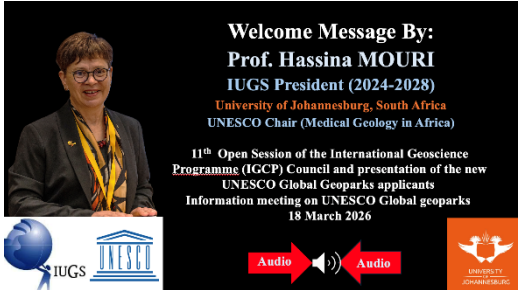




## I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 1) From Global Focus to Regional Priorities: UNESCO–IUGS Joint IGCP Advances IUGS-Led Strategic Vision



During the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) Council Meeting, a joint initiative between the International Union of Geological Sciences and UNESCO, the Council reaffirmed a major strategic shift in the programme towards regionally focused geoscience priorities. This transition is grounded in an IUGS proposal to strengthen regional geoscience cooperation, scientific impact, and capacity-building within the IGCP framework.

The concept of shifting IGCP from a global open-call model to regionally targeted initiatives was introduced by IUGS in 2025 to enhance the effectiveness of geoscience collaboration by addressing region-specific challenges more directly and strengthening capacity-building through postgraduate training and scientific networking. The first implementation of this approach began in Africa in 2025 through a dedicated Special Call, followed by its extension to Latin America and the Caribbean in 2026, marking a coherent and phased rollout of the IUGS-led vision. To underline this strategic commitment, IUGS increased its annual contribution to IGCP from USD 100,000 to USD 150,000 in 2025 and 2026.

This regional strategy builds on the success of the African call, which led to the selection of three projects addressing key challenges, including groundwater resources, mineral systems, and climate change impacts, and reinforced capacity-building and training across participating institutions.

In January 2026, at the IUGS Executive Committee meeting in Bogotá, a dedicated workshop on geoscience priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean was convened, further refining regional needs and shaping the next phase of implementation. Subsequently, the IGCP Council approved a new Special Call for the region, reinforcing this transition.

During the Council session, Antonio Abreu, Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences at UNESCO, emphasised the growing importance of geoscience for environmental protection and highlighted UNESCO's unique mandate and leadership in advancing Earth science for sustainable development.

Hassina Mouri, IUGS President, highlighted the long-standing collaboration between UNESCO and IUGS, noting that IGCP exemplifies international scientific cooperation built on trust, expertise, and a shared vision for the future.

Further details are available on the UNESCO IGCP news [webpage](#), which covers the Council discussions, regional calls, and program developments.

### 2) IUGS President Invited to Congratulate New UNESCO Global Geoparks at Certificate Handover Ceremony

On 27 April 2026, the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences was invited to deliver a congratulatory message during the certificate handover ceremony for the newest members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks network and revalidated geoparks. In her address, she highlighted the strong partnership between UNESCO and IUGS, particularly IUGS's scientific role in assessing the



international geological significance of new geopark applications. She also welcomed the growing diversity of the Global Geoparks Network, now comprising more than 200 sites worldwide, with increasing participation from countries of the Global South, including Brazil, China, Malaysia, Tunisia, and Uruguay. The address concluded with a call to strengthen global cooperation and stewardship of the planet in the spirit of Earth Day.

### 3) IUGS Representation at the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Geological Survey of Slovenia

On 22 April, Vice-President Marko Komac represented the IUGS at the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geological Survey of Slovenia, a milestone celebrating eight decades of contributions to geoscience, research, and national development. He conveyed congratulations to the institution's staff on behalf of the IUGS community.



The event, held under the auspices of the President of Slovenia, Dr Nataša Pirc Musar, gathered national and international partners to recognise the Survey's longstanding role in advancing geological knowledge and supporting sustainable development.

### 4) Strengthening Geoscience Collaboration Across the Global South: IUGS Endorsement of the GEOMIN Conference in Uzbekistan

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is pleased to endorse the upcoming GEOMIN Conference to be held in Uzbekistan. Through this partnership, IUGS reaffirms its commitment to advancing international scientific exchange, strengthening geoscience cooperation, and supporting high-quality scientific initiatives worldwide, particularly in the Global South.

