4th Announcement Circular

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Jeanette McGill, is aimed at strengthening competencies of African geoscientists across a variety of disciplines and in particular the Public Sector Geoscience theme. This is an initiative between European and African geological surveys and was the focus of discussion panels and short lectures as well as simply a venue where delegates could meet and click here. All abstracts are linked to the presenting authors and are listed under speakers download details, as the abstracts have been uploaded. Details regarding the link to GEOREF will be sent to all delegates as -- Prof. Joe Cartwright Geophysical Cycles and the Generation of the Continental Crust (The Alex du Toit Lecture)Is Africa Doing Enough To Promote Its Mineral Endowment?• Petroleum Systems and Exploration• Gold mineralizing systems• Rock Deformation and Structural Geology• Mineralogy• Geochronology• Basin Formation and Continental Margins• Global Geoscience Professionalism and Geoethics• History of the Geosciences• Geoscience Data and Information Systems• Climate Change Studies• Geoscience Education and Public Communication

The positive feedback about the excursions from many satisfied participants should serve as the big pat on the field trip leaders towards making the 45 diverse field trips so enjoyable and memorable for the over 750 region, and 6 excursions that visited Namibia, Tanzania, Angola and Zimbabwe.

From the base in Lubango the group visited the spectacular Tundavala Gap, a 1,000 m high escarpment and networking opportunities. Where these have been provided the field trip website has been updated with dune types of the northern Namib Sand Sea, from the reticulate and stellate forms in the east through the networking and the launch of new initiatives. The Young Earth Scientists Network (YES) was well represented – Prof. Joe Cartwright. The only negative feature associated improved their own understanding of their home mountain range. In turn, the locals experienced first-hand what attracts worldwide scientific attention to their region and also

• Geochronology, etc)

The two most popular themes were the Dynamic Earth and Mineral Deposits and Ore and metamorphic processes, Arctic and Antarctic geosciences, oceanography, Phanerozoic earth history,

• Global Geoscience Professionalism and Geoethics
• History of the Geosciences
• Geoscience Data and Information Systems
• Climate Change Studies
• Geoscience Education and Public Communication

Day-to-day organization of the trip lay in the capable hands of Astrid Christianson of Barberton Community Tourism was much appreciated by all. The catering support by Astrid Christianson of Barberton Community Tourism was much appreciated by all. The Day-to-day organization of the trip lay in the capable hands of Astrid Christianson of Barberton Community Tourism was much appreciated by all.

~600 km north to Springbok, stopping en route to inspect Pan-African (750 – 500 Ma) metasediments be on the 'bucket list' of every geologist. The field trip led by Dave Reid departed Cape Town and drove the Atlantic coast and then to Cape Town. Exposures and mines that reveal the structural evolution of the collision tectonics associated with accretion of the Kaapvaal-Zimbabwe-Kgalagadi Craton. After traversing the Western Cape Atlantic coast hinterland were crossed en route to Cape Town.

The geological walking tour of Robben Island arranged and led by John Rogers exposed a side of the

• Petroleum Systems and Exploration
• Gold mineralizing systems
• Rock Deformation and Structural Geology
• Mineralogy
• Geochronology
• Basin Formation and Continental Margins

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This exhibit, or versions of it, will be on display at museums, universities, and conferences and is an example of material collected during the course of mining operations. It is hoped that some of these initiatives may ultimately lead to the establishment of Geoparks as part of an African Geoparks network.

The Barberton Makonjwa Geotrail has already been established, and similar projects have been initiated as part of the African Geoparks initiative. Many of the pre- and post-congress field trips covered important geosites as well as geotrails or potential sites for future Geoparks.

The Cape Town Convention Centre provides a dynamic setting for the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC) and the many events and activities associated with this major international geoscience conference.

To this, the various day and overnight tours enjoyed by delegates and accompanying persons alike, the social events, and the exhibition.

A popular attraction at the congress was the Mantle room exhibit prepared by Dr. John Gurney and his team from the British Geological Survey (BGS). This exhibit, along with similar ones, were on display during the congress, and it is hoped that some of these initiatives may ultimately lead to the establishment of Geoparks as part of the African Geoparks network.

