

News at a Glance

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1. IUGS Ten Action Plan for Africa

IUGS 79th EC Meeting and Geoscience in Africa Event were held in Nairobi, Kenya on Feb. 19th-23rd, 2024. IUGS Ten Action Plan for Africa (TAP for Africa) was discussed and produced as outputs of the IUGS Geoscience in Africa Event. The IUGS will design, implement, and support these actions in collaboration with GS Af, OAGS, MADI, local African Geological Societies, and other international organisations including UNESCO, EGU and GSA.

To know the details, click the link below:

https://www.iugs.org/files/ugd/f1fc07_f37dad4f2b4049f89233a0a3224a5c5d.pdf?index=true.

IUGS Geoscience in Africa Event

22-23 February 2024

Nairobi, Kenya



Figure1. IUGS Geoscience Event in Africa.

2. News from the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

The International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) has continued to present a series of new proposals for chronostratigraphical boundaries that have been recently ratified by IUGS.

A new age for the origin of the Earth, the base of the Hadean Eon, has just been published [<https://doi.org/10.18814/epiiugs/2024/024002>]. This is part of a programme to revise some Precambrian Global Standard Stratigraphic Ages (GSSAs) by the Pre-Cryogenian Subcommittee.

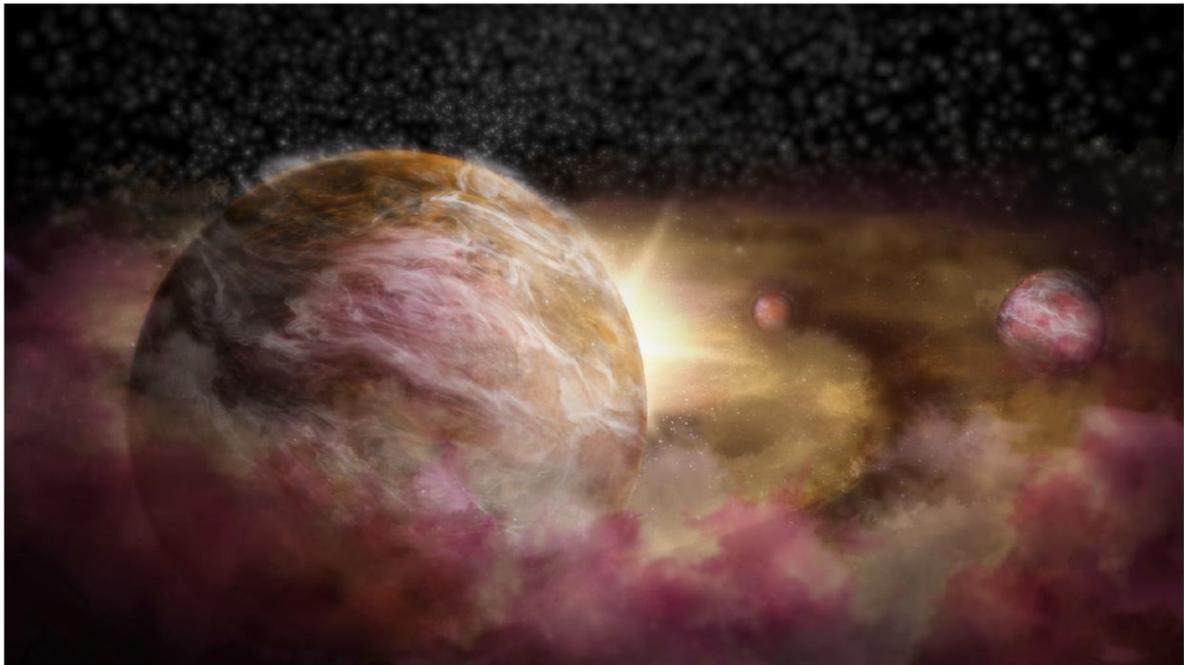


Figure 2: An artist's rendition of protoplanets forming around a young star. Image: NRAO/AUI/NSF; S. Dagnello. <https://doi.org/10.18814/epiiugs/2024/024002>.

In the last few months replacement Global Stratotype Sections and Points (GSSPs) for the Aeronian and Telychian (Silurian) stages/ages have been ratified by the International Union of Geosciences (IUGS). The basal stratotype for the Aeronian Stage is now defined above the base of the black shale succession of the Želkovice Formation in the Hlásná Třebaň section, central Bohemia (Czech Republic), whereas the basal stratotype for the Telychian is now defined in a section beside the El Pintado reservoir in the northern part of Seville Province, Spain.



