

# International Union of Geological Sciences

[www.iugs.org](http://www.iugs.org)



**NEWS FROM IUGS  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**NEWS FROM IUGS  
MEMBERS**

**EVENTS IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
IUGS**

**IGC 2028**  
The 38<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress  
**Calgary, Canada**  
August 12 - 20, 2028

Geosciences for Humanity  
First Circular | March 2026

[www.igc2028canada.org](http://www.igc2028canada.org)

IGC 2028 CALGARY

IUGS

Credits: Sherpas Cinema/Tourism Calgary

## E-Bulletin at a Glance

I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE .....	2
II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS.....	4
III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS .....	7
IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES .....	9

## I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 1) Expanding the Global Geoscience Community: Welcoming New African Members to the IUGS Family



The graphic features the IUGS logo at the top left, a portrait of Hassina Mouri, and a blue arrow pointing towards the right. The text reads: "IUGS welcomes: NEW AFRICAN MEMBERS". Below the portrait, it says "Hassina Mouri, IUGS President".

On behalf of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), I am delighted to warmly welcome five new African countries: **Ghana, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Tunisia**, to the IUGS family as new members in 2026. Their inclusion marks an important step towards strengthening the presence and voice of the African geoscience community within IUGS. By joining IUGS, these nations become part of a global network dedicated to advancing geoscience, fostering international cooperation, and addressing some of the most urgent challenges facing our planet.

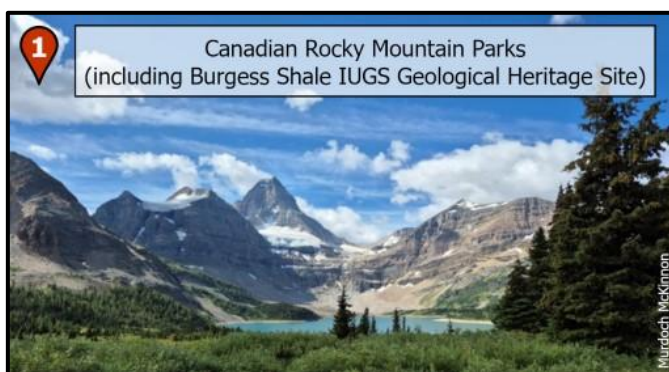
Their membership will significantly enrich IUGS through the diverse geological expertise and perspectives they contribute, while also fostering valuable opportunities for scientific exchange, capacity building, as well as regional and global collaboration.

We look forward to their active participation and to working together to promote geoscience for the benefit of society and sustainable development worldwide.

### 2) News from the International Geological Congress 2028

**Calgary, Alberta, Canada looks forward to welcoming the world to the 38<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC; 12–20 August, 2028).**

Under the theme *Geoscience for Humanity*, the congress will bring together geoscientists, researchers, industry professionals, and students from around the world to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and discuss the latest advances throughout the Earth Sciences. We are pleased to announce that **the First Circular is now available for distribution and on the IGC website: <https://www.igc2028canada.org/>**. We would greatly appreciate your distributing this circular within your networks.



**About Calgary:** The spectacular Rocky Mountains (1) are visible on the skyline to the west of Calgary, with the vast expanse of the Canadian prairies to the east, which are the surface expression of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. With a population of almost 1.5 million, Calgary is a place of big blue skies and big ideas, with welcoming and friendly people. The city is gaining global recognition for our architecture, young

population, and celebrated arts and culinary scenes.

**Five UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, with geological significance, are within an easy day trip from Calgary. Nestled in the beautiful badland landscapes, Dinosaur Provincial Park (4) preserves exceptional fossils from all ten Cretaceous dinosaur families. Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump is located where the Foothills of the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. Evidence for the Cambrian Explosion of life was first discovered at the Walcott Quarry of the Burgess Shale (FT02) in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks.

**Five spectacular field excursions are featured in the First Circular.** FT01 would explore glaciers and tectonics while following the Klondike Gold Rush Trail from Juneau Alaska to Whitehorse, Yukon. On FT02 one would trace back to the Cambrian Explosion of Life in the Burgess Shale Walcott Quarry. FT03 would descend through the Cretaceous-Paleogene into Dinosaur Provincial Park (4). FT04 would take delegates to the 1.86Ga Sudbury Impact Structure to see one of the oldest, largest, best-preserved, and best exposed extraterrestrial impact structures, which happens to host one of the world's largest and most valuable Ni-Cu-PGE deposits. On FT05, delegates could touch the Mohorovic Discontinuity while walking across the Bay of Islands Ophiolite Complex in Newfoundland.

