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Constraining the stratigraphy and paleotectonic development of the  
Cango Caves and Kansa Groups (Western Cape, South Africa) using  
detrital zircon and whole-rock geochemistry

by

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**UNIVERSITY** *of the*  
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Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in  
the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of the Western Cape

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## DECLARATION

I declare that “*Constraining the stratigraphy and paleotectonic development of the Congo Caves and Kansa Groups (Western Cape, South Africa) using detrital zircon and whole-rock geochemistry*” is my own work, that it has not been submitted for any degree or examination in any other university, and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by complete references.

Name: Keanan Alan Woolf

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## KEY WORDS

Basin evolution

Cango Caves Group

Geochronology

Groenefontein Formation

Huis Rivier Formation

Kango Inlier

Matjies River Formation

Nooitgedagt Member

Paleotectonic development

Provenance

Saldania Belt



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## ABSTRACT

The Saldania Belt is a Neoproterozoic to early Paleozoic low-grade orogenic belt that borders the southern and southwestern margins of the Kalahari Craton. It forms part of the Neoproterozoic Pan-African and Brasiliano tectonic belts in southern Africa and southeastern South America, related to the assembly of southwestern Gondwana. The Saldania Belt is composed of several inliers, one of which is the Kango Inlier. The Kango Inlier is an east-west orientated foreland basin consisting of several groups and formations. The Congo Caves Group forms the basal unit within the Kango Inlier, comprising of the Matjies River, Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations. Using a combined study incorporating petrographic, geochemical, isotopic and U-Pb geochronological data, the Congo Caves Group is investigated to aid in deciphering the crustal evolution of the Kango Inlier.

The sampled rocks from the Congo Caves Groups have been gathered from the middle Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation, the lower and middle Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation, and the Huis Rivier Formation. These rocks have been classified as either wacke or litharenite. Based on the petrographic and geochemical analyses, the Congo Caves Group was deposited in a deepening basin, initially caused by rapid deposition from nearby sources followed by increased transportation times as the basin deepened. These rocks have undergone moderate degrees of weathering with a gradual decrease from the lower Matjies River Formation to the upper Huis Rivier Formation.

Provenance-indicating discrimination diagrams show sources from mixed tectonic settings for the Congo Caves Group. A Continental Island Arc source was determined for the Congo Caves Group, with the Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations also showing Active Continental Margin and Passive Margin provenance sources, respectively.

The isotope geochemistry results indicate that a less-fractionated (mafic to intermediate) source appears to be the main source component for the Congo Caves Group. There is a change from a granitic source for the Nooitgedagt Member (lower stratigraphical unit) to a mixture between granitic and granodioritic sources for the Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations. This is supported by the geochronological results.

The Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation produced Mesoproterozoic zircon ages between 1000 and 1150 Ma, with a Concordia  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of  $1077 \pm 3$  Ma. The Groenefontein and Huis Rivier Formations produced both Mesoproterozoic and Neoproterozoic ages. The Groenefontein Formation produced Concordia ages of  $\sim 1003 - 1047$  Ma and the Huis Rivier formation produced Concordia ages of  $\sim 847 - 872$  Ma. Furthermore, the Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations produced younger detrital ages of  $\sim 540 - 552$  Ma and  $\sim 550 - 558$  Ma respectively, which more closely reflect the depositional ages of these formations.

The zircon ages indicate that during the deposition of the Matjies River Formation, prior to the Groenefontein Unconformity, supply of sediments only occurred from a northern and eastern source area, namely from the Mesoproterozoic Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt. These sediments were deposited in a shallow-marine to marine-shelf environment. The deposition of the Matjies River Formation was followed by the Groenefontein Unconformity, tectonic extension and the deepening of the basin, into which the Groenefontein Formation and Huis Rivier turbidites were deposited. This introduced a new source area which started to supply sediments of Neoproterozoic age. This source area presumably represents the Terra Australis Orogen located to the south of the Kango Inlier and played an increasingly important role during the deposition of the Cango Caves Group.



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

There is a lack of provenance information and absolute age dating of Neoproterozoic to Early Paleozoic sedimentary basins flanking the southern margin of the Kalahari craton. Due to the uncertainty of the relationships between cratons at this stage, the construction of a definitive paleogeographic model is hindered. Paleogeographic models are further hindered by vague evidence of individual craton evolution and timing of significant tectonic or sedimentary events (Naidoo, 2013).

The Saldania Belt is a Neoproterozoic to early Paleozoic low-grade orogenic belt that borders the southern and southwest margins of the Kalahari Craton. It is composed of several inliers unroofed in mega-anticlinal hinges of the Permo-Triassic Cape Fold Belt along the southern margin of Africa, one of which is the Kango Inlier (Rozendaal et al., 1999) (**Figure 1-1** a and b). The east-west orientated Kango Inlier consists of a lower carbonate-rich Congo Caves Group which is overlain discordantly by the carbonate-deficient Kansa Group and the siliciclastic Schoemanspoort Formation, which has in turn been unconformably overlain by the Peninsula Formation of the Table Mountain Group. (Naidoo et al., 2013).

The Neoproterozoic Congo Caves Group was previously named the Goegamma Subgroup of the Kansa Group (Le Roux and Gresse, 1983). The Matjies Rivier Formation is the lower formation of the Congo Caves Group and is comprised of the basal Nooitgedagt Member and the upper Kombuis Member (**Figure 1-1**) (Germs et al., 2009). C and Sr isotope chemostratigraphy was conducted by Fölling and Frimmel (2002) and determined a pre-Ediacaran age (>630 Ma) for the Nooitgedagt Member and an Ediacaran age (<630 Ma) for the rest of the Congo Caves Group, thus indicating the existence of an unconformity between the two members.



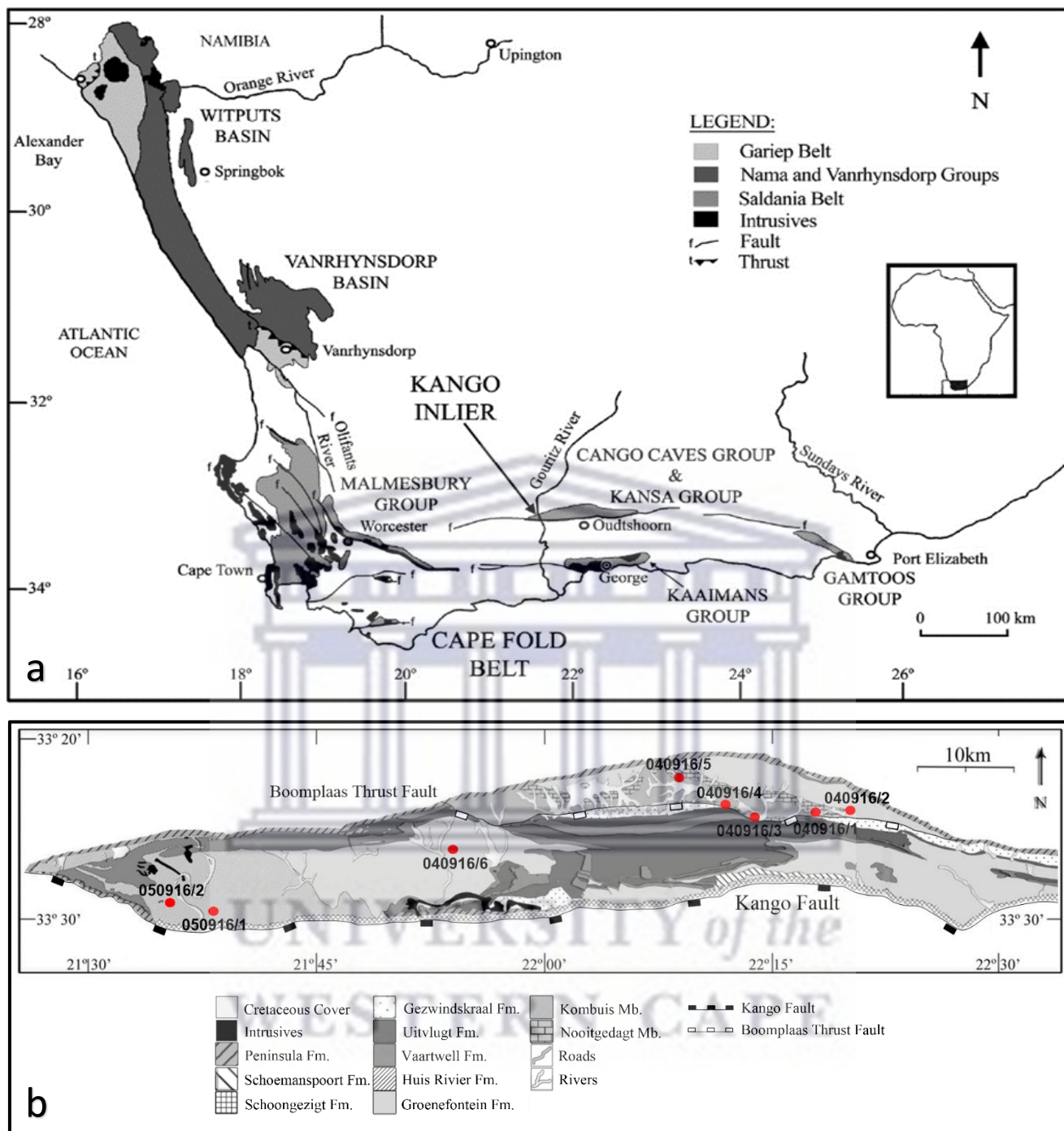


Figure 1-1: a – Map showing the mobile belts of southern African and the location of the Kango Inlier. b – Enlarged map of the Kango Inlier showing the different formations and sample locations. Modified after Van Staden et al. (2006).



The lower Matjies Rivier Formation is separated by an unconformity with the overlying Groenefontein Formation. The change in depositional environment from the Kombuis carbonate platform to the clastic turbiditic Groenefontein Formation reflects the deepening of the Kango Inlier basin (Rozendaal et al., 1999). A proposed marine condensed section in the Groenefontein Formation signifies a change from transgression to regression and deposition of the upward-coarsening turbiditic Huis Rivier Formation (Gresse et al., 1996). The Huis Rivier Formation only occurs in the western part of the Kango Inlier and was most likely eroded prior to the deposition of the Kansa Group in the eastern part of the inlier (Germs et al., 2009). U-Pb ages for the Huis Rivier Formation indicated that the formation is younger than 571 Ma (Naidoo, 2008).

U/Pb isotope dating of detrital zircons from Barnett et al. (1997) indicates that the gneisses of the Mesoproterozoic Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt (1100 Ma) are the probable sediment source terrain for the Cango Caves Group. This has been supported by later work done by Naidoo (2008) and Naidoo et al. (2013).

This thesis aims to conduct a provenance study on the basal Kango Inlier, the Cango Caves Group. The provenance study aims to quantify the mineralogical, geochemical, isotopic and geochronological composition of rocks of the Cango Caves Group, to aid in deciphering the crustal evolution of the Group.

The logo of the University of the Western Cape, featuring a stylized building with columns and a pediment.

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## 2. REGIONAL GEOLOGY

### 2.1 Saldania Belt

The Saldania Belt is a low-grade orogenic belt which forms part of the Neoproterozoic Pan-African and Brasilliano tectonic belts in southern Africa and southeastern South America, related to the construction of southwestern Gondwana (Gaucher and Germs, 2006).

The Saldania Belt is subdivided into the northwest-southeast trending western branch and the east-west trending southern branch (Frimmel, 2009). The oblique collision between the Kalahari and the Rio de la Plata Cratons is the probable cause of the formation of the western branch (Grunow et al., 1996). The Malmesbury Group is the main exposure of the western branch. The southern branch has been divided into three tectonic domains/terranes (Hartnady et al., 1974; Von Veh, 1983), namely the Boland, Swartland and Tygerberg terranes. It is not, however, clear whether these represent true allochthonous terranes (Germs et al., 2009).

The southern branch is composed of three east-west trending inliers, unroofed in mega-anticlinal hinges of the Permo-Triassic Cape Fold Belt along the southern margin of Africa (**Figure 1-1 a**). The southern branch contains the Kango Inlier (Oudtshoorn area), where the study area is located, the Kaaimans Inlier (George area) and the Gamtoos Inlier (Gqeberha area) (**Figure 1-1 a**). Previous work within the Kango Inlier was conducted notably by Le Roux (1977), Barnett et al. (1997), Gaucher and Germs (2006), Naidoo (2008), Naidoo et al. (2013) and Nel et al. (2018). These are summarised in **Figure 2-1** by Nel et al. (2018).

STRATIGRAPHIC AGE	STRATIGRAPHY MAX THICKNESS (9500 m)	MEMBER	FORMATION	GROUP	LITHOLOGY	DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENT	PALEOCURRENT DIRECTION	DETRITAL ZIRCON AGES	FOSSILS	TECTONIC EVENTS
Precambrian (Ediacaran)			Huis Rivier	CANGO CAVES	Shale grading upwards into quartz wacke (ripples and flute casts)	Deepening basin; turbiditic sequence	↓ ↑	571 Ma ± 9.2	Lebosphaeridia	D1 UPLIFT
		Brakke-rivier			Massive sandstone, grits and quartzite with minor limestone	Shallowing basin				
		Nelsrivier	Groenefontein		Quartz-wacke, with interbedded limestone and arenaceous shale	Deepening basin; turbiditic sequence				RIFT
		Kombuis	Matjies River		Limestone, with subordinate shale and phyllite	Shallow marine	→		Saldadophycus	
		Nooitgedagt			Alternating sandstone, shale and limestone	Shallow marine	→	1000 - 1200 Ma	Bavimella	

Figure 2-1: Stratigraphy of the lithological units of the Cango Caves Group within the Kango Inlier showing the depositional environments, paleocurrent directions and zircon ages of the different geological units. Additionally showing the tectonic events which have affected the different units. Modified after Nel et al. (2018), compiled from Le Roux (1997), Barnett et al. (1997), Gaucher and Germs (2006), Naidoo (2008) and Naidoo et al. (2013).

