

International Union of Geological Sciences

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[NEWS FROM IUGS OFFICE](#)

[NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS](#)

[EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS](#)



Geodiversity attracts both experts and tourists. The photo shows gases—predominantly water vapour and carbon dioxide, and to a lesser extent sulphur gases—being emitted from fumaroles at the edge of the Volcano crater. Location: Volcano Island in Aeolian Islands in Italy. Photo taken by Marko Komac, September 2021.

E-Bulletin at a Glance

I) NEWS FROM IUGS Executive Committee	2
II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS	6
III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS	10
IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES	10

I) NEWS FROM IUGS Executive Committee

1) One Year in Office: The IUGS Executive Committee in Action

As of September 1, the new Executive Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) has been in office for one year. During this first year, we have worked with dedication to strengthen the Union's global role and visibility while advancing its mission to promote Earth sciences for the benefit of society.

Over the past twelve months, we have deepened our partnerships with UNESCO and the International Science Council and launched innovative initiatives under the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). The IUGS website has been redesigned to provide better access to information and opportunities, while our growing presence on social media has enhanced public awareness and interaction. With targeted outreach and membership campaigns we have started to further expand our international community and strengthen the Union's inclusiveness.



We extend our sincere gratitude to the global geoscience community for its continued trust, collaboration, and enthusiasm. Together, we look forward to building on this momentum and advancing the Earth sciences for the benefit of all and for future generation.

2) IUGS Councillors' Nomination to the Gender Committee and Their Statement

Recently, Prof. Lola Pereira and Dr. Farnoosh Farjandi have been nominated to represent the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) on the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES). Here is their joint statement about the Committee and IUGS's role within it:

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the global geoscience community for its continued trust and support. Together, we remain committed to promoting Earth sciences for the benefit of society and future generations. We are honored to represent the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) on the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES). The Committee works to promote gender equity and inclusiveness across all scientific disciplines, fostering equal opportunities and greater visibility for women and underrepresented groups in science worldwide.

As IUGS representatives, we look forward to contributing to the advancement of gender-responsive policies and initiatives within the geoscience community, strengthening collaboration among international scientific unions, and ensuring that diversity and inclusion remain at the heart of global Earth science activities."

3) IUGS at the 30th Colloquium on African Geology CAG 30 in Nairobi

From 22 to 25 September 2025, IUGS-President Hassina Mouri and Secretary-General Ludwig Stroink joined scientists, policymakers, and industry leaders for the 30th Colloquium on African Geology, CAG 30, in Nairobi. In her inspiring opening address on 23rd of September, Hassina Mouri applauded the outstanding organization of the event – made possible through strong IUGS support – and welcomed some 600 participants from across the continent. She celebrated Africa’s extraordinary wealth of natural resources and reaffirmed the IUGS’s commitment to supporting their responsible and sustainable exploration.



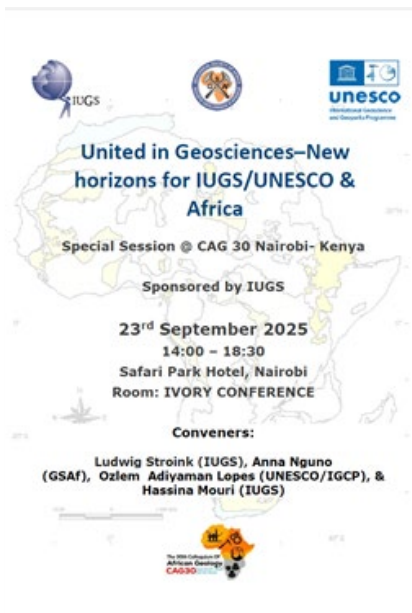
Hassina Mouri, giving her “Welcome Speech”.

The momentum continued as Ludwig Stroink took the stage for the high-profile panel “Critical Minerals for the Green Transition: Africa’s Hidden Wealth and Global Leverage.”



Ludwig Stroink after the Panel Discussion.

He spotlighted the IUGS’s role in fostering regional cooperation, capacity building, and training – vital steps to unlocking Africa’s geoscience potential in the era of the green transition.



Later that day, the IUGS and UNESCO co-hosted the special session “United in Geosciences – New Horizons for IUGS/UNESCO & Africa” to advance the Ten Action Plan for Africa (TAP for Africa). Moderated by Ludwig Stroink, more than 70 participants, including > 50 in person and around 20 online, from 17 African and non-African countries, exchanged insights on priorities, challenges, and future directions to strengthen collaboration with the IUGS.