This collaboration reflects the core mission of IUGS to promote geoscience through inclusiveness, international cooperation, and capacity building across all regions of the world. Enhancing scientific partnerships within the Global South remains a major priority for the Union, as many developing and emerging regions possess remarkable geological resources and scientific potential while facing significant challenges in sustainable development, natural resource management, and environmental stewardship. At the same time, IUGS places strong emphasis on building bridges between the Global South and the rest of the world, fostering two-way exchange of knowledge, expertise, and innovation to ensure a more integrated and balanced global geoscience community.

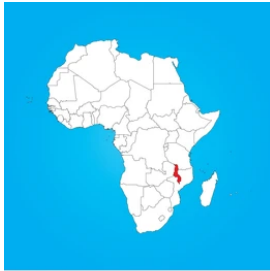


Central Asia is a region of considerable geological importance, characterised by abundant mineral resources, intriguing tectonic settings, and substantial mining potential. Through its support for GEOMIN, IUGS aims to promote scientific dialogue, strengthen international research collaborations, and elevate the global prominence of geoscience innovation and expertise from the region.

The endorsement of GEOMIN reflects the scientific importance of the conference and IUGS's continued commitment to fostering inclusive and globally connected geoscience collaboration.

## 5. Growing African Representation in IUGS: Malawi Joins the Union

Malawi, a small but vibrant country in Southeast Africa, has officially joined the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), marking another important step in strengthening African representation within the global geoscience community.



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Despite its modest size, Malawi hosts a dynamic and growing geoscientific community. Experts trained at universities and research institutions abroad have returned to the country and are now actively contributing their international expertise to the education and mentoring of a new generation of geoscientists. Malawian universities are already engaged in international scientific collaborations and networks, providing a strong foundation for future development.

Through its membership in the IUGS, these efforts and partnerships will be further strengthened and expanded. With Malawi joining the Union, the Executive Committee moves another step closer to its goal of increasing the number of African member countries during its term of office.

## II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

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

#### Training University students in good geochemical practices

Since its publication in 2022, the [International Union of Geological Sciences Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network](#) has become a reference work for the planning of applied geochemical surveys at any mapping scale. The sampling procedures can be adapted to project objectives, and subsequent methods described therein are strictly followed to produce quality-controlled data sets. As capacity building is central to the mission of the International Union of Geological Sciences and its Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB), the research work of two University students is being supervised. The first is Tikane Goratileone, an M.Sc. student at the [University of Johannesburg](#), who is conducting a multi-sample environmental geochemistry project under the supervision of Prof. Hassina Mouri (IUGS President); the objective is to assess the impact, if any, of the iron and manganese ore mines on three nearby villages. The second is Alexandra Balaska, a B.Sc. student at the [National and Kapodistrian University of Athens](#), who is conducting a soil geochemical monitoring survey in the town of Lavrion (Hellenic Republic) to compare 1990 and 2026 results, and is supervised by Prof. Ariadne Argyraki (CGGB Public Relations Officer). Co-supervisor to both projects is Dr. Alecos Demetriades (CGGB Chair).

Thanks to modern smartphone technology, the CGGB Chair was able to coach and supervise Tikane Goratileone remotely during the sampling campaign. In total, samples of garden soil, tap water and spinach were collected from 20 sites; field duplicate samples were taken from 8 sites, as well as three iron ore and three manganese ore samples. Since the tap water samples were acidified with commercial nitric acid, which is not ultra-pure, blank water samples were taken in the field using water for injection and acidified with the same commercial nitric acid.



Left: Goratileone sampling garden soil and spinach, South Africa, and right: Alexandra preparing to sample soil under the vigilant eye of the CGGB Chair, Lavrion, Hellenic Republic. Photographs by Keaoleboga Mariba, Goratileone's friend(left), and Prof. Ariadne Argyraki(right)

Alexandra was luckier because the CGGB Chair was with her during the five-day sampling campaign, and her university supervisor, Ariadne Argyraki was with her for two days. In total, 115 routine and 13 field duplicate soil samples were collected.

