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Scientific Collaborative Partnership between the Geological Survey of Namibia and the Rio de Janeiro State University: Government and Academia Working Together for Scientific and Social Development

Almeida, J.¹, Heilbron, M.², Schneider, G.³, Nguno, A.³, Linus, J.³ and Valeriano, C.²

¹ Faculty of Geology, Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil, email: jcha@uerj.br

² Faculty of Geology, Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil

³ Geological Survey of Namibia, Windhoek

A scientific partnership was established between the Geological Survey of Namibia (GSN) and the Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ). In May 2015 a UERJ's delegation composed of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and two Professors of the Geotectonics and Regional Geology Department (DGRG) of the Rio de Janeiro State University have visited the GSN to discuss a collaborative scientific program between the two institutions.

The main purposes of the international cooperation are to develop interchanging of researches (using the visiting professor program) and graduate students, besides joint master and PhD programs. The cooperation agreement was designed to establish closer academic cooperation between the parties and consist of joint actions involving institutional exchange between the teaching staff and students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, development of teaching and/or research activities, organization of symposia, conferences and short-duration courses in research areas, promotion of technical and scientific activities open to the public, provision of opportunities for training teachers and researchers by creating high-level specialized courses, provision of training and refresher courses, as well as fostering the opening of inter-institutional lines of research associated with local postgraduate programs, promotion of joint publications, and exchange of information pertaining to the teaching and research at each institution.

As a result of this international cooperation a field campaign was planned and realized in September, 2015, counting with Brazilian and Namibian researchers. In this field work several aspects of the Namibian geology was approached, such as Archean to Mesoproterozoic basement rocks, Neoproterozoic basins, Pan-African-Brasiliano tectonics, Palaeozoic basins (Karoo sediments), Mesozoic volcanics and sediments, Jurassic to Cretaceous tectonics, Cenozoic tectonics and Geomorphological evolution. Lithological and structural data was collected in 115 localities in the north-western Namibia, between Windhoek and the Namibia-Angola border, and added to a geological data bank and GIS platform. A great amount of rock and sand samples were collected to future studies and analysis at UERJ and GSN laboratories. Part of the data is currently been used in three master thesis and one post-doc project at UERJ, and could support other projects for the two institutions in the future.

