

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

Researchers:

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School/Centre:

Centre for Exploration Targeting

University/Institutions:

The University of Western Australia

Key themes:

Governance and Regulation
Operational Effectiveness

Key countries:

Africa

Completion:

March 2015

Research aims:

This research aimed to develop an online course in geology to serve the West African region. This is in response to current teaching limitations including:

- insufficiency of text books with African geology and case studies
- technological limitations
- linguistic barriers

For further information on this action research:

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Establishment of the GEOLOOC Online Training Site for West Africa

The primary objective for this action was to enhance knowledge-sharing in Geosciences by building a regional training network with special emphasis on African geology and related topics. This is being achieved through the provision of materials for Earth Science teaching in West African Universities in the 'Geology Open On-line Courses – West Africa' (GEOLOOC-WA) online platform. To achieve this goal, a set of 12 digital Open Access undergraduate and graduate level training modules for use across West Africa will be developed. In the first phase, five modules are being developed in the areas detailed below:

- GIS
- Sedimentology
- Structural geology and rock mechanics
- Petrology and geochemistry
- Governance: international conventions, policy, administration, legal codes and acts

A start-up meeting for the project was held in partnership with the WAXI project in September 2014, in Toulouse, which was attended by representatives of seven African nations, as well as France, Australia and a UNESCO delegation. At this meeting (which involved 34 participants in total), group decisions were made on the composition of the steering committee as well as the choice of the initial courses to be offered.

The database and web platforms for the training (Moodle) and project (Drupal) information sites respectively have been installed. The first complete courses (Structural geology and rock mechanics, Microstructures in naturally deformed rocks, and Structural geophysics) have been uploaded and are currently being translated into French. Other courses will appear through 2015.