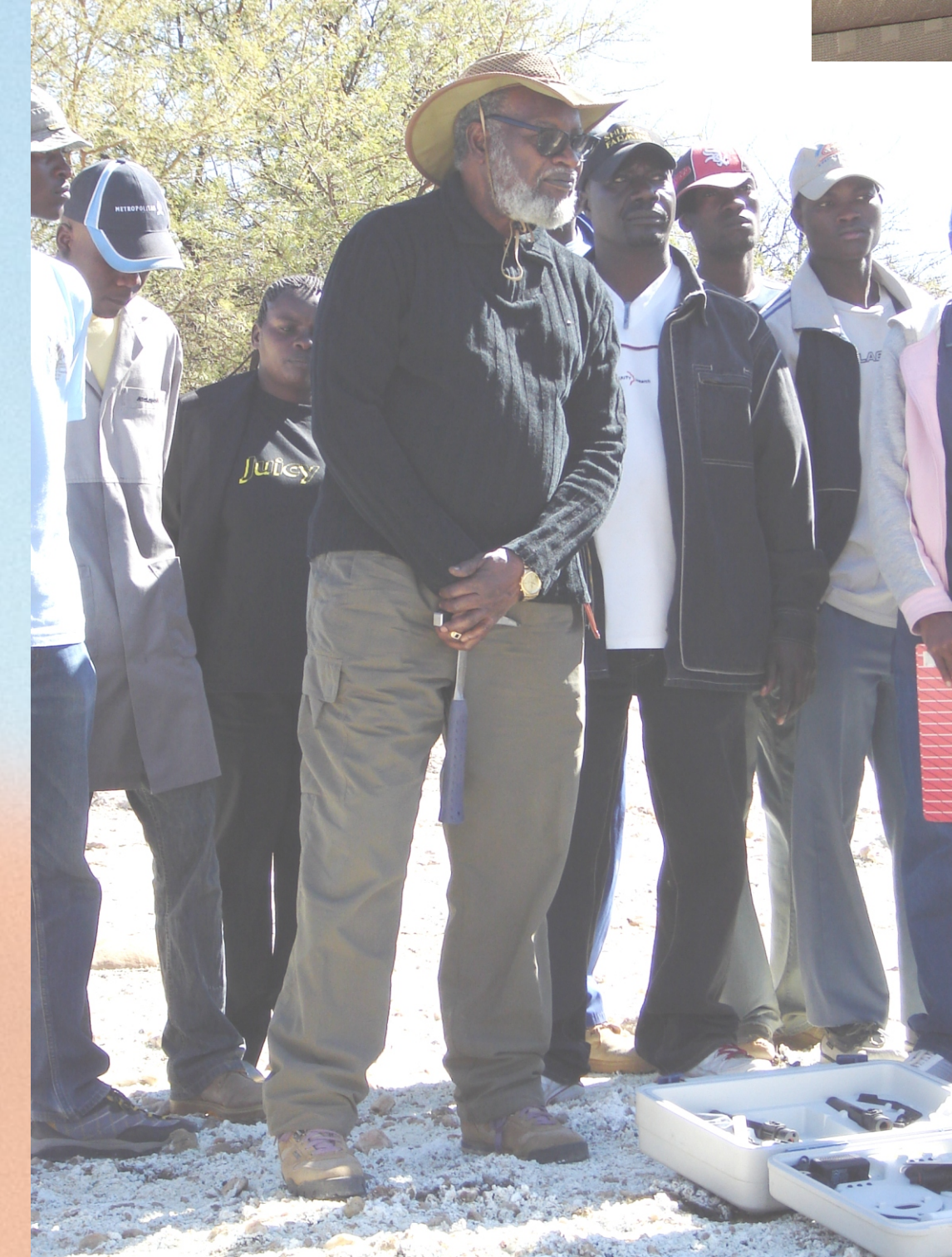


Namibian Founding President Dr. Sam Nujoma

Namibian Founding President, Dr. Sam Nujoma, who after his term of office came to an end in 2005 has started to study geology at the University of Namibia in Windhoek, is one of the patrons of the International Year of Planet Earth. The picture below shows the Namibian Founding Father with his fellow students on one of his first field trips near the capital.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

DECLARATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its Plenary Session of 22nd of December 2005, proclaimed 2008 as the UN Year of Planet Earth by consensus. This UN Year is the core year of the 2007-2009 triennium during which the International Year of Planet Earth (Earth Science for Society) will operate. This will be the first ever UN Year for the Earth Sciences. The Assembly designated the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to organize activities to be undertaken during the Year, in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant United Nations bodies, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and other Earth Science societies and groups throughout the world. Also by that draft, the Assembly encouraged Member States, the United Nations system and other actors to use the Year to increase awareness of the importance of Earth Sciences in achieving sustainable development and promoting local, national, regional and international action.

WWW.331GCC.ORG

The International Year of Planet Earth has been in planning since 2001. It aims to raise \$20 million from industry and governments and will spend half on co-funding research, and half on outreach activities. It will be the biggest ever international effort to promote the Earth Sciences.

Apart from researchers, the principal target groups for the Year's broader messages will be decision makers and politicians, who need to be better informed how Earth Scientific knowledge can be used for sustainable development and the voting public, which needs to know how Earth Scientific knowledge can contribute to a better society.



WWW.YEAROFPLANETEARTH.ORG

WWW.IUGS.ORG

The Purpose of the "International Year of Planet Earth" is to:

- Reduce risks for society caused by natural and human-induced hazards
- Reduce health problems by improving understanding of the medical aspects of Earth science
- Discover new natural resources and make them available in a sustainable manner
- Build safer structures and expand urban areas, utilizing natural subsurface conditions
- Determine the non-human factor in climatic change
- Enhance understanding of the occurrence of natural resources so as to contribute to efforts to reduce political tension
- Detect deep and poorly accessible groundwater resources
- Improve understanding of the evolution of life
- Increase interest in the Earth sciences in society at large
- Encourage more young people to study Earth science in university