

International Union of Geological Sciences

www.iugs.org



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Mapping the Growth of the Global Geoscience Community. Countries shown in green represent the 74 IUGS Adhering Members as of June 2026

E-Bulletin at a Glance

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I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1) Growing Stronger Together: Expanding the Global Geoscience Community through IUGS Membership

One of the clearest indicators of IUGS's growing strength has been the significant expansion of its global membership. During 2025–2026, the number of Adhering Members increased to 74, reflecting growing confidence in the Union and its vision for the future. Much of this growth has come from countries in the Global South, reinforcing IUGS's commitment to building a more inclusive and representative global geoscience community.



This expansion strengthens the Union's ability to advance its mission of promoting the geosciences for the benefit of society by broadening geographic representation, embracing diverse scientific perspectives, and fostering stronger international collaboration. It also reflects the collective commitment of the international geoscience community to IUGS's core values of inclusivity, sustainability, and ethical and professional practice.

As IUGS continues to grow, so too does its capacity to connect geoscientists across regions and cultures, amplify their collective voice, and mobilise geoscience expertise to address the pressing societal and environmental challenges facing our world. This growth reflects not only the increasing recognition of the value of IUGS, but also the shared determination of its members to strengthen international cooperation and ensure that geoscience contributes meaningfully to a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future.

2) IUGS Expresses Sympathy Following the Earthquake in Venezuela

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) extends its heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the people of Venezuela following the recent earthquake. Our thoughts are with all those affected, especially the families who have suffered loss or hardship, as well as the emergency responders and authorities working tirelessly to support impacted communities. As the global geoscience community comes together in solidarity, IUGS reaffirms the importance of advancing geoscience knowledge and international cooperation to strengthen resilience to natural hazards and reduce their impacts on society.

3) A New Look for a New Era: Welcome to the New IUGS Website

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is delighted to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website: www.iugs.org.

A website should be much more than a repository for monthly newsletters. It should serve as a dynamic and up-to-date platform that reflects the Union's activities, scientific achievements, programmes, strategic priorities, and global impact. Following the election of the 2024–2028 Executive Committee, it was agreed that the website required a comprehensive review and modernisation to better represent the breadth and diversity of IUGS activities.

The redevelopment was therefore undertaken in two phases. During the first phase (January 2025–June 2025), our priority was to review, update and strengthen the website's content to ensure it

accurately reflected the work of the Union. Having established this foundation, the second phase (January 2026–June 2026) focused on modernising the design and transforming the website's appearance, functionality and user experience.

The result is a modern, dynamic and user-friendly platform that reflects the vision of IUGS as a rejuvenated, inclusive and globally connected Union. The new website provides easier access to information, improved navigation, greater visibility for IUGS programmes and initiatives, and a more engaging experience for members, partners and the wider geoscience community.

Among its new features is an interactive map showcasing the global network of IUGS Adhering Members. Since August 2024, the number of Adhering Members has increased from 58 to 74 countries, reflecting growing global engagement with IUGS, particularly across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

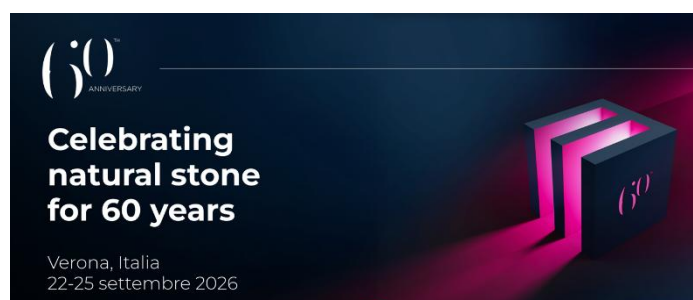
More than a refreshed digital platform, the new website embodies the IUGS vision of a rejuvenated, modern and agile Union founded on Inclusivity, Sustainability, and Ethical and Professional Practices. We invite you to explore the website and discover the many ways IUGS is advancing geoscience for the benefit of society worldwide.

As the website underwent its comprehensive redevelopment, access to recent editions of the IUGS E-Bulletin was temporarily interrupted. The IUGS EC apologises for any inconvenience this may have caused readers who rely on the website to access the E-Bulletin. Throughout this period, the E-Bulletin continued to be distributed through email and social media channels, and all current and future editions are now available through the new website.

Modernising our presence. Strengthening our impact. Connecting the global geoscience community.

