

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Reporting form for Constituent Bodies 2003**

1. Constituent Body: Geological Society of Africa (GSAf)

2. Overall Objectives: Promote understanding and quality research in earth science in Africa; assist African states to develop their human resources, including the encouragement of women, in the pursuit of careers and interests in the earth sciences; promote the sustainable development of mineral, energy and water resources for the socio-economic development of the peoples of the African continent. The Society is also concerned with the protection of the environment in Africa.

3. Fit within IUGS Science Policy: *GSAf* addresses regional issues that involve the earth sciences and pursues objectives, as stated above, that are pertinent to the goals of the IUGS set out in 'International Earth Science in the 21st Century' (IUGS 2000, p14).

4. Organisation: The Society operates through an Executive Committee led by a President, a Secretary General, and an Honorary Treasurer. The other members of the Executive comprise five regional Vice-Presidents, five regional Councillors, an Assistant Secretary General/Membership Secretary, the immediate Past-President, and the Editor of the Society's newsletter (Africa Geonews). The current Council that was elected at the General Assembly during the *GSAf12* International Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon in March 2001 is as follows:

President -	Prof. M. Abdelsalam (SUDAN USA)
Secretary General –	Dr. Imasiku A. Nyambe (ZAMBIA)
Assistant Secretary General –	Dr. Isaac Njilah (CAMEROUN)
Honorary Treasurer –	Dr. J. D. Bennett (UK)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Vice – President (S) =	Dr. B. Mapani (ZIMBABWE)
Vice – President (C) =	Dr. F. Toteu (CAMEROON)
Vice – President (W) =	Dr. S. Coulibaly (GUINEA, CONAKRY)
Vice – President (N) =	Dr. M. Abdeen (EGYPT)
Vice – President (E) =	Dr. B. Woldehaimanot (ERITREA)

COUNCILLORS

Councillor (S)	Dr. M. De Wit (SOUTH AFRICA)
Councillor (C)	Dr. Nasser Ennih (MORROCO)
Councillor (W)	Dr. S. Siby (SENEGAL)
Councillor (N)	Dr. H. Elenga (Congo Brazzaville)
Councillor (E)	Dr. J. V. Tiberindwa (UGANDA)

PAST PRESIDENT:	Prof. S. Muhongo
EDITOR NEWSLETTER:	Dr. B. Mapani

5. Extent of National/Regional/Global Support from Sources other than IUGS:

GSAf continues to rely heavily on the financial, professional and moral support provided by IUGS. Subscription income alone is insufficient to permit the Society to operate although efforts are made continually by Council members to grow the membership, both individual and institutional/corporate. In respect of the latter category, the support this year of the following institutional members is acknowledged with gratitude: De Beers, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS), Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) and the National Academy of Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS, Egypt). UNESCO has once again supported *GSAf*-linked meetings during 2003.

Efforts have continued to attract financial support and sponsorship from the minerals and hydrocarbons industry. The minerals and hydrocarbons industries operating in specific countries where *GSAf*-associated meetings are held have provided valuable support at the local level in response to requests from the Local Organising Committees (LOCs).

6. Interface with Other International Projects: The Society is linked to international projects through IUGS and UNESCO. The Society itself does not implement scientific projects but, through its members, interfaces particularly with IGCP projects. For example Dr. Felix Toteu Vice- President on the GSAf council (West Africa) got an IGCP and currently consolidating a list of collaborating partners. Several other African scientists are involved in various IGCPs including Medical Geology (IGCP 454); Proterozoic sediment-hosted base metal deposits of western Gondwana (IGCP 450 – with Dr. F. Kamona of University of Namibia as the African Leader); Global metallogeny during the assembly and break-up of the Rodinia Supercontinent and Mesoproterozoic ore deposits (incorporating IGCP 418, 419 & 440). IGCP Project 482/489 Dynamic Evolution, Resource Potential and Environmental Impact of the East African Rift Systems had its first meeting in Gaborone, Botswana. African leaders include Dr. Motsotse Modisi – Dept. of Geology, University of Botswana, Botswana and Dr. M.N. Sebagenzi: University of Lubumbashi, DRC. Indeed *GSAf* members participate actively in IGCP projects.

