Introduction

Dear OneGeology users, dear data providers, dear members,

We have set ourselves a goal to regularly inform you of the OneGeology status, its membership changes, technical developments, our work plans and regional first-hand information.

As you will be able to read from this, already the 15th Newsletter; OneGeology Consortium has grown a bit from the autumn 2014 when we issued the last Newsletter. Since then two new countries have joined the OneGeology community and Consortium grew by eight members. Several upgrades to the OneGeology Portal have been introduced and the technical teams are continuously working on the topic to efficiently meet the demands of our users. The next twelve months are crucial in securing OneGeology sustainability and to achieve this aim we’re seeking stronger support within geological community by institutions joining the Consortium and by providing geological and other geoscience data not being served yet. We will also show a short overview of the planned activities for 2015-16.

We hope you enjoy this Newsletter and we look forward to working with you all in the future. We welcome all feedback, so please feel free to contact us with any views or ideas you have in support of OneGeology, or if you have any interesting articles you would like including in the next edition of the OneGeology Newsletter.

We encourage you to join the OneGeology Consortium as a Principal Member and by paying a membership fee help OneGeology to achieve sustainability. For more information please contact the admin team at the BGS.

This year OneGeology Board met in Canberra, Australia, from 19th to 21st January to discuss the governance, financial and plans for the next twelve months. The meeting was kindly hosted by the Geoscience Australia and its CEO Dr. Chris Pigram.

On the first day the workshop, the OneGeology Business plan was on the agenda. The Board members discussed different option’s and scenarios for potential future funding. As a result of the discussions various possibilities of achieving sustainability were defined and priorities of pursuing them agreed.

The second and third days were devoted to the regular issues relating to business planning, regional and technical developments, along with outreach activities, and cooperation with other domains. The work report presented by the administration team was discussed at length and the work plan for 2015-16 agreed. Minor updates to the Consortium Agreement were also approved at the meeting. Board representatives, highlighted developments and activities performed under OneGeology within in their respective regions. The outreach plan was introduced, and strategies for collaboration and cooperation with other initiatives were discussed.

You can find a summary of the meetings, plus the agenda and actions on the dedicated meetings page of our website.
In collaboration with the Companhia de Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais – CPRM, public company with the authority of Geological Survey of Brazil, the Asociación de Servicios de Geología y Minería Iberoamericanos – ASGMI and GED, OneGeology organised the “OneGeology South America Meeting: Rio-2014”. The event was hosted by the Geological Survey of Brazil, held in CPRM, in Rio de Janeiro, on 24th October 2014, and was attended by the representatives of the Geological Surveys of South America and selected invitees.

The purpose is of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the South America Geosciences community to exchange overviews of progress implementing OneGeology contributions and deploying associated international geoscience data exchanges and vocabularies, and also to discuss the related harmonization and integration of the geological data for the Geological Map of South America, at scales 1:1M and 1:5M. These maps are in being developed by the national geological surveys under the aegis of ASGMI and CGMW.

The Meeting was a great success, you can find out more on the CPRM website.

Following the meeting CPRM became the latest successful applicant to the ESRI software grant for OneGeology contributors and we thank ESRI for this very practical sponsorship.

Current Membership Status

OneGeology is proud to announce that as of end of 2014 OneGeology Consortium has members from all seven regions and can now be considered really a global initiative! During the last six months eight new members have actively joined OneGeology Consortium, which has at the end of March 2015 twenty Principal, two Associate and two Corporate Members, twenty four altogether. We’re proud that the OneGeology Consortium membership is increasing, which shows the recognition of the importance of delivering geological data in a standardised way. Active membership enables members to contribute to and draw from the pool of experts in the field of IT, GIS, and all geological sub-domains from which the data are being served.

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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>South Korea</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>National Research Council – Geological Survey of Canada</td>
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We invite all institutions that support the idea, the concept and the aims of OneGeology to join OneGeology Consortium and help achieve its sustainability. For more information or a copy of the Consortium Agreement please contact us;

Forthcoming Meetings and Events

INSPIRE-Geospatial World Forum 2015: Lisbon, May 2015 – On Monday the 25 May 2015 OneGeology is organising a workshop at the INSPIRE GWF 2015 with the title OneGeology: Providing geoscience data globally. The workshop will run for two and a half hours and will address the current status of OneGeology, different sustainable models for global platforms, links between regional initiatives, and development and adoption of standards.

Our Common Future Under Climate Change: Paris, July 2015 – OneGeology will participate at the big conference organised by UNESCO and its side event Trusted Data Services Supporting Climate Change Research organised by ICSU-WDS ICSU.

OneGeology Technical Implementation Group (TIG) meeting: Lisbon, May 2015 – On Tuesday the 26 May 2015 (in parallel with the INSPIRE Lisbon event) OneGeology is organising an all day TIG meeting hosted by the Portuguese Geological Survey (LNEG) at their premises; details can be found here.
OneGeology Work Plan 2015-16

One of the Canberra Board meeting outcomes were also issues that need to be addressed in the forthcoming year and the related activities. You can read all the board minutes and action items in the Board meetings section of our website.

