



## International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) Monthly Update and Information for IUGS E-Bulletin, March 2024

### Mining Security Working Group (MSWG), Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, Canada

On 29 February to 1 March 2024, Dr Laurance Donnelly was invited by the Mining Security Working Group (MSWG) to attend a meeting at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. MSWG was established in 2015 as a forum for subject matter experts and security practitioners within the extractive industry to collaborate and share insights and learnings of ongoing challenges, technological advances, loss learnings, and further the goals of industry initiatives such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and UN Declaration of Human Rights. The focus of the meeting included the impact of cartels and terrorist organisations on the mining and minerals industry in Mexico, South America and the Sahel region of Africa. Dr Donnelly provided a presentation on provenance determination, traceability and mitigation of the associated risks in the mining, minerals and metals industries.



*Dr Laurance Donnelly, presenting at MSWG, Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, Canada.*

### IUGS Executive Committee, Nairobi, Kenya

On 19-21 February 2024, Dr Laurance Donnelly attend the 79th Executive Committee meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. As a result, IUGS agreed to continue to support IFG. Additionally, there was a focus event on, 'Geoscience for Africa', attended by Prof Jennifer McKinley. In Africa there was collaboration with the International Science Council, UNESCO, Geological Society of Africa, International Organization for the Genesis of Ore Deposits, Nigerian Mining and Geoscience Society, American Geoscience Institute, Geological Society of America and Geological Society of London.



*Dr Laurance Donnelly, at the IUGS & UNESCO meeting, 'Geoscience for Africa', Nairobi, Kenya.*

### Forensic Geology Standards Development Activities in OSAC

Seven members of IUGS-IFG currently serve on OSAC-GEO with strong links and communication maintained, especially with standards published on colour, XRD and soil collection. Once published and approved by OSAC, these standards are placed on a registry of approved standards publicly readable. Close ties between OSAC-GEO and IUGS-IFG ensure continuity avoiding work overlap. While one is national and the other international, both have a common goal of best practice in Forensic Geology. At the most recent meeting on 26 February 2024 this concentrated on finalising a draft SEM-EDS standard practice document that will now undergo vetting and refinement by other OSAC components and by the standards development organisation, ASTM-International. There will be at least two formal public comment periods about this document for which OSAC-GEO will seek input from the public at large and IUGS-IFG in particular

<https://www.nist.gov/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/osac-registry>

<https://www.nist.gov/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/osac-research-and-development-needs>

<https://youtu.be/o9dWZOj1U5A>

### UNODC, Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment, Gold Trafficking in the Sahel

A report has been published by UNODC on, 'Gold Trafficking in the Sahel', and will be included in the IUGS-IFG Special Project on Illegal Mining, Minerals and Metals Crimes.

### IUGS-IFG, Rome, Italy

On 13 March 2023, seven European members of IUGS-IFG met and agreed to hold a meeting and workshop in Italy, Rome, in 2025. This marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of IUGS-IFG. As part of the celebration a photo-video record is proposed to be produced. IUGS-IFG members are requested to upload any photographs and video footage on the link below:

[https://1drv.ms/f/s!AsrTd01Cyyfxk\\_dIAQtSPJlY0073g](https://1drv.ms/f/s!AsrTd01Cyyfxk_dIAQtSPJlY0073g)

