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## Contribution of Geological Data to the Namibian National Spatial Data Infrastructure



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The Geological Survey of Namibia (GSN) houses the results of a century of mineral exploration, mining and geological research in Namibia. However there are still extensive areas of Namibia which, to date have not been mapped or researched in detail. Detailed mapping of these areas is one of GSN's priorities as reliable geoscientific information are needed to support scientists, researchers, policy-makers, and the general public in making informed decisions on our natural resources. In addition, the geological data is currently stored in various internal databases in heterogeneous formats. In implementing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the Geological Survey of Namibia is targeting improvements in data characteristics, such as completeness, standardized content, variable resolution, transparency, data quality, accessibility amongst others.

Geological data have been recognized as one of the fundamental datasets in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) policy of Namibia. The NSDI policy which was established under the Statistics Act, No. 9 of 2011 has been in place since March 2015. The NSDI is established as a national technical and institutional framework to facilitate the capture, management, maintenance, integration, distribution and use of spatial data in Namibia. The NSDI Secretariat which is an integral part of the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is tasked with the implementation and administration of the NSDI.

As a custodian and key producer of geological data and information, our institution is expected to have a Memorandum of Understanding between the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) in place, in order to establish a framework for cooperation and coordination.

Once implemented, our institution will be hard at work ensuring that the geological data comply with NSDI standards and guidelines. As a custodian of data and information, we recognize the importance of working together with all relevant stakeholders in achieving government vision of promoting nationwide access to, use, and reuse of spatial data for mutual and public benefit, reduce duplication of data investments and expenditures, enhance interagency cooperation, and building an information society. We present the progress made to date and lessons learned.

