

Paper Number: 3306

Ten Geological Superlatives of South Africa in a special issue of Postage Stamps to celebrate the 35th International Geological Congress at Cape Town, 2016

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In order to celebrate the 35th International Geological Congress, the Organizing Committee decided to publish, in collaboration with the South African Post Office, a set of postage stamps depicting ten superlative geological sites of South Africa. The ten sites were chosen based on their geological significance and economic importance. It was decided to represent the ten sites with graphic designs as it was the only way to present the subject on similar-sized stamps. This was a considerable challenge as the ten areas vary considerably with regards to size and shape. It was also important to show the major mineral deposits and most significant geological features related to these superlatives. The product therefore involved a geologist, Pieter Bosch who drew the concept designs and an artist, Rachel-Mari Ackermann of Philately Services who undertook the final artwork.

The following ten geological superlatives were chosen:

1. The Karoo Supergroup.
2. The Witwatersrand Supergroup.
- 3. The Bushveld Igneous Complex.**
4. Vredefort dome meteor impact site.
5. Kimberlite diamond volcanic pipe.
6. Barberton Greenstone Supergroup, early life.
7. The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage site.
8. The Table Mountain World Heritage site.
9. Phalaborwa Carbonatite Complex.
10. The Griqualand West Supergroup.

It is hoped that the stamps will be of interest and educational value for all South Africans and that they will draw worldwide attention to South Africa's considerable geo-tourism potential.