The training of both students will continue, starting from the assessment of the quality of analytical results, plotting diagrams and maps, and ending with the writing of their theses.

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

The COGE continues to expand its international footprint, advancing outreach and collaboration across diverse regions and institutions. This month marks a major milestone with the launch of the Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM) webpage. This online platform is dedicated to highlighting educators who make exceptional contributions to teaching and public engagement worldwide. By showcasing their achievements, the initiative increases the visibility of educational leadership and fosters a more connected global community. We warmly invite you to nominate inspiring colleagues via the form on the [GEM webpage](#).

In their collaborative framework, the commission recently hosted the inaugural webinar of a new series under the Education, Outreach and Policy (EOP) Subcommission. Integrated into the [Geoscience Education Field Officers \(GEFO\) Programme](#), the event, supported by the European Geosciences Union (EGU) Education Committee, allowed educators from various regions to exchange innovative teaching strategies and outreach experiences. Moderated by Xavier Juan (Spain), the session provided a vital space for GEFO officers to share insights and solidify global networks. EOP initiatives also include the [GeoArt 2026 Global Contest](#), which invites students, educators, and artists worldwide to communicate Earth science concepts through creative expression. Submissions are open until June 2026, and the Commission encourages the community to share the opportunity with schools, universities, and outreach networks.

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

Discover the "Gems" of our Global Community!

Previous GEM Educators

- Caroline Tilly, Australia
- Yvonne Baccantini, Mexico
- Stephanie Ann, Guatemala
- Susana Alvarado, Mexico
- Leticia Torres, Chile
- Maria Paula, Colombia
- John Macpherson, Peru

**Propose a GEM today!**

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

**Luisa Pinto**

Major: Teaching Generalist & Regional Geology

Achievements: PhD at the Paul Sabatier University (France) Over ten decades of teaching/researching and/or lecturing research. Leading projects shaping the future of geological understanding in Central Chile

HOBBIES: NETWORKING AND MENTORING

GET TO KNOW OUR GEMs BY

HELP US HIGHLIGHT THE WORK OF GEOSCIENCES EDUCATORS GLOBALLY

<https://iugscoge.org/>

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

**COGE- EGU Education Webinar** **IUGS COGE**

Sharing GEFO with the World

April 14th, 2026

Geoscience Education Field Officers programme

Work, lot of work and ...  
Teamwork, learning, growing experience, friendship, happiness!!

#egu, #iugs, #coge, #Geoeducation

<https://iugscoge.org/>

The commission is also announcing working on a thematic collection in the journal *Discover Geoscience* (Springer Nature) focused on the future of geoscience education, including digital transformation, inclusive curricula, and sustainability within Earth system science. The call for papers is open until December 2026, led by Guest Editors Sandra Villacorta and Clara Vasconcelos. COGE's digital outreach capacity is also growing. Two new interns, Stalyn Paucar and Angela Masongsong, have joined the Commission's supporting the development of communication strategies to amplify geoscience education initiatives and strengthen engagement with the global community.

Earlier this month, COGE held its first quarterly meeting of 2026, advancing governance and strategic priorities, including the development of the IUGS White Paper on geoscience education, the

monitoring of capacity-building programmes such as GEFO, and preparations for upcoming leadership nominations to fill vacant positions within the Commission.

**Visit the [COGE website](https://iugscoge.org/) to learn more about its projects and upcoming opportunities.**

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

#### Forensic Geology Paper Referenced by UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published a document on, '*Minerals Crime. Global Analysis on Crimes that Affect the Environment*'. In the report, a paper by Dr Laurance Donnelly and Prof Duncan Pirrie was referred to called, '*Crimes Associated with Geological Materials: Mining, Minerals, Metals and Fossils*.' *Geology Today* 40, no. 4 (July 2024): 159–64,

<https://doi.org/10.1111/gto.12487>.

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crimes%20on%20Environment/ECR25\\_P2b\\_Minerals\\_Crime.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crimes%20on%20Environment/ECR25_P2b_Minerals_Crime.pdf)

#### Forensic Geology at the Edinburgh Science Festival

On 17 April 2026, Dr Laurance Donnelly, Dame Prof Lorna Dawson and Dr Fábio Augusto da Silva Salvador, represented IUGS-IFG at the Edinburgh Science Festival in Scotland. The presentations focused on illegal mining and illicit minerals trafficking, the Clean Gold Programme, searches for graves in Syria and wildlife crime. There were approximately 100 delegates comprising members of the public, students, post-docs and young scientists.

