

INTERNATIONAL METALLOGENIC MAP OF AFRICA: MISSION COMPLETED

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This important CGMW project, which has been over twenty-five years in the making, is coming to fruition and the final results are presented. Since 1994 data have been systematically recorded in electronic format to facilitate the GIS production of the maps and the interrogation and manipulation of the data. The first data-sets, covering Africa south of the equator were released on CD-ROM in July 1999, whereas data for Africa north of the equator will be released later this year. What remains is the final cartography and printing of the maps. The data model comprises several data layers: 1. A chronostratigraphy and lithology data layer. 2. A geotectonic environment data layer, i.e. (i) platform environments (viz. continental, marine and paralic environments), (ii) orogenic environments, including pre-, syn-, or late/post-tectonic intrusions, and (iii) anorogenic environments. 3. An orogenic domain data layer. 4. A layer for structural data, showing main faults and thrusts. 5. A layer for mineral deposits, recording the position (lat/long), name, commodities, size, shape and status of deposits. While the depth of data on individual deposits is limited, owing to the scale of the map, the strength lies in the GIS data model, permitting comprehensive data analysis and the identification of diagnostic styles of mineralisation, typical mineral and host rock associations, as well as of metallogenic epochs and provinces on a local, regional or global scale, as shown in this presentation.