The Kango Inlier can be described as an east-west elongated, northward-overtuned anticlinorium with a strike of 140 km and a width of 14 km (Barnett et al., 1997). The rocks of the Kango Inlier possibly overlie the granitic gneiss of the Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt (Naidoo et al., 2013). The Kango Inlier consists of a lower, carbonate-rich Cango Caves group, which is overlain discordantly by the carbonate-deficient Kansa Group and the siliciclastic Schoemanspoort Formation above (Naidoo et al., 2013). It is flanked to the north, east and the west by quartzites belonging to the Ordovician Peninsula Formation of the Table Mountain Group. To the south, across the regionally extensive normal Kango fault, the Kango Inlier is bordered by conglomerates and sandstones of the Jurassic-Cretaceous Enon

formation of the Uitenhage Group (Barnett et al., 1997). The Kango Inlier comprises the lower, carbonate-rich Congo Caves Group, which is overlain discordantly by the carbonate-deficient Kansa Group and the siliciclastic Schoemanspoort Formation (Naidoo et al., 2013) (**Figure 2-1**).

## **2.2 Congo Caves Group**

The Congo Caves Group was previously named the Goegamma Subgroup of the Kansa Group (Le Roux and Gresse, 1983). The group is predominantly a carbonate-clastic turbidite succession (Germs et al., 2009). Chemostratigraphy and organic-walled microfossils indicate that the Congo Caves Group is Neoproterozoic in age (Germs et al., 2009). The Congo Caves Group is comprised of the lowermost Matjies River Formation, the Groenefontein Formation and the uppermost Huis Rivier Formation. An unconformity separates the upper two formations from the lower Matjies River Formation, known as the Groenefontein Unconformity (Praekelt et al., 2008) (**Figure 2-1**).

The analyses of paleocurrents in sedimentary successions of the Congo Caves Group suggest that the lower Matjies River Formation had its main source area to the east, and the upper Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations had a source to the north and south (Le Roux, 1977). Furthermore, Nel et al. (2018) determined that a northern and/or southern source provided sediment for the deposition of the Matjies Rivier Formation.

### **2.2.1 Matjies River Formation**

The Matjies Rivers Formation is comprised of the Nooitgedagt and Kombuis members. The Nooitgedagt Member is the basal unit of the Matjies River Formation, and is comprised of shale, greywacke and limestone. C and Sr isotope chemostratigraphy by Fölling and Frimmel (2002) determined a pre-Ediacaran age (>630 Ma) for the Nooitgedagt Member, and an Ediacaran age (<630 Ma) for the rest of the Congo Caves Group. These ages, coupled with a difference of 100°C in thermal overprint, indicate the existence of an unconformity between the two members (Germs et al., 2009).

The Nooitgedagt Member was dated by Barnett et al. (1997) and recorded ages of 1200 Ma and 1050 Ma, typical for the Mesoproterozoic Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt. The sediments of the Nooitgedagt Member were deposited as coarsening upward-deltaic sediments and shallow marine deposits (Germs et al., 2009). Furthermore, the Nooitgedagt Member

contains conglomerates which comprise clasts that are derived from granites, gneisses and quartzites (Naidoo, 2013). Geological mapping by Nel et al. (2018) has identified at least three main unconformities in the Nooitgedagt Member which are associated with chert and/or ferruginous horizons.

The Kombuis Member is comprised mainly of carbonates, but shale, siltstone and dolomites are also present within the Member. The rocks within the Kombuis Member primarily accumulated on a shelf (Germs et al., 2009).

### **2.2.2 Groenefontein Unconformity**

An unconformity, with deep karstic features, separates the carbonate-containing Kombuis Member from the overlying turbiditic sedimentary rocks of the Groenefontein Formation (Praekelt et al., 2008). This is known as the Groenefontein Unconformity. According to Praekelt et al. (2008), the Groenefontein Unconformity was presumably formed as a result of lowered sea levels caused by a circa 547 Ma minor glaciation during the late Ediacaran. The Groenefontein Unconformity comprises paleokarst topography with sinkholes and/or paleovalleys up to 400 m wide and 150 m deep. The nature of conglomerates in a fine-grained matrix, which occur in the sink holes, infers glaciofluvial deposits on a karstic surface; therefore, the Groenefontein Unconformity was determined to be sub-aerially formed (Praekelt et al., 2008).

### **2.2.3 Groenefontein Formation**

The Groenefontein Unconformity at the base of the turbiditic Groenefontein Formation, points to deposition in a deepening basin. The Groenefontein Formation was mainly deposited as turbidites on a continental slope and/or foredeep environment (Le Roux, 1997). Fine-grained, quartz-rich wacke, above the carbonate rich Kombuis Member, marks the base of the Groenefontein Formation. The Groenefontein Formation consists mainly of sandstone and shale with minor limestone lenses (Rozendaal et al., 1999). It is subdivided into the shale-containing Nelsrivier Member and the overlying, sandy Brakkerivier Member (Praekelt et al., 2008). The Nelsrivier Member contains limestone lenses interbedded with mudrocks (Naidoo, 2008). The Brakkerivier Member is comprised of medium- to coarse-grained sandstone and



limestone. There is a lack of carbonate lenses in the westernmost part of the Kango Inlier, whereas carbonate lenses to the east have been metamorphosed to marble (Naidoo, 2008).

According to Naidoo (2008), due to the structural complexity of the Kango Inlier, the Groenefontein Formation forms an upper contact with several formations. To the west of the Kango Inlier, it forms a conformable and gradational contact with the overlying Huis Rivier Formation. Within the central area, it exhibits a sharp boundary with the conglomerates of the Vaartwell Formation. Eastward, it is overlain by the Uitvlugt Formation, whereas further east within the Kango Inlier, the Groenefontein Formations is overlain by the Schoongezigt Formation. To the north of the Kango Inlier, the Groenefontein Formation is unconformably overlain by the Table Mountain Group, whereas southward, it is unconformably overlain by the Schoemanspoort Formation.

#### **2.2.4 Huis Rivier Formation**

The Huis Rivier Formation forms a gradational contact with the Groenefontein Formation. The Formation is mainly classified as a thick turbidite succession deposited in a deepening basin. It is comprised of medium- to fine-grained wacke and very fine-grained fissile mudstones (Naidoo et al., 2013). According to Le Roux and Gresse (1983), the Huis Rivier Formation was deposited on a continental slope or basal plain environment, with sediment supply from the southwestern and possibly north-western sources. Naidoo (2008) assigned an Ediacaran age for the Huis Rivier Formation. Geochemical data suggests that the Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations were deposited on an active continental margin (Van Staden et al., 2006; Naidoo, 2008).

#### **2.2.5 Organic-walled microfossils**

Various Ediacaran organic-walled microfossils occur in the Cango Caves Group (Gaucher and Germs, 2006) (**Figure 2-1**). The Nooitgedagt Member and the Kombuis Member of the Matjies River Formation are dominated by *Bavlinella* and *Soldadophycus* respectively. The Groenefontein and Huis Rivier Formations are *Leiosphaerid* dominated (Gaucher and Germs, 2006). Only one possible Ediacaran body fossil (*Ernietta*-like) has been found in the basal Groenefontein Formation of the Cango Caves Group (Praekelt et al., 2008). Microflora assemblages within the Cango Caves Group can be correlated to those of southwestern



Gondwana, namely in the Gamtoos Group, Nama Group, Port Nolloth Group, Arroyo del Soldado Group (Uruguay) and the Corumba Group (Brazil) (Gaucher and Germs, 2006).

### **2.3 Structural Geology/ Deformation**

According to Le Roux (1977), the rocks of the Kango Inlier have undergone four stages of deformation. The first deformational event (D1) only affected the Cango Caves Group and is associated with uplift and folding in a north-westerly direction. The secondary deformational event (D2), which involved the Cango Caves Group, was a compressional event and resulted in east-west trending folds verging north. Furthermore, D2 resulted in the formation of major thrust sheets (Naidoo et al., 2013). D2 was followed by thermal relaxation and the intrusion of dykes and sills. The third deformational event (D3) is related to the Permian Cape Orogeny (300 Ma). The final deformational event (D4) is related to crustal extension associated with the breakup of Gondwana. Rifting of Gondwana continued until the Late Mesozoic Era. D4 resulted in regional strike faults and cross folds with a south-trending axis within the Kango Inlier (Naidoo et al., 2013). The D3 and D4 deformational events affected the entire Kango Inlier, as well as the rocks of the Cape Supergroup.

### **2.4 Metamorphism**

The Saldania Belt has generally undergone low-grade metamorphism. Poor outcrop exposure and similar low-grade metamorphic overprint during the 290-220 Ma Cape orogeny has prevented an accurate reconstruction of the Neoproterozoic to Cambrian metamorphic evolution of the belt. The peak of metamorphism (middle greenschist facies) was reached during the Pan-African orogeny  $545 \pm 2$  Ma (Frimmel et al., 2001).

The metamorphic grade within the Kango Inlier was examined by Frimmel et al. (2001). It was determined that the lowermost unit of the Cango Caves Group, the Nooitgedagt Member, had undergone middle greenschist facies metamorphism. A temperature of  $\sim 390$  °C was recorded for the Nooitgedagt Member. The Kombuis Member recorded lower temperatures of  $\sim 290$  °C. Therefore, the Nooitgedagt Member reflects Pan-African Metamorphism, whereas the rest of the Kango Inlier reflect low-grade metamorphism related to the Cape Orogeny.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Sampling

A total of eight outcrops of metasedimentary rocks representing different geological units of the Congo Caves Group were sampled from the Kango Inlier (**Figure 1-1 b**).

The samples were prepared at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of the Western Cape (UWC) for petrography, whole-rock major and trace element geochemical analyses, as well as geochronology analysis. A total of eight thin sections were made for petrographic analysis.

For whole-rock major and trace element geochemical preparation, the samples were crushed in a jaw crusher and milled to a fine mesh in a swing mill equipped with Cr-steel rings for approximately 10 seconds. A strict cleaning regime ensued after every sample run to avoid cross-contamination (i.e., quartz run and cleaning of surfaces with acetone).

After preparation, both major and trace element analyses were done at the Central Analytical Facilities (CAF), Stellenbosch University (SUN).

#### 3.2 Whole-rock major and trace element geochemistry analyses

Major element analysis was determined by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry on a PANalytical Axios Wavelength Dispersive. The instrument was fitted with a Rh tube, a gas-flow proportional counter and a scintillation detector with analysing crystals including LIF200, LIF220, LIF420, PE and PX1. The gas flow's proportional counter uses a 90% Argon and 10% methane gas mixture.

The control standards used in the calibration for the major element analysis were BE-N (basalt reference values), JB-1 (basalt (depleted) reference values), BHVO-1 (basalt reference values), JG-1 (granodiorite reference values) and WITS-G (granite reference values). Loss on ignition (LOI) was calculated by weight difference after ignition at 1000 °C.

A resonetics 193 nm Excimer laser connected to an Agilent 7500 Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) was used in the trace element analysis of bulk rock samples. Ablation is performed in helium gas at a flow rate of 0.35 l/min, and then mixed with argon

(0.9 l/min) and nitrogen (0.004 l/min) just before introduction into the ICP plasma. For traces in fusion, two spots of 100 µm were ablated on each sample using a frequency of 10 Hz and 8 J/cm<sup>2</sup> energy.

Trace elements were quantified using NIST 610 for calibration and the weight percent (wt%) SiO<sub>2</sub> from XRF measurements as an internal standard, using standard sample bracketing. Two replicate measurements were made on each sample, with the average reported as the measured concentration. The calibration standard was run every 15 – 20 samples. A quality control standard was run at the beginning of the sequence as well as with the calibration standards throughout (BHVO and BCR). The data was processed using Mass Hunter v4.01 software.

### **3.3 Rb-Sr and Sm-Nd isotopic analyses**

Chemical preparation of whole-rock Sr and Nd isotope analysis was performed in PicoTrace clean lab facilities, and isotope ratios were measured with a Nu Instruments thermal ionisation mass spectrometer (Nu-TIMS) at Department de Geología, Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE) in the state of Baja California (Mexico), equipped with 12 fixed Faraday cups and the Nu Instruments zoom optics for perfect alignment of all masses of interest into the Faraday cups.

Element separation was achieved in two steps. The first step constitutes using quartz glass columns filled with DOWEX AG 50W-X8 resin to separate Sr and REE, and the second step by Ln-Spec<sup>®</sup> resin to separate Nd. Samples were loaded on Re filaments using the double filament technique with H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> for Nd and the single filament technique together with a TaF<sub>4</sub> activator for Sr. Both Sr and Nd isotope ratios were measured in static mode (eight blocks of 10×16 s integrations). Correction for mass bias for Sr and Nd was achieved by normalising to <sup>86</sup>Sr/<sup>88</sup>Sr = 0.1194 and <sup>146</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd = 0.7219, respectively.

### **3.4 Zircon U-Pb geochronology**

A total of six samples (040916/2, 040916/3, 040916/5, 040916/6, 050916/1 and 050916/2B) were selected for U-Pb zircon age dating. Prior to U-Pb dating analysis, the following sequential steps were followed: crushing, milling and sieving of samples at the Department of Earth Science, UWC; hand washing, to remove material finer than 40 µm, followed by

gravity separation using a super panner, at the Mineral Separation Laboratory, SUN; magnetic separation using a Frantz Isodynamic separator Model L-1 at the Mineral Separation Laboratory, SUN; and heavy liquid separation (tetrabromoethane – Br<sub>2</sub>CHCHBr<sub>2</sub>) at the Mineral Separation Laboratory, SUN.