**Distribution of the First Circular marks the opening of submission for scientific sessions, workshops, short courses and field excursions.** Please refer to the First Circular and the [website](#) for more information.

## II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

### 1) News from the Commission on Geoethics

#### Webinar on Geoethics, Geotourism, and Geoparks

**Webinar on Geoethics**

25 May 2026  
(Monday) Sydney 4 pm (AEST)  
Jakarta 1 pm (WIB)  
Rome 8 am (UTC+2)  
China (Beijing) 2 pm (UTC+8)

**Geotourism & Geoparks in the Perspective of Geoethics**  
Explore how geoethics shapes responsible, culturally grounded relationships with Earth. Dr Peppoloni will highlight its key principles and demonstrate their value for geotourism and geopark development.

**SPEAKER:**  
**Dr Silvia Peppoloni**  
President of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics, Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics

Silvia Peppoloni (Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics) will deliver an invited talk titled "Geotourism and Geoparks in the Perspective of Geoethics" on 25 May 2026. She will explore how geoethics shapes responsible, culturally grounded relationships with Earth. She will highlight its key principles and demonstrate their value for geotourism and geopark development. This webinar is organized by Australian Geoscience Council (AGC).

Free registration: please, send an email with name and affiliation to [young.ng@utas.edu.au](mailto:young.ng@utas.edu.au)

#### GSL Distinguished Service Award 2026, Prof Silvia Peppoloni

Congratulations to Prof. Silvia Peppoloni (IUGS-IFG Geoethics Adviser and Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy), who has been awarded the Geological Society of London Distinguished Service Award 2026. For more information, visit the [website](#).

#### GSL Hybrid Conference "AI in the Geosciences"

The inaugural "AI in the Geosciences" conference is a new hybrid event aimed at researchers, industry professionals, students, policy makers, and all those with an interest in responsible innovation. The meeting will explore how artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data are transforming the geosciences, while also addressing the critical ethical, educational, and policy challenges that come with these technologies. This conference is organized by the Geological Society of London (GSL) and will take place in London and online, on 4 and 5 June 2026. Silvia Peppoloni (Chair of the IUGS

Commission on Geoethics), Giuseppe Di Capua (Secretary of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics), and Paul Cleverly (Chair of the Task Group on AI in the Geosciences of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics) are among conveners. The programme of the conference is available at: <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/events/ai-in-the-geosciences/>

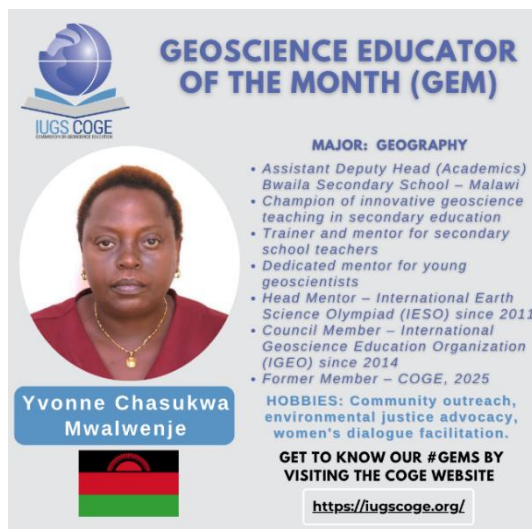
### Other Events on Geoethics

Several additional events on geoethics are being organized worldwide, highlighting growing interest in ethical approaches within the geosciences. These include workshops, seminars, and conference sessions that foster dialogue, promote responsible practices, and support the integration of geoethical principles in research, education, and professional activities. Read more: <https://www.geoethics.org/events>

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

IUGS-COGE continues 2026 with strong momentum, promoting innovative and globally connected geoscience education.

### Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM)



**GEOSCIENCE EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH (GEM)**

**MAJOR: GEOGRAPHY**

- Assistant Deputy Head (Academics) Bwaila Secondary School – Malawi
- Champion of innovative geoscience teaching in secondary education
- Trainer and mentor for secondary school teachers
- Dedicated mentor for young geoscientists
- Head Mentor – International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) since 2011
- Council Member – International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) since 2014
- Former Member – COGE, 2025

**HOBBIES:** Community outreach, environmental justice advocacy, women's dialogue facilitation.

**GET TO KNOW OUR #GEMS BY VISITING THE COGE WEBSITE**

<https://iugscope.org/>

**Yvonne Chasukwa Mwalwenje**

Yvonne Chasukwa Mwalwenje. Yvonne is the Assistant Deputy Head for Academics at Bwaila Secondary School in Lilongwe, Malawi, a large and respected public school. She is a dedicated geography educator with over 25 years of experience teaching at both primary and secondary levels.

