

International Union of Geological Sciences

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**NEWS FROM IUGS
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**NEWS FROM IUGS
MEMBERS**

**EVENTS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
IUGS**



Group photo of the 82nd IUGS Executive Committee meeting and the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Geoscience Symposium at the National University of Colombia. Photograph by David Amado Painter / Colombian Geological Survey

E-Bulletin at a Glance

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I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1) The 82nd IUGS EC meeting and the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Geoscience Symposium: IUGS Strengthens Engagement with the Global South at a Landmark Executive Committee Meeting in Bogotá

From 22 to 28 January 2026, the 82nd Executive Committee Meeting of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) took place in Bogotá, marking the first time the event had been held on South American soil. The meeting underscored IUGS's growing commitment to deepening its presence and partnerships across the Global South.

Preceding the official Executive Committee sessions, IUGS convened a two-day Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Symposium that brought together around 40 leading scientists from across the region. The symposium provided a unique platform to identify shared challenges and priorities and to strengthen collaboration between IUGS and the LAC geoscience community.

The first day featured keynote presentations that provided an overview of the region's geological research landscape and its societal challenges. The second day focused on thematic working groups addressing major topics, including Global Change, Raw Materials and Renewable Energy, Geological Hazards, and Hydrology and Water Management. The discussions generated a rich set of recommendations that will be synthesised into a final document, to be completed soon, which will serve as the foundation for a forthcoming LAC-IGCP call launched by UNESCO.



LAC Symposium participants. Photography: David Amado Painter/Colombian Geological Survey

Following the symposium, the regular Executive Committee meeting took place, beginning with a two-day open session during which all IUGS constituent groups reported on their activities, discussed ongoing projects, and explored new avenues of collaboration. This was followed by two days of closed sessions, during which executive members addressed strategic and financial matters and adopted key decisions for the year ahead.

To conclude the week, the executive members embarked on a two-day field excursion sponsored by the Colombian Geological Survey, and led by Professor Jorge Gómez Tapias and his team, to explore the spectacular geology of Colombia, offering first-hand insights into the country's diverse geological heritage and its importance for regional research and education.

"This historic meeting in Bogotá marks a milestone for IUGS," said **Hassina Mouri, the president of IUGS.** *"By engaging directly with scientists across Latin America and the Caribbean, we are expanding the global dialogue in geoscience and ensuring that regional voices play a central role in shaping our collective future. I*

express my deep gratitude to the Colombian Geological Survey, whose generous organisational and financial support made this event possible.”

Ludwig Stroink, Secretary-General of IUGS, added: *“Following our strengthened partnership with Africa in 2024, this successful event in Bogotá demonstrates IUGS’s ongoing commitment to empowering geoscience communities throughout the Global South. The enthusiasm and scientific energy we witnessed here will guide our next steps in building a more inclusive global network.”*

With its highly productive sessions, regional outreach, and field activities, the 82nd IUGS Executive Committee Meeting stands as a significant step toward realising the organisation’s strategic vision: to foster stronger scientific cooperation and capacity-building in the Global South, ensuring that geosciences continue to contribute to sustainable development worldwide.



IUGS Executive Committee Members after-hours meeting (left) and in the field with Prof. Jorge Tapias Gómez (right)

The event activities were documented by a specialised communications team from the Geological Survey and broadcast live across multiple social media platforms, including the official news division of Colombia’s Public Media System (RTVC Noticias), Facebook, and LinkedIn. The news items are accessible through the links provided below.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/c-oddz4zi2I?si=3xJqhUZmMMg9ITEE>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DUrZWXeDLGL/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17xfJTSjH1/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/876074321801496>

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

1) News from the IUGS Journal *Episodes* Editorial Board

Call for New Associate Editors

EPISODES (pISSN 0705-3797, eISSN 2586-1298) is the quarterly flagship journal of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), currently published in Seoul, Korea. Since its launch in 1978, *Episodes* has served as an international, interdisciplinary, open access journal covering the full spectrum of geoscience disciplines. It publishes articles reflecting global research advances, emerging trends in geosciences, and reports on the activities of IUGS commissions, subcommissions, and task groups.

Episodes is a highly visible journal indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE; Web of Science), Journal Citation Reports (JCR), SCOPUS, and several other international databases.

To continue this success, *Episodes* is now looking to recruit new associate editors. We invite applications from scholars working in broad fields of geoscience who wish to participate in shaping the future direction of the journal.

About the role

Associate Editors (AEs) play a central role in maintaining the scientific quality and integrity of *Episodes*. When a manuscript is assigned by the Editor-in-Chief, AEs:

- Identify and invite appropriate peer reviewers,
- Oversee and manage the peer review process,
- Provide guidance to authors in responding to reviewer comments,
- Make informed recommendations to the Editor-in-Chief regarding editorial decisions.