After the separation process, zircon grains for analyses were picked by hand using a needle, with the aid of a binocular microscope, and mounted in epoxy discs. The discs were polished, carbon coated and imaged by cathodoluminescence imaging using a Leo© 1450VP scanning electron microscope (SEM) at the CAF.

In-situ U-Pb age dating of zircons were performed at the CAF. All U–Pb age data obtained at the CAF were acquired by laser ablation - single collector - magnetic sectorfield - inductively coupled plasma - mass spectrometry (LA-SF-ICP-MS) employing a Thermo Finnegan Element2 mass spectrometer coupled to an ASI Resolution SE S155 Excimer laser ablation system. The internal textures of the zircons were studied by CL imaging obtained at the CAF.

All U-Pb age data presented was obtained by single spot analysis with a spot diameter of 30 µm and a crater depth of approximately 10-15 µm. The methods employed for analysis and data processing are described in detail by Frei and Gerdes (2009) and Cornell et al. (2016). The calculation of Concordia ages and plotting of Concordia diagrams were performed using Isoplot/Ex 3.0 (Ludwig, 2003).

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## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Petrography

The eight samples of the Congo Caves Group were allocated for petrographic analysis. These samples represent the lowermost, middle and upper formations of the Congo Caves Group. Samples 040916/3 and 040916/4 are from the of the Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation. The Nooitgedagt Member marks the lowermost formation of the Congo Caves Group. Samples 040916/2, 040916/5 and 040916/6 are from the Groenefontein Formation. Samples 050916/1, 050916/2A and 050916/B were collected from the Huis Rivier Formation, the upper most formation of the Congo Caves Group.

#### 4.1.1 Nooitgedagt Member

Two wacke samples of the Nooitgedagt Member were collected, 040916/3 and 040916/4. They are light grey in colour and poorly sorted (**Figure 4-1**). They comprise subrounded clasts in a fine-grained matrix. The clasts are mainly quartz, but in sample 040916/4, feldspar clasts are also present. The clasts can reach sizes of >2 cm. 040916/3 exhibits evidence of iron oxide which gives the orange staining to the grey rock (**Figure 4-1**).



Figure 4-1: Wacke of the Nooitgedagt Member.

Petrographically, the wackes are comprised of 40% quartz and 30% orthoclase. Plagioclase comprises 5% of the wacke and exhibits polysynthetic twinning. The mineral grains are predominantly very-fine grained, but large quartz and orthoclase clasts can be found. The



large quartz grains can reach 1 cm, whereas orthoclase can reach up to 0.5 mm. Monocrystalline quartz is predominately found and exhibits undulose extinction. Although less common, polycrystalline quartz can also be found (**Figure 4-2 a and b**). Orthoclase exhibits perthitic exsolution texture, breaking down to albite (**Figure 4-2 c**). Plagioclase also rarely displays myrmekitic texture (**Figure 4-2 d**). Furthermore, there is evidence of seritisation of feldspar (**Figure 4-2 e**). Accessory minerals include elongated muscovite, microcline, zircon and calcite. Microcline exhibits cross-hatched twinning (**Figure 4-2 f**). Calcite is dominantly found as secondary calcite, but primary calcite can be seen to exhibit cross-hatched twinning. The quartz-feldspar matrix makes up 30 - 45%. The matrix is also made up of calcite and muscovite.

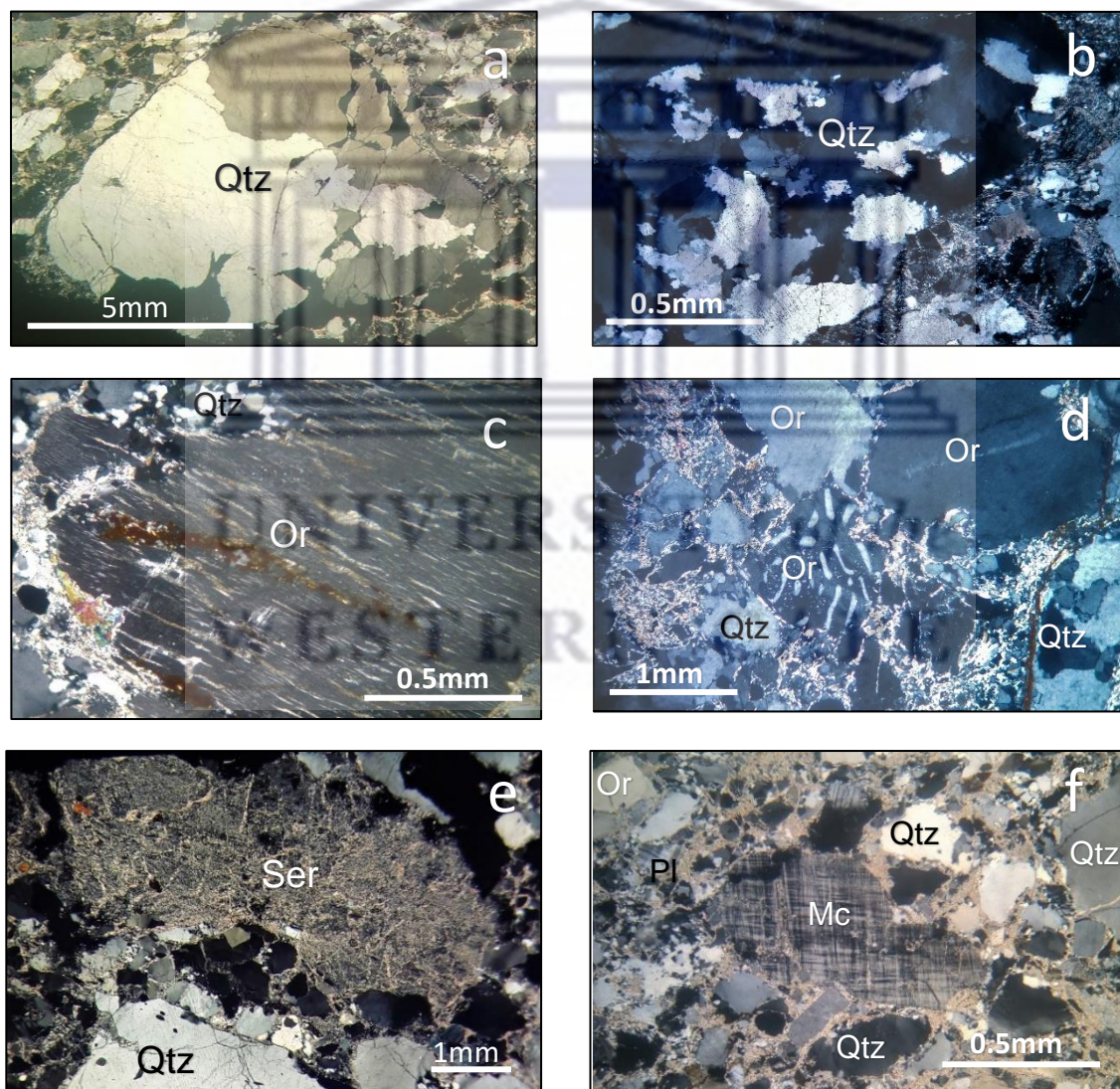


Figure 4-2: Petrographic micrographs of wacke samples of Nooitgedagt Member (all in cross-polarised light (xpl)). a – Large polycrystalline quartz (Qtz). b – Polycrystalline quartz exhibiting undulose extinction. c – Orthoclase (Or) exhibiting perthitic



exsolution. d – Plagioclase (Pl) grain exhibiting myrmekitic texture. e – Large sericitised feldspar grain. f – Large microcline (Mc) grain exhibiting cross-hatched twinning texture.

#### 4.1.2 Groenefontein Formation

The Groenefontein Formation is characterised by quartz-wacke with interbedded limestone and arenaceous shale. The very-fine grained, quartz rich wacke of the Groenefontein Formation has been sampled. Samples 0409162 and 040916/5 were collected from the lower Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation and 040916/6 was collected from the middle Nelsrivier Member. The samples are light brown in colour and exhibit oxidation (**Figure 4-3**). The grains are more moderately sorted and are subangular to subrounded at the base, and subrounded higher up within the unit. The wacke at the base of the Member is fine grained with the grain size being very-fine in the middle.

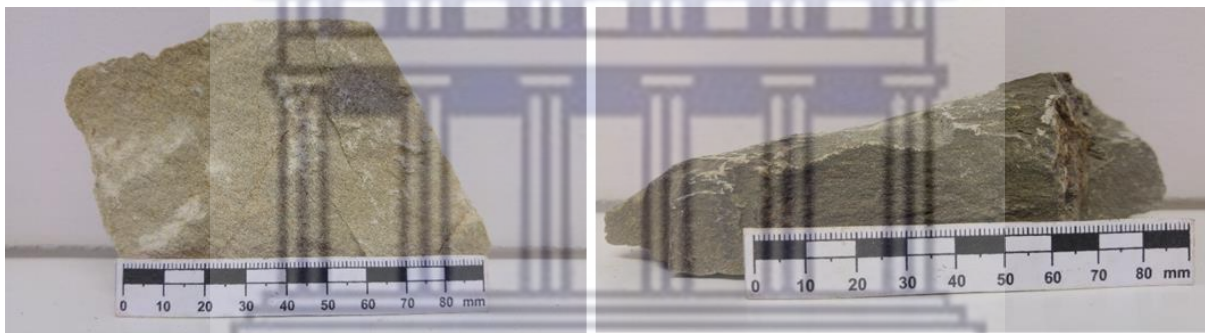


Figure 4-3: Wacke of the Groenefontein Formation.

Petrographically, the Groenefontein Formation is characterised by mineral assemblages of quartz, orthoclase and plagioclase. The general textures of the wacke samples are seen below **Figure 4-4** a, b, c and d. Quartz is seen to exhibit undulose extinction. Narrow quartz veins are also common (**Figure 4-4** e and f). There is a significant increase in the quartz composition in 040916/2 (55%) as opposed the other samples (40%). There is a lower concentration of opaque minerals within 040916/2 (3%) as opposed to the other samples which have higher concentrations (5 - 6%).

Accessory minerals include muscovite, zircon, chlorite and tourmaline. Within samples 040916/5 and 040916/6 there appears to be a red-brown staining of the matrix, which seems to be from the weathering of the opaque minerals (**Figure 4-4** g and h). The matrix staining is present in sample 040916/2, but is not as prominent as it is within the other two samples.

The rocks have been highly altered, evident by the sericitic alteration. White mica is common as there is a significant amount of seritisation. The matrix component of the Groenefontein Formation makes up 30 - 40% and comprises of quartz, feldspar, chlorite, calcite and muscovite. Furthermore, there is an alignment of elongated muscovite (**Figure 4-4 i**).





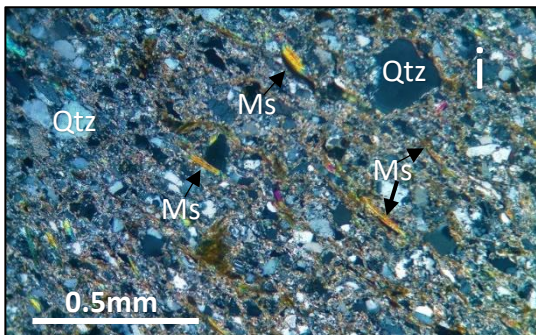
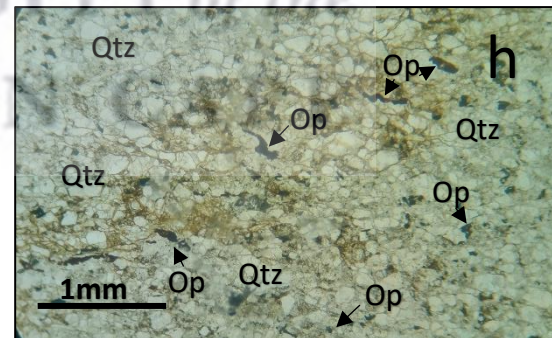
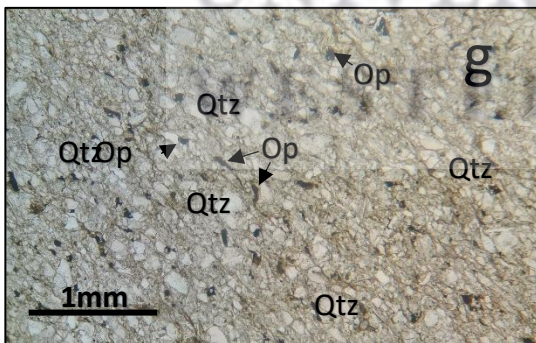
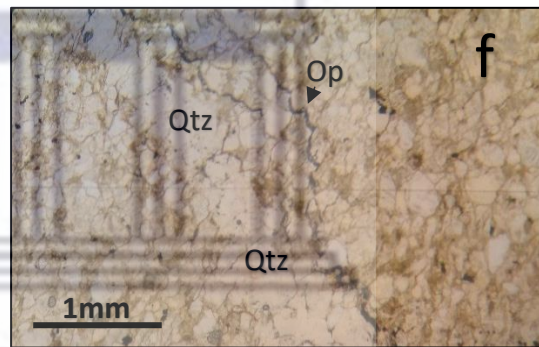
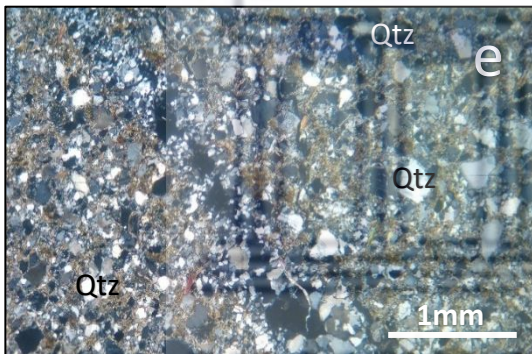
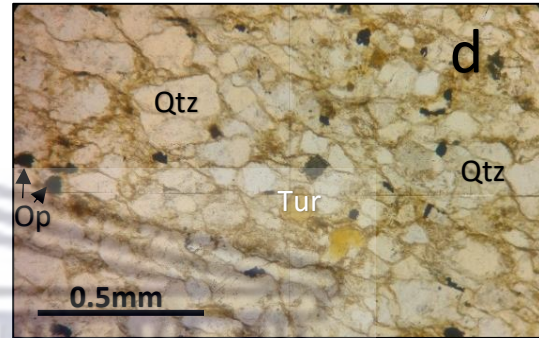
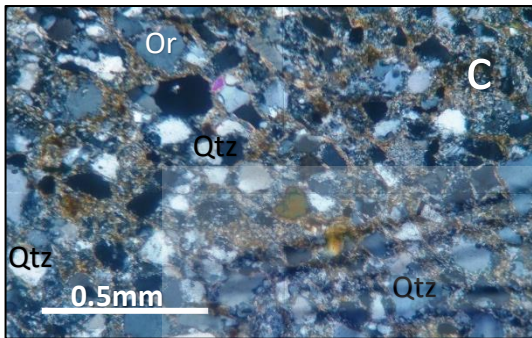
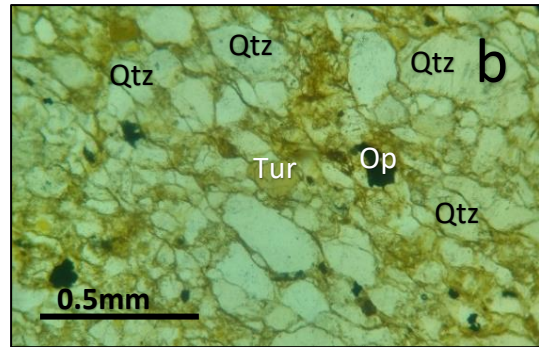
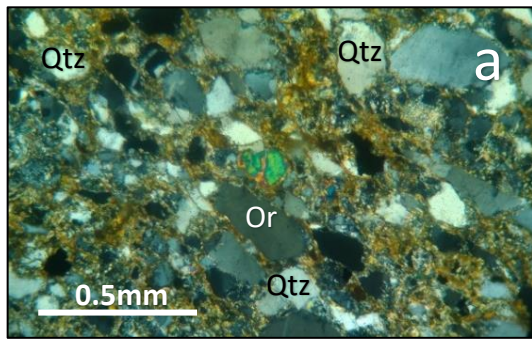