Throughout her career, Yvonne has been committed to strengthening geoscience education through innovative teaching, teacher training, and mentoring young learners. A former member of the IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE), she has actively contributed to international geoscience education initiatives.

### EFO-EGU Education Webinar

Within the framework of the Letter of Cooperation signed between the IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE) and the European Geosciences Union (EGU) Education Committee, we are delighted to invite you to a special webinar organised by the Education Outreach Policy Subcommission (EOP) of COGE.

This event marks the official relaunch of the Global Education Field Officers (GEFO) Programme a renewed platform for international collaboration in geoscience education.

Follow COGE on Social Media and visit its [website](https://iugscope.org/) to learn more about its projects, and upcoming opportunities.



**EGU Education Committee** Geoscience Education Field Officer Programme

**GEFO - EGU Education Webinar** Sharing GEFO with the World

Geoeducators, early-career professionals, and outreach leaders are welcome to join us!

**April 14th, 2026**

At 13:00 (GMT)  Google Meet

#egu, #iugs, #coge, #Geoeducation [Register now!](#)

### 3) News from the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

#### Introducing secondary school pupils to good geochemical laboratory practice

Capacity building is central to the mission of the International Union of Geological Sciences and its Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB). While most training activities focus on university students and early-career geoscientists, CGGB members are also exploring ways to introduce geochemical thinking and standardised laboratory practice at an earlier stage of education. A recent initiative involved pupils from the Second Secondary School of Lavrion, Greece, a school that collaborates with the [Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University](#) on testing surface soil using an easy-to-use qualitative colorimetric kit designed to detect bioaccessible lead. Such activities are particularly relevant in historical mining areas, where environmental geochemistry provides a tangible context for learning about Earth processes and environmental stewardship. On 5 March 2026, the pupils visited the [Laboratory of Economic Geology and Geochemistry](#) of the [National and Kapodistrian University of Athens](#). Prof. Ariadne Argyraki (CGGB Public Relations Officer), assisted by Dr. Zacharenia Kypridou (CGGB Deputy Treasurer) and Dr. Alecos Demetriades (CGGB Chair), guided the students through a simplified but scientifically robust laboratory workflow. Students learned how to prepare samples for chemical analysis following procedures widely used in geochemical baseline surveys. Instead of analysing a small pinch of soil, they weighed precisely 1 g of <2 mm soil using an electronic balance before carrying out the colorimetric test and measuring the pH of the soil suspension. This step helped illustrate a key concept in global geochemical mapping: reproducibility through standardised methods. The same samples were then analysed using a portable XRF instrument, allowing students to compare qualitative screening with instrumental analysis.



Left: Group photograph of Lavrion Secondary School students and tutors at the stairs of the NKUA [Department of Geology and Geoenvironment](#). Right: a student measuring the pH of soil supervised by Prof. Ariadne Argyraki. Photographs (left) by a university student, and (right) by the CGGB-Chair

### 4) News from the Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

#### Sands of Change, Geological Society of London

On 18 March 2026, IUGS-IFG held a joint conference with the British Geological Survey and Geological Society of London, Forensic Geosciences Group, which focused on sand resources and illegal sand mining. The hybrid event attracted delegates from throughout Europe, USA, Australia and Asia. The conference drew attention to sand being the second most utilised resource on Earth after water. Sand crime involving so called 'sand mafias' was also debated, which generates up to US\$ 350 billion per

year according to some calculations. Geological techniques and strategies were presented to assist the police and law enforcement investigate sand theft and associated crimes.

[https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/media/sc1haoq1/sands-of-change\\_programme\\_and-abstracts-volume.pdf](https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/media/sc1haoq1/sands-of-change_programme_and-abstracts-volume.pdf)

### Forensic Geology in Malta

IUGS-IFG has endorsed an application for forensic geology research in Malta, with a focus on the detection of unmarked graves. This is being undertaken in collaboration with Prof. Sebastiano D'Amico, Head, Department of Geosciences Coordinator, Geophysics Laboratory & Malta Seismic Network, University of Malta.

