



ISSUE 01 | VOL. 3 | JULY 2026

GSCN

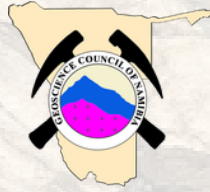
NEWSLETTER

GEOSCIENCE INSIGHTS

WHERE NAMIBIA'S GEOSCIENTISTS RISE
TOGETHER

www.geocouncil.org.na

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anna-Karren Nguno
PRESIDENT
Geoscience Council
of Namibia



What a start to 2026 it has been! In just the first three months, your Council has been hard at work - engaging the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, convening a full Council meeting, and presenting to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources. Each engagement has moved us meaningfully closer to our shared vision: a well-regulated, credible geoscience profession that actively drives Namibia's development.

We are grateful for the trust our partners in government have placed in us, and for your continued support as members.

The geoscientific work happening across this country - in water security, mineral exploration, energy, and environmental protection - matters enormously. The people doing that work deserve a professional home that is strong, active, and growing.

This newsletter is yours.

Please read, share, and contribute.

Visit

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

to download this current issue

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to Issue 1 of the GSCN Newsletter - and what an issue it is! If 2026 had a theme so far, it would be: things are actually happening. Not just planned, not just proposed - happening.

We've got a signed MOU with a global geological society, two of our own elected to international leadership roles, a packed AGM on the horizon, and a Mining Expo just around the corner.

Grab a coffee, find a comfortable chair, and enjoy the good news.

There's plenty of it.



Michelle Hailonga
VICE - PRESIDENT
Geoscience Council of Namibia

Visit

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to download this current issue

AT A GLANCE

AS OF JULY 2026



124
Registered
members

11
New
registrations
approved



62 - GEO.SCI.NAM
&
62 - S.GEO.SCI.NAM

NAMIBIA TAKES THE GLOBAL STAGE



BIG WINS - YOUR COUNCIL IS MAKING WAVES

Mrs. Michelle Hailonga - Chair of the Global Geoscience Professionalism Group

Our very own **Vice President**, Mrs. Michelle Hailonga, has been officially appointed **Chair of the Global Geoscience Professionalism Group (GGPG)** – an international body that champions professional standards in geoscience across the world. She will lead the organisation for the next two years. This is a remarkable honour that reflects the calibre of Namibian geoscience professionals on the world stage.

The Council congratulates Mrs. Hailonga wholeheartedly and looks forward to the connections and opportunities this role will bring for Namibia.

Mrs. Anna Nguno – Vice Chair, PARC Assessment Committee

Council President Mrs. Anna Nguno was elected **Vice Chair of the Pan African Resource Reporting Code (PARC) Assessment Committee** during the African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification and Management System (AMREC) – PARC Consultative Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya. The appointment supports the implementation of PARC, which aims to harmonize resource reporting, professional accreditation, and competency standards across Africa in support of the African Mining Vision and Agenda 2063.

Her election is a significant achievement for Namibia, ensuring the country's active role in shaping responsible mineral and energy resource governance across the continent.



Mrs. Anna-Karren Nguno & Mrs. Michelle Hailonga

*Two Namibians.
Two international leadership roles.
One very proud Geoscience Council.*

MEET THE GGPG: CONNECTING NAMIBIA TO THE GLOBAL GEOSCIENCE COMMUNITY

The Global Geoscience Professionalism Group (GGPG) is an international network of professional geoscience organisations dedicated to advancing excellence, ethics, and professionalism across the global geoscience community.

Established as a forum for collaboration, the GGPG brings together professional organisations from around the world to exchange knowledge, address common challenges, and promote best practices in professional registration, ethics, competency, continuing professional development, and governance. By fostering cooperation between member organisations, the GGPG helps strengthen professional standards and supports the continued growth of the geoscience profession worldwide.



