



This Initiative aims to support the development of the next generation of Earth scientists in Africa who are equipped with the necessary tools, networks and perspectives to apply sound science to solving and benefiting from the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development. The opportunities in the Earth sciences are great, starting with traditional mineral extraction and extending into environmental management such as climate change adaptation, prevention of natural hazards, and ensuring access to drinking water.

Regional scoping workshops were organized to assess regional capacities and needs in Earth science education, research and industry underlining existing centers of excellence through conversation with relevant regional and international experts including representatives of Universities, Applied Schools, Geological Surveys, Industry, and Government and plotting the way ahead for Earth science education.



Initial activities

In order to start implementing these recommendations, UNESCO will facilitate and help African countries to respond accordingly with three initial activities, to be implemented during the current biennium.

➤ Establish an **African Network of Earth Science Institutions (ANESI)** to foster collaboration between Departments of Earth sciences of universities, Earth sciences research institutions and related industries. The project is already endorsed by the Geological Society of Africa and the African Conference of Vice Chancellors and Deans of Science, Engineering and Technology.

➤ Develop a **Mobile Geologic Field Mapping School** which will focus on teaching early career Earth scientists geologic field mapping as an important geologic tool for their careers, and a vital exercise for countries to identify their resources. This activity could contribute to the Africa Mining Vision.

➤ Look at the **status of Earth science education at primary and secondary level in schools** to forge the future generation of 'Earth stewards' and give Earth sciences a status that reflects the importance that this discipline plays in the everyday life of African people. We plan to start with the Government of Djibouti as a show case.



UNESCO welcomes partnerships to implement these activities

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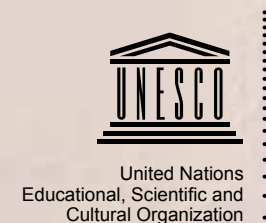
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UNESCO's Earth Science Education Initiative in Africa





Few milestones

First International Conference on African and Arabian Geoparks
2011, El Jadida, Morocco
Organized by the African Association of Women in Geosciences and UNESCO Cairo Office under the patronage of UNESCO

Initiative presented at the 22nd Colloquium of African Geology
November 2008, Hammamet, Tunisia

Northern Region Workshop
2009, Assiut, Egypt
Organized with UNESCO Cairo Office and the Geological Society of Africa (GSAF)

Western Region Workshop
2009, Dakar, Senegal
Organized with le Centre International pour la Formation et les Echanges en Géosciences (CIFEG) and the Senegal Ministry of the Environment

Proposed launching of the African network of Earth Science Institutions (ANESI), 24th Colloquium of African Geology
January 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Central Region Workshop
2010, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Organized with le Centre de Recherches Géologiques et Minières and the Royal Museum of Central Africa with the support of the Belgian Government

Initiative announced at the African launch of the International Year of Planet Earth
May 2008, Arusha, Tanzania

Lusophone Workshop
2009, Luanda, Angola
Organized with the International Year of Planet Earth and the Angolan Ministry of the Environment

