

# PanAfGeo

## The First PanAfGeo Training on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining (ASM) To Be Launched in Ghana

*A knowledge-based step towards a sustainable future of mining in Ghana*





Accra, August 2017

**The first *PanAfGeo Work Package 3 training on Artisanal & Small Scale Mining* will take place in Accra, Sep. 18-21 at: City Escape Hotel, Augustino Neto Rd, Airport Residential Area.**

**Trainees.**

The PanAfGeo WP3 workshop is aimed at staff from the Ghana Geological Survey Authority, Minerals Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, The Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners, health authorities, the universities as well as representatives from national geological surveys in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Liberia.

More than 40 representatives from Ghana and 11 representatives from the geological surveys in neighbouring countries will be attending the training.

#### **Funding partners**

The WP3 training is provided by the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) and is co-funded by DG-DEVCO and the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF)

### **Official opening by H.E. John-Peter Amewu**

H.E. John-Peter Amewu, Minister of Lands & Natural Resources has been invited to officially inaugurate the workshop on **Sep. 18 at 10.00 AM**.

The EU Head of Delegation to Ghana, Mr. William Hanna, is also expected to be present at the opening.

H.E. John-Peter Amewu is expected, alongside the EU Head of Delegation to Ghana, Mr. William Hanna, the Director of IGF Greg Radford and the Coordinator of PanAfGeo, Mr. Jean-Claude Guillaneau, to provide his foreword to the post-training tutorial handbook to be distributed to all relevant and interested stake holders in the mining sector in Ghana and abroad.

### **Trainers & lecturers**

The training is overseen by Dr. John Tychsen, WP3 Lead of PanAfGeo, & WP3 Co-lead of PanAfGeo Dr. Daniel Boamah, Director of the Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA) in collaboration with trainers from The University of Mining and Technology, The University of Ghana, GGSA, the Environmental Protection Agency and Minerals Commission.

### **The training objective**

The main aim of the workshop is to train staff from the GGSA, the regulatory agencies and the universities involved in the ASM sector to strengthen their capacity to assist ASM operators in Ghana – while providing regional perspectives.

Particular emphasis will be on how the knowledge and skills resources of the GGSA can be mobilized more actively in the service of ASM operators so as to ensure more profitable, efficient, environmentally friendly, safe and sustainable mining operations in Ghana.

### **Capacitating GGSA is key to improved mining operations in Ghana**

ASM operations employ more than 1 million people in Ghana and provide a livelihood to app. 4-6 million. It is estimated that legal ASM accounts for more than one third of gold exports from Ghana while the share provided by illegal ASM is unknown - despite a disturbing increase in such mining practices.

Thus, while legal ASM contributes significantly to Ghana's GDP, illegal mining is a sustained and increasing cause of concern. In fact, what is referred to as "Galamsey", is threatening to pollute and spoil vital water bodies and farmlands, thus putting the country's economy and citizens' livelihood and health at risk. Civil society organisations and top authorities in Ghana, including President Nana Akufo-Addo, have joined forces to fight "Galamsey".

Yet, even legal miners rarely undertake sufficient pre-operation geological investigation and miners tend to shy away from authorities and governmental scrutiny, knowing they will be called out as "scape goats" or face repercussions in the event of unwanted mining footprints. Being a non-regulatory body the GGSA could come to play a crucial role in helping legal ASM operators mine more efficiently and knowledgeably by way of knowledge transfer and on-site guidance. Because the mandate of GGSA is mainly geo-scientific research/advisory, GGSA staff stand a better chance of "nudging" miners to optimize their operations in accordance with state of the art methods, thus helping to bring the mining sector onto a less damaging track.

The training seeks to lend geo-scientific support to and empower GGSA staff to become such crucial partners in improving mining operations in Ghana and to provide know-how to mining operators across Africa.

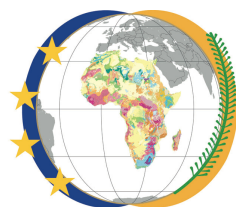
### Scope of PanAfGeo WP3

The PanAfGeo WP3 training on ASM will be carried out as 7 in-country workshops with regional participation. Ghana is the first country, in which WP3 will host a training.