7. Chief accomplishments during the year included:

- a) The Society co-sponsored and provided financial support to the Abuja Geocongress 2003. The meeting was held in Abuja, Nigeria, the organisation being led by Rockview International (Paris and Lagos, Prof C A Kogbe). It incorporated the 15th African Colloquium on Micropalaeontology and the 5th Colloquium on the Stratigraphy and the Palaeogeography of the South Atlantic. Travel grants were also paid to two GSAf members, to defray partially the costs of participating in the meeting.
- b) The Society was represented at the IUGS meeting in Namibia. Those in attendance from GSAf were Dr. Imasiku A. Nyambe – Secretary General, GSAf and Dr. Fredrick A. Kamona – a member from the University of Namibia. The report was submitted to members, IUGS and posted on the GSAf website. Unfortunately, **ACTION 48** in the minutes of IUGS where Dr. Nyambe requested for feed from GSAfrica members on the use of Electronic Bulletins, introduced by IUGS did NOT receive any response from

- members. However, the Executive Committee endorsed it as an excellent idea.
- c) A grant was made to assist the implementation of a workshop on the future role of African Geological Survey Organisations (GSOs). This meeting, planned to be held in Pretoria, is currently on hold. The organisers (Rockview International (Paris and Pretoria) and the Council for Geoscience, South Africa) continue in their attempt to secure additional funds to ensure the financial viability of the workshop.
 - d) Funds have been committed to support the Third International Conference on the Geology of Africa, to be held in Assiut, Egypt, from 7-9 December 2003. The University of Assiut is the lead organisation of this meeting.
 - e) The Society has maintained its homepage (at www.elsevier.nl/locate/gsa), posting notices of meetings, reports and other activities. Elsevier Science kindly undertook much-needed restructuring and updating of the homepage during the year. Society information was also disseminated on the IUGS website and the website of the Geological Society of London. GSAf expresses its gratitude to all three organisations for this valuable assistance.
 - f) *Africa Geonews* – publication of this news letter continued during the year. The latest version has been posted on GSAf’s homepage.
 - g) The UNESCO/IGCP Project 482/489 “Dynamic Evolution, Resource Potential and Environmental Impact of the East African Rift Systems” is a major project that will cover a number of countries in East, Central and Southern Africa. The first meeting of this IGCP took place August 4-5, at the University of Botswana, Gaborone.
 - h) An Urban Geology workshop on cities of Southern Africa at the Commonwealth Youth Centre, Lusaka, Zambia, December 4-5, 2003
 - i) *GSAf* assisted the establishment of national geological associations in Eritrea and Mozambique. The latter is now formally set-up. In Eritrea *GSAf* Vice-President (E) and colleagues led the efforts to kick-start the proceedings and a preliminary workshop was held that was well supported by the local geoscience community. In Senegal the GSAf Councillor and her colleagues continue under difficult conditions to establish a fully operational Senegal Society.
 - j) 6th International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry, September, 2003, UK with a planned meeting of the East and Southern Africa Association of Medical Geology (ESAAMEG).
 - k) Sustainable Mineral Development in the Developing World Workshop Geological Society, London, November 24 and 25, 2003.
 - l) Other conferences and meetings at which members of GSAf have participated in Africa include: Cameroon Lake Nyos Field workshop, 4-6 March 2003, and the Ethiopia: UNCTAD-ECA Workshop on an African Mining Network

8. GSAf finances and communication: The difficulty in obtaining funding, in particular from industry, has been noted. While the weakness of the global economy may be one explanation for this, the seeming lack of interest in the Society’s objectives by industry is nevertheless disappointing. This point was reinforced at the Abuja Geocongress, where very limited interest was shown by the oil industry in the two specialist colloquia that previously, over the years, had attracted good oil company support, both financial and scientific. This raised concerns that the days of such specialist meetings are past and it was suggested that in future they would be

better incorporated into the Society's main events, its International Conference and the Colloquium of African Geology.

