

International Union of Geological Sciences

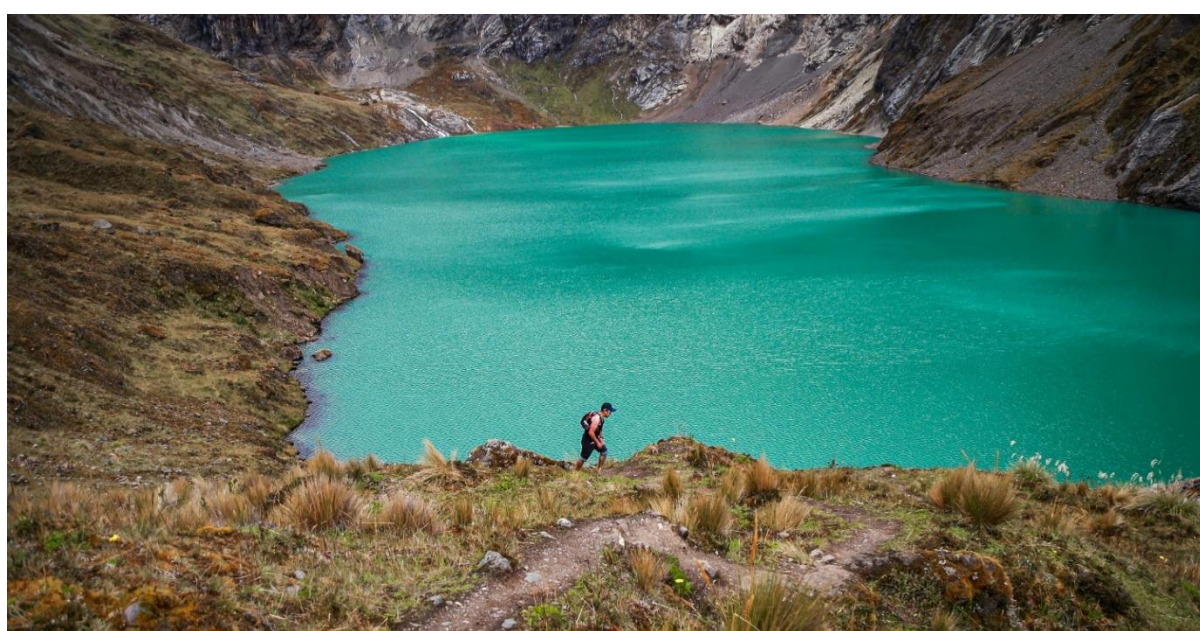
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[NEWS FROM IUGS OFFICE](#)

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Laguna Amarilla of Altar Volcano, a crater lake located inside the caldera of the extinct El Altar Volcano. Tungurahua Volcano UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador © William Tibán/Geoparque Volcán Tungurahua.

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I) NEWS FROM IUGS OFFICE

1) Invitation of the IUGS President to Represent the Union at International Conferences

Prof. Hassina Mouri has been invited to deliver opening addresses on behalf of IUGS at the Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2025, scheduled to take place on 5–6 July 2025 in Guiyang, China ([Eco Forum Global Guiyang](#)). Before the forum, she will visit the IUGS Secretariat in Beijing, and give a presentation at the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences.

The IUGS President Hassina Mouri was invited to attend the 11th International Conference on Medical Geology, organised by IMGA (an IUGS-associated body), scheduled to take place from 27 July to 1 August 2025 in Aveiro, Portugal ([MEDGEO 25 ISEG | IMGA](#)), to give a speech on behalf of IUGS and a plenary talk on her research.

2) IUGS and UNESCO: Over 50 Years of Advancing Global Geoscience Cooperation

The IUGS and UNESCO have collaborated for over five decades through the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), fostering international cooperation in Earth sciences and promoting the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps).

At its 10th session in March 2025, the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) Council reviewed the progress of 33 active projects from 2024. The scientific achievements and contributions of these projects to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are detailed in the **2025 IGCP Annual Report**, available [here](#).

To further strengthen global geoscientific collaboration, the Council approved two new projects—one focused on supporting the UNESCO Global Geoparks initiative, and another aimed at reinforcing cooperation with the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP). Grants were also allocated to 16 existing projects, with funding provided by IUGS, UNESCO, and the National Commission of the Republic of China. These projects aim to advance research, build capacity, and promote knowledge exchange across diverse regions. An additional 16 projects will continue as part of the IGCP network without direct funding. The complete list of active IGCP projects is available [here](#).

