



ISSUE 01 | VOL. 2 | JUNE 2025

GSCN

NEWSLETTER

GEOSCIENCE INSIGHTS

SHAPING NAMIBIA'S GEOLOGICAL FUTURE

www.geocouncil.org.na

TABLE OF CONTENTS



INTRO

Editor's Note	01
Let's Reintroduce the Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCN)!	02
We Hit the Ground Running This Year: Geoscience Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Meeting	03

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Engaging with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)	05
CPD	06
Strengthening Namibia's Geoscience Future	07
Enhancing Revenue Collection in Namibia's Extractive Industry	08
Council Co-Hosted Conferences: Driving Knowledge & Collaboration	10
Other Major Conferences in Namibia	11

FEATURED ARTICLES

Unearthing Namibia's Ancient Marine Life: A Glimpse into the Ediacaran Period	13
---	----

YOUTH CORNER

Share Your Voice!	14
UP COMING EVENTS!	15
CLOSING REMARKS	16
WHAT'S NEXT?	16

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Michelle Hailonga
VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR
Geoscience Council of Namibia

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this edition of the Geoscience Council of Namibia Newsletter where we bring you the latest insights, discoveries, and initiatives shaping Namibia's geoscience landscape.

In this issue, we highlight an important step forward in the role of geoscientists in national development. The Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCN) recently played a key part in enhancing tax compliance within the extractive industry through the NAMRA Training Program. This initiative underscored how geoscientific expertise is not just about understanding the Earth—it's also about ensuring that Namibia's natural resources benefit the nation fairly and sustainably.

We also take you deep into the past, exploring new fossil discoveries in southern Namibia that challenge our understanding of early life on Earth. Namibia continues to be a geological treasure trove, and the work of our local researchers is putting our country at the forefront of scientific discovery.

From tax advocacy to palaeontology this edition showcases the diverse and critical impact of geoscience in Namibia. We hope you find these stories as fascinating and inspiring as we do.

Happy reading!

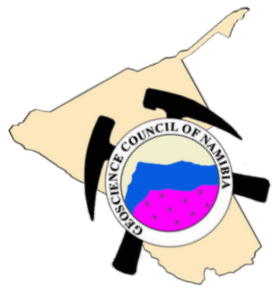


Visit

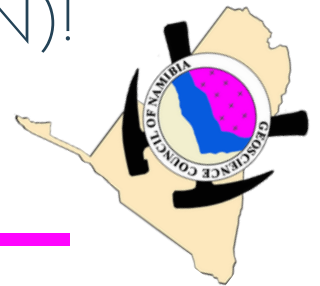
[HTTPS://GEOCOUNCIL.ORG.NA/RES-DOWNLOADS.PHP](https://geocouncil.org.na/res-downloads.php)

to download this current issue

LET'S REINTRODUCE THE GEOSCIENCE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA (GSCN)!



Championing Professional
Excellence in Geoscience



Hey there, fellow geoscience enthusiasts! Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting your journey in the world of rocks, minerals, and Earth's mysteries, it's time to get reacquainted with the Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCN). We're here to support you, connect you, and help you thrive in your geoscience career.

Why Join the GSCN Family?

Get Recognized

Joining GSCN means your skills and qualifications are officially acknowledged, giving you that extra edge in the industry. Plus, you get to add cool titles like **"Geo.Sci.Nam."** or **"S.Geo.Sci.Nam."** after your name, showing off your professional status.

Be Heard

We're your voice in national policies and industry talks, making sure geoscientists like you get the recognition and opportunities you deserve.

Connect and Grow

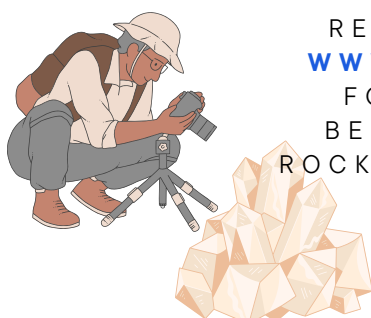
Meet and collaborate with other geoscience pros across academia, government, and private sectors. Our community is all about sharing knowledge and opening doors to new opportunities.

