

'GONDWANA ALIVE' REVISITED: FROM 'AFRICA ALIVE CORRIDORS' TO AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GONDWANA

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Gondwana Alive is a project aimed, ultimately, at stemming the 6th Extinction. It was first presented by us to the Gondwana community at Gondwana-11 (2002), Christchurch, New Zealand; then at Gondwana-12 (2004), Mendoza, Argentina. Africa Alive is its African derivative. Here at Gondwana-14 we aim to reignite interest in Gondwana Alive by presenting progress in the Africa Alive Corridors initiative towards an autobiography of Africa and later of Gondwana.

AFRICA ALIVE CORRIDORS (AAC) is a Pan African and International-Year-of-Planet-Earth (IYPE) legacy project to document the unique geological, biological and anthropological heritage of Africa. 20 transnational corridors weave a tapestry of this prodigiously diverse continent--tracing geological time from the oldest crust to the youngest volcanoes, and from the earliest microbial life to the current activities of our human family. The corridors are being mapped and documented as an 'autobiography' to offer a science-based strategy to manage and protect African heritage, and stimulate new interdisciplinary research and tourism endeavours. Across this largest of continents, we are witness to our emerging humanity, to the richest flora and largest mega-fauna on Earth, and to the devastating impact of the one on the others in our day. Along these Corridors, geologists have unearthed the world's richest mineral deposits (gold, diamonds, coal etc) that have ironically also become ecosystem 'killers' during the Anthropocene.

We present selected examples of AAC Corridors to give a sense of their international character and of their unmatched place in the unfolding story of Africa, and the Earth; and stress how everyone can become stakeholders towards stemming the 6th Extinction.