Figure 4-4 : Petrographic micrographs of the Groenefontein Formation wacke samples. a, b, c, d – displaying the general texture. a and b are petrographic micrographs of the same portion of thin section, a – xpl light; b – ppl. c and d – Rare angular tourmaline (Tur) grain. c and d are petrographic micrographs of the same portion of thin section, c – xpl light; d – ppl. Note pseudomatrix of chlorite-sericite defining the framework quartz grain boundaries. e and f – Quartz (Qtz) vein and narrow vein of opaque (Op) minerals (e – xpl; f – ppl). g and h – Staining of the matrix around opaque minerals (ppl), black minerals are the opaques. i – Elongated muscovite (Ms) defining an alignment (xpl). Other mineral abbreviation not mentioned in the description: Or – Orthoclase.

#### 4.1.3 Huis Rivier Formation

The Huis Rivier Formation is comprised of shales which grade upwards to quartz wacke. Fine-grained, greywacke and shale of the Huis Rivier Formation have been sampled. The wacke samples have undergone a petrographic analysis.

The greywackes are dark grey in colour, poorly sorted and contain turbidites. They are fine to very-fine grained. There are visible 1 mm rounded chlorite grains within the wacke (**Figure 4-5**).

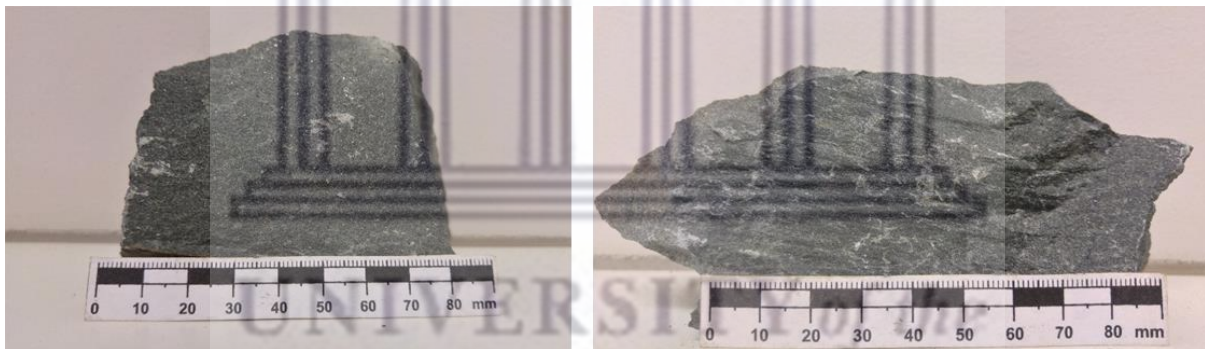


Figure 4-5: Fine-grained wacke of the Huis Rivier Formation.

Petrographically, the samples are characterised by mineral assemblages of quartz (30%), orthoclase (15%) and plagioclase (15%). Accessory minerals include anhedral calcite, elongated muscovite, angular epidote, elongated and rounded zircon, rounded chlorite and anhedral opaque minerals (**Figure 4-6 a and b**). Euhedral epidote is also an accessory mineral (**Figure 4-6 c and d**). Calcite mineral percentages fluctuate among samples.

The mineral grains are very-fine to fine grained and are also subrounded. Moreover, the mineral grains are moderately sorted. There is a high degree of alteration within the rocks, evident by chloritisation and seritisation. There is weathering of opaque minerals (**Figure 4-6 e and f**), but not as prominent as within the Nelsrivier Member, as there are also significantly

fewer opaque minerals. Primary calcite also appears to exhibit strong cross-hatched twinning (**Figure 4-6 g**). Slight deformation is exhibited as there is kinking of deformation twins in the plagioclase (**Figure 4-6 h**). The matrix component makes up 35% and is characterised by quartz, muscovite, chlorite and calcite. Narrow veins containing quartz and chlorite are present in the rocks (**Figure 4-6 i and j**). The matrix of the Huis Rivier Formation has a pale green colour, as opposed to the light brown colour seen in the wacke samples of the other formations, possibly due to the large concentration of chlorite.





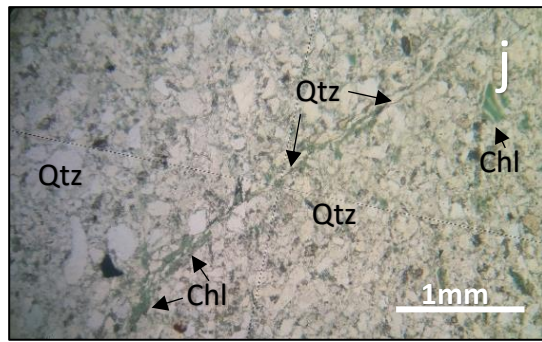
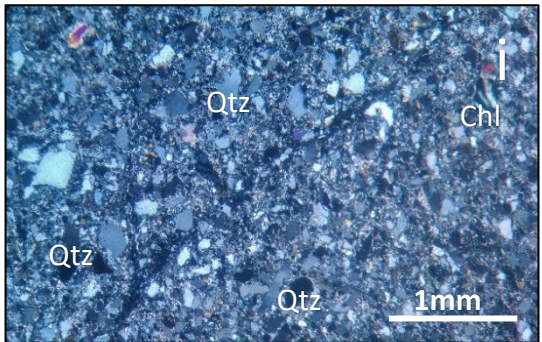
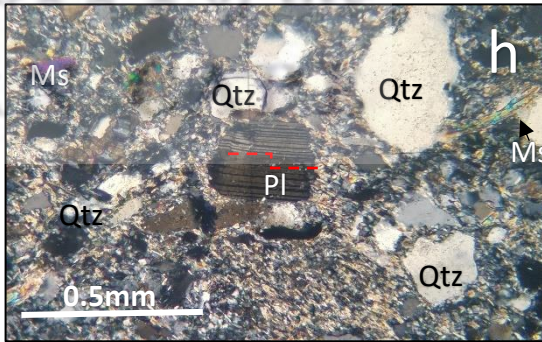
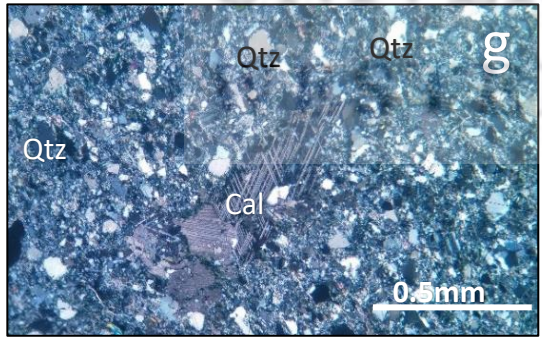
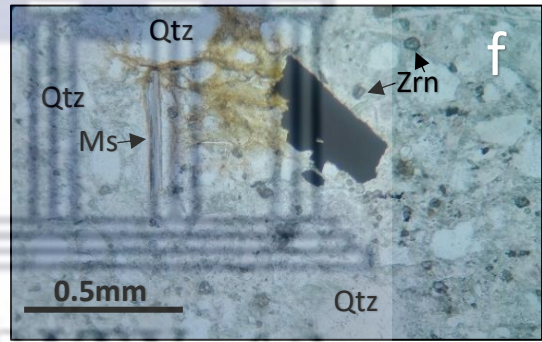
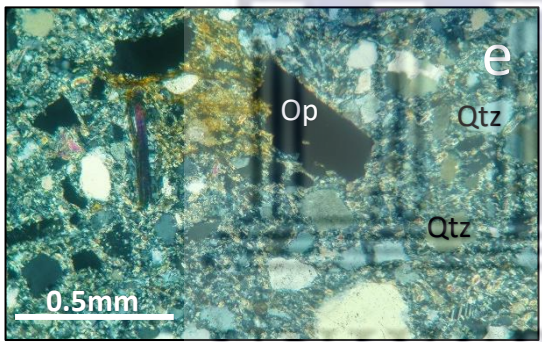
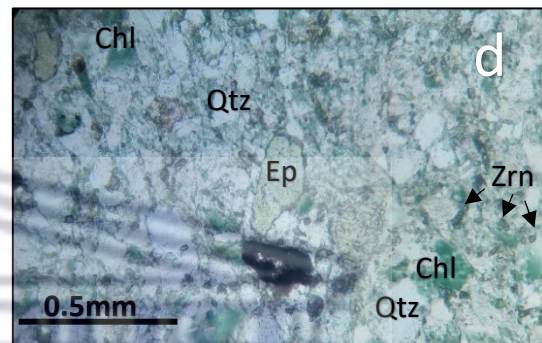
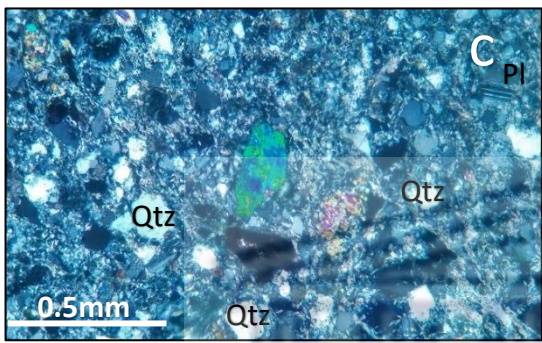
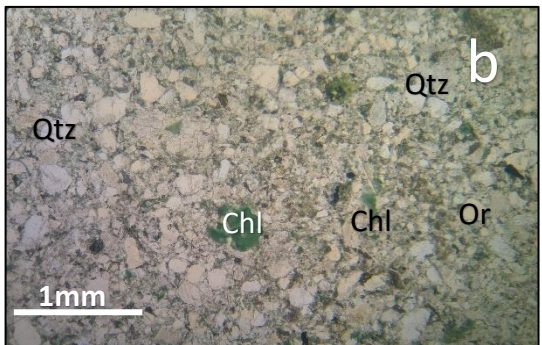
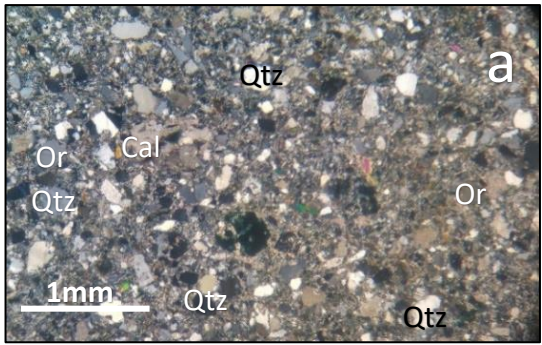




Figure 4-6: a and b – Petromicrographs (of the same portion of thin section) displaying the general texture of the wacke of the Huis Rivier Formation, a – xpl, b - ppl. Note pseudomatrix of chlorite (Chl) - sericite defining the framework quartz (Qtz) grain boundaries. c and d – Rare epidote (Ep) grain, c and d are petrographic micrographs of the same portion of thin section, c – xpl light; d – ppl. e and f – Weathering of opaque (Op) minerals, e and f are petrographic micrographs of the same portion of thin section, e – xpl light; f – ppl. g – Anhydral calcite (Cal). h – Plagioclase (Pl) grain exhibiting kinking indicated by the red-dashed line. i and j – Narrow quartz/chlorite vein, i and j are of the same portion of thin section, i – xpl light; j – ppl. Other mineral abbreviations not mentioned in the description: Or – Orthoclase, Zrn – Zircon, Muscovite (Ms).