Keep Learning

While we don't offer training ourselves, we actively share information about workshops, conferences, and other learning opportunities to keep you updated in the ever-evolving geoscience field.

Make a Difference

From exploring minerals to promoting environmental sustainability, your work matters. Together, we can ensure that geoscience plays a key role in Namibia's development.



READY TO JOIN US? VISIT
WWW.GEOCOUNCIL.ORG.NA
FOR MORE INFO AND TO
BECOME A MEMBER. LET'S
ROCK THE GEOSCIENCE WORLD
TOGETHER!



We Hit the Ground Running This Year: Geoscience Strategic Plan 2024-2027 Meeting

Kicking off the year with energy and enthusiasm, the Geoscience Council gathered at the Namibian Uranium Institute in Swakopmund from January 21st to 22nd, 2025. With ten council members in attendance, both voting and non-voting, our mission was clear: craft a dynamic strategic plan for 2024-2027.

Aligning with the pillars of the **National Development Plan (NDP6)** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, we zeroed in on three key themes:

1. **Robust Governance and Regulatory Framework**
2. **Geoscience Professional Excellence**
3. **Advocacy and Promotion**

Our ambitious goals for the next three years include:

- Updating the Geoscience Professional Act and Regulations.
- Developing a comprehensive "Human Resource for Geosciences in Namibia" report.
- Publishing the "Geoscience and the Namibian Society" booklet in various Namibian languages by 2027.

The 2024-2027 strategic plan is currently under review and will be published soon. Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this exciting journey together!







Engaging with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)

On July 3, 2024, the Geoscience Council had a productive meeting with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) at the Ministry of Mines and Energy. This session served as a formal introduction to the Council's operations and explored potential avenues for collaboration. Attendees included three members from NIPDB's Public Investment and Local Content division, along with Councillors from the Geoscience Council.

During the meeting, the Council proposed the development of a national human resource document for geoscience in Namibia. This document aims to provide valuable insights into the current status and future prospects of the geoscience profession in the country. The discussion highlighted the increasing demand for diverse skills in the mineral and energy industries and emphasized the importance of data collection and collaboration to meet these needs.

The Council also informed NIPDB about the upcoming Society of Economic Geologists Conference, scheduled to take place in Windhoek from September 27 to 30, 2024. They sought advice regarding recent changes in visa requirements for conference delegates. In response, NIPDB shared information about a youth tax incentive proposal pending in parliament, which could benefit the geoscience community upon implementation.

This initial engagement led to two additional meetings on July 17 and 29, 2024, involving the Council and the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The focus was on how the geoscience community could leverage NIPDB's participation at the Mining Expo & Conference to launch a Namibian mining sector procurement requirements and supply chain database. This initiative encourages exploration and mining license holders to submit project profiles and proposals for potential investments, aiming to enhance economic value through local processing and ensure that mining activities contribute positively to social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

These collaborative efforts underscore the commitment to advancing Namibia's geoscience sector and fostering sustainable development within the country's mining industry.

Driving Professional Excellence:

The Geoscience Council of Namibia's Commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

As Namibia's geoscience sector continues to expand and mature, the Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCNam) has made it a top priority to ensure that professionals in the field stay relevant, skilled, and globally competitive. One of the key ways the Council is delivering on this goal is through the development and implementation of a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program—an initiative aimed at guiding lifelong learning and professional excellence across the geoscience community.

Why CPD?

The need for CPD in Namibia is clear. As the demands on geoscientists grow—particularly in sectors like mining, water management, energy, and environmental sustainability—there is increasing pressure for professionals to remain up to date with new techniques, technologies, and standards. The GSCNam CPD framework provides a structured way to foster that growth while maintaining high professional standards.

CPD not only encourages individual advancement but also contributes to national development by:

- Motivating geoscientists to pursue continuous learning.
- Bridging the gap between early-career and seasoned professionals.
- Building a networked and collaborative professional community.
- Ensuring that Namibia remains competitive on the international stage.

The Development Journey

The GSCNam CPD program was not developed in isolation. The Council drew inspiration from established international benchmarks, including the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), Ireland's CPD frameworks, and the Professional Geoscientists of Ontario.