Figure 3: The uppermost Aeronian and lowermost Telychian of El Pintado section 1, candidate GSSP section for the base of the Telychian Stage. Red arrow = base of Telychian; green arrow = nodule, top of which is 0.6 m below base of Telychian; blue arrow = rusty weathering layer 0.25 m above base of Telychian.

The proposal by the Anthropocene Working Group for a new series/epoch, the Anthropocene, was not supported by the Subcommittee on Quaternary Stratigraphy. The proposal will not proceed further at the present time. This decision has stimulated considerable interest in the world's media, with several members of the ICS community being interviewed and quoted in various reports.

Preparations are proceeding for the International Geological Congress in Busan where the most up-to-date versions of the International Chronostratigraphic Chart will be available in various printed formats, in English, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

3. News from DDE

Help determine future research directions in geosciences

From ecosystem change and soil quality to hydrology and natural hazards, Earth studies have never been so important. But in a crowded field of concerns, how can researchers prioritise the most important questions?

Scientists at the Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) Big Science Program — a major international initiative — are turning to their global colleagues to find out. They have created a list of 30 trending topics across the geological sciences, and are inviting researchers from around the world to vote and select the top 10 trends.

These 30 topics reflect the latest trends and advancements in geosciences and have the potential to address real-world problems that are closely related to society, science, and technology. By involving global experts in the voting process, they hope to identify emerging research trends, and areas that require further investigation in geosciences.

The survey will be hosted on <http://trends.ddeworld.org> and Springer Nature is collaborating with DDE in getting the poll out to a wide range of researchers from April 18 to May 31,2024. The results will be published in the report during the 37th International Geological Congress in August 2024.

See the shortlisted topics and cast your vote [here](#).

Help determine future research directions in geosciences



Figure 4: Deep-Time Digital Earth Survey

Please choose up to 10 topics that you believe best represent recent advancements.

https://trends.ddeworld.org/#/p_Votes

To Know more about DDE, open the link below

https://trends.ddeworld.org/#/p_About

4. IUGS Annual report

The annual report of IUGS for the year 2023 has been uploaded on the IUGS website.

To read the report please open the link:

https://www.iugs.org/_files/ugd/f1fc07_f9cb871dafa943e29dc83ea884ef6f16.pdf?index=true

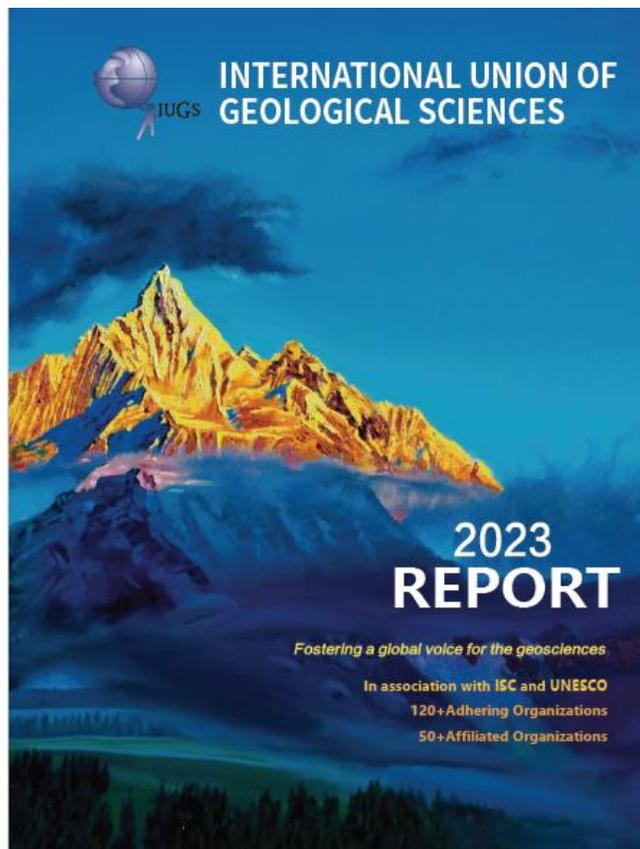


Figure 5. IUGS Annual Report -2023

(https://www.iugs.org/_files/ugd/f1fc07_f9cb871dafa943e29dc83ea884ef6f16.pdf?index=true)

5. News from the IUGS Nominating Committee

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Nominating Committee Finalized the Slate for the IUGS EC and NC Elections

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Nominating Committee had its fifth meeting on March 19th-20th, 2024, at Sun Yat-Sen University (Zhuhai Campus) in Guangdong Province. Under the chairmanship of NC Chair, Professor Qiuming Cheng, and with the participation of esteemed NC members from Colombia, Germany, Namibia, Spain, and the USA, the committee convened to finalize the slates for the upcoming IUGS Executive Committee (EC) and Nominating Committee (NC) nominations.