## 4.2 Geochemistry

Whole-rock geochemical analysis of sedimentary rocks can yield valuable information on different provenance aspects, such as source-rock composition, amount of transport and recycling, weathering trends and tectonic activity in the source area. Mobile major elements can potentially provide information on syn-depositional processes which alter the sediment. Immobile trace elements, however, remain unchanged during most depositional processes and may retain information on the chemistry of the source rocks.

A total of eight samples were selected for whole-rock geochemical analysis. Whole rock major element results are displayed in **Table 4-1**, major element results are in wt. %.

### 4.2.1 Major Element Geochemistry

The wacke samples from the Nooitgedagt Member have uniform concentrations. Within the Groenefontein Formation, there is a steady increase in the  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $Fe_2O_3$  and  $MgO$  concentrations from 040916/2 to 040916/5 to 040916/6. Furthermore, within the Groenefontein Formation sample, 040916/2 is more enriched in silica than the other samples.

The Huis Rivier wacke samples are mainly homogenous in the major element concentrations, however, 050916/1 has a slightly lower concentration in  $CaO$ . The Huis Rivier Formation is significantly more enriched in  $CaO$ ,  $Fe_2O_3$ ,  $MgO$ ,  $TiO_2$  and  $SiO_2$  than the Nooitgedagt Member and Groenefontein Formation. Although there is an enrichment in the other major elements of the Huis Rivier Formation, there is a significant depletion of silica compared to the Nooitgedagt Member and Groenefontein Formation. There is an increase in  $Na_2O$  within the Cango Caves basin. The  $Na_2O$  concentration increases from the base (Nooitgedagt Member)

to the Groenefontein Formation, and finally to the Huis Rivier Formation at the top (**Table 4-1**).

*Table 4-1: Whole-rock major element geochemistry of the samples of the Congo Caves Group of the study area. The major element concentrations of the samples have been compared to that of the Upper Continental Crust (UCC) concentrations after Taylor and McLennan (1995).*

<b>MAJOR ELEMENT GEOCHEMISTRY (wt.%)</b>								
	040916/2	040916/3	040916/4	040916/5	040916/6	050916/1	050916/2A	050916/2B
<b>SiO<sub>2</sub></b>	79,43	71,83	70,76	72,98	69,20	64,27	63,00	62,87
<b>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	9,66	13,34	15,59	12,97	14,85	15,50	14,54	14,74
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	0,47	0,63	0,63	0,49	0,45	0,91	1,25	1,19
<b>MgO</b>	0,48	0,58	0,55	0,95	1,05	2,16	2,21	2,22
<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	2,40	3,85	2,02	3,32	4,03	5,64	6,36	6,44
<b>CaO</b>	0,43	0,05	0,09	0,46	0,35	1,68	2,98	3,04
<b>K<sub>2</sub>O</b>	2,44	5,41	6,03	3,40	3,55	3,31	2,68	2,72
<b>MnO</b>	0,03	0,00	0,00	0,02	0,03	0,07	0,12	0,11
<b>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub></b>	0,12	0,10	0,04	0,14	0,13	0,22	0,35	0,34
<b>Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01
<b>Na<sub>2</sub>O</b>	1,87	1,08	0,43	1,76	2,10	2,11	2,27	2,32
<b>LOI</b>	1,69	2,29	3,00	2,59	3,55	3,39	3,50	3,52
<b>TOTAL</b>	99,04	99,18	99,16	99,09	99,30	99,28	99,27	99,52

The wacke samples of the Nooitgedagt Member are enriched in silica in comparison to the UCC composition, there is an enrichment of 10%. There is a slight enrichment in K<sub>2</sub>O of the wacke composition compared to the UCC. There is a large deficit in the MgO, CaO and Na<sub>2</sub>O concentrations within the Nooitgedagt Member compared to the UCC. Furthermore, concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>, FeO, K<sub>2</sub>O and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> are typical of the UCC concentrations.

With regards to the Groenefontein Formation, there is a large deficit in the concentrations of CaO and MgO compared to the UCC. Sample 040916/2 has a 10% enrichment in silica and a 5% deficit in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> compared to the UCC, whereas the other samples have elemental concentrations of the aforementioned elements, that are representative of the UCC. There are slight deficits in the FeO, MnO and Na<sub>2</sub>O concentrations. TiO<sub>2</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> elemental concentrations measure the same as UCC concentrations.

The Huis Rivier Formation has elemental concentrations most representative of the UCC. There are slight enrichments in  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{FeO}$ , but these are low. There are also slight deficits in  $\text{CaO}$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  concentrations (1% respectively).

Sedimentary rock classification was based on discrimination plots from Herron (1988). The diagram compares the silica-aluminium ratio to the iron-potassium ratio within the rock. According to the data represented in **Figure 4-7**, the samples of the Nooitgedagt Member and Groenefontein Formation are classified as wacke and sandstone (litharenite). Of the Nooitgedagt samples, 040916/3 and 040916/4 are classified as wacke. Sample 040916/2 of the Groenefontein Formation has been classified as a litharenite, whereas 040916/5 and 040916/6 are classified as wacke. The Huis Rivier Formation samples plot on the boundary of shale and wacke, although based on the petrography, they are better classified as wacke. Potential reasons for the samples plotting slightly out of the field could be the fine-grained nature of the samples and the alteration of minerals (feldspar and muscovite) to clay minerals.

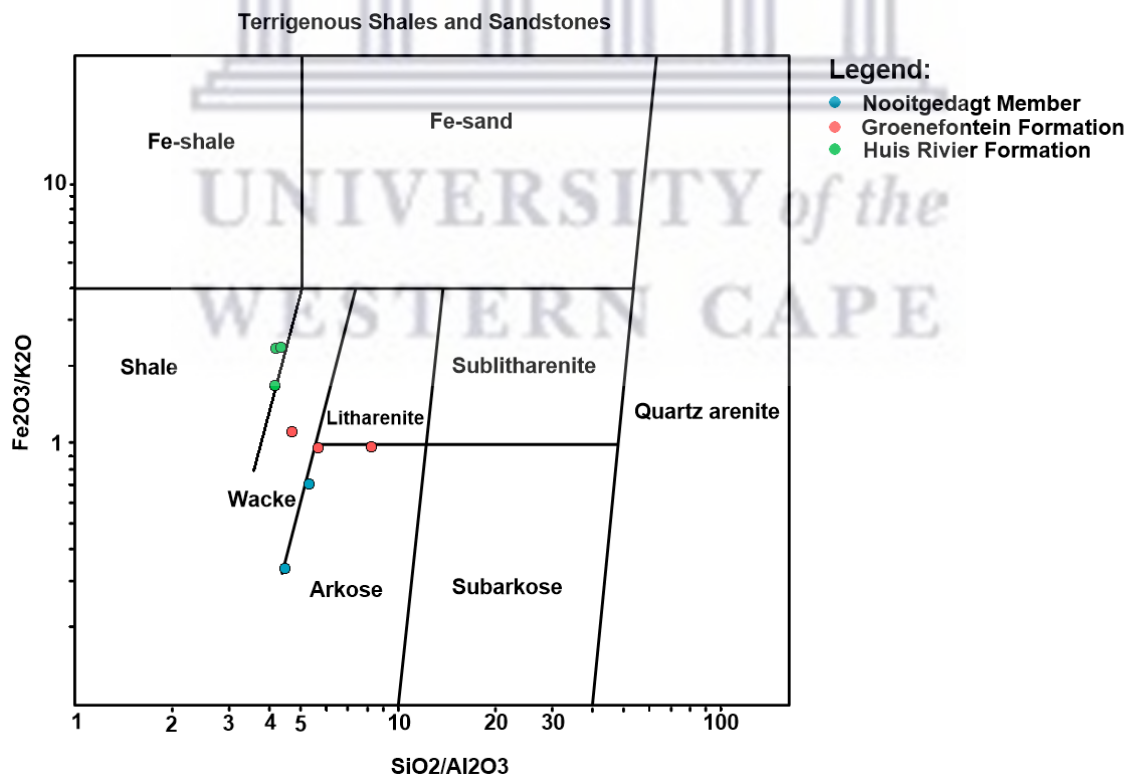


Figure 4-7:  $\log (\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)$  versus  $\log (\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{K}_2\text{O})$  discrimination diagram of Herron (1988) showing the sedimentary rock classification of the Congo Caves Group samples.



Tectonic setting of the lithologies based on major element concentrations was done according to Roser and Korsch (1986) (**Figure 4-8**). The Nooitgedagt Member plots exclusively within the Passive Margin setting, whereas the Groenefontein Formation plots within the Passive Margin and the boundary of the Passive and Active Continental Margin. Furthermore, the Huis Rivier Formation plots exclusively within the Active Continental Margin field.

Additional major element tectonic discrimination diagrams for sandstones were plotted in accordance with Bhatia and Crook (1986) (**Figure 4-9 a and b**). Based on **Figure 4-9 a**, the Nooitgedagt Member plots within the Active Continental Margin field and on the boundary of the Active Continental Margin and the Passive Margin. In **Figure 4-9 b**, however, only one sample plots within a field and that is the Continental Island Arc. The Groenefontein Formation, in **Figure 4-9 a**, plots within the Continental Island Arc field whereas, in **Figure 4-9 b**, the samples also plot within the Passive Margin field. The Huis Rivier Formation plots within the Oceanic island arc field in both **Figure 4-9 a and b**, however, there are outliers within both **Figure 4-9 a and b**.

There are no conclusive results for the tectonic settings of the analysed samples of the Congo Caves Group based on the major elemental concentrations of the samples (**Figure 4-8 and Figure 4-9**). Discrimination and classification diagrams based on major element concentrations alone are difficult to evaluate as the rocks are highly susceptible to weathering and alteration, therefore, they need to be evaluated with the aid of trace elements which are not as susceptible to alteration. For this reason, trace element geochemical discrimination plots will be used to validate **Figure 4-8 and Figure 4-9** and provide more conclusive results.

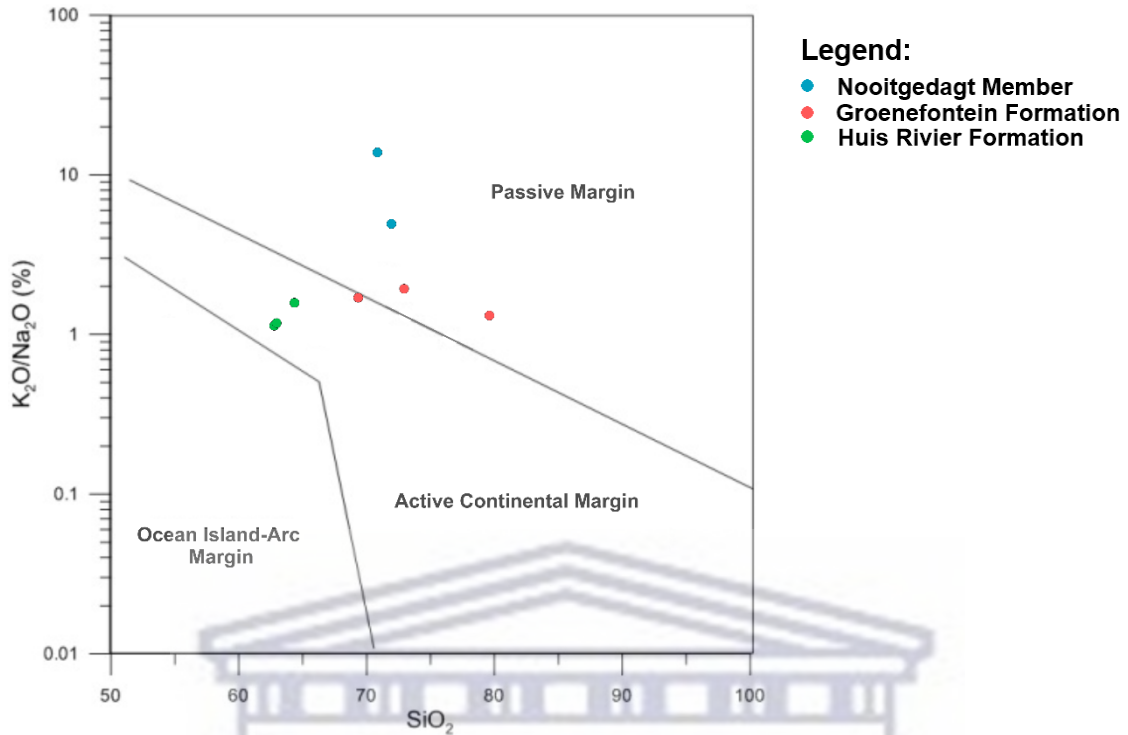


Figure 4-8:  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs  $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  discrimination diagram after Roser and Korsch (1986), indicating the geotectonic setting for the studied lithological units.