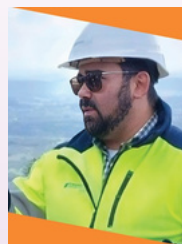
Michelle Hailonga,
Geo.Sci.Nam, Chair



Andrew Waltho,
B.App.Sc., Vice Chair



Andrea Waldie,
P.Geo., FGC, Treasurer



Julio Santos, Secretary



Tania Marshall,
Pr.Sci.Nat., Past Chair



Kaylene Camuti,
RPGeo., Past-Past Chair

For the Geoscience Council of Namibia, membership in the GGPG represents more than international participation—it provides an opportunity to contribute to shaping the future of geoscience professionalism. Through this global partnership, the Council shares Namibia's experiences, learns from international best practice, and helps influence discussions on professional regulation, mobility, and capacity building.

This year marks a historic milestone for Namibia, with Michelle Hailonga, Vice President of the Geoscience Council of Namibia, assuming the role of Chair of the Global Geoscience Professionalism Group. Her appointment reflects the confidence the international geoscience community has in Namibia's leadership and recognises the Council's growing contribution to advancing professional standards worldwide.

As the Geoscience Council continues to strengthen professional practice in Namibia - including the proposed amendments to the Geoscience Professions Act - the Council remains committed to contributing to the global conversation, building meaningful international partnerships, and ensuring that Namibian geoscientists play an active role in shaping the future of the profession.

Together, we are building a profession that is respected nationally, recognised internationally, and prepared to meet the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow.



GGPG Members:



Observers



TWO MEETINGS. REAL MOMENTUM.

ONE

MEETING WITH THE MIME MINISTER - 6 JANUARY 2026

The year kicked off with Council President Nguno, Councillor Mhopjeni, and Secretary Embula meeting Hon. Modestus Amutse, Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy. The introductory meeting was an important step in building a working relationship with the ministry under whose authority the Geoscience Professions Act falls.

Key topics included the urgent need to amend the Act, the development of a Human Resources Strategy for Geoscience, and geo-information reliability in the age of AI. The Minister expressed particular interest in the Geological Survey Laboratory, geoscience data, and the HR strategy — and agreed on the importance of a national geoscientist database. He encouraged the Council to 'nationalise' the HR strategy project to attract broader funding support.



TWO MEETINGS. REAL MOMENTUM.

TWO

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES - 9 MARCH 2026

In a landmark engagement, the Council presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Dr. Tobie Aupindi. The Committee's mandate spans minerals, oil and gas, energy (including green hydrogen), agriculture, and fisheries - one of the broadest committees in the National Assembly.

President Nguno's presentation highlighted the Council's mandate, the geoscientific ecosystem in Namibia, and the importance of professional registration for competency, ethics, and accountability.



Chairperson's message: Namibia's natural resources must ultimately benefit the Namibian people.

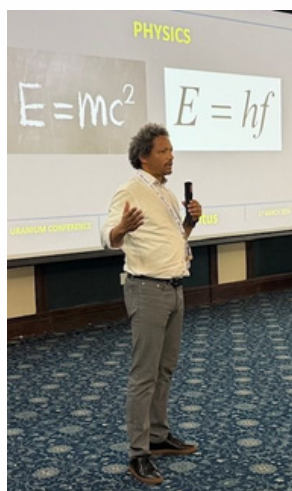
Committee response: Formal support expressed for the proposed amendments to the Geoscience Professions Act, 2012.



GEOSCIENCE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA SHOWCASES LEADERSHIP AT THE URANIUM CONFERENCE 2026

The Geoscience Council of Namibia (GCN) proudly participated in the Uranium Conference 2026, hosted by the Geological Society of Namibia in Swakopmund from 26–27 March 2026. The conference brought together geoscientists, industry leaders, researchers, regulators, and policymakers to discuss the future of Namibia's uranium sector and its role in the global energy transition.