A dedicated CPD Committee, consisting of local experts, reviewed various international systems to extract the best practices. After a thorough review and discussions, the committee adopted the SACNASP system with contextual adaptations for Namibia.

The CPD framework is based on four key categories:

1. Professional Practice
2. Formal Learning
3. Self-Directed Study
4. On-the-Job Learning

Each category is associated with a points system to ensure transparency and accountability. A user-friendly CPD portal is being developed to allow professionals to track their activities, manage submissions, and stay informed about their CPD status.

Strategic Partnerships & Global Integration

To strengthen its CPD offering, GSCNam has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key international organizations, including:

- Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)
- Global Geoscience Professionalism Group (GGPG)
- European Federation of Geologists (EFG)

These partnerships are focused on promoting shared learning, mutual recognition, mentoring programs, and access to international training resources.

What's Next?

The CPD framework is now in its final stages of development and validation. Upcoming steps include:

- A compliance review with the Ministry of Justice to ensure the legal foundation of the framework.
- Engagement with the wider Namibian geoscience community for feedback and refinement.
- Official rollout and training to support the adoption of the CPD system among professionals.

Building a Stronger Future Together

By investing in CPD, GSCNam is not just supporting individual career growth—it's laying the foundation for a stronger, more dynamic geoscience profession in Namibia. As the program rolls out, geoscientists are encouraged to embrace the opportunity for personal and professional development.



In the words of GSCNam leadership:
“A skilled geoscientist is not only an asset to their employer, but a steward of Namibia's natural resources and a key player in our national development.”

Photo of Banner

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

STRENGTHENING NAMIBIA'S GEOSCIENCE FUTURE

By the Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCNam)

In an increasingly interconnected geoscience community, the Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCNam) is proud to stand at the forefront of international collaboration through strategic partnerships that are shaping the future of professional development in our field. These partnerships are not just formalities—they are action-driven alliances designed to empower Namibian geoscientists with the tools, standards, and networks necessary to thrive on the global stage.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): Connecting Namibia to the World

GSCNam has formalized partnerships with the following prestigious organizations:

- **Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)**
- **Global Geoscience Professionalism Group (GGPG)**
- **European Federation of Geologists (EFG)**

These partnerships are designed to:

- Enhance mentoring and training for Namibian geoscientists
- Promote the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and standards
- Strengthen professional guidance across all levels of geoscientific careers



**GLOBAL
GEOSCIENCE
PROFESSIONALISM GROUP**

**"MEET THE NEW VICE CHAIR
FOR GGPG"**

MICHELLE HAILONGA

The **GGPG** fosters excellence in geoscience professionalism worldwide by providing an international forum for discussion among professional geoscience organizations. We encourage geoscientists to maintain high standards.

Our key objectives include:

- Enhancing understanding of geoscience professionalism.
- Facilitating global collaboration.
- Documenting and sharing standards, codes, and development practices.
- Clarifying pathways for attaining professional qualifications.

Announcement Poster

Fostering a Self-Sustaining CPD Culture

Through these strategic collaborations, the Council is actively building a robust, locally anchored yet globally informed Continuous Professional Development (CPD) culture. Our goal is simple but significant: to ensure Namibian geoscientists remain relevant, competitive, and professionally accountable.

The impact is already visible. Workshops, CPD frameworks, mentorship initiatives, and international conference engagements have all been enriched through our global networks.

Spotlight: Michelle Hailonga's Global Leadership

A testament to Namibia's rising leadership in global geoscience discourse is Michelle Hailonga, Vice President of the Geoscience Council of Namibia and newly appointed Vice Chair of the Global Geoscience Professionalism Group (GGPG).

The GGPG plays a pivotal role in promoting high standards in geoscience professionalism around the world. Under Michelle's leadership, GGPG continues to:

- **Enhance the understanding of geoscience professionalism**
- **Facilitate international collaboration**
- **Document and share standards, codes, and development practices**
- **Clarify pathways to professional qualifications**

Her dual role exemplifies Namibia's commitment to elevating geoscience excellence both locally and globally.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to foster these alliances, the Council remains committed to driving professional development as a cornerstone of sustainable geoscientific practice in Namibia. By blending local insights with global expertise, we are preparing Namibian geoscientists to lead in innovation, ethics, and impact.