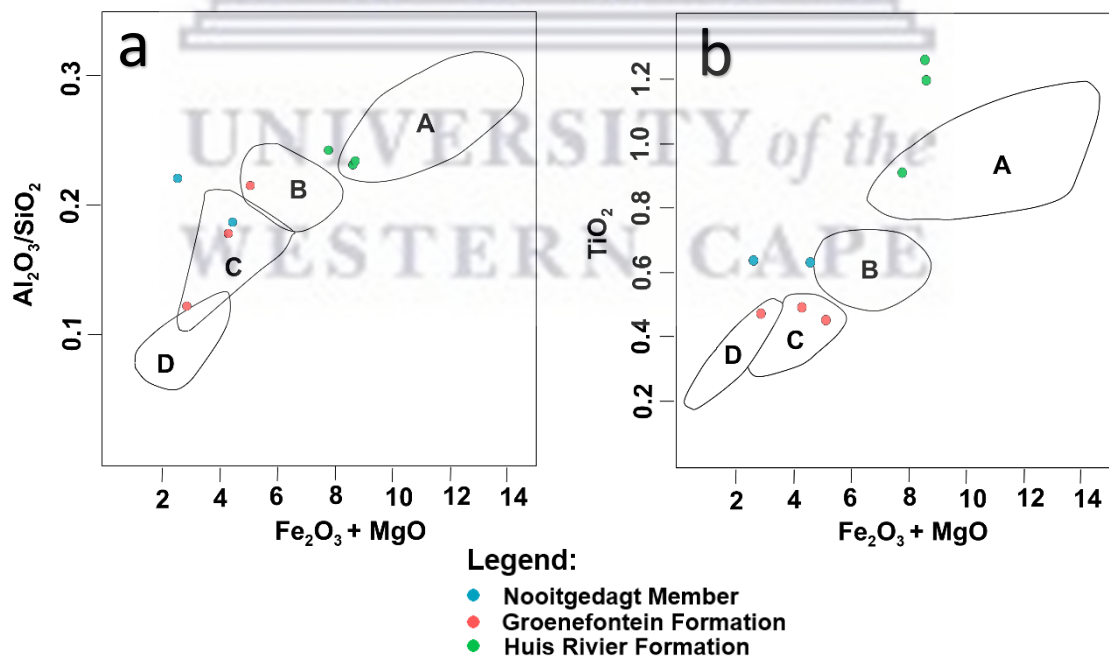


Figure 4-9: Major element composition plots of sands and sandstones for tectonic setting discrimination. a –  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  vs  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{MgO}$ ; b –  $\text{TiO}_2$  vs  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{MgO}$ , after Bhatia (1983). A = Oceanic Island Arc; B = Continental Island Arc; C = Active Continental Margin; D = Passive Margin.

#### 4.2.2 Alteration

According to Nesbitt (2003), the major element composition of clastic sedimentary rocks is affected by three main processes: weathering; transportation and sorting; and diagenesis and metamorphism. These three processes affect mobile elements, therefore, before possible source rocks can be identified, the degree of alteration of the rocks must be determined.

Chemical weathering acts as the main factor affecting the bulk composition (Nesbitt, 2003). Feldspar is the most common mineral in supracrustal clastic sediments and is also the most consistently altered. Feldspar alters to albite and finally illite and kaolinite, resulting in the minerals become increasingly enriched in aluminium (Nesbitt, 2003). Based on these factors, the Chemical Index of Alteration (CIA), after Nesbitt and Young (1982), is most suited to determine the degree of alteration of the rocks. The following formula is applied to calculate CIA using the mole percentage values for oxides (CaO\* is the calcium content of silicates):

$$CIA = 100 \times (Al_2O_3 / (Al_2O_3 + Na_2O + CaO^* + K_2O))$$

The ratio is based on the assumption that the dominant process during chemical weathering is the degradation of feldspars and the formation of clay minerals (Goldberg and Humayun, 2010). High CIA values indicate a high degree of alteration.

There are several factors that affect the CIA which need to be considered. These include sediment provenance, hydraulic sorting and post-deformational processes that lead to K<sup>+</sup> addition (K-metasomatism). The contribution of different source rocks to the formation of sediments can be examined using the A-CN-K plot and the Ti /Al ratio. According to Goldberg and Humayun (2010), hydraulic sorting significantly influences the chemical composition of terrigenous sediments due to grain size and sorting, where finer sediments have higher Al concentrations (i.e., clays). Furthermore, larger grain sizes tend to concentrate feldspars, resulting in lowered CIA values. K-metasomatism leads to complexities as it increases the K concentration, which in turn, lowers the CIA.

A further geochemical method used to evaluate chemical alteration or degree of weathering is the K/Cs ratio. This ratio is used to quantify the chemical weathering of feldspar (Naidoo, 2008). The higher the ratio yielded, the lower the degree of alteration of feldspar, as K and Cs are absorbed during chemical weathering and the formation of clay. The addition of K from

secondary processes (i.e., K-metasomatism) must also be considered when calculating the ratio, as this results in an increase of K.

The different geological units of the Congo Caves Group have CIA values which average between 55 - 67%. There is slight decrease in CIA values from the bottom of the Congo Caves Group to the top, indicating reduced chemical alteration or K-enrichment. The CIA values of the Nooitgedagt Member range from 63 - 68%.

The Groenefontein Formation has CIA values which range from 59 - 65%. Sample 040916/2 is the anomalous value as it produced the lowest CIA. The other two samples (040916/5 and 040916/6) have homogenous major geochemical concentrations, whereas the above-mentioned sample has a relatively depleted concentration of  $Al_2O_3$  and is enriched in silica. This indicates a lower degree of alteration as the feldspar alterations produce clay minerals (i.e., an increase in Al concentration).

The Huis Rivier Formation has the lowest CIA values with an average of 56% and, therefore, is the least altered from the sampled geological units of the Congo Caves Group.

#### 4.2.3 Weathering

**Figure 4-10** displays the general weathering trend of the Congo Caves Group. The Nooitgedagt Member plots towards muscovite compositions, closer to the K-feldspar composition and away from any normal weathering trend, which indicates an increase in secondary K from K-metasomatism. The geochemical data confirms the K-enrichment, mainly with the two wacke samples (that plot the closest to K-feldspar composition with enriched concentrations of  $K_2O$  (>5 wt.%)).

The Groenefontein Formation follows the granite normal weathering trend and plots towards illite compositions. The Huis Rivier Formation plots towards illite compositions and suggests compositions between granodiorite (UCC) and granite. The very fine-grained wacke (050916/1) is slightly more enriched in  $K_2O$  and plots closer to the granite weathering trend. Furthermore, the collected samples have undergone intermediate weathering (**Figure 4-10**).



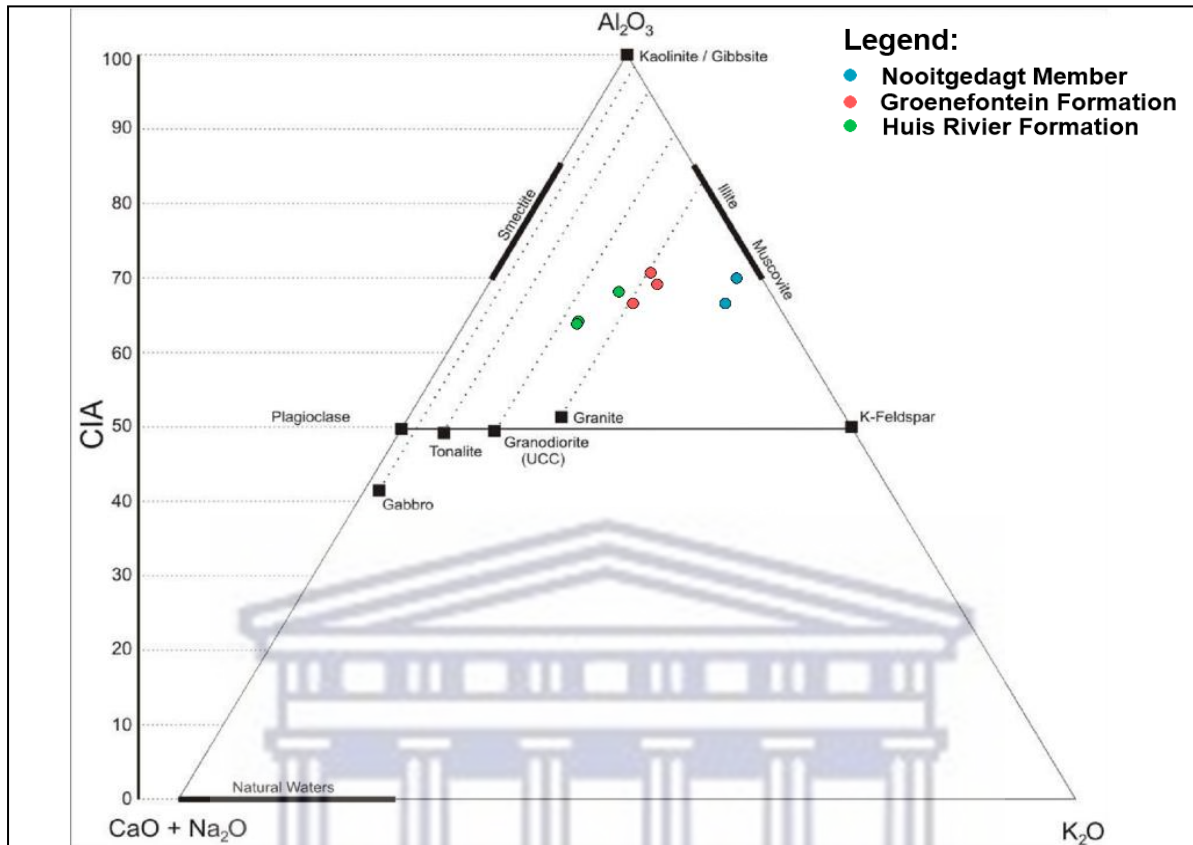


Figure 4-10: CIA diagram showing the general weathering trend of the sampled lithologies of the Congo Caves Group. Modified after Nesbitt and Young (1989).

The two wacke samples of the Nooitgedagt Member have high K/Cs ratios (040916/3 - 21696.19; 040916/4 - 13714.53) (Figure 4-11). The wacke samples plot above the typical UCC, whereas the sandstone plots closer, but slightly lower, to the typical UCC value. The high K/Cs ratios and low CIA values could indicate the addition of K from K-metasomatism.

Samples from Groenefontein Formation and the Huis Rivier Formation have ratios which plot between the UCC and the Post-Archean Australian Average Shale (PAAS), after Taylor and McLennan (1985) (Figure 4-11).

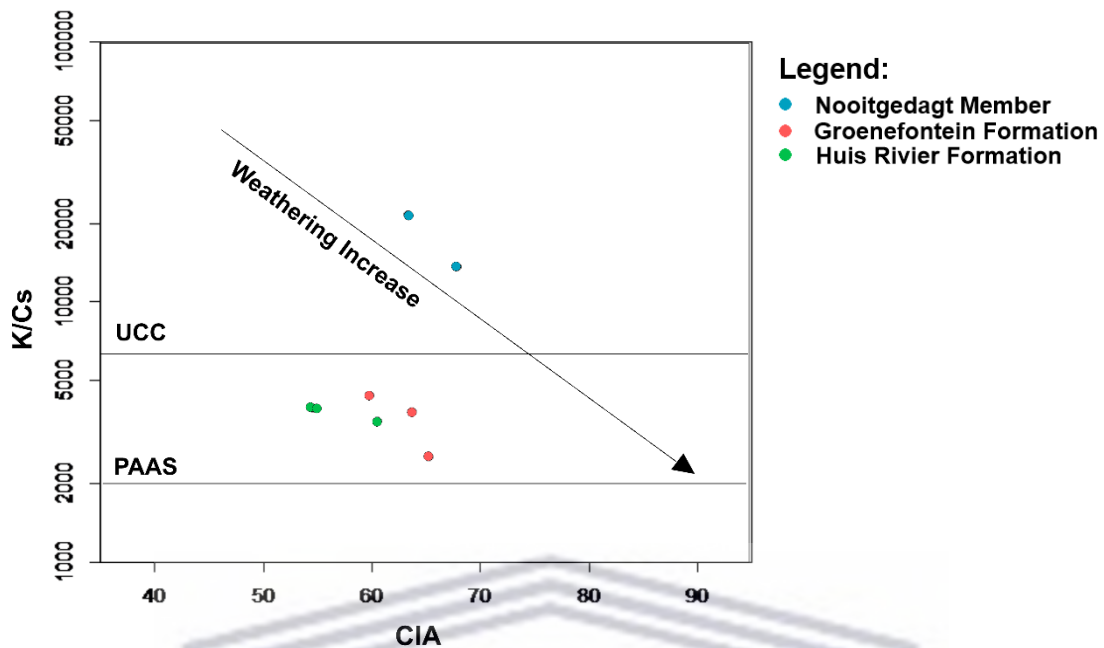


Figure 4-11: K/Cs vs CIA diagram (after McLennan et al., 1993) indicating ratios between UCC and PAAS for the sampled units of the Cango Caves Group.

Another way to compare the evolution of chemical weathering degree is by evaluating the Weathering Index of Parker (WIP), (Parker, 1970), and comparing it to the CIA (González et al., 2017). According to González et al. (2017), the WIP takes into account the transformation of feldspars to clay minerals with respect to the mobility of major alkali and alkaline earth elements. Furthermore, it considers the differential strengths of oxygen bonds and the relation to differential mobility of elements. The WIP is defined by the following formula (Parker, 1970):

$$\text{WIP} = 100 \times [(2\text{Na}_2\text{O}/0.35) + (\text{MgO}/0.9) + (2\text{K}_2\text{O}/0.25) + (\text{CaO}/0.7)]$$

The degree of weathering is inversely proportionate to the WIP values. The degree of weathering can be graphically evaluated by comparing the CIA to the WIP (**Figure 4-12**). The three studied lithological units of the Cango Caves Group fall between the same field (WIP between 30 and 60; CIA between 50 and 70). The samples have undergone intermediate weathering (**Figure 4-12**).

