

## 7<sup>th</sup> SGA-IUGS-UNESCO-SEG-Short Course on African Metallogeny

## Energy Metals for a Sustainable Society

## Windhoek, Namibia, 29<sup>th</sup> November– 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

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Ester Shalimba (University of Namibia, Keetmanshoop)

The international short course on Energy Metals was held in a hybrid format in splendid facilities at the Ministry of Mines and Energy in Windhoek (Namibia), starting with a warm welcome icebreaker and a Namibian traditional dancing group on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks are due to the local organizers for the excellent organization. Luckily, we were able to run the entire program, 3 days of lectures and workshops followed by 2 days of fieldtrips in the region around Swakopmund.



Sixty delegates and lecturers exchanged information on the critical metals for present and future applications and evaluated the socalled "green" technologies. Ten foreign students attended from Western and North Africa and seventeen Namibian students participated for the first time.

Lecturers and delegates joined remotely from Australia, Ireland, England, Italy, Portugal, Germany, South Africa, Nigeria, and Namibia, and physically from Namibia, France, and South Africa. Students and young scientists from Namibia networked with students from Algeria, Senegal, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and South Africa.



Lecturers from industry, universities, consulting companies, government organizations and the Geological Survey, addressed a variety of aspects: The Geology and Metallogeny of Namibia, recognizing the prodigious work performed by geologists from the Namibian Geological Survey, the universities, and consultants. World-class sessions on the energy metals U, V, Pb-Zn, Cu, REE and Li, included aspects on the circular economy, on specific Namibian ore deposits, ore deposit formation, exploration, mining, and processing. A critical view on these metals in the current political, economic, and industrial context of Namibia, Southern Africa, and their importance in the processing and manufacturing industries, was debated.

Furthermore, global topics, regulations, and actions on mining in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the UN and other international government bodies while reaching carbon-neutrality in 2050 were addressed. The future Namibian UNESCO-supported Geopark introduced by Dr. Gabi Schneider, was also part of the excursion program.

Discussions even continued at lunch in the hall of the Ministry



The Gala braai at the splendid Jurassic Park site of the Ministry was one of the highlights.



Fieldtrips included highlights such as the visits to the Lepidico Mine project, led by Simon Kahovera, the Eureka Exploration Project on a challenging REE occurrences in carbonatites (prepared by Pete Siegfried), the world's-largest open pit Uranium mine and processing plant, Rössing, led by Gabi Schneider. Textbook outcrops of famous geological sites (badlands, dolerite dykes emplaced during the opening of the Atlantic Ocean into Upper Precambrian, skarn mineralogy and contact metamorphic features), amazing landscapes and geological landmarks such as Spitzkoppe, were visited. They are part of the future Geopark.

















This event, initially planned for 2020, postponed to December 2021, fell just at the moment when the new COVID variant Omicron was detected. Although, a few lecturers were tested positive after the short course, mostly without any symptoms, our enthusiasm, on the fruitful outcome of this course was not affected.

Thanks to our host, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Geological Survey, the Namibian Uranium Association and our Sponsors (SGA, UNESCO, IUGS, SEG, ORANO Mining, the Namibian Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Geoscience Council of Namibia), the efficient staff and help of local students, and the organizing committee, the 7<sup>th</sup> short course provided the network for future collaborations among the students, consultants, academia, government institutions and industries. We also thank Lepidico, EUREKA, Rössing for their hospitality, and Paul Nex and Judith Kinnaird for guiding the excursion in the Swakop River.

The SGA AFRICA short course WhatsApp provides a platform, where we can continue to exchange information and plan our next events.