[sebastiano.damico@um.edu.mt](mailto:sebastiano.damico@um.edu.mt) | [laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com](mailto:laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com)

### Edinburgh Science Festival, Scotland

IUGS-IFG have been invited to participate in the 2026 Edinburgh Science Festival. This will comprise a series of lectures and a panel interview session, on the evening of Friday 17 April 2026. The event will be titled: *'Forensic Geoscience: How to find out where in the world the crime was committed.'*

[lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk) | [laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com](mailto:laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com) | [salvador.fass@pf.gov.br](mailto:salvador.fass@pf.gov.br)

### 'Investigating the After Death', MSc in Human Taphonomy, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

On Friday 17 March, Dr Laurance Donnelly provided the opening lecture for the MSc in Human Taphonomy, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. This focused on the international role of IUGS-IFG in advancing and promoting forensic geology and the Geoforensic Search Strategy to locate shallow, unmarked graves and human remains. Other presentations on geological trace evidence and search will be provided by Dame Prof. Lorna Dawson, Dr Alastair Ruffell and Prof. Duncan Pirrie.

[laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com](mailto:laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com) | [lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk) | [a.ruffell@qub.ac.uk](mailto:a.ruffell@qub.ac.uk)  
<https://www.unil.ch/eb-ht>

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

### INHIGEO Anniversaries – New Contribution

**Occasion:** Amadeus W. Grabau died 80 years ago

**Author:** Chengsheng Sun (CHINA)

**Title:** Amadeus W. Grabau (1870–1946): A Pioneer Bridging Western and Chinese Paleontology

In 1920, Amadeus W. Grabau (1870–1946), the world-renowned American paleontologist, was invited by Ding Wenjiang (V. K. Ting, 1887–1936), one of the founders of geology in China, to come to China where he served as the Chief Paleontologist to the Geological Survey of China and concurrently acted as a professor in the Department of Geology at the National University of Peking.



Please open the link to know more: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>

**Photo caption.** Amadeus W. Grabau (1870–1946), drawn by Sven Hed. Source: Bulletin of the Geological Society of China 10, 1931.

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### III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS

#### 1) AI in the Geosciences conference & Exploring Geoethics & AI workshop organised by the Geological Society of London

GSL are proud to announce the programme for their inaugural *AI in the Geosciences meeting*, to be held in London, UK and online on 4–5 June 2026, along with a special one-day workshop, “*Exploring Geoethics & AI*”, which precedes the conference on 3 June 2026, led by IUGS-GC chair and secretary/treasurer Silvia Peppoloni & Giuseppe Di Capua.

The inaugural AI in the Geosciences conference is a new hybrid event aimed at researchers, industry professionals, students, policy makers, and all those with an interest in responsible innovation. The meeting will explore how artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data are transforming the geosciences, while also addressing the critical ethical, educational, and policy challenges that come with these technologies.

The programme has contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, combining traditional scientific presentations with community updates, hosted panel discussions, and workshops. The meeting will showcase cutting-edge AI-based tools, illustrating how the community can derive benefit from their application to real geoscience problems. The event will also provide a network for professional development and opportunities for collaboration across disciplines.

This conference and workshop are open to all, with heavily discounted rates available for students, jobseekers, and those in developing countries. For more information, or to browse the programme, please visit: <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/events/ai-in-the-geosciences/>

#### 2) Announcement – Second Edition – International School on Drone and VR for Volcano-Tectonic Studies at Etna, Italy

We are pleased to announce the second edition of the *International School on Drone and VR for Volcano-Tectonic Studies at Etna*, which will take place in Nicolosi (CT), Etna, Italy, from 6 to 11 October 2026.

The school focuses on the use of drones and immersive virtual reality as innovative tools for research, monitoring, and the study of active volcanic areas.

During the course, participants will acquire both practical and theoretical skills to:

- plan and carry out UAV surveys (basic and advanced level)
- produce 2.5D and 3D models
- integrate data into GIS and virtual reality environments
- use high-precision GPS georeferencing systems

The programme combines:

- theoretical lectures
- field activities on Mt Etna
- laboratory sessions for data processing and interpretation

The school will be held in English and is particularly aimed at PhD candidates and MSc students, who will be given priority in the selection process.

The registration fee is 500 EUR and includes accommodation, breakfast, and packed lunches for the entire duration of the school, as well as the welcome dinner. Local transportation during the activities will be organised and managed by the staff.

**Registration opens:** 24 April 2026, 12:00 (UTC)

**Website:** <https://etnadronevr.unimib.it/>

**Registration:** <https://etnadronevr.unimib.it/enrollment/>

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/etnadrone\\_vr\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/etnadrone_vr_school)

### **Organising team**

Fabio L. Bonali, Luca Fallati (DISAT – University of Milano-Bicocca)

Emanuela De Beni, Massimo Cantarero (INGV – Etna Observatory, Catania)

### **For information:**

fabio.bonali@unimib.it

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## IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

**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 that you submit your news by the end of each month. For instance, news for June is supposed to be published in 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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