The programme featured presentations on uranium geology, mining and processing innovations, environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices, and nuclear energy and global energy markets. These discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration and innovation in ensuring the sustainable development of Namibia's uranium resources.



The Council was represented by its Executive Committee, including President Mrs. Anna Nguno, Vice President Michelle Hailonga (Geo.Sci.Nam), Secretary Wilka Embula (Geo.Sci.Nam), and Treasurer Dr. Gabi Schneider. Their participation reflected the Council's ongoing commitment to promoting professionalism, ethical practice, and excellence within the geoscience profession.

Michelle Hailonga also attended in her capacity as Chairperson of the Global Geoscience Professionalism Group (GGPG), reinforcing Namibia's contribution to international geoscience professionalism and collaboration.

A highlight of the conference was a presentation by Dr. Nortin Titus, who shared valuable insights into uranium market trends and the growing importance of nuclear energy in the global energy landscape.



Throughout the conference, the Geoscience Council hosted an exhibition stand where delegates engaged with Council representatives, learned about professional registration requirements, and gained a better understanding of the Council's role in regulating and advancing the geoscience profession in Namibia.

The Council extends its appreciation to the Geological Society of Namibia for hosting a successful conference that provided an excellent platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and strengthening Namibia's geoscience community.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Strengthening the Act: What's Proposed

One of the Council's most important mandates right now is **amending** the Geoscience Professions Act, 2012.

Following the green light from the Parliamentary Standing Committee in March, the Council is now moving into action on amending the Geoscience Professions Act, 2012. The dedicated workshop on 1 July 2026 is where the real drafting begins.



**THE ACT AMENDMENT
TRAIN HAS LEFT THE STATION**

What's on the amendment wish list?

A **Geoscientist-in-Training (GiT)** category to support young graduates, **mandatory registration** for all practicing geoscientists, **stronger disciplinary powers**, and **recognition** of energy-sector geoscience disciplines.

These changes would transform the profession - making it more credible, more enforceable, and more relevant to Namibia's growing energy and mining sectors.

YOUR VOICE, YOUR PROFESSION

Key Findings from the Geoscience Professions Act Amendment Survey

The Geoscience Council of Namibia extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the stakeholder survey on the proposed amendments to the **Geoscience Professions Act, 2012**. Your feedback is instrumental in shaping legislation that reflects the needs and aspirations of Namibia's geoscience profession.

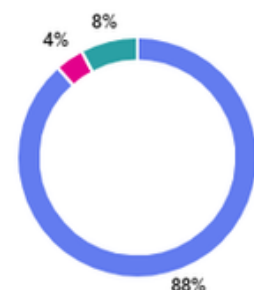
The survey received responses from registered geoscientists, senior professionals, practitioners, and emerging geoscientists across the country. The findings reveal strong support for modernising the Act to strengthen professional standards, enhance public protection, and ensure the profession remains responsive to the evolving demands of the geoscience sector.

One of the strongest messages from the survey was the overwhelming support for introducing a **Geoscientist-in-Training (GiT)** Programme, with more than 90% of respondents in favour of the initiative. Participants recognised the programme as an important step in developing competent professionals through structured mentorship and practical workplace experience.

Stakeholders also expressed strong support for **mandatory professional registration**, with nearly 90% agreeing that all practising geoscientists should be registered. Respondents highlighted that compulsory registration would improve professional accountability, safeguard the public, and ensure that geoscientific services are provided by qualified and competent professionals.

Question: If mandatory professional registration is introduced, who should it apply to?

● All practicing geoscientists	23
● Only high-risk fields (e.g. mining, engineering, environmental)	1
● Only those signing off on reports or taking responsibility	2
● Other	0



Support was equally evident for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), with most respondents recognising the importance of lifelong learning to maintain professional competence. Many recommended that CPD opportunities remain affordable, accessible, and flexible through workshops, conferences, online learning, research, and workplace training.