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IUGS-IFG at the Edinburgh Science Festival, 17 April 2026 (Photographs, Dame Prof Lorna Dawson and The James Hutton Institute)

### Civil Society Policy and Illicit Gold, Illicit Finance Summit, 23-24 June 2026, UK Government

Gold continues to become important for organised crime, corruption, the evasion of sanctions, political control and forms an important part of the IUGS-IFG Special Project on Illegal Mining. An Illicit Finance Summit will take place on 23-24 June 2026, hosted by the UK Government in London. An objective is to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector to focus on the fight against crime and corruption and the international flow of 'dirty gold'

<https://www.spotlightcorruption.org/report/civil-society-policy-recommendations-on-illicit-gold>

### Soil Science Australia, Webinar: The Use of Earth Materials as Forensic Evidence in Crime Scene Investigations

Soil Science Australia hosted a fascinating webinar presented by Professor Rob Fitzpatrick CPSS on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026, which showcases the value of soil science in a variety of disciplines as he explores the role of soils in forensic investigations.

<https://www.soilscienceaustralia.org.au/webinars/> | [Webinars - Soil Science Australia](#)

### OECD and Due Diligence for Responsible Sand and Silicate Supply Chains

OECD has provided information and guidance on sand and silicate supply chains are the second most-extracted resource globally after water. This links well and aligns with the recent 'Sands of Change' conference held by IUGS-IFG, the Geological Society of London Forensic Geoscience Group and the British Geological Survey, held at the Geological Society of London, on 18 March 2026.

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/due-diligence-for-responsible-sand-and-silicate-supply-chains\\_7be0093e-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/due-diligence-for-responsible-sand-and-silicate-supply-chains_7be0093e-en.html)

### ENFSI APST WG in Madrid at the Guardia Civil

Dame Prof Lorna Dawson represented IUGS-IFG at European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), Animal Plant and Soil Traces (APST) expert working group that was held in Madrid, at the Guardia Civil. Further details regarding ENFSI APST can be found on the link below:

<https://enfsi.eu/about-enfsi/structure/working-groups/animal-plant-and-soil-traces/>

[lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk)

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

##### INHIGEO Anniversaries – New Contribution

**Occasion:** Woman publishes in *Nature* 150 years ago

**Author:** Consuelo Sendino (United Kingdom), Bettie Higgs (Ireland)

**Title:** Mary Katherine Andrews (1852–1914): a landmark contribution to geomagnetism

In 2026, we commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mary Katherine Andrews' essay *The Early History of Magnetism*, published in *Nature* on 27 April 1876, and signed modestly as "K.". In just a few columns, the 24-year-old Irish researcher distilled two millennia of ideas to explain how scholars had come to understand a restless, global magnetic field. Her synopsis is one of the earliest contributions by a woman to the journal *Nature*.



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

**Photo caption.** Mary K. Andrews in her fifties. Drawing based on an image of attendees at the Geological Society of London's centenary dinner in 1907. (Copyright C. Sendino)

### III) NEWS FROM IUGS AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

#### 1) The International Palaeontological Association (IPA)



**IPC7 2026:** The 7<sup>th</sup> quadrennial International Palaeontological Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, 30 November–3 December 2026.

Registration is open now at <https://www.ipc7.site/> Come, join us in this palaeontologically, geologically, culturally, and scenically wonderful region!

IPA requires its congresses to be widely distributed, globally. The first IPC was held in 2002, near Sydney, Australia. Subsequent congresses have been held in Beijing, China (2006), London, U.K. (2010), Mendoza, Argentina (2014), Paris, France (2018), and Khon Kaen, Thailand (2022). **Now, this year, we will hold our first congress in Africa!**

IPC7's programme will be broadly representative of all classes of participants in the discipline. It will include 6 plenary talks (4 by women, 2 by men); 29 thematic symposia embracing a wide range of topics, including fields of especially active current research and of regional or global significance, as

well as a session on communication of palaeosciences to the wider community; workshops; palaeoart exhibitions; and pre-and post-conference excursions.