### PanAfGeo

"PanAfGeo" for "Pan-African Support to the EuroGeoSurveys-Organisation of African Geological Surveys (EGS-OAGS) Partnership" is a project, which supports the training of geoscientific staff from African Geological Surveys through the development of several training programme.

This 3-year (2017-2019) Pan-African cooperation programme provides about 50 training sessions for some 1,200 geologists coming from 54 African countries. This programme of 10.3 million euros is co-funded by the European Union through its Directorate-General for International Cooperation and



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Development (DG DEVCO), and a Consortium of 12 European Geological Surveys led by BRGM-French Geological Survey. The WP3 training on ASM is also co-funded by Canadian IGF.

This Programme allows trainees to acquire a state-of-the-art tool kit, methods and/or the possibility to take part in field trips concerning eight geoscientific domains: Geoscientific Mapping, Mineral Resources Assessment, Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining, Environmental management of mines, Geohazards, Geoheritage, Geoinformation management, and Communication and Promotion.

More info at: <http://panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org/>

Twitter: [@PanAfGeo](https://twitter.com/PanAfGeo)

### Contact

To provide in-depth information on the content and perspectives of the training Dr. John Tychsen & Dr. Daniel Boamah will be available for individual interviews prior to, during and after the workshop.

Kindly contact:

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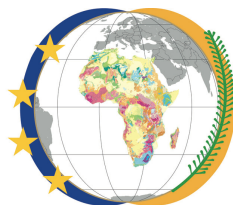
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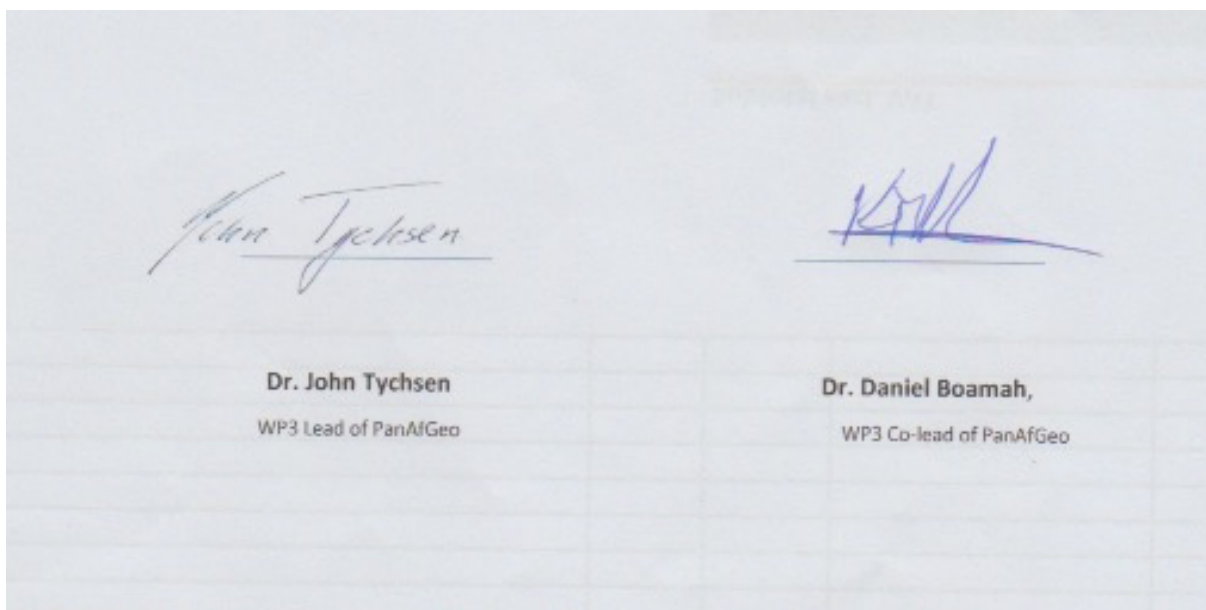
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**Dr. John Tychsen**  
WP3 Lead of PanAfGeo

**Dr. Daniel Boamah,**  
WP3 Co-lead of PanAfGeo

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