE PROVIDED UNDER THIS PHASE OF THE PANAFGEO+ PROJECT. YOU SHOULD BE READY TO COVER ALL EXTRAS IN CAMEROON ON YOUR OWN.

Possible arrangements for your travel to the international airport, and coverage of the international health insurance (if needed, please sort this out with your employer, who confirm this in your letter of Commitment.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE:

To be considered, applicants must complete and submit the following documents:

- 1) Application Form for this training;
- 2) Letter of Commitment signed by the employer;
- 3) Letter of Motivation;
- 4) Copy of passport (valid for at least six months after the date of entry into Cameroon).

Please name each file using your family name, the document name, and the language (EN or FR).

For example: SURNAME_ApplicationForm_EN or SURNAME_ApplicationForm_FR.

Please use Latin letters only.

After preparing these documents, please register here: <https://panafgeo-courses.eurogeosurveys.org/> and upload the documents as four separate PDF files before the deadline: **01 June 2026**.

The selection process will consider regional representation and a gender balance following the aim of strengthening skills of African Geological Surveys geoscientific staff. Acceptance letters will be sent promptly to facilitate visa processing and delivery.



All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process and asked to confirm their participation shortly after the selection decision. Invitation letters will be issued promptly to facilitate visa processing.

Information about the PanAfGeo+ Programme can be found via the internet address: <http://panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org>

Questions about PanAfGeo can be sent to:

- EuroGeoSurveys: panafgeo@eurogeosurveys.org
- Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS): info-oags@oagsafrica.org

Dr. John Tychsen

WP3 (ASSM) Deputy Leader

Mr. Isaac Kuuwan Mwinbelle

Director General, Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA)

Mr. Jules- César Yaganza

Central Inspector of Mines, Recherche Minière et de l'Exploitation Artisanale, Central African Republic

Ms. Maria Joycelyn Yusuf

Deputy Director General. Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR APPLICATIONS.



Organisation of African Geological Surveys
Organisation des Services Géologiques Africains
Organização de Serviços Geológicos Africanos



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