AEs are volunteers and are highly valued for their professional service to the journal. Their contributions are formally recognized on the journal website and in the printed issue. AEs are also encouraged to actively engage IUGS commissions, subcommissions, and task groups to contribute papers and to support thematic and special issues.

Episodes seeks Associate Editors who represent the global geoscience community in terms of geography, discipline, gender, and diversity.

Area of Expertise

We particularly welcome applications from experts in the following areas:

- Engineering Geology
- Remote Sensing and GIS
- Sedimentology / Stratigraphy / Sedimentary Geology
- Geophysics
- Geochemistry / Petrology
- Economic Geology
- Geomorphology

What We Require

Candidates should have a strong record of publication in journals of good standing, be recognized scholars in the area of geoscientific studies, and have academic expertise. Extensive experience as a reviewer in refereed journals is required as well as editorial experience. This is an ideal opportunity for a scholar who wants to support geoscience research and writing, and manage significant workloads and wishes to influence the journal's intellectual.

How to Apply

Applicants are invited to send a full CV, including details of reviewing and editorial experience, along with a brief statement of interest, to the *Episodes* editorial office (episodes.j.me@gmail.com) in addition to direct applications, *Episodes* also welcomes nominations and recommendations of suitable candidates from IUGS bodies, including commissions, subcommissions, and task groups, as well as from the broader international geoscience community. Nominations should include the candidate's contact information and a brief justification for the recommendation. **Deadline for application: March 30, 2026.**

2) News from the Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE)

COGE opened 2026 with renewed momentum, reaffirming its commitment to advancing geoscience education, outreach, and international collaboration worldwide.

In January, COGE was represented by its General Secretary, Elvaene James, at the 82nd IUGS Executive Committee Meeting in Colombia. Discussions focused on priorities for the new work cycle, with strong emphasis on education, capacity building, and global engagement. In alignment with these goals, COGE will launch its 2026 work plan in February, which includes monthly awareness campaigns, the GeoArt 2026 Contest (“The Minerals That Move Your World”), and the Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM) initiative. In line with this, this month COGE recognised Yamina Bourgeoini as a new GEM. A former COGE member and current professor at Cadi Ayyad University (Marrakech), Yamina is a leading expert in Micropaleontology and Biostratigraphy. Beyond academia, she has played a key role in protecting Morocco’s geoheritage, contributing to the national charter for paleontological site preservation and promoting sustainable development through regional ecomuseums. Her commitment to education, environmental geology, and international collaboration continues to strengthen global dialogue in geoscience.



GEOSCIENCE EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH (GEM)

MAJOR: MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

- Teaching at Cadi Ayyad University, specializing in biostratigraphy and sedimentary basin analysis.
- Dedicated to the curation and education of geological collections.
- Leading initiatives for the preservation and valuation of Morocco's paleontological heritage.
- Coordinating projects between Morocco, Tunisia, and France to strengthen geoscience teaching

HOBBIES: MUSEOLOGY, TRAVELLING AND MUSIC

GET TO KNOW OUR #GEMS BY VISITING THE COGE WEBSITE

<https://iugscoge.org/>



COGE es un orgulloso patrocinador de:

5^{as} Jornadas Argentinas de Geoturismo

21-24 Abril, 2026
Esquel, Neuquén, Argentina

Organiza
Red de Educadores en Ciencias de la Tierra de Argentina

RESERVA LA FECHA
Pre/Post- Field Trips y más!
#redcitia, #coge

Strengthening partnerships remains a core priority. COGE recently held a coordination meeting with the EGU Education Committee to advance the existing Letter of Collaboration. Discussions identified the Geoscience Education Field Officers (GEFO) Programme as a flagship area for joint action, including a planned series of webinars highlighting Field Officer experiences and regional perspectives. Timelines will be shared soon. In Latin America, COGE is pleased to sponsor the 5th Argentine Geotourism Conference (April 2026, Earth Day), organised by the network of Argentine geoscience educators (REDCITIA), bringing together educators, researchers, and decision-makers to advance dialogue on geotourism, geological heritage, geoparks, and sustainable development. COGE’s international engagement in 2026 will also include GeoSciEd X (Adelaide, Australia), the 23rd Symposium on Geology Teaching (Spain), and the XV IAEG Congress (Delft, The Netherlands).

Finally, COGE invites submissions to Volume 5, Issue 1 (June 2026) of [Teaching and Communication of Geosciences](#) (UNAM), with a special call for contributions from Spanish-speaking geoeeducators.

