

# **OneGeology – Improving Access to Geoscience Information on a Global Scale**

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The OneGeology concept originated in the British Geological Survey in 2006 and was presented to the General Assembly of the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW) as a contribution to International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). In 2007, the concept was unanimously endorsed by 83 representatives of the international geoscience community and goals were set to for a global launch at the 33rd IGC in 2008. The goals for OneGeology were simple: improve the accessibility of geological map data, exchange know-how and skills, and accelerate interoperability and use of a new “standard” (GeoSciML). GeoSciML is a IUGS-endorsed GML data exchange format that supports the interoperability of geological data.

In Oslo, 18 months later, a fully operational project ([www.onegeology.org](http://www.onegeology.org)) was launched with 94 national participants. In April 2010, there are 116 countries participating, with over 40 serving data. The web portal, protocols, and registries harvest and serve data from around the world. OneGeology has also spawned two regional initiatives, OneGeology-Europe and the US project: Geoscience Information Network.

OneGeology is a distributed internet based system using “web services” to register and provide access to each dataset for use in various GIS packages or portals. It provides usual visualisation tools and the functionality to save a combination of data sets into a “web map context” that can be shared with other users.

OneGeology is coordinated through a two-part “hub” - a Secretariat at the British Geological Survey (BGS), and portal technology and servers provided by the French geological survey (BRGM). The “hub” is guided and supported by – the Operational Management Group, the Technical Working Group, and a Steering Group comprising geological survey directors representing the six continents. The Steering Group are now looking at options to incorporate Onegeology and consolidate its governance and sustainability.