IUGS and UNESCO Strengthen Collaboration with African Geoscientists

In April 2025, IGCP launched a **Call for Expressions of Interest** to strengthen the collaboration with African geoscientists. The call received an exceptional response: 313 proposals from 48 countries, involving all six IGCP themes. More than 900 scientists are engaged as project leaders and co-leaders—underscoring the programme’s global reach and enduring impact.

Selected applicants will be invited to submit full project proposals by the end of summer, ensuring continued momentum in international Earth science cooperation.

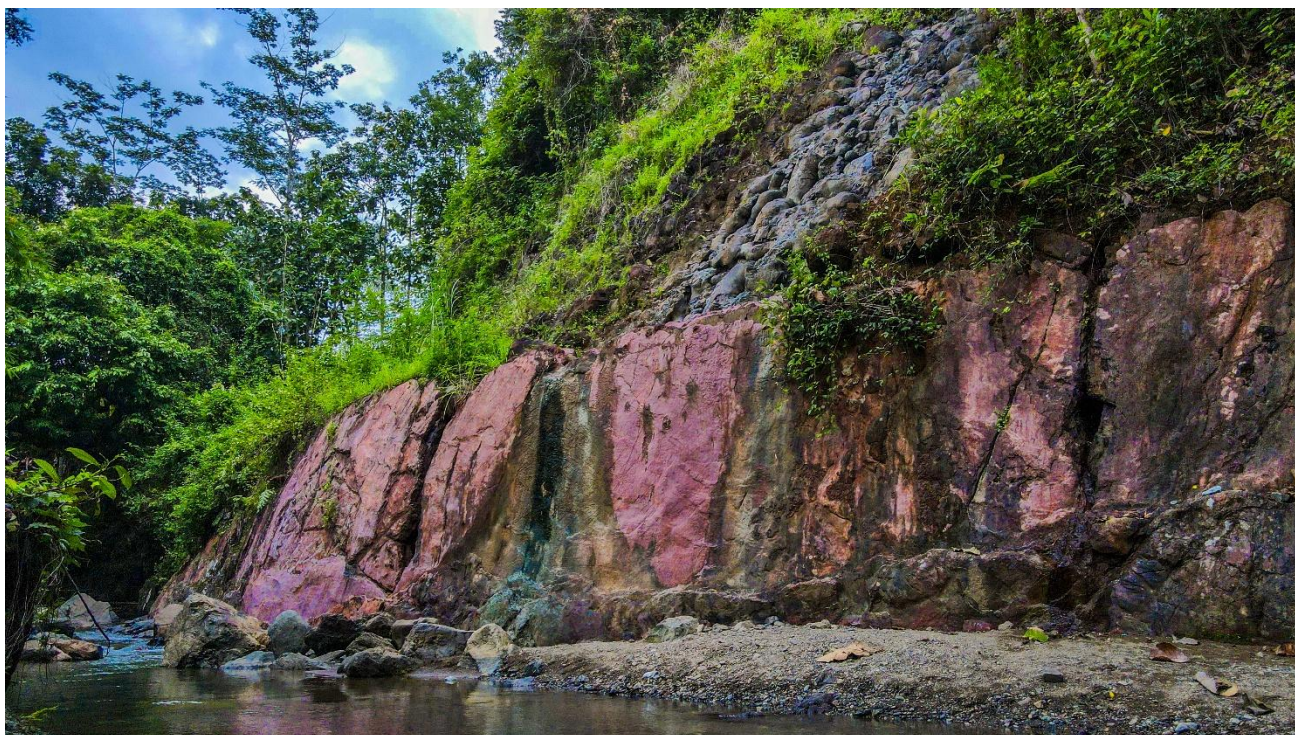
Read more: [UNESCO strengthens support for African geoscientists](#) and [IUGS Ten Action Plan for Africa – TAP for Africa](#).



IGCP 672: Students practicing using Stream Drill to install an ablation stake at Changri Nup Glacier in the Everest region of Nepal. © Dibas Shrestha and Guillem Vincent

3) UNESCO, with IUGS Support, Welcome 16 New Global Geoparks and Expands Network to Two New Countries

On 2 June 2025, UNESCO hosted a certificate award ceremony to officially welcome 16 newly designated UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps), celebrating their entry into a growing international network that now spans 229 sites worldwide. These new designations, which were formally approved by UNESCO's Executive Board on 17 April 2025, extend across Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East—and mark the first inclusion of geoparks from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia.