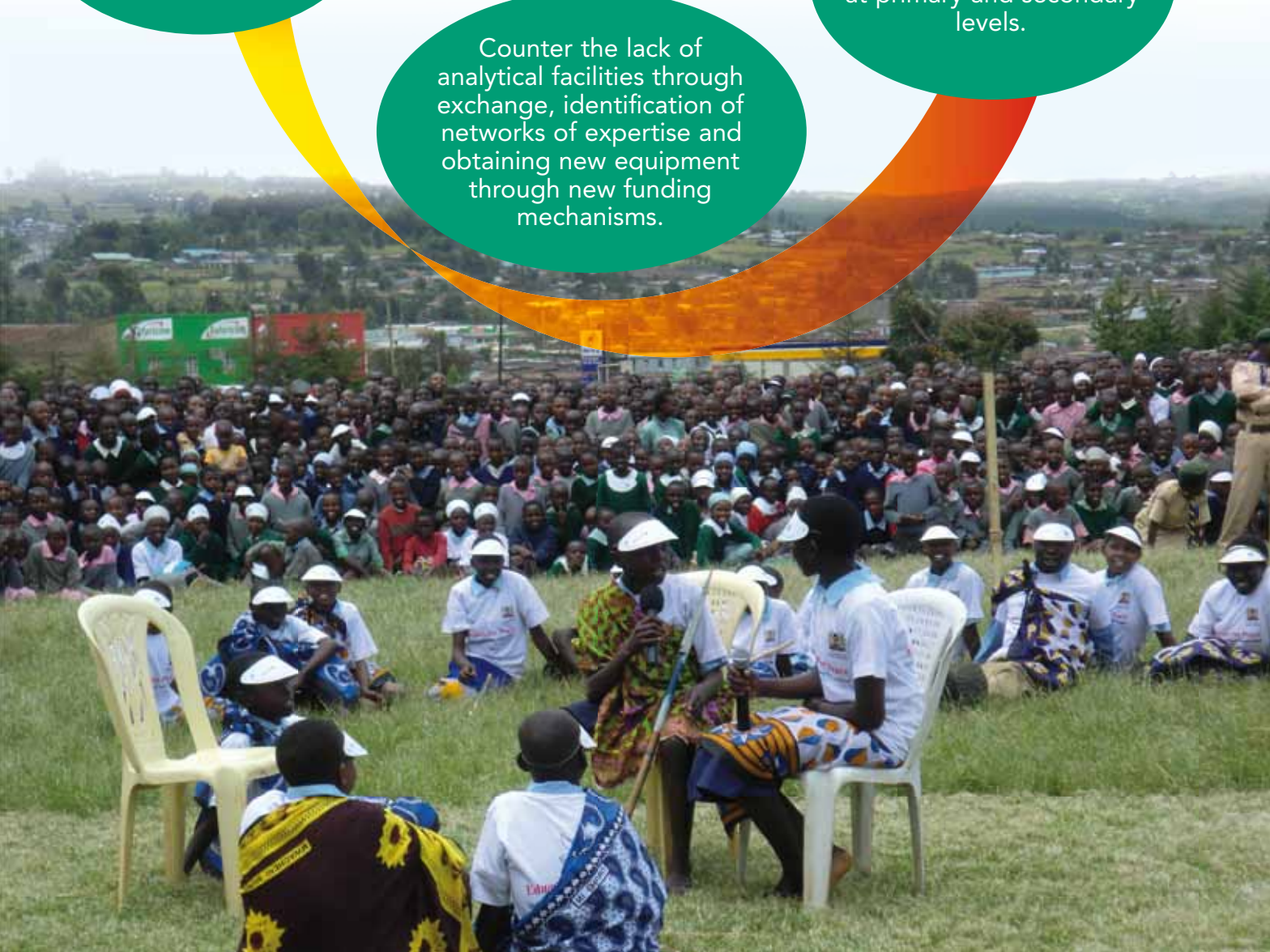
Findings endorsed by the GSAF at the 23rd Colloquium of African Geology
January 2011, Johannesburg, South Africa

Initiative endorsed by the Conference of Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Faculties of Sciences and Technologies (COVIDSET)
November 2011, Johannesburg, South Africa

Southern Region Workshop
2009, Cape Town, South Africa
Organized by the African Earth Observation Network (AEON) and the GSAF



Major Workshop findings



Other activities supporting Earth Science Education

The **Geopark Initiative** expands to Africa. Geoparks raise the importance of geological sites, promote Earth science education, and develop local tourism which supports community development and pride of place. Societal understanding and appreciation of Earth sciences is an important element for Earth science education across the continent.

The **International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)** with additional support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency is focusing on increasing the African leadership of IGCP projects through supporting research teams and co-funding workshops on developing IGCP project proposals with the UNESCO Nairobi office. IGCP projects encourage focused international collaboration of societal relevance.