4) IUGS work on heritage stones has been recognized by the Verona stone fair organizers

Lola Pereira IUGS councillor has been invited to be part of the Judging Committee for the International Award for “Sustainable Excellence” Marmomac 2026 that will take place in Verona, Italy, from the 22 to the 25 of September. The Verona fair is the most important stone fair in the world. The award will be featured during the next Marmomac exhibition – the world's premier international trade show for the natural stone, marble, and processing technology industry: <https://www.marmomac.com/en/exhibitor/international-award-for-sustainable-excellence/>



The invitation was based on the scientific and professional expertise, balance across the relevant sectors of the stone industry, international representation, and independence of judgement.

Lola Pereira was one of the initiators of the IUGS Heritage Stones Task Group in 2013 that became a subcommission (Heritage

Stones Subcommission: HSS) of the IUGS International Commission of Geoheritage. She was its Secretary General until 2020. She has published more than 30 papers on natural stones and their role in the world architectonic heritage, including a review on the creation of the IUGS HSS (<https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage6060241>).

Her profile in the award website will promote IUGS in the context of stones as construction and conservation materials: <https://www.marmomac.com/en/exhibitor/international-award-for-sustainable-excellence/>

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

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

Progress in Geochemical Sampling in the Chilean Altiplano

During April and May 2026, the Unit of Geochemistry of the Geology and Mining Survey of Chile (SERNAGEOMIN) conducted a series of sampling campaigns in the Chilean Altiplano (*highlands*). The work focuses on an area of approximately 9,000 km² located at a height of 4,000 metres above mean sea level, which is notable not only for its volcanic geology and salt flat systems, but also for its peatland ecosystems, a rich fauna adapted to the altitude, and the cultural heritage of the Aymara people.

The activity included the collection of stream sediment samples following the protocol described in the [IUGS Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network](#).

The geochemical composition of these samples will allow the establishment of an initial geochemical baseline in this area of high environmental, cultural, and prospective value. This information will also be key to assessing the presence of rare earth element (REE) anomalies and other critical elements within the framework of a national initiative, the [PIETR project](#).



Photographs of the high plateau captured during the field campaigns of April and May 2026 including (left) the 2 work teams in the town of Cariquima; (center) geochemical sampling of river sediments in the Puchuldiza area, and (right) final fieldwork photograph with the Cariquima volcano in the background (Photographs by Felipe Astudillo and Rafael Mardones).

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

In June, COGE continued strengthening geoscience education through international collaboration, strategic outreach, and ongoing governance development.

During the month, the Commission consolidated its new committee structure, welcoming new leaders for the Education, Outreach and Policy (EOP) and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Subcommissions, together with new Board members who will support the implementation of COGE's strategic priorities over the coming years. The [2026 GeoArt Contest](#), coordinated by the EOP Subcommission, remains open for submissions, encouraging participants worldwide to connect Earth science with creativity and public engagement.

The recording of the [GEFO Programme Webinar: Sharing GEFO with the World](#) jointly organised with the EGU Education Committee, is now available on the COGE YouTube channel, showcasing international experiences in geoscience outreach and field education.



As a supporting organisation of the 10th International GeoSciEdX Conference (Adelaide, Australia, 14–16 August 2026), COGE has started the international consultation of the IUGS White Paper on Geoscience Education. The draft will be introduced by our chair Dr Sandra Villacorta during the [GeoSciEdX Big Ideas](#) Day before its submission to *Episodes*, and [an open global consultation](#) has now been launched through the COGE website, inviting educators, researchers, students and stakeholders worldwide to contribute feedback to the final document.

COGE also continues supporting preparations for the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC 2028). During June, a [regional survey](#) was launched to engage the Latin American and Caribbean geoscience community in identifying priority scientific themes, strengthening regional participation, and improving collaboration for IGC 2028. In parallel, the COGE Board has initiated discussions with GeoLatinas to explore future collaboration in geoscience education, outreach and EDI initiatives, further expanding its international partnership network.

Stay connected through the COGE website and our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X channels to follow our latest activities and opportunities.

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

INHIGEO Anniversaries – New Contribution

Occasion: James Hutton born 300 years ago

Author: Martina Kölbl-Ebert (Germany)

Title: James Hutton (1726–1797) and his theory of the earth

Based in Edinburgh, an important intellectual and cultural centre of the Scottish Enlightenment, James Hutton was one of these ‘men of genius and learning’. Their interests ranged from the natural sciences to the humanities, from art to technology, and many of them were involved in such an array of studies that they truly deserved the title of polymath.