Red Chert Rocks and Lava Pillow, Kebumen UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia © Rizal Nur Alfian

The designation process is based on rigorous scientific evaluation, made possible through UNESCO's close partnership with the IUGS. In 2024, IUGS—through its International Commission on Geoheritage—conducted the initial desktop review to determine whether each site met the benchmark of international geological significance. UNESCO extends its sincere gratitude to IUGS for its vital contribution to ensuring scientific excellence and credibility in the geopark selection process.

For the 2025 UGGp evaluation cycle, IUGS is currently reviewing over 10 new applications. These expert assessments form the foundation of the evaluation pipeline and are followed by on-site missions conducted by UNESCO to verify each site's readiness and engagement with local communities.

The outcomes of the current review cycle will inform the next cohort of UNESCO Global Geoparks—places where geology connects with cultural heritage, environmental education, and sustainable tourism. Final recommendations will be made during the upcoming meeting of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council in Chile.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are more than geological wonders—they are living landscapes that empower communities, celebrate Earth’s history, and promote sustainable development. With IUGS’s continued support, the network continues to grow as a global model for geoscience-driven sustainability. Please visit [website 1](#) and [website 2](#) for more information about the 16 new Global Geoparks.

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

1) News from the Indian National Science Academy Committees for IUGS-INQUA

Incubating the Culture of Startups in the Geoscience Community of India

A brainstorming session titled “*Incubating the Culture of Startups in the Geoscience Community of India*” was organized on 7th June 2025 by the INSA Committee for IUGS-INQUA at the Conventional Hall of INSA in New Delhi. The event brought together a dynamic mix of participants, including young scientists, Ph.D. students, budding entrepreneurs, and domain experts from sectors such as oil and gas, disaster management, infrastructure, and academia.

The session was inaugurated by Dr. Kaustav Nag, Additional Director General, Directorate of Hydrocarbon. In his keynote address, Dr. Nag highlighted the current startup ecosystem within India’s energy sector and elaborated on emerging opportunities for geoscientists in energy-related innovations. His talk set the tone for a stimulating series of discussions. Mr. Shaji Varghese, CEO of the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, IIT Bombay, shared a roadmap for aspiring geoscience entrepreneurs. He emphasized the growing institutional support for startups in allied sciences and encouraged young researchers to explore cross-sectoral collaborations actively. A compelling success story was shared by Prof. Vikram Vishal, a startup founder in the energy sector. He provided practical insights into the challenges faced by science-based startups and suggested viable strategies for overcoming them, stressing the importance of perseverance and mentorship.

Prof. Surya Prakash from the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) explored the untapped potential of geoscience startups in disaster early warning systems, mitigation planning, and risk reduction technologies. His suggestions resonated strongly with the attendees, especially in the context of India’s vulnerability to natural hazards. Dr. Sudhanshu Sinha from the British Council stressed the need to clearly define thrust areas in geosciences where innovation could have a meaningful social and economic impact. Echoing similar sentiments, Dr. Aninda Mazumdar from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, advocated for problem-driven innovation focusing on real-world issues faced by common people and how geoscientists could provide viable solutions.

The INSA Committee for IUGS-INQUA resolved to take two key actions:

- a) Establish a Consortium of Institutions for Geoscience Innovations to provide a structured and collaborative platform for startup incubation.
- b) Organize a national-level meeting shortly to further the dialogue, involving broader participation across regions and geoscience sub-disciplines.

This brainstorming session marked a significant step towards building a vibrant startup ecosystem within the Indian geoscience community, with a strong emphasis on societal relevance, cross-sector collaboration, and institutional support. The event was co-sponsored by INSA, Oil India Limited, and the Association of Quaternary Research (AOQR). All members of the INSA Committee for IUGS-INQUA participated in these deliberations.

2) News from the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

Publication of an Article about the Commission's Busan IGC Workshop in *EXPLORE*, and Display of IUGS Manual of Standard Methods at the EGU 2025 Conference in Vienna

An article entitled "Review of the workshop on global- to regional-scale geochemical mapping" was published in *EXPLORE* No. 206 (p.20–25), the newsletter of the Association of Applied Geochemists, which cosponsored, together with the IUGS, the three-day workshop "Global-to-Regional-Scale Geochemical Mapping" held from 30 August to 1 September 2024 on the occasion of the 37th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Busan, Republic of Korea.