Through focused initiatives and strengthened partnerships, COGE continues to promote inclusive, innovative, and globally connected geoscience education. Follow our activities on social media ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#)) and visit its website for further information on ongoing work and progress.



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

Dame Lorna Dawson

IUGS-IFG is proud to report that Lorna Dawson was named in the January 2026 honours list, appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in the King's New Year's Honours, for services to Innovations in soil and forensic science in the UK and globally.

Sands of Change, London

An In-Person and Virtual One-Day International Conference will be held at The Geological Society of London on 18 March 2026, in association with the Geological Society of London Forensic Geoscience Group, International Union of Geological Sciences Initiative on Forensic Geology, and the British Geological Survey. This event is of interest to academics, practitioners, and those interested in the governance and mitigation of risks associated with illegal sand mining.

For further information: laurance.donnely@ahkggroup.com | duncan.pirrie@southwales.ac.uk

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sands-of-change-the-global-challenge-of-sand-mining-tickets-1409896601689?aff=oddtcreator>

Precious Metals Reaches All-Time High and Fraud

In January 2026, gold exceeded US\$5,000/oz, silver overtook US\$1,000/oz, and platinum surpassed US\$3,000/oz. This surge is driven by several factors, including market volatility, central bank purchasing, and demand for a safe-haven investment amid geopolitical uncertainty. This corresponds to a reported increase in gold fraud.

Sources:

<https://investingnews.com/gold-all-time-high/>

[https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/07/gold-4000-record.html#:~:text=Gold%20price%20reaches%20\\$4%2C000%20an%20ounce%20for%20the%20first%20time%20ever](https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/07/gold-4000-record.html#:~:text=Gold%20price%20reaches%20$4%2C000%20an%20ounce%20for%20the%20first%20time%20ever)

[https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/07/gold-4000-record.html#:~:text=Gold%20price%20reaches%20\\$4%2C000%20an%20ounce%20for%20the%20first%20time%20ever](https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/07/gold-4000-record.html#:~:text=Gold%20price%20reaches%20$4%2C000%20an%20ounce%20for%20the%20first%20time%20ever)

Gold Traceability, Switzerland

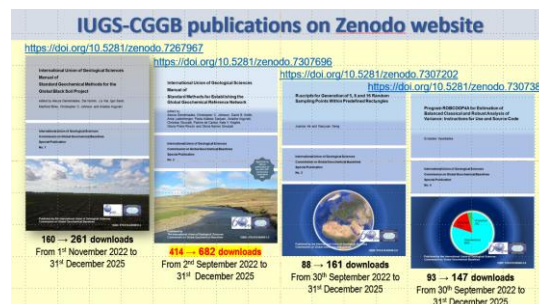
A number of methods are now available for the analysis of gold to determine its geographical and geological provinces, and for purposes of traceability. However, these are all at different stages of research and development and commercial availability. IUGS-IFG is planning a conference to be held in Switzerland on a date to be determined in 2026. If you are interested in attending and giving a presentation, please contact [Laurance Donnelly](#) or [Fabio Salvador](#).

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

Invited lecture by the Geological Society of India and participation at the EC meeting

The Foreign Secretary of the [Geological Society of India](#), Prof. Hema Achyuthan, invited the CGGB Chair, Alecos Demetriades, to deliver the first special lecture of the year on 9 January 2026, entitled “*The FOREGS multi-media geochemical atlas*”. The background of this pan-European project was the April 1986 Chernobyl accident and the spread of its radioactive cloud over most of Europe. The forerunner of the current [EuroGeoSurveys Geochemistry Expert Group](#) met about a month after the accident in Trondheim, Norway, to evaluate the situation; it concluded that European countries lacked a necessary geochemical baseline to assess the environmental impact of the Chernobyl accident. Hence, the geochemical mapping of Europe was proposed at a sampling density of 1 sample site per 500 km², involving the collection of surface water, groundwater, surface soil (A and C horizons), and overbank sediment. The decision to undertake the continental-scale geochemical mapping of Europe was made in 1996 by the European Geological Survey Directors, following the publication of the IGCP 259 ‘[International Geochemical Mapping](#)’ report. But at a considerably lower sampling density of 1 sample site per 4800 km², with the collection of humus, residual soil (A and C horizon), stream water, stream sediment and floodplain sediment using the [Global Terrestrial Network grid cells of 160 x160 km](#). The project ended in 2006 with the publication of a two-volume geochemical atlas of Europe. The text, maps and data sets are freely available from a dedicated website managed by the Geological Survey of Finland (<http://weppi.gtk.fi/publ/foregsatlas/>). The FOREGS Geochemical Baseline survey is the first multinational project carried out with the same methodology, producing the first quality-controlled, harmonised multi-media geochemical data sets for a whole continent, as a testament to multinational collaboration. Of course, the “*IUGS Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network*” was promoted.