ENHANCING REVENUE COLLECTION IN NAMIBIA'S EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY:

THE GEOSCIENCE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA'S ROLE

By Michelle Hailonga & Wilka Emvula
Photographs by Michelle Hailonga



The Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCN) recognized an opportunity to highlight the importance of geoscientists in enhancing revenue collection within Namibia's extractive industry. By advocating for the integration of geoscientific expertise into tax administration, the Council has played a crucial role in improving tax compliance and supporting the efficient functioning of the sector.

As part of its involvement in the Namibia Revenue Agency (NAMRA) Training Program, held from July 15-26, 2024, the GSCN contributed significantly to the #Tax4SDGs initiative. The program aimed to strengthen NAMRA's capacity to address tax-related challenges in the mining sector, with the Council emphasizing the potential role of geoscientists in this process.

Training Program Overview

The NAMRA training began with a launch event on July 9, 2024, followed by a two-week roadshow that took NAMRA officials to mining and industrial sites across the country, including the Navachab Gold Mine, Rossing Uranium Mine, and Uis Tin Mine. These visits provided invaluable, hands-on training, equipping NAMRA officials with the knowledge and insights needed to better monitor and enforce tax regulations in the extractive industry.

Key Outcomes of the Training

The training resulted in several key outcomes:

- **Increased Collaboration:** The program fostered stronger partnerships between NAMRA, the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), and the GSCN, creating a foundation for more effective tax administration.
- **Capacity Building:** NAMRA officials were equipped with a deeper understanding of the mining sector, enhancing their ability to enforce tax regulations.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** The program reinforced the value of strategic partnerships and highlighted how geoscientists can contribute their expertise to the efficient administration of mining taxes.





Highlighting the Role of Geoscientists

At the launch of the #Tax4SDGs initiative, GSCN President Mrs. Anna Nguno delivered a powerful presentation on the importance of professional excellence in geoscience. She took the opportunity to advocate for updated skills assessments and capacity building, focusing on the critical role geoscientists can play in addressing tax evasion in the mining sector. The Council's engagement underscored how geoscientific expertise could support NAMRA's tax initiatives and improve Namibia's overall tax administration process.

One key part of her presentation was a comparative analysis of Zambia's mineral fiscal regime, which highlighted the potential benefits of greater efficiency in tax collection. Mrs. Nguno proposed adopting similar strategies in Namibia, emphasizing the positive impact that integrating geoscientists into tax administration could have on the country's revenue collection.

Other notable participants included **Mrs. Michelle Hailonga** and **Ms. Wilka Embula**, who played significant roles in presenting and advocating for the involvement of geoscientists. Additionally, officials from the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), such as **Mr. Linus Kashungu**, **Mr. Sakeus Ambambi**, **Mr. Danzen Isaak**, and **Ms. Julia Alfeus**, contributed to the success of the program through their participation.



The NAMRA Training Program proved to be a significant step in improving tax compliance in Namibia's extractive industry. The GSCN's involvement demonstrated the essential role geoscientists can play in tax administration and their contribution to enhancing the country's revenue collection efforts.

Moving forward, the GSCN recommends:

- **Strengthening Ongoing Collaboration:** Continue to foster cooperation between NAMRA, MME, and the GSCN to improve tax administration in the extractive sector.
- **Investment in the Geochemistry Lab:** Secure additional funding to enhance the capacity of the Geological Survey's Geochemistry Lab, which is crucial for supporting accurate mineral assessments and tax compliance.
- **Follow-Up Training:** Build on the success of this training program with follow-up sessions to ensure continued progress in tax compliance.

The Geoscience Council of Namibia remains dedicated to supporting sustainable development through enhanced geoscientific expertise and effective tax administration, ensuring that the extractive industry contributes fairly to the country's growth and development.



Council Co-Hosted Conferences:

Driving Knowledge & Collaboration

At the **Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCN)**, we're not just about policies and regulations—we're about action, engagement, and ensuring Namibia remains at the forefront of geoscience advancements. One way we do this is by co-hosting international conferences that bring together industry leaders, researchers, and professionals to share knowledge and spark collaboration.

