



# NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895




**100 YEARS OF THE MERENSKY REEF  
CONFERENCE & FIELD TRIP  
15 - 23 AUGUST 2024**

[MORE INFORMATION](#)




**GSSA 124th  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
INVITATION**

**DISCUSSION & INSIGHTS**





**16 JULY 2024  
18:00 - 19:00**

**ONLINE EVENT  
VIA ZOOM**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- 100 years of the Merensky Reef
- GSSA AGM - 16 July
- President's Column
- 2024 GSSA Annual report
- GSSA Annual Sponsors
- Upcoming Events - Register Now
- Geocongress 2025
- Mentorship Talks
- Namaqualand Diamonds Centenary
- June Geobulletin
- SAMCODES Snippets
- 5th Southern African Mineral Symposium



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# STEVE MCCOURT

GSSA PRESIDENT

The GSSA Meetings Committee hosted a total of four online meetings in June with GIS for Exploration on June 4th (55 delegates), Sampling and Data Management on June 11 and 12 (33 delegates), Advanced Excel for Geoscientists on June 19th (24 delegates from CGS) and Project Management for Geologists on June 24th (28 delegates). In addition, as part of the CMP programme, Mark Turpin held a group mentoring session on Emotional Intelligence: what it is and how to cultivate it.

Online events scheduled for July include Practical Geological Mapping and Map Making on July 2nd and 3rd and Marine Geosciences in Southern Africa on 26th and 27th July. More information on these events plus the link to register events is available on the GSSA home page (<https://www.gssa.org.za/>).

The 124th Annual General Meeting of the Society is scheduled for Tuesday July 16th. The event will be online via Zoom and the invitation, link to the Annual Report and the opportunity to register should be in your email inbox.

The June issue of the SAJG (the Beukes Volume) is complete and online publication at GeoScienceWorld is imminent. The issue contains 20 peer-reviewed papers 4 of which will be published as Gold Open Access. This means that the Article Processing Charge (APC) is paid by the primary author on each paper rather than by the Society, thereby generating income for the Society. Importantly, once published copyright on the papers is assigned to the authors rather than the Society.

The project to publish updates on selected chapters of the textbook The Geology of South Africa has gained momentum with commitment from a number of colleagues to provide manuscripts on The Keis Supergroup, the Namaqua-Natal Orogen, the Pilanesberg Alkaline Complex, The Cape Supergroup, Sedimentary rocks of the Karoo Supergroup, Pan African Orogeny/Saldania Belt, Gondwana Break Up, The Cenozoic Deposits of South Africa, Impact Structures in South Africa, Kimberlites and South African Karst. These manuscripts, plus others still to be confirmed, will be published as peer-reviewed papers in a special issue of SAJG in late 2025. Following publication of the special issue, the GSSA will make individual papers available, as reference material, to student members of the GSSA through a folder on the GSSA website.

Planning for the Merensky Reef Centenary Meeting is well in hand, decisions have been made on the abstracts submitted, a preliminary scientific programme has been compiled and a post-conference fieldtrip has been added to the programme (see information elsewhere in this Newsletter). Members are advised that although registration is still open, the cost thereof will increase from July 1st.

With regard to in-person meetings in 2025, registration is open for the Namaqualand Diamond Centenary organized by GSSA and Northern Cape Branch (see 2nd circular on GSSA website) and the call for Scientific Sessions and Fieldtrips for Geocongress 2025 in Bloemfontein (<https://geocongress2025.org.za/>) June 25-27, 2025 is now open.

[CLICK HERE](#) 



# 2024 Annual Report



Number 124



# geobulletin

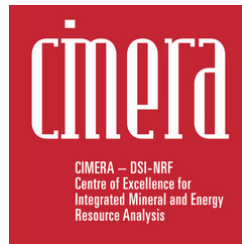
QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN ~ **JUNE 2024**

## news

SACS revisited  
Subduction invasion  
Sending radio signals through rock  
Sperrylite of the Bushveld Complex

# The GSSA wishes to acknowledge our **2024 Sponsors**

## Annual Sponsors



DMT Kai Batla (Pty) Ltd



## Event Sponsor



# Upcoming Events



2 & 3 JULY

**PRACTICAL GEOLOGICAL  
MAPPING TO MAP MAKING**

MORE INFORMATION

REGISTER NOW

26 & 27 JULY

**MARINE GEOSCIENCES IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

MORE INFORMATION

REGISTER NOW

6 AUGUST



**INTRO TO DRILLING**

MORE INFORMATION

REGISTER NOW

15 - 23 AUGUST

**100 YEARS OF THE MERENSKY  
REEF - CONFERENCE AND FIELD TRIP**

MORE INFORMATION

REGISTER NOW

3 SEPTEMBER



**PROFESSIONALISM &  
CODE OF ETHICS**

MORE INFORMATION

REGISTER NOW



<http://www.gssa.org.za>





**GEOCONGRESS  
2025**

EMBRACING  
CHANGE THROUGH  
COLLABORATION

24 - 27 June 2025

The GSSA is pleased to announce that Geocongress 2025 will be hosted in Bloemfontein from 24–27 June next year! We look forward to seeing you there! Please save these dates and keep an eye on updates, which will be shared on the [Geocongress2025](https://geocongress2025.org.za/) website.



