

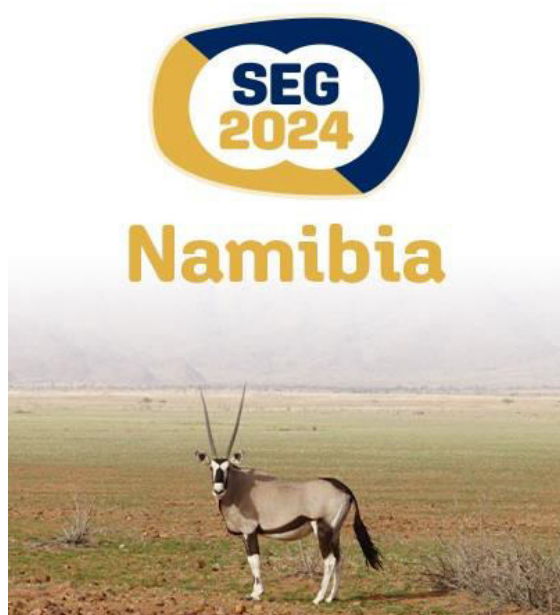
Namibia Plays Host to the Society of Economic Geologists at SEG 2024

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After the 29th Colloquium of African Geology (CAG29) in 2023, Namibia was honoured to host the conference of the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG) this year, which took place from 27th to 30th September at the Mercure (formerly Safari) Conference Centre in Windhoek.



This prestigious annual event is one of the main get-togethers for mineral researchers from academia, mining and exploration, government and non-governmental organisations to discuss the results of their work, promote new projects and theories in the field of economic geology, and generally engage with their peers. For some time, it has also been a forum for a variety of supporting sectors, such as information and mining technology, to showcase new techniques, products and services relevant to the search for and research of ore deposits.

Established in December 1920 with a view to create a platform for knowledge exchange between universities and the mineral industry, the Society of Economic Geologists celebrated its 100th anniversary during the COVID pandemic in 2021, with a hybrid conference held in Whistler (Canada) and on a virtual platform. Over the more than hundred years of its

existence, it has grown from its modest beginnings of originally 60 members – among them such eminent figures as R. A. F. Penrose, W. Lindgren and J. E. Spurr – to a membership above 6000 in more than 100 countries around the globe. While the annual conference, which usually attracts around 1000 international delegates, from its own ranks as well as non-members, most frequently is held near SEG headquarters in Littleton, Colorado, at intervals it is staged in countries with a long history in mining and ore geology research, such as Chile, Canada, Australia and China to name but a few. Only for the second time – after South Africa 2008 – it now returned to the African continent, thanks to the initiative of past SEG President Chico Azevedo and the SEG Programme Committee. And, indeed, Namibia has been a very fitting choice to commemorate Brian Hoal, Director of the Geological Survey of Namibia in the early years of national Independence from 1992 to 1996 and Executive Director of SEG for 23 years until the announcement of his retirement in May 2022. His post-graduate research on the mid- to late Proterozoic Awasi



Mountain Terrain (southern Namibia) to this day remains the standard work on the geology, geochemistry and geochronology of this remote area on the edge of the Namib, and the news of

his passing in March 2023 recalled his usually equable and open-minded personality to all in Namibia who knew him as a colleague and chief.

SEG 2024

This year's conference was organised by the Society of Economic Geologists in associations with the Geoscience Council and the Geological Society of Namibia, the Organising Committee also including representatives from the Geological Survey of Namibia, the University of Namibia, as well as the private sector. Apart from the official SEG platform (www.segweb.org/SEG-2024/), the event was promoted locally via social media, NBC (Namibian Broadcasting Corporation) TV and radio, and the press (e. g. The Namibian). Under the motto "Sustainable Mineral Exploration and Development", a variety of topics from the major mineral provinces of Africa to novel technologies in ore deposit research and the future development of the mineral resource scene in the light of energy transition and other technological advances were discussed in invited and submitted oral presentations and poster sessions.