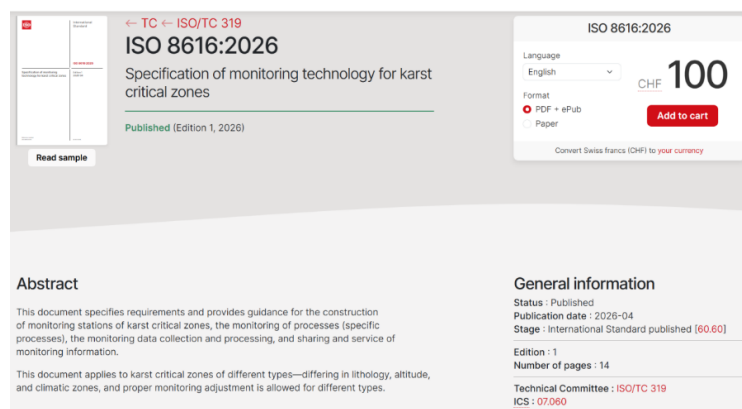
Please open the link to know more:
<https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>



James Hutton (1726–1797): oil painting by Henry Raeburn, 1776 (Scottish National Portrait Gallery).

4) News from the International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK)

ISO Standard on Karst Geology Published –A Milestone of International Karst Geological Sciences Standardization



In April 2026, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) officially published ISO 8616, *Specification of monitoring technology for karst critical zones*. This is the first-ever international standard on karst, marking a significant milestone in global karst geological sciences standardization.

ISO 8616 Specification of monitoring technology for karst critical zones

The working team involved experts from Austria, Canada, China, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and other countries, with Chinese team led by Prof. Dr. Zhang Cheng, also the leader of IGCP 598, as the major component for the compilation. The compilation is coordinated by the International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK) under the auspices of UNESCO / Institute of Karst Geology (IKG), Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences.

The Specification defines monitoring methods for key elements including meteorology, hydrology, soil, and vegetation, and establishes technical requirements for monitoring special processes such as the carbon-water-calcium cycle and soil-water loss. A full-chain technical system from station network construction to data services has been established, enabling effective comparison and integration of monitoring data across different karst areas and institutions.

Karst covers approximately 15% of the global land area and provides domestic water consumption for about one quarter of the world's population. Karst critical zones are closely linked to water resource development, ecological restoration, and carbon sink. By providing a unified technical framework for karst monitoring worldwide, ISO 8616 directly supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

The successful publication of this standard is a landmark achievement in the internationalization of global karst experts' standardization efforts. IRCK as an affiliated organization of IUGS, taking the position the chair and secretariat of ISO/TC 319 Karst, will continue to leverage high-level international platforms such as China-Slovenia "Belt and Road" Joint Laboratory on Karst Geology, to promote the global application of this standard through international conferences, training programs, and collaborative projects, contributing global karst expertise to geological and ecological protection and sustainable development.



Karst experts setting up the monitoring station on karst critical zones in Serbia

5) IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology

Illegal Mining and Minerals Crime: INTERPOL, OECD, UNODC and WCO

Ricardo Moraes (INTERPOL Environmental Security Sub-Directorate and IUGS-IFG Illegal Mining Advisor), chaired a session on, *'Leveraging science and technology to detect and prevent minerals crime,'* at the *'11th Meeting of the Informal Law Enforcement Network on Minerals Crime: Disrupting Illegal Mineral Supply Chains,'* held at INTERPOL's headquarters in Lyon, France on 28-29 May 2026.

Ministry of Public Security, Dalian Police Training Base, Liaoning Police College

On 25–26 June 2026, IUGS-IFG provided training in forensic geology for the Police in China. The training comprised a series of formal lectures followed by a practical session. With a focus on ground searches for graves and other burials, the recovery of geological trace evidence from crime scenes, buried items, surface finds and the collection of soil from a vehicle. The training was attended by approximately 60 officers.