EGU General Assembly 2025 conference participants looking with interest at the IUGS Manual of Standard Geochemical Methods. Photographs by Mrs. Shi Xiehang (IUGS Secretariat staff member).

The "International Union of Geological Sciences Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network" was displayed in the IUGS-booth at the EGU General Assembly 2025 conference in Vienna from April 27 to May 2, 2025.

The CGGB Steering Committee, for the past few months, has been busy with preparations for the Commission's participation in the Goldschmidt2025 conference in Prague. This includes a four-day pre-conference workshop (2-5 July 2025) with the title "Global to Regional and Local Scale Geochemical Mapping based on the methods described in the 'International Union of Geological Sciences Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network'", and a technical session called "Multi-scale Geochemical Mapping for Mineral Resource Management".

3) News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

The IUGS-IFG Conference and 15th anniversary celebration of the establishment of IUGS-IFG, took place at the Spazio Europa, (European Parliament Office) in Rome, Italy, on 21-23 May 2025. The event was attended by 65 delegates from 16 countries. Keynote presentations were provided by Dr. Silvia Peppoloni on Geoethics and Forensic Geology and by Mr. Vincenzo Sapia from INGV on environmental crimes and their detection using drones and geophysics. There were 43 presentations in sessions that included, (a) search operations, (b) the history of forensic geology in memory of Dr Raymond Murray (in collaboration with the IUGS Commission on the History of Geology, INHIGEO), (c) soil DNA in memory of Nicola Bennett, and (d) Tracing Human Impact: Contaminants and

Environmental Crimes, Illegal Mining, Fossils, Minerals, and Metals Crimes. The event also included a business meeting for the Geological Society of London, Forensic Geoscience Group (GSL-FGG), and a General Meeting of the IUGS-IFG committee.



Selected delegates and members of the IUGS-IFG committee (Photograph Dr Pier Matteo Barone).

Awards

Dr Laurance Donnelly (IUGS-IFG Chair) was presented with two awards from Prof Robert Fitzpatrick (IUGS-IFG Vice-Chair) including the Raymond Murray Award for 'Outstanding Commitment and Leadership of IUGS-IFG' and an award from the Centre for Australian Forensic Soil Science (CAFSS) in 'Recognition of Distinguished Achievements and Contributions on a Global Scale to Forensic Geology and Soil Science'.

Environmental Forensics at Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV)

On 23 May, IUGS-IFG in collaboration with the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV), held a field training day at INGV headquarters in Rome. INGV is funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities, and Research, with responsibilities within the Italian civil protection system for the maintenance and monitoring of the national networks for seismic and volcanic hazards, together with outreach and educational activities for the Italian population. At INGV Rome a simulated forensic test was used for the deployment of non-invasive geophysical methods mounted on an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV or drone), for environmental forensics and the detection and location of buried waste.

4) News from the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

INHIGEO Sponsored Conference 22-24 April 2025 – Oslo Norway

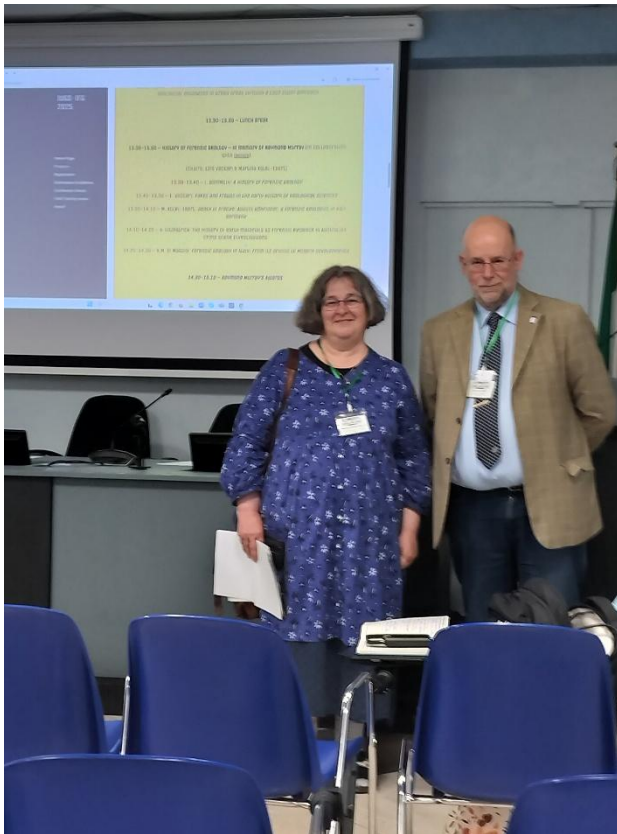
The conference '**Epistemic Frontiers' Geoscientific Knowledge, Authority, and Politics of Participation in Arctic and African Exploration** sponsored by IUGS-INHIGEO, took place on 22–24 April 2025 in Oslo, Norway.