Maintaining communications with the membership in what is inevitably a somewhat nebulous, widely scattered organisation is difficult, even with modern communications. This situation is likely to persist, partly because of member apathy, but also, importantly, reflecting the difficult economic circumstances that prevail in most African countries, and the difficulties and high costs of travel within the continent. Furthermore, Council members hold down full-time jobs in academia, government and industry and the time and energy that they can devote to Society affairs is accordingly limited.

9. Chief 'products' of the Society have been outlined in 7 above.

10. Summary of expenditure in 2003: Expenditure for the year 2003 to end-October amounts to UK£2083 (c US\$3125 @ 1.50 (generalised exchange rate)), broken down as follows:

- Sponsorship of the Abuja Geocongress 2003: £637.95 (\$1000.00)
- Sponsorship of the Pretoria Geological Surveys Workshop): £310.17 (\$500) (grant allocated, workshop date to be confirmed by Rockview International, pending continued search for additional funding to ensure viability)
- Sponsorship of the Third International Conference on the Geology of Africa, Assiut, Egypt: £166 (\$250)
- Travel grants re- Abuja Geocongress: £300.00 (2 x \$250)
- Travel grant re- IUGS meeting, Windhoek: £578.00 (\$920.00)
- Travel grant re- Treasurer's meeting with *GSaf* President in London: £45.00

GSaf sponsorship and the associated grant to the Abuja Geocongress helped to defray the running costs of the meeting (hire of projection equipment and conference facilities, etc) and contributed in a small way towards the travel and subsistence expenses of participants. The Society's travel grants helped individuals partially to defray the costs of attending that and other meetings with which it was associated. It was considered particularly important to support the attendance of the Society's Secretary General at the IUGS meeting in Windhoek early in the year.

Funds were provisionally identified to support the inaugural regional meeting of the Senegal Geological Society and the International Conference on Arid Zone Water Resources planned originally for 2003 in Botswana. Neither of these meetings took place (see below) and the anticipated financial support will be carried forward to 2004.

2003 has been a quieter than usual year for the Society in terms of expenditure, reflecting a 'gap' year between its major events, the International Conference and the

Colloquium of African Geology, and the postponing of three meetings originally planned for 2003 (Pretoria Geological Surveys Workshop, Botswana International Conference on Arid Water Resources, and the Senegal Regional Meeting). Although this has meant that activity levels and 'demand' for support have been somewhat disappointing, the lower level of activity has nevertheless allowed the Society to take stock and consolidate its resources and energies for 2004, when significant calls on funds are anticipated (see below). The IUGS grant of \$4000 (£2398.51) to the Society for 2003 did, however, enable the financial allocations detailed above to be made, and this assistance is warmly acknowledged and appreciated.

11. The Society's work plan for 2004 will be directed to providing best possible support to the events, listed below, with which the Society is associated. This will take the form of grant aid to the LOCs of the meetings where appropriate, and in encouraging and providing financial assistance, as possible, to *GSAf* members, to enable them to participate particularly in these meetings:

- 20th Colloquium of African Geology, Orleans, France, June 2004 (sponsor)
- ICESA International Conference on The East African Rift System, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 2004 (co-sponsor)
- Geoforum 2004, Johannesburg, South Africa, July 2004
- International Geological Congress, Florence, Italy, August 2004 (affiliate society of IUGS)
- International Conference on Water Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions of Africa, Gaborone, Botswana, August 2004 (co-sponsor)

In addition, *GSAf* will continue to oversee the planning and progress of arrangements for its own *GSAf 13* International Conference in Cairo, Egypt in late-2005, including the provision of seed-funding.

GSAf will also maintain the dialogue initiated by the Secretary General in 2003 with the geoscience community of the Congo DR, to assist and encourage them to establish a national association in their country. The Society is prepared to provide modest grant aid to help kick-start the establishment of the association, given the difficulties afflicting the country.

The Society will maintain its homepage with the valued assistance of Elsevier and the production and dissemination of the newsletter *Africa Geonews*.

The society also hopes to participate in IUGS initiatives such as Planet Earth.

12. GSAf is seeking assistance to bring to fruition, and provide such financial support as is possible, the meetings indicated in the work plan/programme outlined above (Item 11). The Society plans to participate fully in the 32nd International Geological Congress (IGC), Florence, Italy, 2004 as some of its members are co-

convenors in the IGC programmes e.g. Dr. Imasiku A. Nyambe, Secretary General, *GSAf* together with Prof. M. Wendorff, Botswana will convene a session within the General Symposium: “Regional Geology” on “Permo-carboniferous to early Jurassic, Karoo Supergroup of east Gondwana”.