SEG 2024 Conference: Shaping the Future of Mineral Exploration

📍 *Windhoek, Namibia | 27–30 September 2024*

Last year, we had the privilege of co-hosting the **Society of Economic Geologists (SEG) 2024 Conference** alongside the **Geological Society of Namibia** and the **Society of Economic Geologists**. Chaired by our very own **Mrs. Anna Nguno (GSCN President)** and **Prof. Laurence Robb**, the conference ran under the theme: **“Sustainable Mineral Exploration and Development.”**

🌍 With **850+ participants from 64 countries**, this was one of the biggest geoscience gatherings in Namibia! Highlights included:

- ✅ **85 oral presentations & 275 posters** showcasing cutting-edge research
- ✅ Thought-provoking discussions on:
 - ◆ Metals of the future
 - ◆ Exploration & development logistics
 - ◆ Innovative technologies in mineral exploration
 - ◆ The critical importance of world-class ore deposits
- ✅ **Workshops, exhibitions, and networking sessions** connecting early-career geoscientists with industry leaders
- ✅ **Pre- and post-conference field trips** across Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, offering hands-on learning experiences

This event truly set the stage for continued collaboration in advancing sustainable mineral exploration.





OTHER MAJOR CONFERENCES IN NAMIBIA



While we took the lead on SEG 2024, Namibia also played host to the **Southern African Geophysics Association (SAGA) 2024 Conference**, which was co-hosted by the Geological Survey of Namibia.



This event, held just days after SEG, brought geophysicists together to explore the theme: **“Collaborative Geoscience for Critical Supply.”**

With over 200 participants, discussions revolved around:

1. The role of geoscientists in securing critical minerals
2. Sustainable water management practices
3. Advances in geophysical exploration techniques



While the **Geoscience Council of Namibia** wasn't a co-host, we were proud to see Namibia shine as a hub for geoscience discourse on the global stage.



A SUBMISSION FROM ONE OF OUR OWN: CO-OPTED MEMBER DR. COLLEN-ISSIA UAHENGO

UNEARTHING NAMIBIA'S ANCIENT MARINE LIFE: A GLIMPSE INTO THE EDIACARAN PERIOD

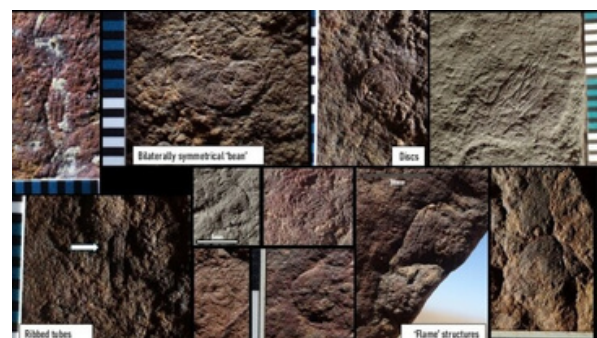
In the arid landscapes of southern Namibia, a remarkable discovery has shed light on the origins of early animal life. In 2022, a collaborative team comprising Dr. Alex Liu from the University of Cambridge, Dr. Collen-Issia Uahengo, and Mr. Elkan Utoni from the University of Namibia (UNAM) unearthed a fossil site dating back approximately 575 to 540 million years, during the Ediacaran Period. This era marks a pivotal point in Earth's history, witnessing the emergence of some of the earliest known animal life forms.

The excavation, conducted in April 2023, focused on a fossil bed less than 2 square meters in size. Despite its modest dimensions, the site yielded over 1,000 fossil impressions, indicating a density unparalleled by other Ediacaran sites globally. Among these, Mr. Utoni identified at least ten new species, highlighting a previously unrecognized diversity in Namibia's ancient marine ecosystems.

These findings challenge the prevailing notion of a sudden mass extinction event at the end of the Ediacaran Period. Instead, they suggest a more gradual diversification of early animals into the major groups observed today.

The fossils are now preserved in the Geological Survey of Namibia's museum collections in Windhoek. This project has also bolstered UNAM's research capabilities, fostering future paleontological studies. The team plans to continue their collaboration, aiming for Namibian geoscientists and students to lead in describing these significant fossils and celebrating the nation's rich geological heritage.

