

## Report - Young Scientist Mobility Scholarship

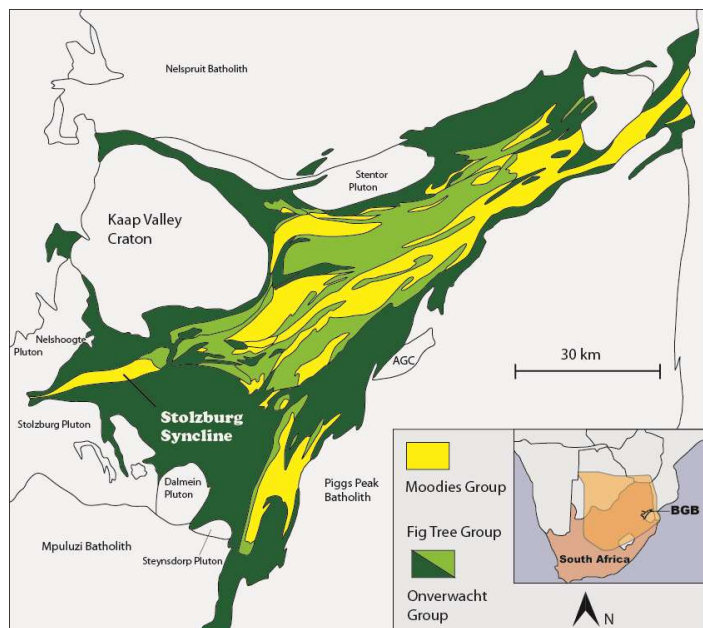
**Matthias Schmitz, Stellenbosch University / South Africa, 18.04.-23.04.2017**

During the first SPP 1833-funded field workshop ("Building a Habitable Earth"), which took place in August and September 2016 in South Africa, I met Alex Kisters, Professor of Structural Geology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Alex had worked for many years on tectonics in the Barberton Greenstone Belt, which is also the topic of my PhD thesis. He attended the workshop for one day only, so that I was not able to discuss my work with him fully. I thus applied for a Young Scientist Mobility Scholarship to visit him in Stellenbosch prior to my next field season in South Africa in May 2017.

Thanks to the Young Scientist Mobility Scholarship, I was able to spend about a week in Stellenbosch and got to know the university, the Department of Geosciences and Alex's research group. I met a number of other young scientists, mostly students of Alex', and also had the chance to introduce myself to the research group of Prof. Gary Stevens, who also works on the igneous rocks in the Barberton area. But most importantly, I used the time I had in Stellenbosch to discuss the geology of Barberton with Alex.

Alex Kisters has considerable experience in both general structural geology and the local geology of the Barberton Greenstone Belt. We not only exchanged data we had gathered so far, but also discussed our differing concepts about the mechanisms responsible for the deformation of the greenstone belt which are still topic of ongoing debate. Furthermore, Alex provided me with some practical advice about logistics and contacts in the Barberton area. I left Stellenbosch with new insights, ideas and approaches to my work.

I still exchange e-mails with Alex regularly to exchange ideas about the tectonic evolution of the Barberton Greenstone Belt. Although (or because) our theories about its deformational history are very different, I value this frank, open and unemotional exchange very highly. Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity.



*The study area Barberton Greenstone Belt.*



*Prof. Alex Kisters*



*Stellenbosch University, South Africa*