

## **Towards creating and launching the Network for African Volcanologists (NAV)**

Africa is dotted by >150 known volcanoes, most of which are active or dormant. Many others are old, eroded, and in remote areas or yet unknown volcanic fields that may be buried below younger formations. The large majority of these volcanoes are scarcely studied in terms of their eruptive history, volcano monitoring for hazard assessment, and volcanic resources evaluation (especially geothermal) for sustainable development. The poor representation of African volcanism in the academic literature is due to several reasons, among which are (1) the rarity of volcanologists and volcanological programs in university curricula in Africa; (2) the lack of local financial support for research; (3) the absence of government institutions, volcano observatories or research centers with a clear mandate to monitor volcanoes for hazards assessment; and (4) the lack of strong international linkages and networks for research collaborations.

The primary goal of this project is to organize the first international workshop of and for African volcanologists and allies during which we will:

- Officially launch the Network for African Volcanologists (NAV) and draft its statutes and structure,
- Discuss and agree on the priorities to focus on during the next years,
- Host a first mini-scientific conference on African volcanology,
- Come up with a plan or set of desired steps towards enhancing volcanology courses/programs in African universities and the training of the younger generations.
- Generate a database for relevant research topics that could create new collaborations and attract internal and international research funding.