## CALL FOR SESSIONS

For Geocongress 2025 to be a success, we need the input of the southern African Earth Sciences community! If you are interested in proposing a scientific session at Geocongress 2025, please use the “Sessions” tab on the congress [web portal](https://geocongress2025.org.za/) to create an account and to submit your proposal. The deadline for proposing a session is 9 July 2024. We look forward to receiving your proposals so that we can put together an exciting and diverse scientific programme.

## FIELDTRIP QUESTIONNAIRE:

For us to decide on which fieldtrips to run, we ask that you indicate your fieldtrip preferences by completing the questionnaire provided on the “Fieldtrips” tab on the congress [web portal](https://geocongress2025.org.za/) as soon as possible.

**CONTACT US**



[secretariat@geocongress2025.org.za](mailto:secretariat@geocongress2025.org.za)



<https://geocongress2025.org.za/>

# LUNCHTIME TALK - SHADRACK PHETLA

Geothermal Energy in Africa: A Solution to the Electricity Crisis

5 July 2024, 13:00



[ZOOM LOGIN](#)



The Geological Society  
of Zimbabwe



# GSSA MENTORSHIP

*Programme*

Support | Advice | Development | Motivation | Success

Mentee Presentations

Despina Tshipala

Challenges in opencast dewatering within crystalline aquifers

Musa Mhlanga

The Sea Point Contact and its historical significance, Western Cape

**REGISTER  
NOW**

10 July 2024 | 13:00 - 14:00

[www.gssa.org.za](http://www.gssa.org.za)



Northern Cape Branch  
Geological Society of South Africa



# NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY

## 11 - 20 MARCH 2025

SECOND CIRCULAR

FIELDTRIP  
INFORMATION

**REGISTER NOW**

NDC WEBSITE

SPONSORSHIP  
PACKAGES



### Venue

The technical sessions will be held at the LETATSI LODGE & CONFERENCE VENUE in Vanrhynsdorp.

## NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CONFERENCE

11-20 March 2025



100 YEARS OF THE DISCOVERY OF  
THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMONDS  
11-20 MARCH 2025



Council for Geoscience



MINROM



"Our insight, your foresight"



GEO-EXPLORE STORE (PTY) LTD  
www.geoexplorestore.co.za



Northern Cape Branch  
Geological Society of South Africa



KIMBERLEY INTERNATIONAL  
DIAMOND SYMPOSIUM (KIDS 2023)  
23-27 AUGUST 2023



EXPLORATIONS UNLIMITED



[www.gssa.org.za](http://www.gssa.org.za)

**NDC SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**



## CRIRSCO

CRIRSCO (Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards) is the umbrella organisation that is responsible for developing mineral reporting codes and guidelines. This effectively means that the CRIRSCO family of codes contribute to the earning and maintaining of trust of all stakeholders in the extraction industry by promoting high standards and international best practice of the public reporting of mineral deposit estimates (Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves) and of exploration. CRIRSCO is organized and managed in line with principles of Transparency and Materiality in processes conducted by responsible Competent Persons, who are continuously monitored and provide statements of minerals resources and reserves to reliably inform.

CRIRSCO is recognized as the international organization that represents the mining industry in matters relating to the standardization of mineral reporting codes for public statements, as a Strategic Partner of ICMM and also accredited by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), an organization that brings together stock exchanges around the world and dictates accounting rules, by international standards IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards).

The member countries/regions, known as National Reporting Organisations (NROs), are Australasia (JORC), Brazil (CBRR), Canada (CIM), Chile (National Committee), Colombia (CCRR), Europe (PERC), India (NACRI), Indonesia (KOMBERS | KCMI), Kazakhstan (KAZRC), Mongolia (MPIGM), Philippines (PMARC), Russia (OERN), South Africa (SAMREC), Turkey (UMREK) and USA (SME). Each NRO has 2 representatives on CRIRSCO.

The similarity of the various national reporting codes and guidelines has enabled CRIRSCO to develop an International Minerals Reporting Code Template. The CRIRSCO template is provided for the establishment and maintenance of the reporting codes. The Template provides the “core code and guidelines” for the CRIRSCO-style reporting standards, allowing for the inclusion of country-specific requirements such as those of a legal and investment regulatory nature. The CRIRSCO family of reporting codes provides governance to the public reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves.