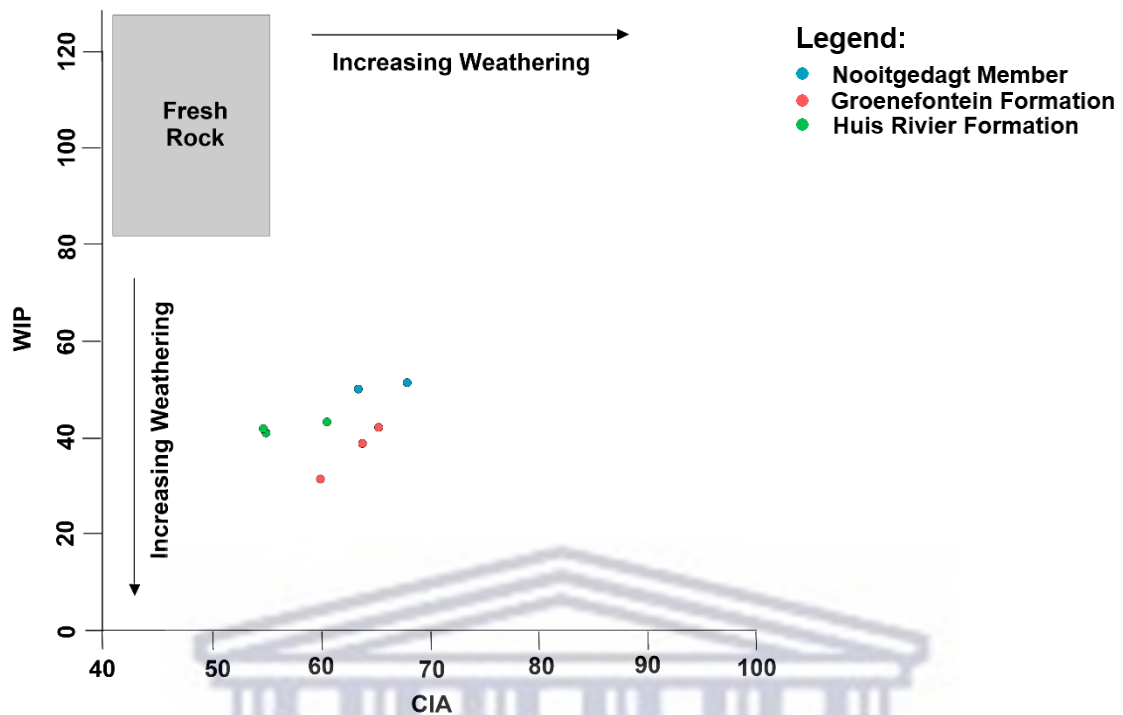


Figure 4-12: Relationship between two weathering proxies, CIA and WIP, for the sedimentary rocks of the Nooitgedagt Member, Groenefontein Formation and Huis Rivier Formation of the Cango Caves Group (after González et al., 2017).

#### 4.2.4 Trace Element Geochemistry

Imperative contributions in interpreting pre-Mesozoic plate settings are provided by the composition of sedimentary rocks. Multiple provenance regions have been destroyed, and the only data available is in the sediments derived from them. The relationship between sediment composition and plate tectonics is therefore a powerful tool for recognising early tectonic settings (Bhatia and Crook, 1986).

Trace elements are useful for determining the tectonic setting of a basin. Notably, the immobile trace elements such as La, Ce, Nd, Y, Th, Zr, Hf, Nd, Ti and Sc are most fit for determining the provenance and tectonic settings of an area. These elements reflect the signature of the parent material as they are transported quantitatively into clastic sedimentary rocks during weathering and transportation (Bhatia and Crook, 1986). These trace elements will be used to determine source rock composition, degree of weathering and paleotectonic setting for the Cango Caves Group. The results for the trace element geochemistry are displayed in **Table 4-2**, where trace element concentrations are displayed in parts per million (ppm).

Table 4-2: Whole-rock trace element geochemistry of the samples of the Congo Caves Group of the study area.

TRACE ELEMENT GEOCHEMISTRY (PPM)								
	040916/2	040916/3	040916/4	040916/5	040916/6	050916/1	050916/2A	050916/2B
Sc	14,45	17,29	16,9	14,96	16,12	18,51	19,97	19,28
V	41,6	63,25	46,36	53,45	61,39	90,45	99,25	98,55
Cr	144,25	187,9	161	121,9	105,9	152,1	147,75	139,5
Co	4,1	0,97	1,03	6,34	9,07	12,9	13,1	13,11
Ni	15,35	8,5	14,85	17,65	22,15	30,35	26,65	29,55
Cu	14,54	9,01	14,24	18,02	18,5	31,41	22,15	26,39
Zn	35,95	65,6	30,35	59,6	67,25	90,4	88,05	90,1
Rb	102,85	161,15	191,4	153,35	174,05	140,3	109,1	110,95
Sr	96,05	77,5	53,9	104,15	76,3	96,1	300,1	298,5
Y	41,45	32,64	38,17	26,53	31,9	42,5	65,3	62,33
Zr	459,3	371,85	391,3	288,5	197,8	378,6	904,4	795,4
Nb	10,26	18,47	15,63	11,06	11,57	15,71	20,16	19,76
Mo	6,94	9,98	9,12	4,85	3,61	5,36	4,24	3,78
Cs	4,63	2,07	3,65	7,42	11,64	7,85	5,71	5,77
Ba	349,6	939	1007,5	429,95	463,45	449,9	408,6	404,7
Hf	13,8	11,04	11,34	8,76	6,14	10,57	25,94	22,94
Ta	0,72	0,88	0,86	0,73	0,73	0,9	1,34	1,31
Pb	18,89	20,77	39,55	27,14	24,32	18,55	23,66	21,89
Th	19,32	21,16	19,85	12,18	10,71	14,71	32,53	29,09
U	3,82	2,6	2,13	2,71	2,73	3,88	6,34	5,77

According to Winchester and Floyd (1997), the compositional trend of sedimentary rocks can be determined by evaluating the ratios of highly immobile elements, which include the Nb/Y and Zr/Ti ratios (Figure 4-13). These four elements are particularly useful as they are highly incompatible and are not significantly affected during weathering and transportation (Fourie, 2012). The sampled rocks from the Congo Caves Group exhibit rhyolitic to rhyodacite source compositions. The wacke of the Nooitgedagt has a rhyolitic source composition. The Groenfontein Formation and Huis Rivier Formation have a spread in the Zr/Ti ratio, these formations exhibit rhyolitic to rhyodacite source compositions.



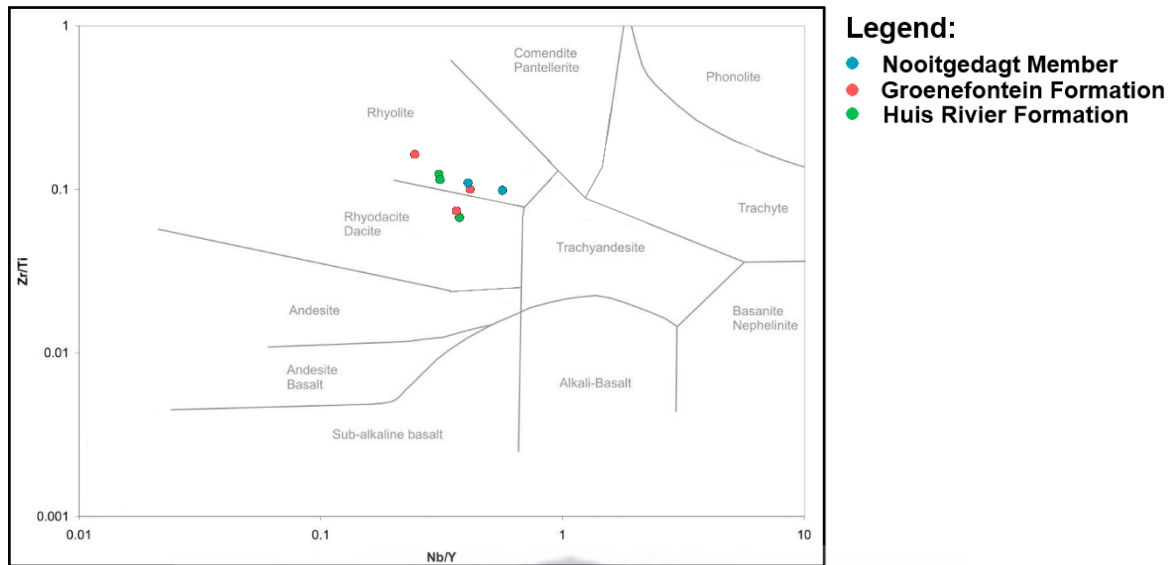


Figure 4-13: Zr/Ti vs Nb/Y discrimination diagram indicating the general composition of sedimentary rocks. After Winchester and Floyd (1997).

Sandstones tend to become enriched in certain trace elements as a result of sediment reworking, namely Ti, Th, Zr and Sc. Sc is a compatible element with a tendency for a less fractionated material, whereas Zr and Th are incompatible elements and increase in concentration with the deposition of more fractionated material. Zr will be enriched over Sc with an increase in sediment reworking. Higher Th/Sc ratios reveal the degree of fractionation of the igneous component included in the detrital mix. Hence, the factors allow for a comparison between the Zr/Sc and Th/Sc ratios (Figure 4-14) and provide a good indicator of source compositions (Naidoo, 2008).

Figure 4-14 shows the reworking trend for the samples of the Cango Caves Group which all show similar trends. The Th/Sc ratios of the samples (0.6 - 1.7) indicate that they have an UCC composition and have undergone minor sediment reworking. The Nooitgedagt Member and Groenefontein Formation have similar recycling trends with typical UCC Th/Sc and Zr/Sc ratios. 040916/6 from the middle Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation has undergone the lowest degree of reworking with a Th/Sc ratio of 0.66 and Zr/Sc ratio of 12.27. The Huis Rivier Formation shows slightly higher reworking than the other units. The Huis Rivier Formation has high Sc concentrations, but also shows similar UCC concentrations with the one sample (050916/1). Th/Sc and Zr/Sc ratios indicate a less fractionated source component mixed with UCC for the Cango Caves Group.

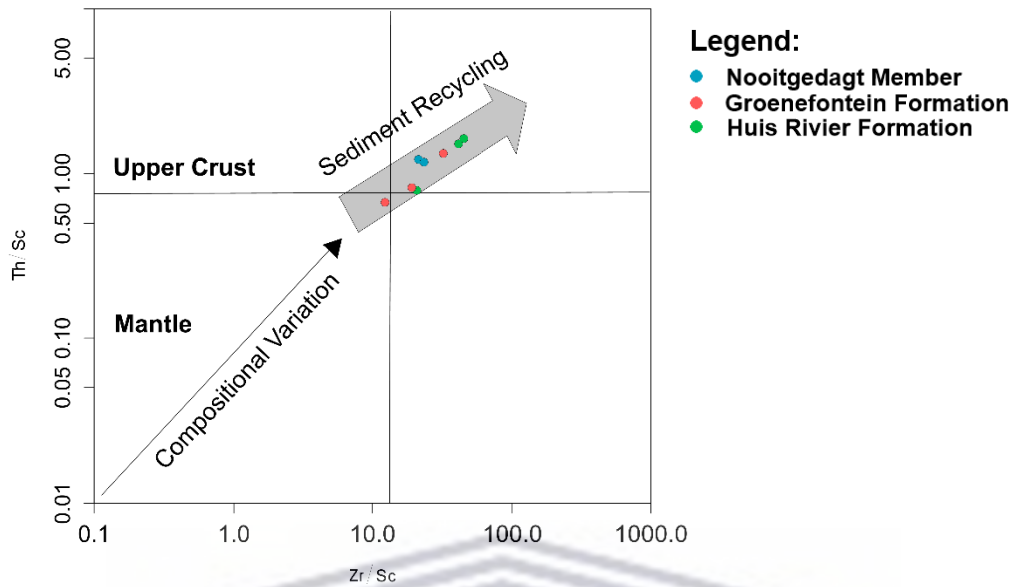


Figure 4-14: Th/Sc vs Zr/Sc ratios of samples of the Congo Caves Group. After McLennan et al. (1990).

Discriminant diagrams based on trace element concentrations are useful for determining the paleotectonic setting in which clastic rocks were deposited. **Figure 4-15** a, b and c are based on the trace element concentrations of La, Th, Sc, Zr and Ti. These trace elements are useful for discriminant diagrams as they are not as susceptible to post sedimentary processes such as diagenesis, metamorphism and fluid flow. Based on the discriminant diagrams in **Figure 4-15**, the sampled rocks of the Congo Caves Group point to a Continental Island Arc setting.

