



# PRESS release



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## Launch of a geological mapping programme in Malawi

*A consortium of three geological survey organizations - BRGM, GTK and CGS - and the State of Malawi are signing an agreement for a countrywide geological mapping and mineral assessment programme.*

The 10.2 M€ GEMMAP project (Geological Mapping and Mineral Assessment of Malawi), is financed by France under a debt agreement with the State of Malawi. The purpose of the Project is to support economic development in Malawi through growth and diversification of its mineral resources sector, through updated geological map coverage and an inventory of the country's mineral potential at a sufficiently detailed scale (1/100 000). The Project was won through a tendering process by an international consortium led by BRGM in partnership with GTK, the Geological Survey of Finland, and CGS, the Geological Survey of South Africa. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Consortium by Vincent Lafliche, Chairman of the BRGM, and Kester Kaphaizi, Permanent Secretary of Malawi's Ministry for Natural Resources, Energy and Mining.

The Project's official launch by Hon. Bright Msaka, Malawi's Minister for Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, takes place today during a ceremony at the Bingu International Convention Centre in Lilongwe. The French Ambassador to Malawi and Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Laurent Delahousse, and a delegation from the Consortium led by BRGM Chairman Mr Vincent Lafliche, are also present.

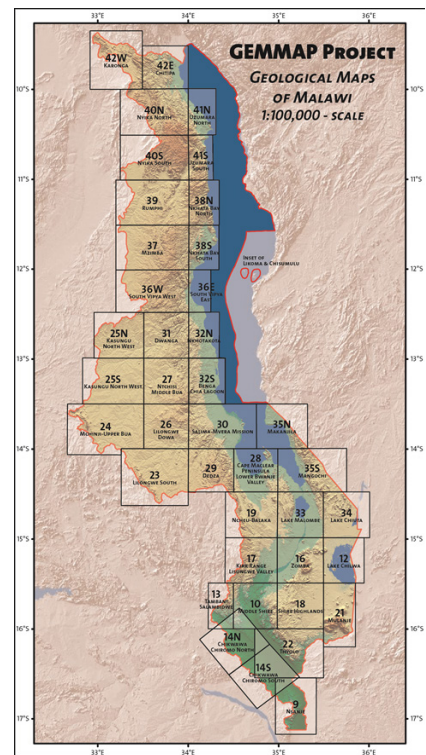
### Purpose: to support economic development with up-to-date geological knowledge

The GEMMAP project will run for 4.5 years. In addition to the production of numerous geological maps covering the entire country (40 maps to the scale of 1/100 000, 10 maps to 1/250 000 and one to 1/1 000 000), the Project also includes:

- a geochemical survey of river and stream sediments;
- natural hazard mapping;
- the assessment of the mineral potential;
- the assessment of the small-scale mining sector;
- building of a database and GIS;
- targeted capacity-building and training measures.

Most of these activities include a comprehensive compilation phase to integrate archival data from engineering studies, field surveys and laboratory analyses into the current Project. Subsequent field work and laboratory analyses will involve a large number of specialists from BRGM and its partners, in various disciplines.

An important component of the Project is a training programme based on field studies supervised by the Consortium's geoscientists, short-term training abroad on specific topics - in the offices of the members of the Consortium and in other specialized centers - and diploma courses (Masters and PhD). The training will benefit geologists working for Malawi's Geological Survey Department and Department of Mines. Both of these Malawian institutions will be actively involved in the project's implementation.



*The project will produce updated countrywide geological map coverage.*



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BRGM is familiar with Malawi's mineral resources, having already edited, in 2015, in cooperation with the Geological Survey Department and the Department of Mines, a synthesis of knowledge on the country's mineral resources to promote the mining sector of the country which is presently underexplored.

The GEMMAP project is complementary to and coordinated with the activities and results of an ongoing sister project in Malawi, the «Mining Governance and Growth Support Project» (MGGSP), which is financed by the World Bank and the European Union.

## ABOUT BRGM

BRGM is the French Geological Survey organization and the public reference institution in France for the management of georesources and risks. It has several missions: scientific research, support to public policy development, research partnerships, international cooperation and development assistance, mine safety and risk prevention, and Higher education. [www.brgm.fr](http://www.brgm.fr)

## ABOUT GTK

The Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) is a leading European competence centre for assessments and sustainable uses of geological resources. GTK offers expertise that serves the interests of clients, stakeholders and society as a whole. GTK creates solutions that help new technologies and business areas to emerge, while promoting sustainable growth. GTK is an expert organisation working under Finland's Ministry of Employment and the Economy. We are actively involved in projects at the local, national and international levels. [www.gtk.fi](http://www.gtk.fi)

## ABOUT CGS

The Council for Geoscience (CGS) is one of the National Science Councils of South Africa and is the legal successor to the Geological Survey of South Africa. As a scientific research council, the CGS has a mandate to promote research and further knowledge in the field of geoscience, and to provide specialised geoscientific services. CGS is involved in collaborative research projects that keep the organisation abreast of the latest developments in the geosciences field. [www.geoscience.org.za](http://www.geoscience.org.za)

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