The Template integrates the minimum standards adopted in national/regional reporting codes and standards around the world, with recommendations and interpretive guidelines and is designed to contribute to the dissemination and promotion of effective and well-tested good practices, widely adopted through national and regional reporting codes and standards, following a trend towards more stringent corporate governance and regulation, with the application of best practices in mineral resource management, based on high standard public statements.

At the core of the Template is Figure 1 which shows the relationship of the reporting categories. These categories are included in the 16 Standard Definitions which are included in all of the members reporting codes. Also fundamental to the reporting codes is the requirement for a Competent (or Qualified) Person who takes on the responsibility for the public reporting.

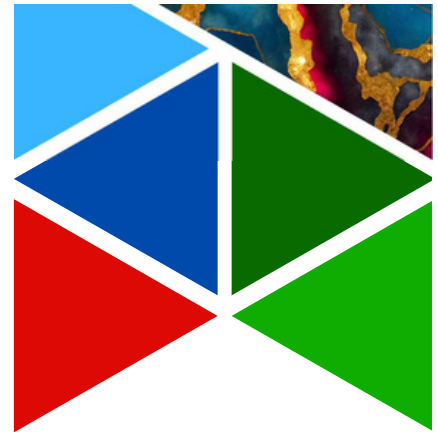
The NROs meet annually to discuss developments within the mining industry and ensure that the alignment of the codes is maintained as well as recommending the way forward in mineral reporting.

More details are available on [www.CRIRSCO.com](http://www.CRIRSCO.com)

# 5th SOUTHERN AFRICAN MINERAL SYMPOSIUM 2024

## SECOND CIRCULAR

A one-day symposium highlighting the minerals and mineral/gemstone deposits of southern Africa, hosted by the Mineralogical Association of South Africa.  
**South Africa.**



Mineralogists, Scientists, Students,  
Enthusiasts.



## SOUTHERN AFRICAN MINERAL SYMPOSIUMS: BRIEF HISTORY

The "1st International Gem & Minerals Symposium" was organised in September 1975 by the Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club in Pretoria on behalf of the Federation of South African Gem and Mineralogical Societies. Four overseas and three local mineralogists and gemmologists delivered a series of talks over three days, and one day was taken up by field trips. The themes of the lectures were focussed primarily on overseas minerals and mineral localities and gemstones.

Seventeen years later, in 1992, the "First SA Mineral Collectors Symposium" was held at the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg. This concentrated more on local content than the first symposium held in Pretoria. Thirteen local experts presented talks on various aspects of minerals, mineral localities, and analytical techniques related to identifying minerals and gemstones.

In 2010 and 2012, two more successful local mineral symposium meetings took place in Pretoria, with 118 delegates attending the 2010 meeting and seventy-six attending in 2012.

### **The purpose of the symposium is twofold:**

- Firstly, to get together the 'professionals' and the 'amateurs' who are experts in their respective fields and to have stimulating discussions on minerals, gemstones and related topics.
- Secondly, the symposium acts as a vehicle for promoting and highlighting minerals, mineral heritage, mineral collecting and mineral preservation in our region.

**It is envisaged to build on the success of the current symposium, and the previous ones, to hold these meetings on a biennial basis in future.**

[MORE INFO >>](#)

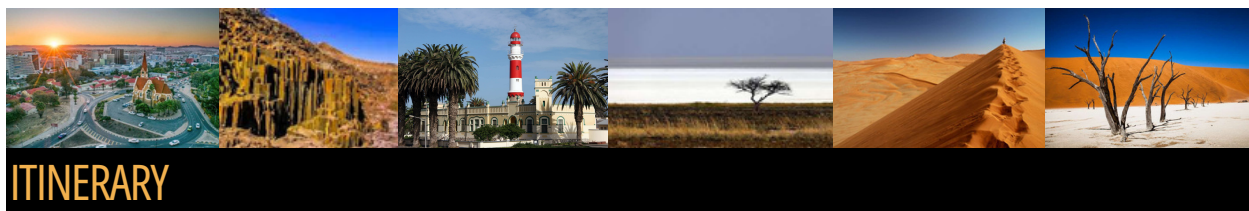


# MEET-A-MINERALOGIST NAMIBIA TOUR 2024

MINSa is delighted to bring you the “Meet-A-Mineralogist” Tour! We will be doing a circular route (beginning and concluding in Windhoek) that will incorporate mineral collecting (self and bought), mine tours, museum excursions, some natural history, some cultural history and some palaeontology.



Mineralogists, Scientists, Students,  
Enthusiasts.



## ITINERARY

[MORE INFO >>](#)



ATTENTION ALL MINERAL PHYSICISTS!



Minsa would like to remind all our members of the forthcoming European Mineralogical Conference EMC 2024, to be held in Dublin from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.



Mineralogists, Scientists, Students,  
Enthusiasts.

[MORE INFO >>](#)