The Commission was represented at the EC activities in Bogotá, Colombia, by Gloria Prieto, namely at the Latin America Geoscience Symposium (22-23 January 2026), and the Open Session of the 82nd Executive Committee meeting (24-25 January 2026). Gloria presented the Commission’s 2025 report and the 2026 plans, together with the requested annual funding allocation.



Gloria Prieto (CGGB Steering Committee member) presenting the Commission’s 2025 report and 2026 plans (left photograph by David Amado Pintor/Colombian Geological Survey)

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

INHIGEO Anniversaries – New Contribution

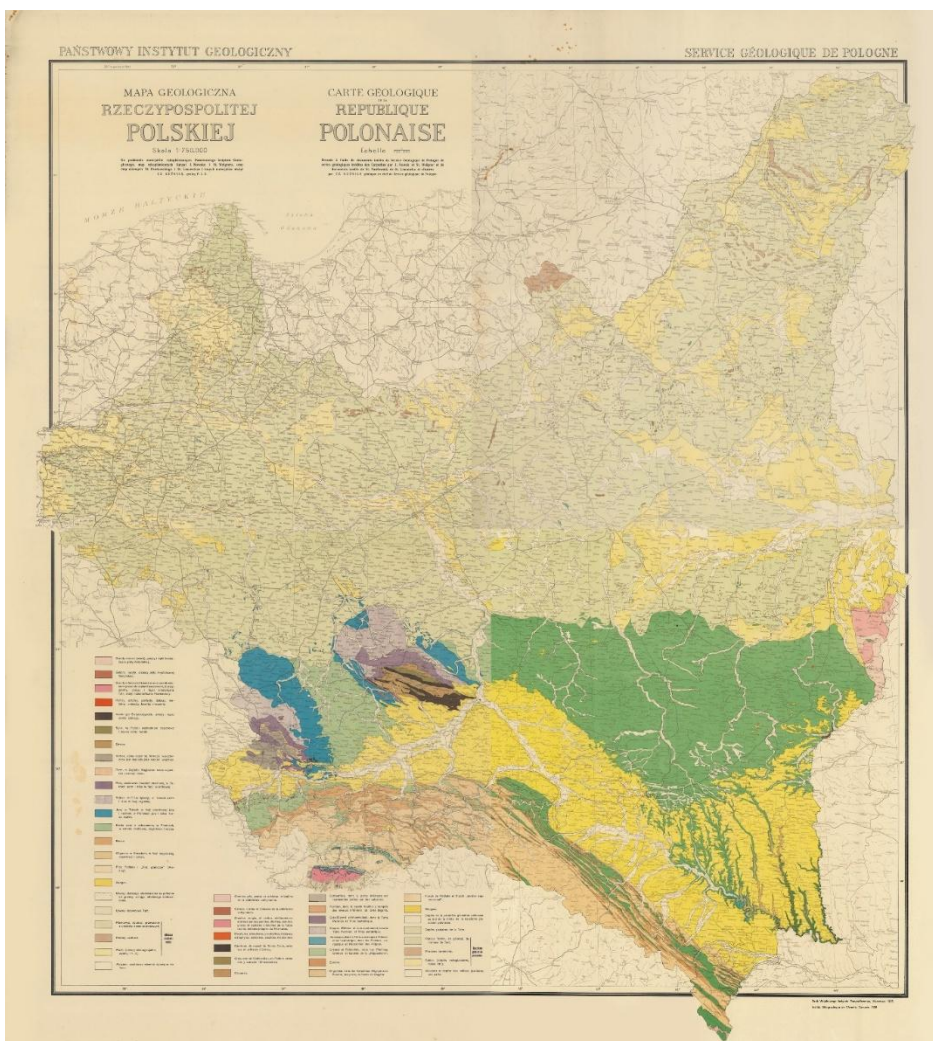
Occasion: Published 100 Years Ago

Author: Stanislaw Wolkowicz (POLAND)

Title: Geological Map of the Republic of Poland (scale 1:750,000)

As a result of agreements following the end of the First World War, Poland regained its independence and was redefined within new borders. In addition, numerous geological studies were conducted, but their results were often not published. A geological map of the Republic of Poland, scale 1:750,000, compiled by Czesław Kuźniar (1889–1955), was commissioned by the Director of the Polish Geological Institute.

For more information, please visit: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>



Geological Map of the Republic of Poland, scale 1:750,000 (C. Kuźniar, 1926). Source: PGI–NRI Collection.

III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



Rome, Italy: 28-29 April 2026
MENA EARTH Science Congress

<https://www.ierек.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: Times New Roman 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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