Over 50 participants attended the 3-hours event in person



The forum also showcased the first successes of the TAP-Initiative. Ozlem Adiyaman Lopes from UNESCO announced the three awardees of the IGCP Call for Africa, while Anna Ngungo of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) presented the first key results from the Geodata Initiative and the status of Africa's geodata metadata and inventory platforms.

With his inspiring keynote "Fostering Researchers in the Geosciences (FoRGe) - IGCP 766 - Challenges and needs of African geoscience research", Asfawossen Asrat, Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), opened the stage for the final discussion on future collaboration of IUGS in Africa.

Asfawossen Asrat during his presentation.

4) Fostering Ties with African Countries: IUGS met with representatives from the AMGC and Malawi

In Nairobi President Hassina Mouri met with Mr. Ibrahim Shaddad, Director General of the African Minerals and Geosciences Centre AMGC. The fruitful meeting highlighted potential collaboration opportunities between AMGC and IUGS. Key discussion points included AMGC's Support in encouraging more African states to join IUGS, and to explore ways to work together on medical geology initiatives in Africa. Hassina Mouri was very optimistic after the meeting: *"The conversation with Dr. Shaddad was extremely constructive, and I am absolutely convinced that he can help us in our efforts to anchor IUGS more deeply in African science. I am also delighted to have been invited to visit AMGC in Dar es Salaam to continue the dialogue."*

Meanwhile, Secretary General, Ludwig Stroink, travelled from Nairobi to Malawi. In Lilongwe he met with senior representatives from leading geoscientific- and governmental institutions to discuss re-activating the long-dormant IUGS membership of the resource-rich nation. The talks on 26 September in Malawi's capital were highly successful and paved the way for the country's planned return to IUGS in 2026. All remaining formalities are expected to be completed over the course of 2025. *"This marks a significant step in reconnecting Malawi with the global geoscience community."* said Ludwig Stroink after the meeting. *"We look forward to welcoming the country back into the IUGS and to deepening our collaboration in the years ahead."*



Relaxed atmosphere after a successful meeting: Ludwig Stroink with high-level representatives from Malawian geoscience- and government organisations.

5) UNESCO and IUGS Announce Funding for Three IGCP Africa Projects

UNESCO, in partnership with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), has announced funding for three new projects under the *IGCP Call for Africa*. Following a competitive evaluation of over 300 expressions of interest and 11 full proposals, each selected project will receive USD 50,000 per year for three years to advance geoscience research addressing key regional challenges in Africa. Funded projects include:

- **Tamer Nassar (Egypt)** – Machine learning for sustainable groundwater management under climate stress.
- **Bjorn von der Heyden (South Africa)** – Metallogenic evolution of the West Congo Belt.
- **Moshood N. Tijani (Nigeria)** – Climate change impacts on groundwater in the Dahomey Basin.

This milestone, made possible through IUGS financial support, strengthens IGCP's mission to promote scientific collaboration and capacity building across Africa.

6) IUGS to Hold 82nd Executive Committee Meeting in Latin America for the First Time

Preparations are well underway for the 82nd Executive Committee Meeting of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), to be held from 22–27 January 2026 in Bogotá, Colombia. This historic event marks the first time in the Union's history that an ExCom meeting will take place in *Latin America*. *The meeting will be hosted by the Geological Survey of Colombia (SGC).*

"This meeting marks the launch of our efforts to strengthen cooperation with countries across Latin America," said Hassina Mouri, IUGS President. *"We are deeply grateful to the Geological Survey of Colombia - especially Director Héctor Julio Fierro Morales and Dr. Jorge Gómez Tapia - for their outstanding logistical and financial support."*

In advance of the Executive Committee meeting, a high-level workshop with leading representatives of Latin American geoscience institutions will be convened to discuss priority topics and new models for collaboration. *"With this initiative, we aim to further expand our engagement with the countries of the Global South"* noted Ludwig Stroink, IUGS Secretary General. *"The success of our 'Ten Action Plan for Africa – TAP for Africa' already provides an exceptional blueprint on which we can build in Latin America."*

Preparations for the Bogotá meeting are being coordinated with the support of Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte, IUGS Counsellor, who met with Dr. Gómez Tapia and Dr. Fierro Morales on 29 September 2025 during her visit to Bogotá. *"Preparations are progressing with great professionalism,"* Yamirka reported after her visit. *"All key logistics - including hotel arrangements, meals, meeting facilities at SGC, a post-meeting field excursion, and local transportation - are well underway".*



Group photo: Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte with Héctor Julio Fierro Morales (Director SGC), Jorge Gómez Tapia, Juliana Avendaño, and other members of the SGC

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

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

Invited Conference at the Iberian Geochemistry Congress (Azores, Portugal)

Every two years, applied geochemists from different Portuguese and Spanish scientific institutions, including universities, organise the Iberian Geochemistry Congress, which takes place alternately in Portugal and Spain. This year, the 14th Iberian Geochemistry Congress (XIV CONGRESSO IBÉRICO DE GEOQUÍMICA: "Geoquímica: novos desafios, novas soluções") took place from 8 to 12 September on the island of São Miguel in the Azores, Portugal, an unrivalled setting due to its volcanic landscapes of great geological interest. The Congress was organised by the Universidade dos Açores, the Instituto de Investigação em Vulcanologia e Avaliação De Riscos, and the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia. The first three days were devoted to scientific sessions, while the last two days were dedicated to field trips.

The Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines was represented by Paula Adánez, CGGB Scientific Secretary, who delivered an invited plenary lecture (right in the photo below). The title of the lecture was "Geochemistry without borders: keys to establishing a global reference network", where she presented the history of the Commission and its IUGS-Manual of Standard Methods, aimed at achieving a global and harmonised geochemical database.



Iberian Geochemistry Congress venue (left) and plenary lecture by Paula Adánez (right).

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the organisers for allowing us to spread our message and reach more applied geochemists, who showed great interest in the proposed harmonised procedures.

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

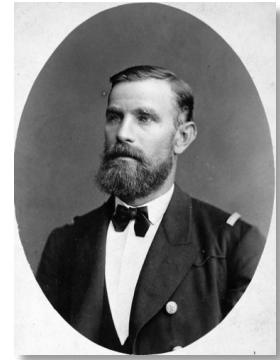
Occasion: New 'Culture' of Polar Research: 150 Years Ago

Author: Johannes Mattes (Austria)

Title: A laboratory in the Ice: Carl Weyprecht's vision of Polarforschung

In September 1875, the German-Austrian naval officer Carl Weyprecht (1838–81) delivered a programmatic speech at the 48th Assembly of German Naturalists and Physicians in Graz, laying the intellectual foundation for a cooperative study of the polar regions. He campaigned for a novel, 'scientific' vision of Polarforschung (polar research), distinct from geographical explorations. He called

for the establishment of land-based, stationary observatories staffed by scientifically trained personnel conducting standardized measurements in coordination with international partners. Please open the link to know more: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>



Carl Weyprecht, 1871. Author: Adele Perlmutter. Source: Wien Museum, Inv.-Nr. 133023/1 (Public

3) News from the IUGS-Commission on Geoethics (CG)

Task Group on AI in Geoscience

The document on the ethical recommendations for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Geosciences has been finalized and will be available very soon. This comprehensive framework addresses key ethical considerations in the development and deployment of artificial intelligence in the geosciences. The document has been internationally reviewed and will serve as an important reference for guiding ethical practices in AI across the geoscience community. Stay tuned!

 The cover features the INGV logo on the left and the journal title 'journal of Geoethics and social Geosciences' in a stylized font. Below the title, it reads 'Special Issue Geoethics and Social Geosciences in Africa: Challenges, Practices, and Perspectives'. Guest Editors are listed as Silvia Peppoloni & Giuseppe Di Capua. A QR code is present, and a URL is provided: <https://www.journalofgeoethics.eu/index.php/jogsp/catalog/category/geoethics-in-africa>. The cover also states that the special issue is an initiative by the IUGS Commission on Geoethics and the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG). At the bottom, it describes the journal as a diamond open-access, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to exploring the ethical, social, and cultural dimensions of the geosciences, and notes its location at the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia in Rome, Italy.

GG Special Issue on Geosciences and Social Geosciences in Africa – Call for Papers.

JGSG Special Issue focused on Africa

Journal of Geoethics and Social Geosciences has launched a Call for Papers on Geoethics and Social Geosciences in Africa, a joint initiative by the IUGS Commission on Geoethics and the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG). JGSG is a diamond open-access journal (no fees for readers or authors). More: <https://www.geoethics.org/post/call-for-papers-jgsg-special-issue-on-geoethics-and-social-geosciences-in-africa>

Lectures on geoethical issues at CAAWG11

The 11th International Conference of the African Association of Women in Geosciences (CAAWG11) "Geosciences & the Future of Africa, Kampala, Uganda, 1-5 October 2025. Two keynote lectures: by Silvia Peppoloni (IAPG President, Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics), "Geoethics and DEIA: Values, Principles, and Methods for Building a Fair and Sustainable Future"; and Ezzoura Errami (IAPG Continental Coordinator for Africa, President of the African Association of Women in Geosciences – AAWG): "Geosciences Education & Gender in Africa". More: <https://www.geoethics.org/post/iapg-will-be-at-caawg11-in-uganda>

International Geoethics Day 2025

The 9th edition of the International Geoethics Day will be celebrated on 16 October 2025, during Earth Science Week. The theme of this year is "Geoethics for a sustainable energy future". More: <https://www.geoethics.org/post/celebrate-the-international-geoethics-day-2025>

Geoethics Medal 2025

Nominations should be submitted by 31 December 2025. More: <https://www.geoethics.org/geoethics-medal>



4) XI International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are the most extensive and active network of territories with a clear mandate to work for sustainable development based in their geological heritage. Currently, 229 geoparks are distributed across 50 countries, and the IUGS plays an increasingly important role in maintaining high standards for the assessment and management of their geological heritage.

