



## OneGeology: Relationships with Associated International Bodies

### Background

The success of OneGeology is dependent on establishing clear and strong relationships with partners and stakeholders. Beginning at the inaugural workshop in Brighton in 2006, OneGeology has strived to establish strong relationships with other regional and international geoscience and spatial data initiatives and bodies. This paper identifies initiatives and bodies that OneGeology currently interacts with, or has developed a relationship with, and summarizes the current relationship. This paper has now become OneGeology policy on relationships after having been ratified by the OneGeology Steering Group on 24 April 2009.

### Summary of Current Relationships

#### UNESCO

UNESCO has been supportive of OneGeology since its inception. Robert Missotten, Chief, Global Earth Observation Section, International Geoscience Programme Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences attended the Brighton Meeting and is currently an ex-officio member of the OneGeology Steering Group.

#### Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)

The CGI is the IUGS Commission with the mandate for endorsing international geological standards and its relationship with OneGeology is complementary. The CGI coordinates the Interoperability Working Group which continues to develop standards and endorse geoscience standards, such as GeoSciML for the exchange of geological data. GeoSciML is the recommended standard schema for serving geological map to the OneGeology portal. The CGI also delivers outreach workshops such as GIRAF (Namibia, 2009) which promotes OneGeology and associated (CGI) standards to developing countries.

#### International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

The IUGS is the International Committee of Scientific Unions (ICSU) parent body of the CGI and CGMW who interact with OneGeology in the complementary fashion noted. As the ICSU scientific union responsible for geology, IUGS is and has been a strong and consistent supporter of OneGeology.

#### International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)

OneGeology was launched in the International Year of Planet Earth as a key geological survey initiative, to make public and Internet-accessible, the best available geological map data worldwide, initially at a scale of about 1:1 million, to better address the needs of society. OneGeology is regarded as a flagship IYPE initiative.

#### Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW)

The CGMW was created in 1881. It is a non-profit-making scientific and educational body governed by French law. The CGMW is responsible for designing, promoting, coordinating, preparing and publishing small-scale thematic (geology, geophysics, ore deposits, natural resources, climate, etc.) OneGeology and CGMW have had a strong and complementary relationship, indeed OneGeology concept was originally presented to a CGMW General Assembly in January 2006. The objective of OneGeology is to provide online access to global geological map data which complements the CGMW objective of facilitating and coordinating the compilation of global and regional geological maps



(which OneGeology serves in addition to national datasets from geological surveys). The President and/or Secretary General of CGMW regularly attend and input to OneGeology meetings and Manuel Pubellier is an ex-officio member of the OneGeology Steering Group.

#### International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM)

The primary purpose of ISCGM is to examine measures that concerned national, regional and international organizations can take to foster the development of Global Mapping in order to facilitate the implementation of global agreements and conventions for environmental protection as well as the mitigation of natural disasters and to encourage economic growth within the context of sustainable development. ISCGM and OneGeology are complementary initiatives based in different respective domains, topography and geology. The Chair of ISCGM has participated in OneGeology since its inception and has offered valuable advice on a number of governance and IPR issues.

#### International Consortium of Geological Surveys (ICOGS)

OneGeology is largely a product of the geological surveys that make up ICOGS. While geological surveys have always played an invaluable role within our own individual nations and also worked bilaterally to assist each other, OneGeology is the first time the surveys have pooled their expertise and data and knowledge bases on a global scale to deliver geological data for the planet. ICOGS members met in Oslo to discuss how they will take ICOGS forward in the future. Our understanding is that these discussions are ongoing.

#### Regional Organizations and OneGeology Initiatives (CCOP, ASGMI, AASG, EuroGeoSurveys, etc.)

These regional groups are each quite different in operation but have been very supportive of the policies, principles and implementation of OneGeology and are contributing to the overall objectives of OneGeology. OneGeology has also inspired a number of regional geoscience initiatives (like OneGeology-Europe and GIN) which are coordinating regional and continental-level geological map data which will be made available through the OneGeology portal.

#### Geoscience Information Consortium (GIC)

This body is formed of senior information managers and directors from the geological surveys of the world; it meets annually. GIC is strongly supportive of OneGeology and maintains a close interest in the technical developments.

#### Other scientific bodies

The International Lithosphere Program requested association with the OneGeology initiative.

### **Recommended Approach to Relationships**

OneGeology's considerable success is built upon the voluntary contributions of well motivated partners. OneGeology technology, standards, and procedures are largely in the public domain and OneGeology governance is transparent and equitable. The continued success of OneGeology requires careful attention to continued transparency and openness in all relationships. Formal relationships with the international private sector bodies have not yet been developed because of the risk of real or perceived conflict of interest. It is recommended that OneGeology continues to operate an open and receptive stance to all international bodies that share mutual or associated goals.



The relationships with CGI, UNESCO and CGMW are particularly important and it is recommended that they merit additional effort by OneGeology/the Executive Secretary to ensure optimum communication **(this now includes CGMW and UNESCO attending OneGeology Steering Group as ex-officio members).**

John Broome (original paper)  
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