Organized by Johannes Mattes (Austria) and Ulrike Spring (Norway), the activities included two days of scientific presentations on a wide range of topics to explore and compare how in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the High Arctic and Africa's 'interior' emerged as major poles of Western geoscientific inquiry, offering untapped resources and routes to prestige and authority. Despite their diverse ecosystems and Indigenous populations, similarities can be found in how European scholars studied, documented, and discussed these regions, both in the field and at their working desks. Once labelled as 'white spots' on maps, these areas were framed as '**epistemic frontiers**'.

The conference also included a tour of the collections of the Natural History Museum, and excursions related to two great Norwegian explorers giving fascinating insights into their work, collections, and history: the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, and Roald Amundsen's home Uranienborg.



Participants at the congress venue **Toyen Manor House** in the Botanical Garden in Oslo (Norway).



INHIGEO Sponsored Session 21st May 2025 in Rome, Italy

An INHIGEO-sponsored session was organized in collaboration with the *IUGS-Initiative on Forensic Geology*, an organization dedicated to the geoscientific analysis of crime scenes, assisting law enforcement agencies worldwide, as part of the international conference to celebrate the 15th anniversary of IUGS-IFG held on May 21 to May 23, 2025, at the **Spazio Europe in Rome** (Italy). The session was held on May 21st and included five presentations under the theme *History of Forensic Geology*—see *program excerpt below and the chairs of the session Martina Kölbl-Ebert and Ezio Vaccari*.

Martina Kölbl-Ebert and Ezio Vaccari at the session

13.30-15.00 – HISTORY OF FORENSIC GEOLOGY – IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND MURRAY (IN COLLABORATION WITH [INHIGEO](#))

(CHAIRS: EZIO VACCARI & MARGINA KOLBL-EBERG)

13.30-13.40 – L. DONNELLY: *A HISTORY OF FORENSIC GEOLOGY*

13.40-13.50 – E. VACCARI: *Fakes and Frauds in the early history of Geological Sciences*

13.50-14.10 – M. KOLBL-EBERG: *Death in Prague: August Göhringer, a Forensic Geologist in Nazi Germany*

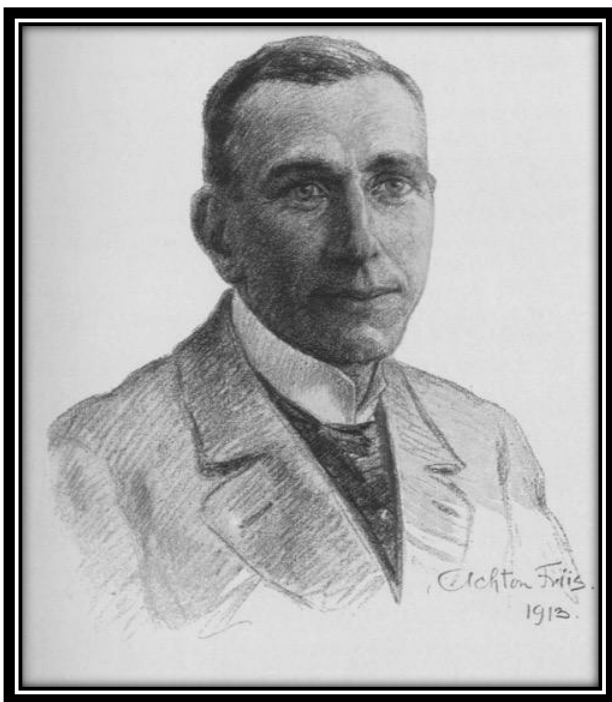
14.10-14.20 – R. FITZPATRICK: THE HISTORY OF EARTH MATERIALS AS FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN AUSTRALIAN CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