Throughout the meeting, the Nominating Committee rigorously reviewed the nominations received

following the second Call for Nominations for the 2024-2028 term. Adhering to the statutes and bylaws of the IUGS, the committee meticulously evaluated each nominee's eligibility, scientific record, international network, geographical distribution, gender balance, motivation, and potential preparedness to serve the IUGS.

Following comprehensive deliberation, the Nominating Committee crafted a slate for the IUGS Executive Committee (EC) comprising 2 candidates for President, 1 for Secretary-General, 2 for Treasurer, 6 for two Vice Presidents, 6 for two Councilors (2024-2028), and 5 for two Councilors (2026-2030). Additionally, the NC slate consists of 7 candidates.

The Nominating Committee will promptly notify the candidates to update their campaign materials and submit the finalized slates to the IUGS Executive Committee.

The NC expresses its gratitude to all nominees and nominating organizations for their participation and support throughout this process. Your dedication and commitment to serving the IUGS community are commendable and greatly appreciated.

We look forward to the upcoming election process and the continued advancement of geological sciences under the leadership of the newly elected officials.

6. News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

OSAC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Standard on SEM/EDS

The OSAC task group on Geological Materials has created draft entitled: 2024-S-0012, '*Standard Practice for the Forensic Analysis of Geological Materials by Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry.*' OSAC will be requesting public comment on this draft in the May 2024 OSAC Standards Bulletin. The OSAC bulletin will be published at the web site below on 7 May 2024 within which will be links to the draft standard and instructions for submitting public comments. All interested IUGS-IFG persons are encouraged to review this draft standard during the 30-day public comment period (estimated to run from about 7 May to 6 June 2024). If you have questions or miss the deadline for public comment, please contact Libby Stern.

LStern@fbi.gov.

<https://www.nist.gov/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/osac-standards-bulletin>

Minerals and Metals Crime, Amazon, Brazil

The IUGS-IFG Student Representative and Geoforensic International Network (GIN) manager (Marcelo Tortolero) has undertaken field work in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil. As part of his illegal mining forensic geology PhD research this included the collection of samples from operational and recently abandoned artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) operations.

IUGS Annual Report for 2023

The IUGS Annual Report for 2023 is available on the link below.

https://www.iugs.org/_files/ugd/f1fc07_f9cb871dafa943e29dc83ea884ef6f16.pdf?index=true

41st Symposium on Economic Crime, Cambridge University, UK, September 2024

The Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime is planned to take place at Cambridge University, UK on 1-8 September 2024. IUGS-IFG are in the early stages of considering attending and planning a workshop or series of lectures on illegal mining and mining crime. Those interested in supporting this event are encouraged to contact the IUGS-IFG Chair (Laurance Donnelly).

laurance.donnelly@akgroup.com or geologist@hotmail.co.uk

<https://www.crimesymposium.org/>

Medical and Forensic Geology, International Geological Congress, South Korea, August 2024

At the 37th International Geological Congress, Busan, South Korea, 25-31 August 2024 IUGS-IFG has agreed to combine with the session on Medical Geology. IUGS-IFG members that have submitted an abstract that has been accepted, are asked to please contact IUGS-IFG Chair (Laurance Donnelly) if you intended to apply for co-funding to present your paper in South Korea.

laurance.donnelly@akgroup.com or geologist@hotmail.co.uk

<https://www.igc2024korea.org/>

7. News from INHIGEO

i. INHIGEO Anniversary contributions

Occasion: Travels of Correia da Serra 250 years ago

Title: **Correia da Serra (1751–1823): “Journal d’une course en avril 1774” – the art of observing and describing.**

Authors: Ana Carneiro (PORTUGAL), Ana Simões (PORTUGAL), Maria Paula Diogo (PORTUGAL)

On Monday, 4 April 1774, the Portuguese naturalist José Francisco Correia da Serra left Rome, accompanied by the Belgian physician, Jean Demeste (1743–1783). They travelled along the Ligurian coast and Correia da Serra recorded daily observations, reflections, and critical comments in a 28-page manuscript written in French, to which a two-page Index was appended. This comprised three sections, Mineralia, Vegetabilia and Animalia.

Please open the link to know more: <http://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries.html>

ii. Exhibition of the legacy and heritage of a revolutionary GEA



Figure 6: María Fernanda Campa Uranga (1940-2019)

Marking the occasion of the donation of the personal archive and collections of the Mexican revolutionary geologist/engineer Maria Fernanda Campa Uranga to the Historical Archive of the Geologists of Mexico, there is an exhibition in the Museum of Geology of UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City) on her legacy and documentary and material heritage. These sources allow us to investigate our past and give response to our scientific present from different and varied interests and epistemic horizons. Exhibition dates: April-June 2024.