In addition to engaging wider geological community, attracting more active members that pay the membership fee and finding sponsors, the development activities of OneGeology were defined. These of course heavily depend on any additional funding that OneGeology Consortium might acquire from external sources.

The work plan is divided into nine sets of activities of which the first five are related to essentially a business as usual maintenance level, a further three which would require additional funds of approximately 150K€ and a further two requiring additional funds of approximately 100K€.

The programme of development work for 2015-2016 was defined and limited only by the availability of funds available from subscribers and of still considerable contributions above that from the BGS and the BRGM. The latter contributions must be replaced by further Principal Member subscriptions and other income for OneGeology to continue. The programme includes registering new Web Map Services (WMS) from around the world — with much new activity for example from South America as a result of the meeting reported here; helping the creation of GeoSciML highly interoperable Web Feature Services (WFS); finishing a new metadata catalogue implementation using the imminent new version of 3 Geonetwork open source software, and this will include new ways of searching for the much wider forms of geoscience domain data that OneGeology now encourages data providers to provide and to make searchable by using the new keyword list published on the OneGeology website; BRGM implementing a new Geoserver service for it to be able to provide the new backdrops for the new multi-projection support system; and finally as announced in this issue, providing support in the portal for a third OGC standard data web service — the Web Coverage Service (WCS).

Interoperability enhancements

Whilst the ability for the OneGeology service support team to give support in more than the English language is limited simply by a limitations on funding of staff time, we are pleased to announce that we have manage to produce and publish the key parts of the WMS cookbook in Spanish — to help our growing number of Spanish speaking active participants — this can be found here: as usually any comments or requests for explanation in either Spanish or English can be received by contacting: OneGeologyhelp.

We are very pleased to announce in this issue that the OneGeology Portal can now accept the third type of OGC data services, first we supported WMS then WFS and now WCS version 2 (Web Coverage Services). Web Coverage services are good for both visualising and exchanging full datasets of grids, rasters, model outputs, 2D slices of 3D and 4D data. These datasets can be very large and WCS is a more convenient way of exposing, in as interoperable as way as possible, such datasets than WFS. These datasets may well be the way many of the new geoscience domains encouraged now by OneGeology and described in the new keyword list are held and considered and provide a way to express the third dimension in data and hence are a small step towards full 3D support within the portal which can only come with much greater funding underpinning OneGeology development. A preliminary new cookbook based on open source software as usual is available now from the OneGeology downloads cookbooks page.

We encourage you to contact OneGeology Help if you wish to consider providing WCS services to OneGeology.

An example visualisation of a large raster Bathymetry dataset served as a WCS underlying an onshore bedrock OneGeology WMS is provided here:
Regional Updates

Africa: Council for Geoscience from the Republic of South Africa (CGS) joined OneGeology at the beginning of the year and is now engaged in bringing additional members from Africa. As Africa is hosting the next IGC in 2016, OneGeology is focusing to more actively involve African countries. CGS will host a regional annual meeting for OneGeology participants similar to the recent South American one, in parallel with that IGC meeting.

Asia: Membership in Asia has grown by one as Korean Geological Survey (KIGAM) has joined OneGeology at the beginning of the year. GSJ has put lot of efforts in bringing CCOP and China Geological Survey into OneGeology as Principal Members.

Eurasia: During the last XVIII session of the Intergovernmental Council held in August 2014 in Kazakhstan (Almaty), it was unanimously decided to continue integration of published geological maps at 1: 200,000 scale for the CIS countries in the OneGeology project by VSEGEI. Efforts are made by VSEGEI to bring new members from the region into OneGeology during 2015

Europe: European geological surveys are active in organising a common research infrastructure (EGDI) based also on the OneGeology experience and linking OneGeology technology into EPOS – European Plate Observing System.

North America: Membership in North America has grown by two as USGS and Geological Survey of Canada have joined OneGeology at the beginning of the year. Arizona Geological Survey is very active in EarthCube initiative where several solutions from OneGeology are being implemented for developing a common geodata platform in USA.

Oceania: Chris Pigram, CEO Geoscience Australia, presented OneGeology to the exploration managers from mineral exploration companies from around the globe at a workshop prior the AMIRA Exploration Managers meeting which is held every 2 years. The meeting provided an opportunity for some useful feedback for the Board of One Geology in relation to our future plans. Late this year GNS New Zealand will be celebrating its 150 year anniversary of the establishment of its geological survey.

South America: October 2014 meeting of South American geological surveys and observing institutions hosted by CPRM in Rio resulted in intense discussions on cross-border harmonisation of geological data in the region. CPRM will soon through the OneGeology buddy system be hosting the data from Venezuela, Uruguay, Paraguay, Suriname, Guyana and Cuba. CPRM is in close cooperation with OneGeology technical team also preparing the new version of the Geological Map of Brazil in WFS format to improve the data harmonization to the GeoSciML standard to be served through the OneGeology Portal.

Useful Links

Some important links:
OneGeology web site (www.onegeology.org)
OneGeology Portal (http://portal.onegeology.org)
OneGeology Brighton Accord (http://www.onegeology.org/what_is/accord.html)
OneGeology help (onegeologyhelp@bgs.ac.uk)
General questions (onegeology@bgs.ac.uk)