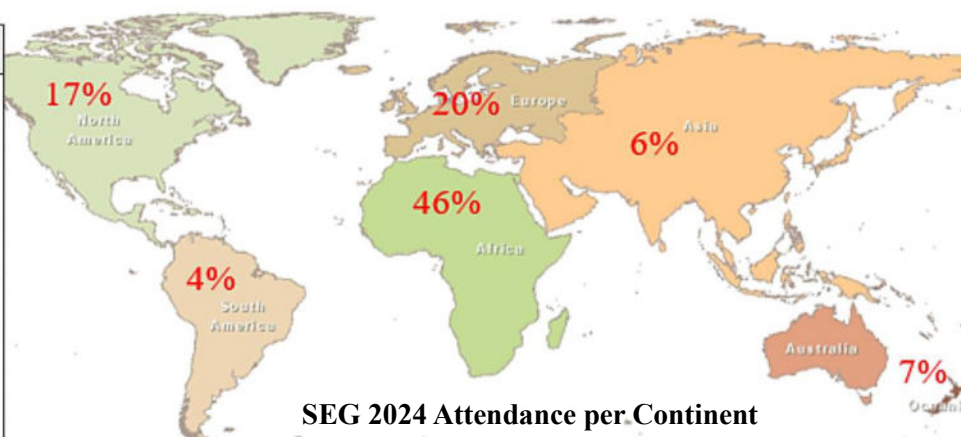
Session Themes

- The Energy Transition: Metals of the Future
- Specialty Metals and Materials
- Innovative Technology Development in Mineral Deposit Science
- Africa's Iconic Ore Deposits
- New Discoveries and Developments
- Resource Development: ESG from Exploration to Remediation
- Gold: Enhanced Discovery & Development
- Vital High-Volume Base Metals

Sponsorship funding by B2 Gold (Patron), BHP and GeologicAI (Premier), Barrick, Equinox Gold and KoBold Metals (Gold), and many others ensured an interesting technical programme substantiated by 23 guest speakers, while the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Namibia (MME), assisted with in-kind contributions. Also, the "Conference Accessibility Programme (CAP), sponsored by Patron Rio Tinto and other companies, as well as many individuals, financially supported 96 geologists from 27 countries. Launched in 2024 to enable local/regional/continental students, early-career professionals, post-doctoral researchers and academics to attend international events, SEG aims to make CAP a permanency to complement its existing Student Presenter Funding programme.

During the four conference days some 850 registered participants from academia, mineral exploration and mining, governmental and parastatal institutions, NGOs, plus supporting industries, such as drilling, analytical, IT and financial services, representing 64 countries, engaged in a close-packed agenda interspersed with refreshing tea-cum-discussion breaks. Beyond the traditional welcome and closing receptions, participants could enjoy the SEG Awards Ceremony, which honoured the outstanding contributions of ten distinguished scientists to the field of economic geology and society, and an Industry Outlook Dinner, featuring a dynamic presentation by the CEO of KoBold Metals, Zambia. Awards were also given to the best student presentations at SEG 2024.

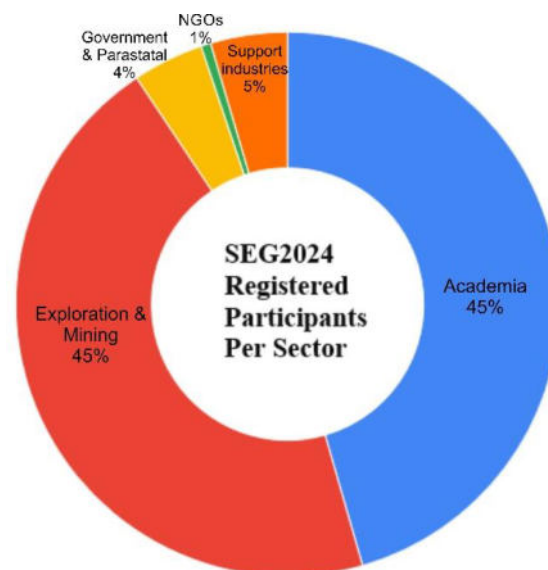
Top 15 countries	Registered participants
Namibia	173
South Africa	92
Canada	83
Australia	60
USA	57
UK	53
Germany	32
Zambia	22
Ghana	17
Japan	17
DR Congo	14
Ireland	14
Peru	14
Botswana	13
Spain	13



