



**Geology  
for  
Global  
Development**

# **Strategy 2017–2021**



**‘Mobilising and reshaping the  
geology community to help  
deliver the UN Sustainable  
Development Goals’**

# Our Purpose

*Geology for Global Development* is a registered charity. Our purpose is to champion the role of geology in sustainable development, mobilising and reshaping the geology community to help deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015–2030).



# Our Vision

We see a world where:

- Every geologist is equipped with the skills and understanding required to make a positive contribution to sustainable development.
- The geology community is actively engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of international development activities.
- Organisations, governments and individuals have equal access to, and an understanding of, the geological science required to ensure sustainable development.

# Our Values

The values that underpin all aspects of our work are helpfully articulated by the *Cape Town Statement of Geoethics*, endorsed by the trustees of *Geology for Global Development* in January 2017. Read more: [www.geoethics.org/ctsg](http://www.geoethics.org/ctsg)

# Strategic Objectives

In 2015, the international community agreed the UN *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). These goals aim to eradicate global poverty, promote sustainable consumption patterns, and facilitate sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Geology can play a vital role in addressing these challenges, but that requires enhanced knowledge, new skills, and strengthened links across charities, governmental bodies, and the academic and industrial geology community.

In this context, we seek to mobilise and equip the geology community to engage in a full, positive and effective manner, preventing and relieving poverty, and encouraging sustainable development. We have agreed four strategic objectives to do this, outlined in full in the following pages.

# 1. Inspiration

## Promote the value of geology in supporting sustainable development

Many people are unaware of the role geology can play in supporting sustainable development. We will work towards greater recognition for, and understanding of, the role of geology in tackling significant global challenges (e.g., water security, food security, resilience to natural hazards, natural resource management, urbanisation, and climate change). We envisage this 'inspiration' component of our work being both within and beyond the geology community.



### Work towards this objective...

- Develop a high-quality online presence – including the use of videos, podcasts, and social media.
- Publish and disseminate a set of geology-themed briefing notes to support policy and practitioner communities engaged in development.
- Catalyse the publication of peer-reviewed articles, books and other resources on geology and sustainable development.
- Develop and deliver an event for a public audience about the work of geologists in overseas contexts.

## 2. Education

### **Equip geologists to engage positively in sustainable development**

**The skills and knowledge required to make an effective and positive contribution to sustainable development are often missing from the traditional education and continued professional development of geologists. We will provide opportunities for geologists to develop these essential skills to best serve the communities that we engage with. We envisage this ‘education’ component of our work being primarily within the geology community, drawing on the expertise of other sectors.**



#### **Work towards this objective...**

- Establish and resource university groups in all the main UK university geology departments, helping them to be actively learning and engaged in our broader work.
- Influence the contents of established geology education programmes, through the provision of advice and teaching resources.
- Establish and resource GfGD groups in and/or across large private and public-sector organisations.
- Provide high-quality annual conferences, themed workshops and interactive summer schools to complement the existing training and continued professional development of geologists.

# 3. Action

## Enhance the application of geology to international development

We will make a high-quality contribution to practical development projects. We will develop and support poverty-fighting programmes in collaboration with other UK-based and international organisations. We envisage this 'action' component of our work being both within and beyond the geology community. By the end of 2021 we envisage our work having helped to address six of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, across five different countries.



### Work towards this objective...

- Build partnerships with development organisations (e.g., NGOs) to better understand their requirements for geological information in international development.
- Provide advice and expertise to NGOs, (not-for-profit) geological organisations, and governments on the effective integration of geology into international development projects.
- Deliver and support a portfolio of high-quality, sustainable, poverty prevention and relief projects, utilising the expertise of our members while simultaneously delivering training.

# 4. Leadership

## **Exercise international leadership on matters relating to geology and sustainable development**

**We seek to be a recognised and trusted voice on ‘geology and sustainable development’, helping to reshape the global geology community to better serve society. We will grow in our international influence, and reputation for excellence in all we do. We envisage this ‘leadership’ component of our work being both within and beyond the geology community.**



### **Work towards this objective...**

- Become an affiliated organisation of the International Union of Geological Science (IUGS).
- Build partnerships with other appropriate geoscience organisations (e.g., EGU, AGU), catalysing their engagement in international development.
- Develop and lead a global coalition of geology-oriented organisations committed to supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Complete a review of how best to expand the ‘**inspiration**’ and ‘**education**’ components of our work to multiple overseas contexts (e.g., overseas university groups), and implement the recommendations of this review to start expanding our work.
- Be an active contributor to major international geology events and conferences (e.g., RFG2018; 36<sup>th</sup> IGC), and an ambassador for the geology community at major international development events and conferences.

# Organisational Development

**To support the delivery of these four strategic objectives, we recognise the need to develop the following aspects of our organisation:**

- A. Finance:** We will seek a consistent income stream from multiple, diverse sources to promote greater financial resilience.
- B. Personnel:** We will grow our Board of Trustees to ensure access to relevant experience and professional skills. We will grow our volunteer executive committee to ensure reliable, professional delivery of these strategic objectives. By 2021, we anticipate having transitioned to a paid staff team, working with a growing volunteer community.
- C. Infrastructure:** We will explore the benefits and costs of operating out of a permanent headquarters, such as a host geological organisation.

## Support Our Work

Over the next five years we'll be working to implement this strategy, striving towards our vision, and supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We believe that our work can help to reshape the geology community, building a sector equipped to serve communities around the world.

We'd love your support.

If our vision and strategy excites you, please join us.

**Share:** We would like the global geology community to be aware of our work. Please share this strategy and our work with your colleagues, students, and friends. You can find our social media details on the back cover.

**Donate:** Whether you're an individual who can sign up to give £5/month, or you would like to find out more about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please do get in touch. Find out more on our website ([www.gfgd.org/donate](http://www.gfgd.org/donate)).

**Join In:** You can get involved in our work by going to University Group events, our conferences and workshops, or supporting our ongoing practical projects. Keep an eye on our social media for new opportunities in the coming months.

**Together we can build a geology sector with sustainable development at its heart, equipped to make a positive difference and better serve society.**

**Find out more: [www.gfgd.org/strategy](http://www.gfgd.org/strategy)**

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