



PRESS release



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Geology

PanAfGeo, a unique training programme in Africa

Coordinated by the French Geological Survey (Bureau de recherches géologiques et minières – BRGM), PanAfGeo brought together 10 European geological surveys and their African counterparts for 3 years to train 1,074 geoscientists from 49 African countries. On 24 and 25 October, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, hosted the final meeting of Africa’s largest geoscience training programme, with delegates from international bodies, ministers and representatives of participating European and African nations.

The African continent has mining potential as great as anywhere in the world, but it is still under-explored. Strengthening the scientific capacity of African geological surveys is a priority for the countries concerned, with a view to improving the governance of the mining sector and ensuring a more balanced deployment of the wealth associated with the exploitation of mineral resources. This is the purpose of PanAfGeo, the largest geoscience training programme ever undertaken on the continent. Launched in December 2016, and co-financed by the European Union and 12 European geological surveys to the tune of €10.3 million, PanAfGeo aims to train scientific staff in African geological surveys and to forge bonds with European geological surveys. This cooperation project has developed seven training modules: geological mapping, mineral resource inventory for assessing mining potential, small-scale mining, environmental management, natural risks, the geological heritage, and geoscience data management and communication.

BRGM, the leading European geological survey, coordinated the programme. A total of 1074 people were trained, drawn from almost every country in Africa. BRGM has been directly involved in the training of African managers in geological mapping, mineral resources, geological heritage, small-scale mining and geoscience data management.

On 24 and 25 October, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, PanAfGeo brought together the participants for its closing meeting, as well as representatives of the European and African Union and various international bodies. There will be a complete review of the three years of training. This feedback is also intended to feed into discussions for a second phase of the programme, which is now being considered.



PanAfGeo allowed to train 1074 geoscientists from 49 African countries. (© BRGM)

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To find out more : <http://panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org>





CLOSE UP

International training at BRGM

BRGM has long experience in international training courses. For several decades, the Orléans-based institution has been sharing its expertise with geologists from different countries during its missions abroad. This trend has increased over the past decade. BRGM now very often includes a training component in its international projects. Demand is high. Although geosciences are increasingly in demand to meet environmental challenges, such as access to drinking water or securing the supply of raw materials, many countries are facing a real shortage of qualified personnel, particularly in Africa. While BRGM is already very involved in Africa with geological mapping, mineral prospecting and environmental management of mining activities, it has also trained agents in natural hazards in the Caribbean, as well as in hydrogeology in the Near and Middle East. Training also involves research projects on all continents, with scientific partnerships and thesis supervision.

ABOUT BRGM

BRGM, the French geological survey, is France's reference public institution for Earth Science applications in the management of surface and subsurface resources and risks. It operates as a public industrial and commercial institution, reporting to the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Its programmes focus on scientific research, supporting public policies and international cooperation. The BRGM is one of the Carnot Institutes. It undertakes research under contract with industrial sectors and businesses of every size.

More information on www.brgm.eu and on [@BRGM_fr](https://twitter.com/BRGM_fr)

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