OSAC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Standard on SEM/EDS

The OSAC task group on Geological Materials has created a draft entitled: 2024-S-0012, ‘Standard Practice for the Forensic Analysis of Geological Materials by Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry.’ OSAC will be requesting public comment on this draft in the May 2024 OSAC Standards Bulletin. The OSAC bulletin will be published on the website below on 7 May 2024 within which will be links to the draft standard and instructions for submitting public comments. All interested IUGS-IFG persons are encouraged to review this draft standard during the 30-day public comment period (estimated to run from about 7 May to 6 June 2024). This public comment period seeks any concerns, criticisms or suggestions aimed at improving this document. Once comments from both a technical review panel and the public are addressed, this document will be listed as proposed standard on the OSAC Registry and will then undergo further revision at the standards development organization, ASTM-International. If you have questions or miss the deadline for public comment, please contact Libby Stern.

Minerals and Metals Crime, Amazon, Brazil

The IUGS-IFG Student Representative and Geoforensic International Network (GIN) manager (Marcelo Tortolero) has undertaken field work in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil. As part of his illegal mining forensic geology PhD research this included the collection of samples from operational and recently abandoned artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) operations.

Marcelo Tortolero (The IUGS-IFG Student Representative and Geoforensic International Network Manager) collecting samples at ASGM operations on the Amazon, Brazil (Photos: Marcelo Tortolero).

IUGS Annual Report for 2023

The IUGS Annual Report for 2023 is available on the link below. This provides a summary of events and activities during 2023, and in association with International Science Council (ISC) and UNESCO, including in advance of 120 adhering organizations and over 50 affiliated organizations. A summary of IUGS-IFGs principal achievements in 2023 is provided by the IUGS-IFG Chair (Laurance Donnelly) on pages 56-58.

41st Symposium on Economic Crime, Cambridge University, UK, September 2024

The Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime is planned to take place at Cambridge University, UK on 1-8 September 2024. IUGS-IFG are in the early stages of considering attending and planning a workshop or series of lectures on illegal mining and mining crime. Those interested in supporting this event are encouraged to contact the IUGS-IFG Chair (Laurance Donnelly).

Medical and Forensic Geology, International Geological Congress, South Korea, August 2024

At the 37th International Geological Congress, Busan, South Korea, 25-31 August 2024 IUGS-IFG has agreed to combine with the session on Medical Geology. IUGS-IFG members that have submitted an abstract that has been accepted, are asked to please contact IUGS-IFG Chair (Laurance Donnelly) if you intended to apply for co-funding to present your paper in South Korea.