Guo Hongling (IUGS-IFG Officer for China) guohongling1234@163.com

Laurance Donnelly (IUGS-IFG, Chair): laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com | geologist@hotmail.co.uk

News from the OSAC Task Group on Geological Materials

'E3501–25 Standard Guide for the Forensic Analysis of Geological Materials by Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry, published by ASTM/ANSI in January 2026', has been placed on the OSAC registry of approved standards in forensic science. With its placement on the OSAC registry, it is now freely available when accessed through the link below and using the instructions to get a free ASTM account. ASTM standards are consensus documents that are routinely revised and improved. <https://www.nist.gov/osac/standards-library/ansiastm-e3501-25>

Libby Stern (IUGS-IFG Officer for USA): LStern@fbi.gov

World Wide Fund for Nature and Illegal Mining

A report issued by the WWF provides information and an Environmental Crimes Financial Toolkit. This was developed by WWF and Themis, supported by the Climate Solutions Partnership (2020–2025), a collaboration between WWF, HSBC, and the World Resources Institute. This provides a platform to monitor risks related to environmental crimes, that include illegal mining and the illegal wildlife trade, and associated financial operations.

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2026-03/beneath-the-surface-report-2026.pdf>

Forensic Geoscience and the British Science week, Cornwall, United Kingdom

Prof Duncan Pirrie presented forensic geoscience outreach lectures to Camborne Science and International Academy and also Penwith College as part of British Science Week.

Prof Duncan Pirrie (IUGS-IFG Secretary): dpirrie@helfordgeoscience.co.uk

150th Anniversary Conference of the Mineralogical Society of UK and Ireland, Manchester, UK

Dr. Rosa Maria di Maggio (IUGS-IFG Officer for Europe), presented a keynote lecture at the 150th Anniversary Conference of the Mineralogical Society of UK and Ireland, held at the University of Manchester, UK, on 23 June 2026. The title of keynote lecture was *'Tracing crimes through Minerals. The role of Mineralogy in Forensic Investigation.'* The Conference was attended by over 500 participants.

6) News from the IUGS-Commission on Geoethics

Geoethics at the 38th IGC in Canada



38th IGC in Calgary
12-20 August 2028
Calgary (Canada)

The 38th International Geological Congress
Geosciences for Humanity

Geoethics at the 38th IGC in Canada
(The call for sessions, workshops, and short courses is open)

The International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) is a supporting organization of the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC).

Commission on Geoethics
IUGS

Theme J. "Geoethics"
(included in the program "Category 1 - Geoheritage, Education, Outreach, Communications, Policy, Career Development")

- Geoethics, Society, Governance, and Professional Responsibility
- Ethical Considerations for Sustainability, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Protection and the SDGs
- Geoethics in Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards and Disaster Risk Management
- Geoethics of Climate Change and Resilience
- Ethical Considerations for Knowledge, Innovation, Education, and Geoheritage
- Geoethics for the Future: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities

For information about the Theme "Geoethics", send an email to: silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it

The call for session, workshops, and short courses under this theme "Geoethics" is open (deadline: March 2027)
<https://venuewest.eventsair.com/PresentationPortal/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FPresentationPortal%2Ffigc2028%2Fsession-submission>

The International Geological Congress (IGC) is the premier conference for the advancement of global Earth Sciences. It takes place every four years in a major city, attracting over 5000 geoscientists from across the globe - akin to hosting the Olympics for Earth Sciences. In 2024, Canada won the bid to host the 38th IGC, IGC 2028, in Calgary in 2028. The Scientific Program is inspired by the congress tagline "Geoscience for Humanity".

38th IGC website: <https://www.igc2028canada.org/>

It is now possible to submit session proposals under the "Geoethics" Theme for the 38th International Geological Congress. Silvia Peppoloni (Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics) is the Leader of the Theme J. "Geoethics", which includes the following topics:

- Geoethics, Society, Governance, and Professional Responsibility.
- Ethical Considerations for Sustainability, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Protection and the SDGs.
- Geoethics in Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards and Disaster Risk Management.
- Geoethics of Climate Change and Resilience.
- Ethical Considerations for Knowledge, Innovation, Education, and Geoheritage.
- Geoethics for the Future: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities.