The purpose of IPA is to promote and coordinate international cooperation among all subdisciplines of palaeontology and stratigraphy, including those that overlap with geology, biology and anthropology; and to encourage integration/synthesis of all palaeontological knowledge. To this end, IPA embraces a diverse research community. Seeking to overcome discrimination of every kind, IPA promotes the engagement and professional advancement of palaeontologists in all walks of life. It also encourages constructive collaboration between professional palaeontologists and other enthusiasts. IPA requires participants in all scientific meetings that it may sponsor to adhere to the highest standards of personal, scientific and professional integrity. **For IPC7, the Organizing Committee has formulated a specific Code of Conduct to which all delegates will be required to adhere.**

### **In Memoriam: Dr. Rosalie F. Maddocks (1939–2026)**

The International Palaeontological Association (IPA) mourns the passing of **Dr. Rosalie F. Maddocks**, who served with distinction as Secretary-General of the Association from 2002 to 2010.

Dr. Maddocks was a highly respected paleontologist whose career spanned more than six decades. She received her Master's and PhD degrees in geology from the University of Kansas in 1962 and 1965, respectively, and in 1967 joined the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Houston, where she remained an active member of the academic community for nearly 60 years.

A dedicated educator, Dr. Maddocks taught generations of students in paleobiology, micropaleontology, oceanography, and historical geology. Her commitment to teaching was matched by her contributions to research, particularly in the study of Ostracoda and other microfossils, through which she advanced understanding of marine environments and Earth history. Over the course of her career, she authored more than 70 scientific publications, reflecting both the depth and longevity of her scholarly impact.

Within the IPA, Dr. Maddocks played a central role during her tenure as Secretary-General. She provided steady leadership, strengthened international collaboration, and supported the development of the global paleontological community during a period of important growth for the Association. Her professionalism, dedication, and collegial spirit left a lasting impression on colleagues worldwide.

Dr. Maddocks will be remembered not only for her scientific achievements, but also for her generosity, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to



the advancement of paleontology. We extend our deepest condolences to her family, colleagues, and students. An obituary with further details on her life and career can be accessed here: <https://www.uh.edu/nsm/news-events/stories/2026/0421-remembering-rosalie-maddocks.php>

## 2) The International Medical Geology Association (IMGA)

### Joint Seminar of IMGA and SEGH: Science behind moon and aurora photography

This seminar was jointly organised by International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) and Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH). It was held online at 14:00, Dublin time, April 17, 2026, by Professor Chaosheng Zhang, with more than 60 participants.



*Aurora over Derryclare Lough, Connemara, Galway, Ireland on May 10, 2024  
(Photo: Chaosheng Zhang).*

Prof. Zhang is a Professor of Geography at the University of Galway, where he teaches courses in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Physical Geography. His academic expertise spans GIS, environmental geochemistry, and the emerging field of Medical Geology. Prof. Zhang is Chair of International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) (2023- present) and Past President of Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH) (2015-2017).

Photography can be seen as more than just the act of taking pictures or documenting daily life. It is a creative and technical pursuit that intersects deeply with science and technology. This talk aims to highlight the scientific principles that underpin photography, focusing on moon and aurora photography to inspire interest in scientific inquiry. In moon photography, beyond mastering basic techniques, success often hinges on being in the right place at the right time. A solid understanding of the science behind moonrise and moonset times, directional positioning, weather patterns, wind conditions, and tidal cycles is crucial. Aurora photography has surged in popularity on social media in recent years, a trend closely linked to the current peak of the Sun's 25th cycle. Accurate prediction of auroral displays requires a strong grasp of solar monitoring techniques and the underlying space weather science, which is explained in this talk.

The recording of this seminar is available on IMGA website: <https://medicalgeology.org/event/joint-seminar-of-imga-and-segh-science-behind-moon-and-aurora-photography>

More than 3000 photos taken by Prof. Zhang are freely available via the link: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/ineh/gallery>

## 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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