The presentation by INHIGEO member Lucero Morelos Rodríguez on History of Geology in Mexico and the importance of the archive is available to watch at the link (YouTube: minute 1.20-1.33

<https://www.facebook.com/MuseoDeGeologiaUNAM/videos/1143901443715308/>

8. News from the IUGS Commission on Geoethics

The Task Group on Ethical Guidelines of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics released the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct at IUGS/IGC Meetings and Events that were approved by the IUGS Executive Committee.

This concise document outlines the principles and responsibilities essential for scientific events. After a preamble, several core principles are considered, including respect, integrity, safety, and fairness, which detail the expected behaviors during scientific events. Then, specific points termed 'responsibilities' are described, offering recommendations for both event participants and organizers. The guidelines also incorporate pivotal documents on research integrity, such as the Singapore and Montreal Statements, which were respectively issued in 2010 and 2013, to further reinforce ethical standards.

Download the Guidelines at: <https://www.geoethics.org/iugs-cg-tg-ethical-guidelines>

The Task Group on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) of the IUGS Commission

on Geoethics released an Action Plan on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility for the IUGS that was approved by the IUGS Executive Committee. This document presents a range of recommendations divided into primary and secondary sections, accompanied by fundamental initiatives and a list of resources for the IUGS. Its purpose is to raise awareness about diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, aiming to shape policies and practices that foster broader participation and representation across the various IUGS constituent groups. Moreover, it suggests foundational initiatives that the IUGS should contemplate adopting. The recommendations are organized according to their priority levels. Finally, the document also includes basic initiatives, resources, and examples to promote activities and facilitate outreach dissemination.

Download the Action Plan at: <https://www.geoethics.org/iugs-cg-tg-deia>

Read more about the Task Group on Ethical Guidelines (<https://www.geoethics.org/iugs-cg-tg-ethical-guidelines>) and the Task Group on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) (<https://www.geoethics.org/iugs-cg-tg-deia>) of the Commission on Geoethics (CG) of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

9. News from the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

Reporting activities of IGCP 665 and virtual meeting of CGGB's Steering Committee

Alecos Demetriades (Chair of CGGB's Sampling Committee) presented on the 1st of March 2024 '*GEMAS: Geochemistry of Agricultural and Grazing land soil for healthy food production in Europe*' as part of the [Society of Environmental Geochemistry and Health's Fellows Virtual Seminars](#). The importance of European black soil regions (Fig. 1) was emphasised, especially that of Ukraine, which is renowned as the breadbasket of Europe that needs to be protected. The geochemistry of black soil (chernozem) was studied as part of '*IGCP Project 665: Sustainable use of black soil critical zone*' (refer to [IUGS E-Bulletin No. 171](#)), which ended last year. The project coordinator, Prof. Daming Wang (Shenyang Geological Survey of China), received in March 2024 a congratulations letter from the IGCP Secretariat for the successful completion of IGCP 665 (co-signed by the IUGS President, Prof. John Ludden). The CGGB was one of the main participants in this project with the compilation of the "*International Union of Geological Sciences Manual of Standard Geochemical Methods for the Global Black Soil Project*".

A virtual meeting of the CGGB Steering Committee was held on the 4th of April 2024. It was chaired by A. Ladenberger with participation by G. Prieto, G.N. Simubali, P. Adánez, C. Stouraiti, A. Argyraki, M.J. Batista, Z. Kypritidou, J.P. Lacassie Reyes, R. Turnbull, U. Bature, I. Othman and A. Demetriades. Among the subjects discussed were the CGGB participation in the 37th IGC in Busan with a dedicated session and a 3-day physical workshop, the July congress in Spain, updating of software programs, translation of Manual of Standard Method into Spanish, affiliation with other professional organisations and institutions, organisation of virtual and physical workshops in Africa as requested by the Organisation of African Geological Surveys at the February 2024 IUGS Executive Committee meeting and Geoscience Event for Africa in Nairobi (Kenya).