SEG 2024 kicked off with a Cultural Dance Group, which was followed by opening remarks by Senior Mineral Resource Manager of Debmarmine Namibia Godfrey Ngaisiue on responsible sustainable exploration and mining, and outgoing SEG President Stephen Piercey, who focused on challenges facing the industry and the future of SEG. Key points of his address included:

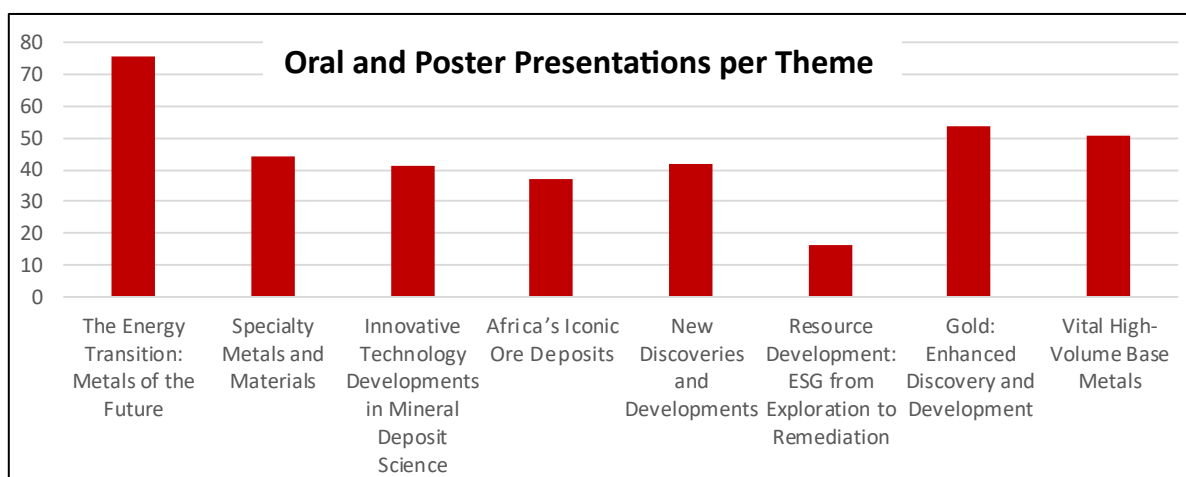
- Creation of high-quality publications embracing new media;
- Innovative and inclusive conferences with diverse formats, locations, and global access;
- Learning opportunities for all members at every career stage;
- Establishment of a global community understanding Earth's resources;
- Adaptable governance to ensure the Society's sustainability.

SEG 2024 featured 85 oral presentations in two parallel sessions, plus 275 poster presentations. In addition, the five-member Global Challenges Panel chaired by incoming SEG President Anne Thompson, discussed “Geoscience Capacity Building for the Future” from an African perspective, while three invited plenary speakers addressed the audience on sustainable development opportunities for the mining industry, B2Gold’s Legacy in Namibia, and the impact of the Pan-Africa Reporting Code on the future of mining in Africa. Another panel discussion entitled “Conference Reflections and Future Perspectives in Memory of Brian G. Hoal” rounded off SEG 2024, together with a session on “Motivating Future Geoscientists”, which featured representatives of the Next Generation Explorers Award (NGEA) Africa Final-



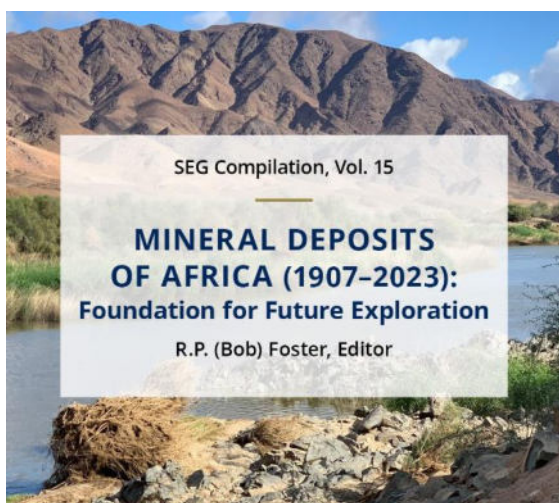
ist Teams from Cameroon, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and a presentation by the chairperson of the SEG 2025 Organising Committee, which will take place in Brisbane, Australia.