13. Anticipated results/products for 2003 will be the successful outcome of the meetings outlined above, and, where falling within the Society’s remit, the issue of reports and publications (abstracts, proceedings, etc) resulting from them.

14. Communication with the members and the dissemination of Society information and news will continue to depend heavily on e-mail and the Internet (through the *GSAf* homepage), to avoid as far as possible incurring heavy and unsustainable postal charges. Council members will be urged to play an active role in building better links with members in their respective countries and regions.

The Editor (Dr. Ben Mapani) is considering introducing an in-house slimmed down newsletter geared to internet distribution with minimal graphics, coloured pictures etc. to make it quicker and easier to send to members. At the beginning, the society hopes to maintain the two (internet and normal distribution) and slowly phasing out the normal distribution. Hence, the society still needs assistance in this area.

15. Summary Budget for Next Year 2004: Continued support from IUGS is sought. Given the high level of activity anticipated during 2004, including the need to provide seed-funding in support of the 13th *GSAf* International Conference in 2005, a grant of US\$8000.00 is requested from the IUGS.

The presently estimated expenditure for 2004 is \$14 500.00 (c £9667.00 @ 1.50). Achieving this level will be highly dependent on the grant aid and other financial support available. As in previous years, a flexible approach will be necessary to enable the Society to respond as best possible to demands and the expenditure will be subject to modification consistent with resources. The principal lines of expenditure identified are:

- a) Administration and marketing: \$500 (£330)
- b) Grant to LOC, CAG20: \$2000 (c£1330)
- c) Grant to LOC, Senegal regional meeting: \$500 (c £330)
- d) Grant to LOC, ICESA International Conference, Addis Ababa: \$500 (c £330)
- e) Grant to LOC, International Conference on Water Resources, Botswana: \$500 (c £330)
- f) Grant (provisional) to LOC, Geoforum 2004, Johannesburg: \$250 (c £167)
- g) Grant (provisional) to Congo DR steering group, to help establish a new national society: \$250 (c £167)
- h) Travel grants to assist African members to participate in the above meetings and in the 32nd International Geological Congress: \$5000 (c £3330)
- i) Loan (provision of seed-funding) re- *GSAf*13 International Conference 2005: \$5000 (c £3330)

Item a) is intended to cover, as may be necessary, communications, newsletter production and *GSAf* marketing and promotion costs, including replenishment of *GSAf* merchandise.

Items b) represent grants to the local organising committees (LOCs) to support the named meetings' Geohost programmes.

Item c) represents travel grants to be awarded directly by the Society to assist African members' participation in the listed meetings and in others that may be identified. These grants are intended to cover only a part of the cost of attendance and applicants are encouraged to secure co-finance from other sources.

Item d) anticipates a request by the LOC, GSAf13, for seed-funding (loan) to kick-start the organisation of the 2005 conference.

Given the level of activity expected during 2004, in particular the realisation of CAG20, and of *GSAf13* in 2005, and the present difficulty in raising funds from industry, the continued support of IUGS at the higher level requested is vital, and will be very much appreciated.

16. The scope for identifying potential funding sources outside of IUGS during 2004 at the central level is considered to be small, given the very limited response received from industry during 2002 and 2003. However, it is hoped that the holding one of the Society's flagship events (20th Colloquium of African Geology) during 2004 and of the Society's own 13th International Conference in 2005, may attract some additional external support. Both events provide higher profile 'targets' that will, it is hoped, be considered more attractive by corporate donors and aid agencies. At the time this report was prepared no such support has been identified; a proposal has been submitted to the UK Department for International Development. At the local level, the LOCs of the meetings identified above will continue their efforts to raise sponsorship locally for their own events.

17. Review Chief Accomplishments/Results over Last Five Years (Period 1999-2003): The Society has undoubtedly grown in stature, expanded its activities and raised its profile within and beyond Africa during the period. It now faces the equally important challenge of sustaining and building on the advances achieved.