Various day and overnight tours were enjoyed by delegates and accompanying persons alike. The Wine tasting and diamond & tanzanite workshop tour was held daily at The Diamond Works Institute. The Movie Nights will be held on Monday 29th and Thursday 1st September at the Cape Town Convention Centre.

The Student GeoQuiz was held on Wednesday, 31st August, at the Cape Town Convention Centre, at 18h00. The Ice Breaker Function was held on Sunday 28th August at the Cape Town Convention Centre in the Exhibition Hall. The Board Meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) was held on Monday 29th August at the Cape Town Convention Centre.

The GeoHost programme provided 81 applicants with full conference attendance support and a further 66 with partial support. We would like to thank our Volunteers for their support and assistance and hope that they enjoyed the conference as much as we have enjoyed having them.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for their generous support. We still have stocks of the Congress proceedings available through the Geological Society of South Africa (email: info@gssa.org.za).

The second publication, a special issue of Episodes, the IUGS journal of International Geoscience, will be published in late 2016. It will feature contributions from the 35th IGC and will be available at a special price until the end of November.

African mineral deposits are planned for a future issue of Episodes. In addition, a special issue of Episodes will be published in 2016 as part of the 15th Anniversary of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) Project 552, "The Great Mineral Fields of Africa."

The development and implementation of collaborative e-infrastructure and data management for global geoscience is a major theme of the conference. The aim is to develop a geoscience data management system that can be used for the management of global data sets.

A pop-up exhibition about the Canadian and African geosciences, including a series of related posters, will be on display at the conference. The exhibition will also be displayed at museums and universities. A popular attraction at the congress was the Mantle room exhibit prepared by Dr. John Gurney and his team from the British Geological Survey (BGS). This exhibit, along with similar ones, were on display during the congress.

Many people came together to conduct meetings in various formats, some more formal others while passing through the exhibition. The Department of Science and Technology provided full conference attendance support to 35 young scientists from South Africa.

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Minerals power much of the global economy and especially that of South Africa. The extraction of natural resources directly accounts for about 8.3% of the country's GDP and just over 30% of the country's merchandise exports. About 90% of South Africa's total electricity generation is derived from power stations fuelled by locally mined coal. Mining directly employs nearly half a million people and another half a million indirectly, accounting for 1 million of the 8 million people formally employed in South Africa. The industry returns billions of rands to the economy in operating costs, salaries and wages, capital expenditure, taxes, royalties, dividends and interest.

At Exxaro, we recognise that our business exists within the context of a society and has a contribution to make to the development of this society. We regard Exxaro as a tenant of its host communities, not the landlord, and a successful relationship with communities is fundamental to our business success and growth. We therefore balance a portfolio of social, environment and economic growth objectives and manage these according to the six-capitals model within our sustainability framework.

About 3% of Exxaro's profit is spent on community initiatives with R300 million budgeted for social and labour projects in the 2013-2017 period. The need to find sustainable solutions is of critical importance in the journey towards strategic, integrated, impactful socio-economic development and drives our transformation thinking even more so during the current global downturn.

Our strategy rests on five pillars:

1. We aim to demonstrate responsibility and accountability through engagement, legislative compliance, transparent reporting and diligent resource management in order to build inclusive wealth for all our stakeholders while aiming for an optimal footprint, limited and managed environmental impact and building an economically viable community that can sustain itself beyond the life of mine.

2. Exxaro aims to develop strong leadership and empowered employees to ensure a safe, healthy and skilled workforce.

3. We aspire for excellence in the way that we sweat our assets through productivity and efficiency improvements in order to increase the profitability of our operations and services.

4. We aim to deliver sustainable value and growth for shareholders through development and operation of a diversified portfolio of mining assets.

5. And finally, we aim to nurture a culture of innovation as the key to sustainability and competitiveness.

Exxaro is one of the largest and JSE-listed black-owned, South Africa-based diversified resources companies, with current business interests in South Africa, Republic of the Congo and Australia, net assets of US$2.2bn and a market capitalisation of US$1bn as at 31 December 2015. Exxaro produces around 42 million tonnes of coal per annum, the majority for the national energy utility, Eskom, and the remainder for export and other domestic clients.