While more than one third of the “regular” presentations dealt with topics of the day, such as energy transition and vital high-volume base metals, “classical” ore geology received a boost from three special sessions (Trifecta 1 – 3) on eminent African themes, i. e. the history of gold mining on the continent, the Central African Copper Belt and the iconic Bushveld Igneous Complex of South Africa, presented by invited authorities. Also, a special SEG publication entitled “Mineral Deposits of Africa (1907 – 2023): Foundation for Future Exploration” (SEG Publication 15) was published in time to celebrate SEG 2024 in Namibia, providing a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the state of mining and mineral exploration on the continent.





Surrounding the four days of technical sessions, a variety of activities, including pre- and post-conference excursions and workshops took place. Field trips near (Onganja Mine, Windhoek District) and far (Zambian Copperbelt, Great Dyke of Zimbabwe) covered a vast range of commodities and mineralisation systems, such as orogenic gold (Damara Belt), iron-oxide-copper-gold (IOCG, Onganja), REE (northern Namibia), lithium (Zimbabwe), base metals (southern Namibia, Zambia), uranium (central Namibia) and the Namibian diamond mega-placer that - after more than a hundred years of exploitation - still provides a goodly portion of the national GDP. Apart from an interesting and often unique geology, these field excursions, which were guided by international and local geologists such as Murray Hitzman, Alex Kisters, Pete Siegfried, Robert Carr, Judith Kinnaird and Gabi Schneider, also offered some grand scenery across southern Africa like the Bogenfels on Namibia's diamond coast and the stunning Victoria Falls on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Their popularity is best attested to by the fact that most of the ten excursions, although not cheap, were sold out well before the early registration deadline!

Workshops covered orogenic gold systems, discovery and recovery of critical minerals, the role of fluid inclusions in ore systems and drone technology in mineral exploration, as well as a course on technical writing - a fundamental skill all too often neglected or lacking in geoscience training. A pre-conference SEG and Early Career Day encompassed round table discussions and a 'mentor-mentee' programme. The latter attracted more than 250 participants from diverse sectors of the field, bringing together industry professionals, academic leaders



and students/early career scientists, to foster relationships crucial for professional development. A special field trip to the Matchless Mine near Windhoek was guided by Ben Mapani, geology professor at the Namibian University of Science and Technology.

Last but not least, 27 international exhibitors from mining and exploration, support industries, and professional organisations, among them the Geological Society and the Geoscience Council of Namibia and, of course, the Society of Economic Geologists, took the opportunity to showcase their products and services at an international forum. Special thanks are due to all those locally and abroad, who have helped to make this event, which - with workshops and field trips - spanned two and a half weeks from 19 September to 7 October 2024, a success.



SEG booth at the Exhibitors' Hall



Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) booth



Grateful CAP participants with SEG officials and Organising Committee members



Former Executive Director of MME, Brian Eiseb (left) and Chamber of Mines (Namibia) President, Zebra Kasete (right) attending a lecture session



NGEA Panel discussion wrapping up SEG 2024



B2 Gold and SEG officials at the sponsorship hand-over ceremony



SEG 2024 organising committee chairperson being interviewed by NBC



Swartbooisdrif Sodalite, Kunene Region - Field Trip FT02: REE Deposits of Northern Namibia



Old copper workings – Field Trip FT07: The Iron-Oxide-Copper-Gold (IOCG) Vein System of the Onganja Mine, Windhoek District



Diamonds are forever – Field Trip FT01: A Visit to the Namibian Diamond Mega-Placer, //Karas Region