The survey also highlighted the importance of updating the list of recognised geoscience disciplines to reflect the changing nature of the profession. Respondents suggested the inclusion of emerging fields such as geoinformatics, medical geology, petroleum geoscience, resource modelling, and environmental geoscience to ensure the legislation remains relevant for future generations of professionals.

While respondents strongly supported the proposed amendments, they also emphasised the need for practical implementation. Key recommendations included ensuring sufficient mentorship opportunities for trainees, maintaining reasonable registration fees, providing accessible CPD opportunities, and allowing flexible pathways to professional registration where appropriate.

The feedback received provides the Council with a strong foundation as it continues reviewing the proposed amendments to the Act. The Geoscience Council of Namibia remains committed to developing a modern regulatory framework that promotes professional excellence, protects the public interest, and supports the sustainable growth of the geoscience profession.

STAKEHOLDERS SPEAK

Strong support for the future of the geoscience profession



◆ *Thank you to all stakeholders for your valuable input.* ◆

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE GEOSCIENCE PROFESSION



Tell us what
should change in
the **Geoscience
Professions Act**.

The Geoscience Council of Namibia is reviewing the
Geoscience Professions Act, 2012.

Your feedback will help shape future legislation governing
professional registration, training and competency of
geoscientists in Namibia.



TAKES LESS THAN
2 MINUTES



SCAN THE
QR CODE



YOUR VOICE WILL HELP
SHAPE THE FUTURE
OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENCE
IN NAMIBIA

SCAN TO PARTICIPATE



<https://forms.gle/wUAVbRWsDNSqs1uq6>



YOUR RESPONSES ARE
VALUABLE AND CONFIDENTIAL.



PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS



PUBLIC
PROTECTION



A STRONG FUTURE
FOR GEOSCIENCE

VISIT OUR STAND AT THE MINING EXPO AND SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

HUMAN RESOURCES FOR GEOSCIENCE

A NATIONAL PRIORITY

How many geoscientists does Namibia have?

In which sectors?

With which specialisations?

And how many will we need by 2030?

These are some of the questions the proposed national geoscience skills audit aims to answer.

If you work in industry, government,
or academia and would like to contribute to the audit,
please contact the Secretariat.



CALL TO ACTION



Have You Renewed Your Membership?

As of July 2026, only 68 of our 124 members - a **54.8%** renewal rate - **have renewed for the year.**

We want to hear from you. Is it cost? A lack of tangible benefits?



COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2026!!!

Call for Nominations Published in the Government Gazette

On **1 July 2026**, the **Geoscience Council of Namibia (GSCNam)** officially published a **Call for the Submission of Nominations of Candidates for Election as Members of Council** in the Government Gazette (General Notice No. 468).

This marks the commencement of the election process to appoint four (4) members to serve on the Council in accordance with the Geoscience Professions Act, 2012 (Act No. 3 of 2012) and the Regulations Relating to the Nomination of Candidates and Election of Members of Council, 2019.

The Council encourages all eligible registered geoscientists to actively participate in the governance of the profession by nominating suitably qualified candidates.

Key Requirements

- ☒ Candidates must be registered geoscientists in terms of Section 20 of the Geoscience Professions Act, 2012.
- ☒ Candidates must not be disqualified in terms of Section 6 of the Act.
- ☒ Each nomination must be:
 - Completed on the prescribed nomination form (Annexure A);
 - Submitted separately for each candidate;
 - Fully completed and signed as prescribed by the Regulations.

Submission Deadline

Friday, 31 July 2026 at 15:00

Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Registrar, Geoscience Council of Namibia, before the closing date and time.

CHECK YOUR EMAIL!!!

A photograph of four diverse individuals (two women and two men) smiling and holding up large, colorful letters that spell out the word 'VOTE'. The letters are white, blue, and red. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees and a clear sky.

VOTE

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Council Members play a vital role in regulating the geoscience profession, protecting the public interest, promoting professional standards, and guiding the strategic direction of geoscience in Namibia.