14.20-14.30 – R.M. DI MAGGIO: *FORENSIC GEOLOGY IN ITALY: FROM ITS ORIGINS TO MODERN DEVELOPMENTS*

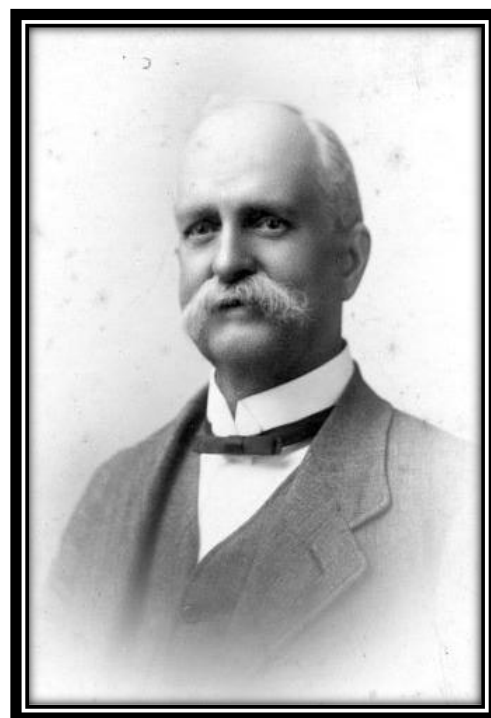
Programme excerpt

Alfred Wegener (1880–1930): The Origin of Continents and Oceans (1915)

This year marks the 110th anniversary of the publication of Alfred Wegener's *Die Entstehung der Kontinente und Ozeane*, (The Origin of Continents and Oceans) the first book-length version of his hypothesis of continental displacements. Wegener (1880–1930), an atmospheric physicist and polar explorer with a PhD in astronomy, had first presented the idea in a series of public lectures and journal articles in 1912 that had been received, by his own account, with a storm of indignation from geologists. Please open the link to know more: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>.



Alfred Wegener (1880–1930)



William Harper Twelvetrees (1848–1919)

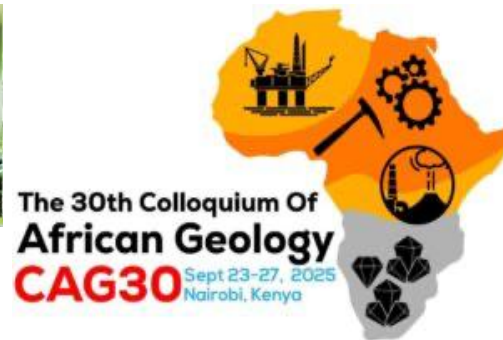
William Harper Twelvetrees (1848–1919), Director of the Geological Survey of Tasmania

William Harper Twelvetrees (1848–1919) FGS was educated in Germany and worked at mines in Russia and Turkey before immigrating to Tasmania in 1891. He was appointed to the position of Government Geologist in 1899 producing 177 reports over the following 20 years. His contribution to the study of the geology of Tasmania was quite outstanding. Please open the [link](#) to learn more.

III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



Durban, South Africa: 17-24 August 2025
International Conference on Earth and
Environmental Sciences
<https://icees2025.co.za/>



Nairobi, Kenya: 23-27 September 2025
30th Colloquium of African Geology
<https://cag30nbi.org/>



Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: 12-14 OCT 2025
GEO MIN Symposium
<https://geominseg.com/>



Rome, Italy: 28-29 April 2026
MENA EARTH Science Congress
<https://www.ierek.com/events/mena-earth-science-congress-mesc#introduction>

IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

- 1) **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS:** Please adhere to the guidelines below when submitting your news for publication in the E-Bulletin:
 - **Number of words:** Maximum **300** words with links to the other sources for more details about the activities.
 - **Font and Size:** (Heading 1: Roboto 16, Heading 2: Roboto B12, heading 3: Roboto-Regular 12, Heading 4: Roboto B 11, and body: Roboto 11)
 - **Photographs:** Maximum two high-resolution (inserted in the text with **caption**) and attached as **jpg** to your email.
 - **Language:** Kindly make sure your text is corrected for language
 - **Deadline for submission to Editors:** We kindly request to submit your news by the end of each month. For example, news of June is supposed to be published in 1st week of July. Submit your news to the Editors:
Dr. Wei Jun ZHAO (IUGS Councillor) Shenyang Centre, China Geological Survey, China
Email: wilsonwjz@outlook.com
Dr. Farnoosh Farjandi (IUGS Councillor) Geological Survey of Iran, Iran
Email: farnooshfarjandi@gmail.com
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