

Paper Number: 5554

**OneGeology - Access to geoscience for all – Focus on Africa**

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OneGeology is an initiative of Geological Survey Organisations (GSO) around the globe that dates back to Brighton, UK in 2007. In autumn 2013 OneGeology was transformed into a Consortium with a clearly defined governance structure, making its structure more official, its operability more flexible and its membership more open where in addition to GSO also to other type of organisations that manage geoscience data can join and contribute. With this new stage also renewed OneGeology objectives were defined and these are 1) to be the provider of geosciences data globally, 2) to ensure exchange of know-how and skills so all can participate, and 3) to use the global profile of 1G to increase awareness of the geosciences and their relevance among professional and general public. The next stage of the OneGeology initiative is focused into increasing the openness and richness of that data from individual countries to create a multi-thematic global geological data resource, also in 3D on the rocks, minerals and geology in general beneath our feet. Since the beginning OneGeology has been a leader in developing geological online map data using a new international standard – a geological exchange language known as the ‘GeoSciML’ (currently version 4 exists, which enables instant interoperability of the data) and with this facilitating the cross-border or global data usage for the purpose of analyses and modelling. Increased use of this new language allows geological data to be shared and integrated across the planet with other organisations and OneGeology is a distributed system which means that data are archived at data providers’ servers and are served on demand directly to web client through the OneGeology Portal using a standard OGC web service (WMS / WFS). Authoritative information on hazards and minerals will help to prevent natural disasters, explore for resources (water, minerals and energy) and identify risks to human health on a planetary scale. To the OneGeology Members the main benefits are the contribution and access to the expertise and experience of international geoscientists and informatics experts (knowledge transfer), involvement in the 3D geoscience data standard development, possibility of using the “buddy” service for data serving, and indirect leverage to Members’ research, survey and service contribution through its global presence. We live in a digital world that enables prompt access to vast amounts of open access data. Understanding our world, the geology beneath our feet and environmental challenges related to geology calls for accessibility of geoscience data. OneGeology Portal ([portal.onegeology.org](http://portal.onegeology.org)) is the place to find them, a place where the data providers share their geoscience data and where the end-users use the reliable access to the geoscience data (in one place and updated in the best possible way).