The Geoscience Council encourages all eligible registered geoscientists to participate in this important democratic process by nominating experienced and committed professionals who will contribute to advancing the profession.

Shape Tomorrow's Story

For more information, refer to Government Gazette General Notice No. 468 of 1 July 2026 or contact the Registrar of the Geoscience Council of Namibia.



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.

GSCN — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

MIME Auditorium,
17:30.

This is the big one.
Be there.

07
August
2026

THE 31ST COLLOQUIUM OF AFRICAN GEOLOGY

31st Edition | Accra, | Innovation Hub

19-24 Sept 2027

Sustainable Geoscience for Africa's Future

 THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA®

AGU26 ANNUAL MEETING

7-11 December 2026 | San Francisco, CA

<https://www.agu.org/annual-meeting>



4th Namibia Oil & Gas Conference

18-20
August,
Windhoek

<https://www.namibiaoilandgasconf.com/>

Dates to Diarise



IAH 2026

World Groundwater Congress

53rd Congress of the
International Association
of Hydrogeologists

<https://iah2026budapest.com/>

14-18 September 2026
Budapest Congress
Center



GeoCongress 2027

Unravelling the Past
for a Sustainable Future

SAVE THE DATE

Mining Expo 2026

—
**GSCN will be exhibiting
alongside the Uranium
Institute of Namibia.
Come say hi!**

4 - 6
Aug
2026

Professionalism & Code of Ethics

8
September,
Online
Free Event

<https://www.gssa.org.za/filemanager/programme/download?ref=03853198>

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AFRICAN EXPLORATION SHOWCASE

ABSTRACT
SUBMISSIONS
OPEN

18 & 19
NOVEMBER
2026

PAID EVENT
IN PERSON



Fossils by Firelight – Podcasts

A series of conversations with South Africa's geological legends where they unearth their discoveries, their learnings, memories, interesting stories (and maybe a few tall tales) to chronicle our history and inspire the next generation of geological heroes.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



International Conference on Geology and Geophysics

4
November
2026

https://waset.org/geology-and-geophysics-conference-in-november-2026-in-cape-town?utm_source=conferenceindex&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=listing



SAGA Conference 2026

October
12–16,
2026

<https://sagaconference.co.za/>



SALT LAKE CITY, USA
September 30 - October 3, 2026

SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGISTS

2026
Conference

<https://www.segweb.org/SEG-2026/>



Talk title:

Lithocaps – Hallmarks of Magmatic – Hydrothermal Systems

Dr. Richard Sillitoe

Wednesday
19 August 2026

17h30

Auditorium of the Ministry of Mines



LICHTENBURG 100

10 - 13
SEPTEMBER
2026

<https://www.gssa.org.za/filemanager/programme/download?ref=ca899763>



European Federation of Geologists (EFG) is pleased to support the **19th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2026)**, taking place from **20 to 27 August 2026** in Turin, Italy.

www.ieso2026-to.com



ADVERTISE WITH US!

REACH NAMIBIA'S GEOSCIENCE COMMUNITY

The **Geoscience Council of Namibia Newsletter** is distributed to **registered geoscientists**, mining and exploration companies, government institutions, universities, consulting firms, laboratories, environmental practitioners, and industry partners across Namibia and beyond.

Promote your products, services, events, training opportunities, or career vacancies to a highly targeted professional audience.