This discovery not only positions Namibia at the forefront of research into early animal evolution but also underscores the importance of international collaboration in uncovering the mysteries of our planet's past.



For more detailed information, refer to the original article by Dr. Alex Liu, Dr. Collen-Issia Uahengo, and Mr. Elkan Utoni.

<https://www.cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk/cambridge-africa-updates/constraining-the-environmental-setting-and-palaeoecology-of-early-animals-on-the-namibian-seafloor/>

YOUTH CORNER

SHARE YOUR VOICE!

Are you a student or early-career geoscientist eager to share your experiences, insights, or ideas?

The Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCNam) invites you to contribute articles or thought pieces to our newsletter.

What Can You Share?

- **Your Projects:** What are you currently working on in your studies or early career?
- **Your Insights:** What challenges have you faced, and how have you overcome them?
- **Your Needs:** What support or guidance do you seek from seasoned geoscientists and the Council?

Why Contribute?

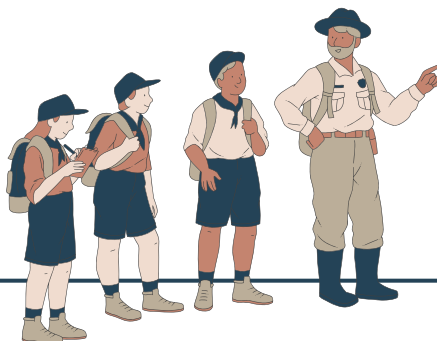
- **Visibility:** Share your work with a broader audience and gain recognition.
- **Community:** Connect with fellow geoscientists and become part of a supportive network.
- **Growth:** Enhance your communication skills and professional development.

How to Submit:

Send your article or thought piece to councillor@geocouncil.org.na.

We look forward to hearing from you and featuring your contributions in our upcoming issues!

Your voice matters. Let's shape the future of geoscience together.



UP COMING EVENTS!

4TH AFRICAN REGIONAL

IAEG *Congress*

CREATING A SAFE FUTURE

Climate-related geohazards hit developing countries and poor communities hardest. This congress will highlight how Engineering Geology can help reduce risks and support safer living conditions. It will also stress the need for safe, responsible mining of key minerals for the green energy transition.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Engineering and Environmental Geologists; Geotechnical Engineers; Mining and Rock Engineers. (Professionals in these fields from Africa are specifically encouraged to attend.) This event will act as stimulus to establish an IAEG Regional Group and strengthen collaboration between IAEG, ISRM, ISSMGE and IGS in Africa.

DATES:
8 - 12
SEPTEMBER
2025

VENUE:
MOVENPICK
WINDHOEK HOTEL,
WINDHOEK,
NAMIBIA

Website:
<https://afr2025.co.za>

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT

Yolandé van den Berg
Email:
secretariat@saieg.co.za
Cell:
+27 (0)82 323 3910



Closing Remarks

As we conclude this edition of the Geoscience Council of Namibia Newsletter, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all contributors, partners, and readers who continue to support and shape the Namibian geoscience community.

If you are a geoscientist practicing in Namibia, we earnestly encourage you to register with the Council. Your involvement is crucial in shaping a Council that truly reflects and serves its members' interests. Registration not only affirms your professional status but also empowers you to participate in electing future Council members and potentially serve in leadership roles yourself.

From advancing Continuous Professional Development to strengthening international partnerships, our collective efforts are vital to these initiatives' success. We urge all geoscientists—students, early-career professionals, and seasoned experts—to stay engaged, share your insights, and seize the opportunities created through our collaborative endeavors.

Let us continue to foster a community rooted in professionalism, collaboration, and a shared vision for sustainable geoscience development in Namibia and beyond.

Until the next edition—keep learning, keep growing, and keep leading.

– The GSCNam Editorial Team

What's Next?

With SEG 2024 behind us, we're already looking forward to more opportunities to bring geoscientists together.

Stay tuned for details on upcoming events and ways you can get involved!

Would you like to see a Namibia-hosted conference on a specific geoscience topic in the future?

Let us know your thoughts!

councillor@geocouncil.org.na

Photo credit:

Division of Engineering &
Environmental Geology - GSN

ISSUE 1 | VOL 2 | PAGE 16