

PanAfGeo

“ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF MINES”

DAKAR, SENEGAL 4-12 JULY 2017

Dakar, 16 July 2017

“Environmental Management of Mines”, a 12 day training programme in the PanAfGeo project was held in Dakar, Senegal, 3-14 July, 2017.

21 professionals from Burkina-Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal took part in the training. The training was jointly organised by the Geological Survey of Sweden and the “Direction de la Prospection et de la Promotion Minière (Senegal). The training received more than 50 applications from staff at geological services in the region. The applicants selected for the training represented several different organisational units at the surveys and had a varied background comprising environmental specialists, mining engineers and geologists.

Lectures and training session were held by a team of professionals from Senegal, Mali, Denmark and Sweden. Dr. Seydou Keita (Mali), Prof. Serigne Faye, Dr. Samba Rokhaya, Director Rosaline Mbaye, Dr. Birane Niane (all Senegal), John Tychsen (Denmark) and Mattias Fackel (Sweden).

Lectures of geosciences and environmental management were throughout the training integrated in daily group exercises and analyses. The theme of the training was above all how the treated subjects are integrated at the workplaces and in the geological surveys. How is environmental management part of the day to day work of the participants? What are the possibilities and challenges? Which regulations, policies, organisations, collaborations and interactions are available or could be developed? All participants presented their organisations and a national review of environmental management of mines.

The participants rated and evaluated environmental risks, management practices and organisational challenges. The participants analysed and illustrated the legal framework, organisation of and interactions of environmental management of mines in their countries. Several examples from current mining projects were presented. In particular examples of rehabilitation, mine closure, public participation and stake holder interaction in mining projects were appreciated and discussed. Lectures, group exercises, field visits and discussions were at the end fused into an action plan for each participant to take home.

Some of the subjects were:

- the regional legal framework,
- mine rehabilitation and mine closure,
- environmental impact assessment,
- small scale mining and the environment,
- acid rock drainage and waste management,
- hydrogeology, water and mines,
- mercury and cyanide in gold mining,
- public participation, sustainability and post-mining projects.

Site visits took the participants to the Lam-Lam phosphate deposits and to Grand Côtes Operations’ heavy mineral sands project. Many thanks to the management and staff at Grand Côtes Operations SA, Sephos SA and African Investments Group for sharing their experiences in environmental management of mines and showing how it is implemented at their operations.



Above all and probably the most important outcome of the training is how the participants and the strong team of trainers from the region together strengthen an important professional networks and possibly form new ones. The interaction and sharing of experiences from mining, environmental management and governance principles is extremely valuable. An important and lasting contribution of the training are the contacts made between participants and between participants and the expert trainers. Several forms of internet based communication solutions were established, both for the region and also for the growing number of participants in the trainings that follow. Some basic tools and methods for field work and documentation were introduced and will in the future be expanded in the coming trainings.



The training was organised by Berndt Pettersson, project leader (Sweden) and by co-leader Lamine Diouf (Senegal). The successful completion of the training session was made possible by the dedicated work of Mr. Diouf and by the contributions by the DPPM in Senegal headed by Dr. Samba Rokhaya who supported the training in the best way possible. The training programme “Environmental Management of Mines” is co-funded by the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (IGF).

Coming training sessions:

On the occasion of this first training session, more than 50 applications were received, highlighting a deep interest in the subject and a need to increase such skills. PanAfGeo Work Package 4 (WP4) “Environmental Management of Mines” will be offered at 6 more locations in Africa during 2017-2019. Some of which will be held in English, French and possibly Portuguese. The next training will take place in Botswana in November 2017. See the PanAfGeo website for up to date information and application procedures.

About 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 Development (DG DEVCO), and a Consortium of 12 European Geological Surveys led by BRGM-French Geological Survey.

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/>

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