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## The historic evolution of the global geological mapping of Africa

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To make understandable our complex geological environment needs to make enter its image in the surface of a paper or of a screen, that is to say to simplify and reduce the nature as an image having a human scale, and, to reach this aim, to use science through hypotheses and models. The history of drawings of geological maps is rooted in the history of geology. Every progress and advance fed the maps and, maps have in turn participated to the progress of the general knowledge. If geoscientists feel more comfortable using GSP for geocoded data, and if a pad often replaces paper, the principles of



surveying techniques, data collection, and map reading maps did not change drastically. However, a geological map is not but paint full of nice colors to be exposed on a wall. The power of geological maps was fostered by data processing techniques, giving access to spatial information and access to record on the sources maps. The geological map remains, more than ever, a key tool for every geoscientists, business planners and decision makers. It therefore remains the place where academic research and educational purpose converge. But as science progresses, geological maps act as a mirror of the general knowledge and have to be periodically updated. As an illustration of this statement, a special lecture will be provided by CGMW using a set of synthetic maps of Africa to illustrate the progress of the

knowledge of the geology of the continent from the first beginnings to nowadays. From the tentatives of world maps of Ami Boué (1843)

and Jules Marcou (1861) to the first complete geological map of Africa at 1:5 million scale achieved for the IGC 19 in Algiers (1952), the ASGA-UNESCO 2nd edition (1964), the 1:10M scale map in the CGMW-UNESCO geological atlas of the world (1976); the CGMW 3rd edition (1985-1990) and the 1:10 M scale prepared for the IGC 35 in CapeTown.

*Geological Map of Africa all throughout the XIX, XX and XXI centuries*