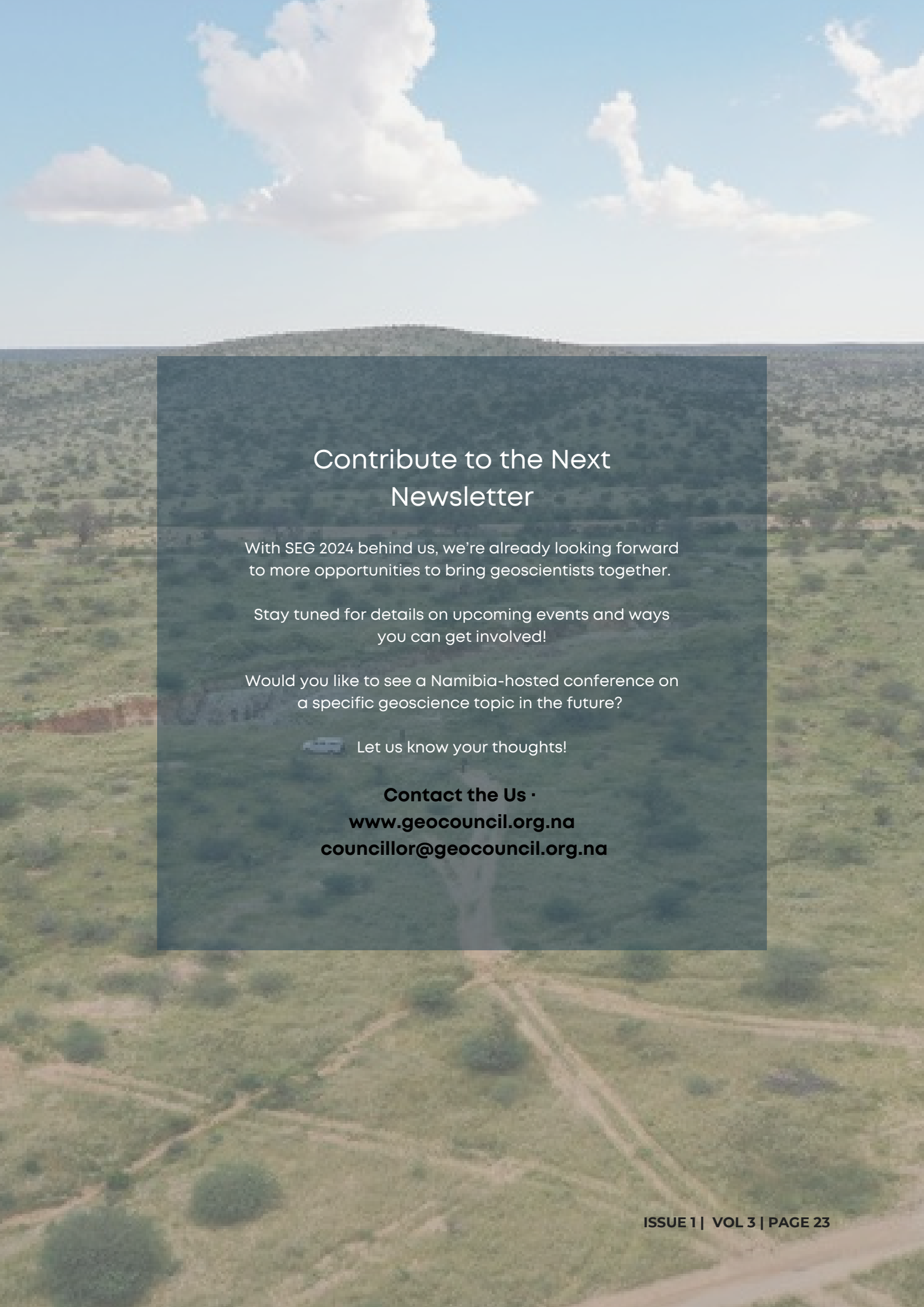
Why Advertise?

- Reach decision-makers in
- Namibia's geoscience sector
- Showcase your organisation to professionals across mining, energy, groundwater, engineering, environmental management, and academia
- Support the advancement of the geoscience profession in Namibia
- Build your brand within a trusted professional publication



Email: secretariat@geocouncil.org.na

Website: www.geocouncil.org.na



Contribute to the Next Newsletter

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!

Contact the Us ·
www.geocouncil.org.na
councillor@geocouncil.org.na