For more information about the "Geoethics" theme, send an email to: silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it

Session proposal submission on the 38th IGC website:

<https://venuewest.eventsair.com/PresentationPortal/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FPresentationPortal%2Ffigc2028%2Fsession-submission>

International Seminar: "Geoethics and Global Ethics in a Time of Polycrisis: Comparative Perspectives on Human-Earth Relations"

The IUGS Commission on Geoethics is among the supporting organizations of this seminar, which will take place in Assisi (Italy), 16–18 November 2026. The event aims to explore geoethics as a conceptual and practical foundation for global ethics in the context of Earth system governance. It will bring together leading scholars and experts through keynote lectures, contributed presentations, and thematic group discussions, fostering intercultural and interdisciplinary dialogue. The seminar is expected to strengthen international cooperation on geoethics and global ethics, advance comparative geoethics research, and promote a global interdisciplinary community affiliated with the Chair on Geoethics of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) and supported by the IUGS Commission on Geoethics, the International Association for Promoting Geoethics, and the EGU Geoethics Working Group. It will also produce scholarly outputs, including conference proceedings and an international statement.

More: <https://www.geoethics.org/cipsh-academy-2026>



III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS

1) 5th International Congress on Stratigraphy from 28 June to 3 July 2026, at Suzhou, China.

STRATI 2026 – Exploring the Depths: Bridging Tradition and Innovation in Stratigraphy, taking place from 28 June to 3 July 2026, at Suzhou in Jiangsu Province, China.

The STRATI congress is the official meeting of the International Commission on Stratigraphy held between meetings of the International Geological Congress.

STRATI meetings serve as a cornerstone of international stratigraphic research, fostering dialogue and innovation across continents with a legacy rooted in Europe.



For more information please visit: <https://strati2026.org/>

2) SEG Announces GEOMIN 2026 to Be Hosted in Uzbekistan, 14–18th September 2026



Following the resounding success of GEOMIN 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in partnership with the Saudi Geological Survey; the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), is pleased to announce that GEOMIN 2026 will take place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 14–18th September 2026 under the patronage of Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

This milestone marks the continued expansion of GEOMIN as a premier global forum for advancing mining geoscience, subsurface innovation, and sustainable resource development.

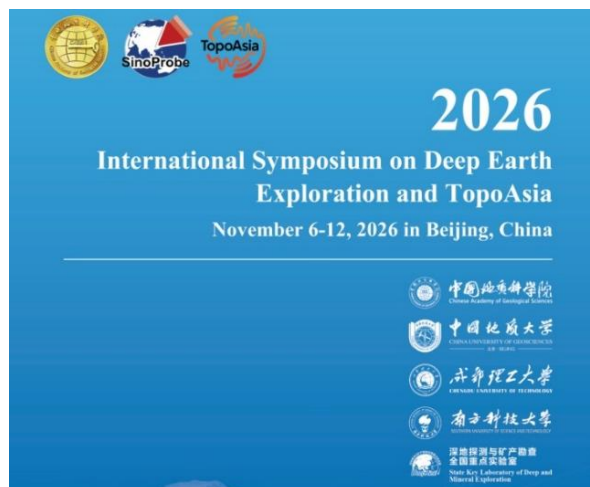
For more information, please visit: [SEG Announces GEOMIN 2026 to Be Hosted in Uzbekistan, 14–18th September 2026 - SEG](#)

3) International Symposium on Deep Earth Exploration and TopoAsia 2026

The International Symposium on Deep Earth Exploration and TopoAsia 2026 will be held in Beijing, China, from 6–12 November 2026. The Symposium will bring together researchers worldwide to discuss advances in deep Earth exploration, continental dynamics, topographic evolution, natural resources, and geohazards. Colleagues from all over the world are warmly welcome to join in this event!

The abstract submission system will open on 15 July 2026, and the deadline for registration and abstract submission is 1 October 2026. For detailed information, please refer to the website below:

www.deeptopo.geoscience.cn or www.topoasia.org/#/conferences?tab=overview



4) The IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage is pleased to announce the IUGS GEOHERITAGE EVENT that will be hosted by Algarvensis Geopark (Portugal) on November 4–8th.

Portugal: 4–8th November 2026

Limited places. Registration opens from June 29th.

More information about the event:

<https://www.algarvensisevents.com/>



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. Farnoosh Farjandi (IUGS Councillor) Geological Survey of Iran, Iran

Email: farnooshfarjandi@gmail.com

Dr. Wei Jun ZHAO (IUGS Councillor) Shenyang Centre, China Geological Survey, China

Email: wilsonwjz@outlook.com

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- 2) **CONTACT INFORMATION:** To be added to or removed from the IUGS E-Bulletin subscriber list, please email to: secretariat@iugs.org.