

Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee

Position: Councilor (2026-2030)

Name: Josephine Uushona

Affiliation: Geological Survey of Namibia, Geoscience Council of Namibia, Geological Society of Namibia and Geological Society of Africa.

Nominating Organization: Geological Survey of Namibia

Biography:



As a senior geoscientist at the Geological Survey since 2017, my main responsibilities are to review, catalogue and manage digital and printed information, as well as maintain the geological survey's geoscientific literature database. In addition, I organise geoscience outreach programs for schools nationwide, aiming to promote the importance of earth science. Collaborating with groups like GEOUS from St Andrews University, I lead workshops for teachers and participate in events like the national heritage and science week. Last year, I chaired the early career and student committee for the Colloquium of African Geology (CAG 29), organizing workshops to inspire young earth scientists to pursue diverse, fulfilling careers contributing to sustainable economies.

Since joining the Geological Survey of Namibia, I have actively engaged in various geology networks and committees as a volunteer. Recently, I became a National Earth Science Education Leader for the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) through the GLESE program, highlighting my commitment to global geoscience education. Additionally, I serve as an executive member of Namibia's Geological Society and a member. My involvement in the YES Network since 2014, including participation in international congresses in Tanzania and Cape Town, underscores my dedication. I have also represented Namibia in the YES network, leading to significant achievements like attending the 5th YES Congress in Germany with our delegation.

With a first honours degree in chemistry and geology from the University of Namibia and a second honours degree in Applied Geology from Western Cape University, I am further enhancing my skills through a master's degree in Science Communication at Stellenbosch University, focusing on public engagement. This

diverse background and ongoing education make me a strong candidate. In addition to the material impact, I have made to geoscience in my career.

Statement:

I am passionate about Earth sciences and thrive on engaging audiences to foster understanding and appreciation. In 2020, I participated in Project 685, an educational endeavour by IUGS and UNESCO focusing on Geoscience for Sustainable Development. Locally led by Ms. Kombada Mhopjeni and internationally by Dr. Ian Stewart, my involvement allowed me to contribute to educational resources, including an animation video ("GEOLOGY For Sustainable Development") and a poster ("Geoscience for the Future"). Please find a link to the video below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-I7nnSiFIg&t=63s>

These materials are utilized in schools and outreach programs, enhance learning experiences, and promote awareness of geoscience importance. As an IUGS councilor, I am committed to advancing educational initiatives, advocating for collaboration and innovation in geosciences. I strongly believe that my drive and passion is evident from my experiences, and I am eager to contribute to as a councilor for IUGS.