The IUGS has had an active presence during the recent "XI International Conference in UNESCO Global Geoparks", held in Kutralkura Geopark in Chile. IUGS representative Asier Hilario has participated in the 10th UNESCO Global Geopark Council meeting to report detailed information about the desktop assessment conducted every year by the IUGS – Commission on Geohieratg to evaluate the international significance of geological heritage in aspiring geoparks. In 2025 13 applications have been evaluated. 38 experts from 25 different countries have participated in this meaningful work, producing 64 evaluation documents. This information is essential for the Council discussion, and the IUGS is happy to provide it. After two days of intense discussion the Council proposes 12 new geoparks for endorsement.

The IUGS also played a major role in the organization of a very successful workshop about "Best practices in Geoconservation conducted by UNESCO Global Geoparks in IUGS-designated sites". This joint activity aims to set a clear framework for Geoconservation, defined by the Global Geoparks Network with the Support of the IUGS International Commission on Geohieratg. Both organizations will collaborate again for a joint celebration of the International Geodiversity Day with a special online workshop about Geoconservation on October 3rd. The new joint booklet can be downloaded at:

https://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/Geoconservation%20in%20UNESCO%20Global%20Geoparks_0.pdf

5) News from the IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE):

The IUGS–COGE continues to support impactful geoscience education initiatives worldwide. Below are some recent highlights and ongoing activities:

Governance & Strategic Planning

The POC (Public Outreach & Communication) and IR (International Relations) subcommissions have launched their annual work plans, and a review of the GEFO Programme is underway. COGE Board members Susanna Occhipinti and Sandra Villacorta have also joined the IGC 2028 Geoscience Education Committee, strengthening COGE's role in this key global event.

Strengthening Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)



The EDI Subcommittee is organizing the webinar “Inclusive Education in Atmospheric Sciences and Geosciences: Lessons from FEMIMET in Latin America” (October 7th, 2025), led by Dr. Daphne Arenas, a young Peruvian meteorologist and educator. This event showcases Latin American leadership in advancing inclusive practices in geoscience education. Registration is open to all (see the new EDI section on our website).

Chris King Medal 2025

COGE proudly announces that the Chris King Medal 2025 has

been awarded to Dr. Amelia Calonge García (Spain), a distinguished geologist and paleontologist recognized for her research on foraminifera and her long-standing dedication to geoscience education and outreach. She is also one of the founders of the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO), making her a truly deserving recipient of this global honor.



Outreach efforts

The GEFO Programme continues to grow, welcoming new members from Ghana, Nigeria, and Libya. Following the successful Africa Workshop earlier this year, the GEFO network is focusing on stronger engagement with local educational systems. In addition, we announce the Extended deadline: October 15, 2025 to take part in the GEFO Logo Contest, an opportunity to help design the visual identity of this flagship programme. Open to IUGS members and the wider community. More information on our website. The POC subcommittee is also broadening its outreach with new initiatives, including a GeoArt campaign and a Wikipedia collaboration project highlighting Professor Amelia Calonge, recipient of the 2025 Chris King Medal.

Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM)

The #GEM series continues to spotlight educators making a difference both locally and globally. In September, COGE celebrates Luisa Pinto (Chile) for her inspiring work in promoting geoethics in university-level teaching and her leadership in spreading this approach across Latin America. Follow us @iugscoge to stay updated on global opportunities, success stories, and the evolving landscape of geoscience education.



III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



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



Beijing, China: September 20-29, 2025
International Symposium on the Tethys
Evolution and Biotic and Environmental
Responses
www.tethys.com



Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: 12-14 OCT 2025
GEOMIN 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>



Nairobi, Kenya: 2-4 DEC 2025
Geo-digitalization for sustainable development goals and 3rd Youth Innovation Forum of Digital Earth



For further information on the event, please contact the organisers at: octavocongresogeologicocr@ucr.ac.cr



Zaragoza, Spain: 5-7 November 2025
5th International Professional Geology Conference (IPGC)
<https://www.5th-ipgc.com/welcome/>

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. Please clearly acknowledge the authorship of all submitted photos!
 - 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:

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