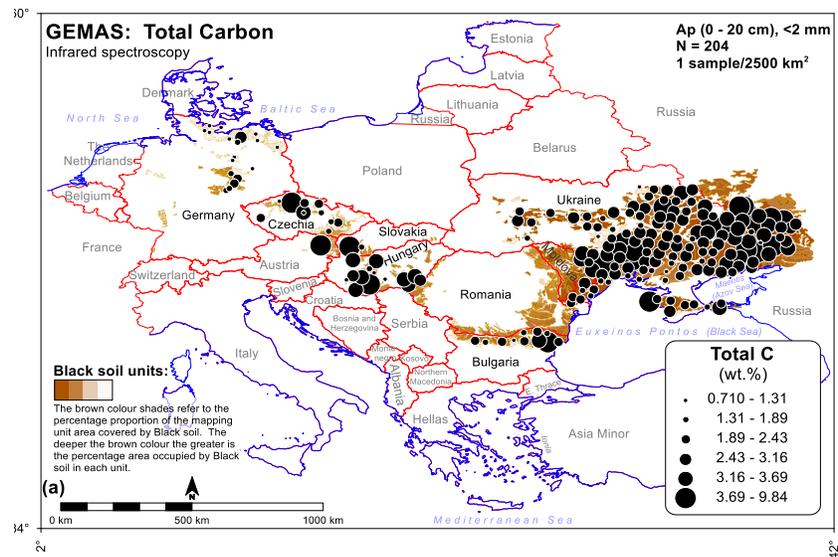


Figure 7. Distribution of Total Carbon in the ploughed agricultural soil of the European Black Soil regions. *Plotted by Alecos Demetriades with Golden Software's MapViewer version 8.*

10. News from COGE

COGE elects leaders for two new Subcommissions!

We proudly announce the newly elected leaders of COGE's Subcommissions:

- Agogo Abraham (Nigeria) - Leading the Public Outreach and Communication Subcommission!
- Liliana Corona (Mexico) - Leading the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Subcommission!

Agogo and Liliana add their diversity of knowledge and experience to COGE as we set forth on this new chapter in promoting global geoscience education! To learn more about COGE's organisational structure, visit this [link](#)!

COGE's 1st Quarterly Meeting of 2024 occurred on January 12, 2024, where members discussed 2023 successes and 2024 plans. This and other Meeting Minutes can be found here: <https://iugscoge.org/portfolio/minutes/>.

GEFO Spotlight: Pauline Yawoa da Costa (Togo)

Let's congratulate one of our GEFO's, Pauline Yawoa da Costa (Togo), on a very successful 2023! Pauline trained fifteen secondary education teachers on geosciences at Kara town in North Togo, 450 km from Lome. She focused specifically on geosciences teaching difficulties in Togo, and Geology of Togo and West Africa, and minerals, rocks, and fossils identification. Thank you for doing this impressive work, Pauline! For more information on the GEFO Program, visit: <https://iugscoge.org/geoscience-education-field-officer-program/>



Figure 8: Pauline Yawoa da Costa (Togo)

Social Media Interviews and Introductions!

Get to know the COGE social media team (Scott Miller, Liliana Corona, and Romina Celabe) through new social media spotlights! Also, we just posted an interview with Publications Committee leader Susan Alaniz on YouTube. Check out her wonderful insights on geoscience education here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E85P_lzb5mM

COGE Vice Chair report on the IUGS EC in Nairobi

Our Vice Chair Susanna Occhipinti participated in the 79th IUGS Executive and shared our working plan for 2024. Check out the outcomes from her representation of COGE [here](#).

For the IUGS website: A one-page concise text (up to about 500 words), if possible providing a web-link (e.g. to an IUGS activity website). **Each contribution to the IUGS e-Bulletin, website and/or social media should be marked as to which target medium or media it should be published in. Each contribution should be sent, at the same time, to the following addresses:**

gurmeet28374@gmail.com (e-Bulletin Editor-in-Chief)
giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it (Webmaster)
yamirka.rojas@ifg.uni-kiel.de (Editor, Social Media)
mdaniela.munozg@gmail.com (Social Media)

Time Frame for submissions to the e-Bulletin:



1. IUGS sends a reminder to leaders of activities in the middle of each month.
2. Contributions should be provided by the end of every month.
3. IUGS will evaluate all submitted items in terms of urgency and will allocate these to the next monthly issue or a later issue and will also check that these comply with IUGS policy for publications and ethics;
4. The IUGS Publications Committee Team will aim to compile monthly e-Bulletin by the end of the month and send it to the IUGS Secretariat;
5. The IUGS Secretariat will dispatch the e-Bulletin to the IUGS Community on, or in the first week of every month.

This time frame may vary due to public holidays that affect the e-Bulletin Team and IUGS Secretariat such as Christmas and Chinese New Year.

NOTES

- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings. If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in this Calendar please mail to: giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-Bulletin distribution list, please mail to: iugs.beijing@gmail.com or secretariat@iugs.org
- Follow the IUGS on Social Media! We are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
- Check the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/>

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