GIRAF 2015: International workshop in Maputo on Geoscience Information, Sustainable Mining, Stones for Development and the Environment

The 4th GIRAF Workshop will be held from 6 to 9 October 2015 in Maputo (Mozambique). The workshop is being organized in joint cooperation with the GIRAF groups of Mozambique (Eduardo Mondlane University and the Ministério dos Recursos Minerais e Energia, Mocambique) and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Germany. Funding is provided by the “Extractives and Development Program” by the German Government (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ), the UNDP project “Stoned for Development”, the UNESCO Nairobi and the Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information of the IUGS. The main goal of GIRAF network is to provide a platform for discussion, experience sharing and learning event for practitioners and users of geoscientific information. Special topics of the GIRAF 2015 Workshop are

- Geoscience information, geoinformatics and maps
- Sustainable mining;
- Artisanal and small scale mining management;
- Groundwater;
- Environmental issues;
- GIS, remote sensing and geoscientific data management;
- The future of GIRAF – Transfer of the coordination and management to African GIRAF members.

The pan-African network GIRAF (GeoInformation in Africa) is evolving since 2006 where the preparation workshop took place in Maputo, Mozambique at the 21.CAG. Three main workshops were held since then: in 2009 (Windhoek, Namibia), in 2011 (Dar es Salam, Tanzania), and in 2013 (Accra, Ghana).

General objectives of GIRAF activities are the provision, dissemination and use of geoscience information and geodata in Africa through a sound geodata-management supporting sustainable development in the fields of

- Mineral planning and mining;
- Artisanal mining (environmental impact studies, legalising, health aspects, socially acceptable living conditions in mining housing estates, etc.);
- Securing and protection of water resources;
- Soil protection.

The GIRAF Network/initiative now has 392 members from 62 countries, 14 of which are non-African: India, Australia and 12 European countries. 14 GIRAF ambassadors are active in their home countries in Africa.

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