Chief accomplishments include (see also item 7 above):

- Organiser of the 12th GSAf International Conference, Cape Town, 1999
- Organiser of a Workshop on Geoscience Education in Africa (GSAf 12, Cape Town, 1999)
- Co-organiser of GeoLuanda 2000, the first major international geoscience meeting in Angola since before the start of the civil war in the mid-1970's
- Co-organiser of the 18th Colloquium on African Geology (Graz, Austria, 2000)
- Organiser of the 13th GSAf International Conference, Yaounde, Cameroon, 2001
- Co-organiser of the 19th Colloquium of African Geology (El Jedidah, Morocco 2002).
- Opening of dialogue for cooperation with other African and western geological societies, with African regional organisations such as the OAU, and with international bodies such as UNESCO and UNEP

- Resuscitation of the Society's newsletter *Africa Geonews*, with assistance in production and distribution from Elsevier/Journal of African Earth Sciences (JAES)
- Establishment of the Society's own homepage on the Internet with the assistance of Elsevier/JAES
- Expansion of membership, including corporate/institutional members
- Updating of the geology and mineral resources of Africa through publications (ongoing)
- Help in resuscitating dormant national geological societies in Africa (ongoing)
- Facilitating the establishment of new national geological societies in Africa
- Organisation of training workshops in Africa
- Support for IGCP, UNESCO, ILP and IUGS programmes in Africa (e.g. the Planet Earth Initiative)

18. Summarise Anticipated Objectives and Work Plan for the Next Five Years

(Period 2004-2008): The Society will need to meet the challenge of continuing to build and enhance its activities so as to cement its position as a widely recognised and respected pan-African geoscientific society. The Society will continue to work and involve more of the grassroots membership and to identify ways of improving communication lines in order to meet the growing expectations of its members. These are, however, components of a two-way process and will depend also on the pro-activeness of the members.

The Society will need to seek ways of putting its finances on a more secure footing. All meetings with which it is associated must seek to generate surpluses, rather than break-even, and efforts must continue at all levels of membership to encourage local, regional and international sponsorship to sustain and expand its activities.

The work plan will include:

- Participate fully in the 32nd International Geological Congress (IGC), Florence, Italy, 2004 as members are co-convenors in the IGC programmes e.g. Dr. Imasiku A. Nyambe, Secretary General, GSAf together with Prof. M. Wendorff, Botswana will convene a session within the General Symposium: "Regional Geology" on "Permo-carboniferous to early Jurassic, Karoo Supergroup of east Gondwana". The call for papers is still open.
- Preparations for *GSAf13* in 2005, Cairo, Egypt
- Place the scheduling of the Society's flagship meetings on a more consistent and rational basis
- Review of the Society's Constitution particularly re-visiting and improving on election and voting methods.
- Re-definition of the Society's objectives aimed at solving community problems in Africa in the areas natural resources such as small-scale mining in Africa, which is providing a substantial income and livelihood in communities in Africa, and water. Provision of data on available water resources to communities in Africa. It is the society's hope that the bringing of IGCP in hydrogeology will attract a lot of our members to come up with projects that solve community problems e.g. community management of aquifers in the Southern Africa.

- Provisional determination of location and meeting of CAG 21 in 2006 and GSAf 14 in 2007.
- Provide support as possible for other meetings, workshops etc. in Africa during the period
- Provide support as possible to help/encourage the establishment/re-establishment of national geological societies
- Continue to develop links with non-African geological societies
- Organise training workshops and courses
- Facilitate the development of research programmes in Africa and particularly to encourage greater African involvement in the IGCP-UNESCO programmes
- Society to actively be involved in the IUGS programmes particularly the Planet Earth Initiative.

Acknowledgements. In addition to the support received from IUGS and the various supporters already mentioned, it is fitting in this report to acknowledge the extent to which the Society benefited from access to facilities provided by the institutions to which its executive officers are or were attached, particularly the Universities of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Texas at Dallas and the British Geological Survey. This support, principally in the form of secretarial services, time, access to communication systems and administrative support, has enabled the Society once again to minimise its running costs, allowing optimum use to be made of the available funds.

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