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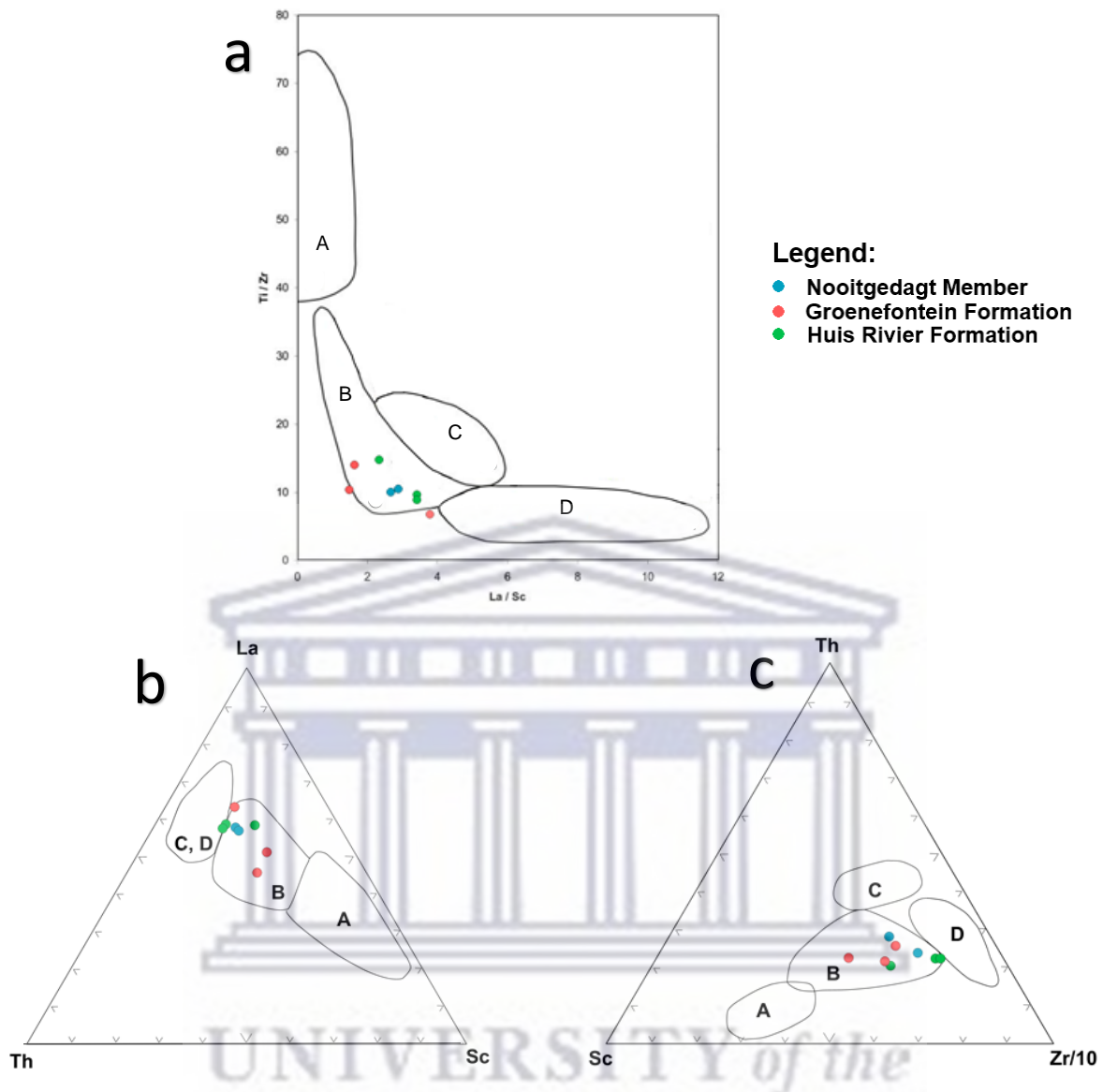


Figure 4-15: Trace element tectonic discriminant diagrams. a – Ti/Zr vs La/Sc; b – Th-La-Sc; c – Sc-Th-Zr/10, after Bhatia and Crook (1986). A = Oceanic Island Arc; B = Continental Island Arc; C = Active Continental Margin; D = Passive Margin.

#### 4.2.5 Rare Earth Element Geochemistry

Chemical changes associated with weathering, erosion, sediment transport, deposition and diagenesis are complicated, however, it has been shown that some elements are transported, in effect quantitatively, in terrigenous components of sediment (McLennan and Taylor, 1991). Of these elements, rare earth elements (REE), Th and Sc, are the most useful for inferring crustal composition, as these elements are not affected by secondary processes (McLennan and Taylor, 1991). The results of the REE geochemical data were normalised to upper

continental crust values after Taylor and McLennan (1985). The REE geochemical data, displayed in ppm, for the Congo Caves Group is presented in **Table 4-3**.

Table 4-3: Rare-earth element (REE) geochemistry of the samples of the Congo Caves Group of the study area.

RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REE) (ppm)								
	040916/2	040916/3	040916/4	040916/5	040916/6	050916/1	050916/2A	050916/2B
La	56,41	50,91	47,58	22,08	27,54	44,80	70,13	67,85
Ce	124,90	104,30	96,85	79,80	71,81	94,55	152,90	146,70
Pr	14,77	12,66	11,68	6,69	7,46	11,59	19,06	18,28
Nd	56,45	46,80	44,08	26,12	28,87	44,15	73,70	70,30
Sm	11,82	9,39	8,06	6,32	6,54	9,51	15,60	14,72
Eu	1,36	1,95	1,94	0,95	1,06	1,83	2,07	2,14
Gd	9,76	7,91	7,20	5,54	6,17	8,50	13,42	12,83
Tb	1,46	1,10	1,04	0,87	0,94	1,37	2,02	1,89
Dy	8,88	6,25	6,68	5,19	6,10	7,68	12,06	11,24
Ho	1,74	1,28	1,47	0,98	1,14	1,53	2,50	2,28
Er	5,11	3,65	4,41	3,02	3,45	4,53	7,09	6,88
Tm	0,75	0,49	0,59	0,45	0,48	0,62	0,99	0,98
Yb	4,76	3,28	4,04	2,78	3,26	4,26	6,86	6,51
Lu	0,67	0,52	0,65	0,40	0,48	0,64	1,03	0,98
Σ REE	298,84	250,49	236,27	161,19	165,30	235,56	379,43	363,58
LREE/HREE	7,98	9,15	7,99	7,33	6,46	7,02	7,21	7,29
(La/Sm) <sub>n</sub>	0,72	0,81	0,89	0,52	0,63	0,71	0,67	0,69
(Eu/Eu*) <sub>n</sub>	0,60	1,06	1,20	0,75	0,78	0,96	0,67	0,73
(La/Yb) <sub>n</sub>	0,87	1,14	0,86	0,58	0,62	0,77	0,75	0,76
(Gd/Yb) <sub>n</sub>	1,19	1,40	1,03	1,15	1,10	1,16	1,13	1,14
Ce/Ce*	1,11	1,01	0,98	1,83	1,34	1,08	1,08	1,07
Ce/Yb	0,90	1,09	0,82	0,99	0,76	0,76	0,77	0,77
Ce/Sm	0,74	0,78	0,84	0,89	0,77	0,70	0,69	0,70
Gd/Lu	1,23	1,28	0,93	1,17	1,08	1,12	1,10	1,10
La/Lu	0,90	1,04	0,78	0,59	0,61	0,75	0,73	0,74

According to Rudnick and Gao (2003), the REE patterns of shales PAAS reflect that of the average upper-continental crust. The Congo Caves Group samples in the study area have REE concentrations similar to that of the upper continental crust normalised concentrations, with a minimal enrichment of Light Rare Earth Elements (LREE) and Heavy Rare Earth Elements (HREE) for certain sampled formations (**Figure 4-16 a**).

The wacke samples of the Nooitgedagt Member are slightly enriched in LREE and HREE. The Groenfontein Formation samples are all slightly enriched in HREE, whereas the wacke samples have LREE values similar to the UCC, and the litharenite is slightly enriched in the



LREE. All samples of the Huis Rivier Formation are enriched relative to the normalised UCC, evident by the LREE and HREE values above 1 (**Figure 4-16 a**).

The Nooitgedagt Member, Groenefontein Formation and Huis Rivier Formation are characterised by relatively flat REE patterns ( $La/Lu = 0.78 - 1.044$ ;  $0.61 - 0.9$ ;  $0.73 - 0.75$  respectively) in comparison to the UCC (**Figure 4-16 a**). Furthermore, the units are characterised by low  $La/Sr$  values of  $0.81 - 0.89$ ;  $0.52 - 0.72$ ;  $0.67 - 0.71$  respectively, and  $Gd/Lu$  values of  $0.93 - 1.45$ ;  $1.08 - 1.23$ ;  $1.1 - 1.12$  respectively. The low  $La/Lu$  value indicates little fractionation or enrichment of LREE relative to HREE.

The samples of the Nooitgedagt Member exhibit moderate-to-strong positive Eu anomalies ( $1.06 - 1.2$  ppm). The Groenefontein Formation exhibits a moderate-to-strong negative Eu anomaly ( $0.6 - 0.78$  ppm), and the Huis Rivier Formation exhibits a weak-to-strong negative Eu anomaly ( $0.73 - 0.96$  ppm).

The spider plot in **Figure 4-16 b** shows that the trace element concentrations, of the sampled geological units of the Cango Caves Group, plot relatively close to the UCC (plotting close to 1), with slight enrichments and depletions in certain trace elements. The samples show negative anomalies in the Heavy Field Strength Elements (HFSE) Nb, Ta, Ti and U (strongest negative anomalies are Nb and Ta), with the Light Iron Lithophile Elements (LILE) Sr displaying the largest depletion/negative anomaly.

Furthermore, K shows a negative anomaly in the Groenefontein Formation and the Huis Rivier Formation, whereas in the Nooitgedagt Member it displays a positive anomaly. There is also a slight positive anomaly in HFSE Ti and slight enrichments in Zr, Hf and Y.

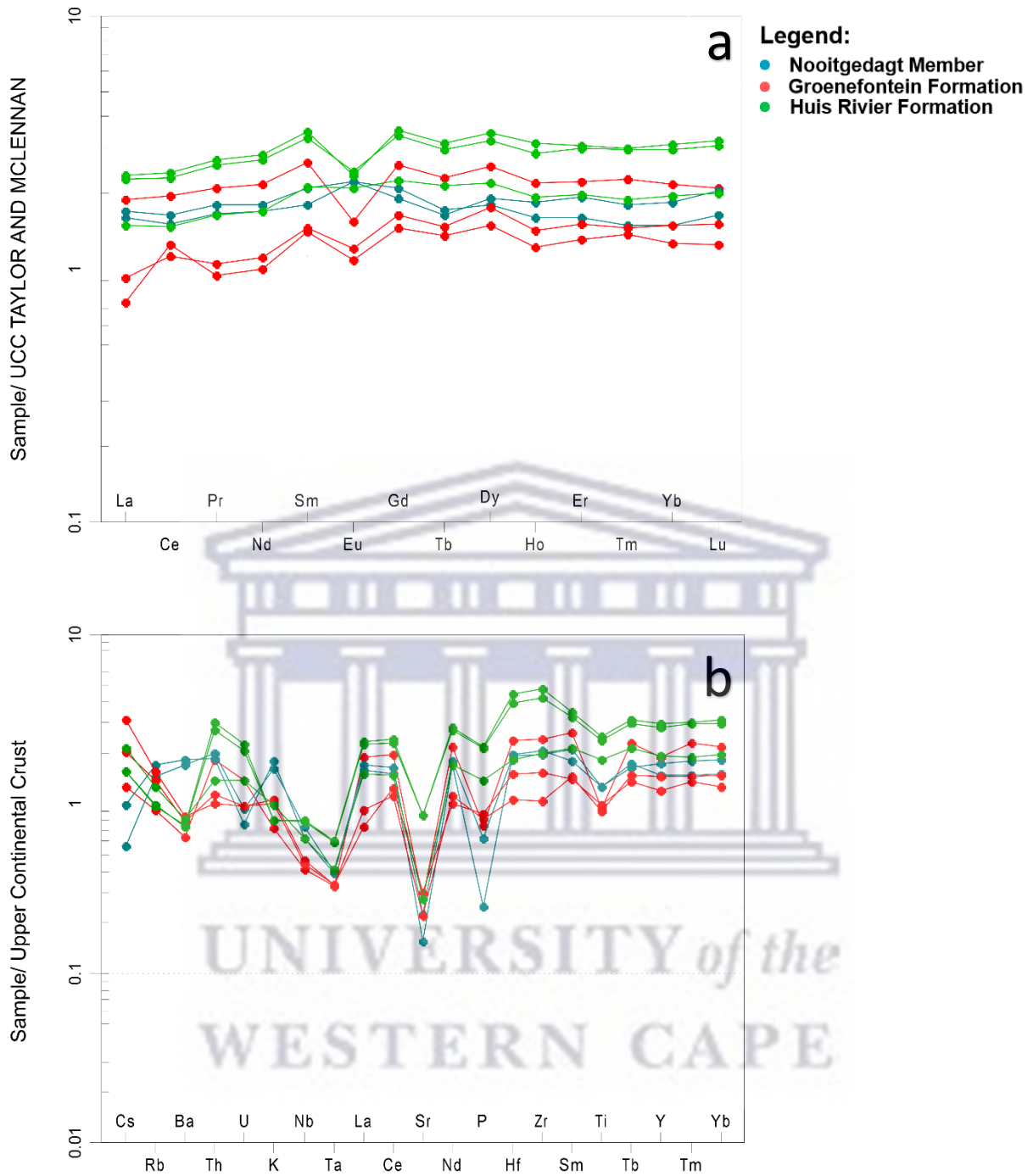


Figure 4-16: a – REE plot of the samples of the Congo Caves Group. b – Trace element spider plot of samples of the Congo Caves Group. Both normalised to UCC concentrations after Taylor and McLennan (1995).

#### 4.2.6 Isotope Geochemistry

Samples from three lithological units from the Cango Caves Group (Nooitgedagt Member, Groenefontein Formation and Huis Rivier Formation) were selected for whole-rock Sm-Nd and Rb-Sr analyses. The results are presented in **Figure 4-17** and **Table 4-4**. The single-stage Nd model ages were calculated using a Sm decay constant of  $6.54 \times 10^{-12} \text{ year}^{-1}$  (Lugmair and Marti, 1978) and the depleted mantle values of DePaolo (1981). The initial  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ( $Sr_i$ ) ratios were calculated using a Rb decay constant of  $1.42 \times 10^{-11} \text{ year}^{-1}$  (Steiger and Jäger, 1977).

##### **Nooitgedagt Member:**

Isotopic data for the Nooitgedagt Member illustrates relatively constant Sm-Nd ratios between 0.11 and 0.12.  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratios for the Nooitgedagt Member samples are also constant with ratios of 0.512.

$\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$  values are within a range that is relatively close to zero, with a minimum value of 0.67 and a maximum value of 1.55. Sample 040916/4 exhibits a positive value of 1.55, indicating a depleted source. Sample 040916/3 has a value of 0.67, pointing towards a depleted source that had some influence from a crustal component. Sm-Nd model ages ( $T_{\text{DM}}$ ) vary from 1.80 - 1.56 Ga, which range from the Paleoproterozoic to the Mesoproterozoic Era.

##### **Groenefontein Formation:**

Sm-Nd ratios for the lithologies of the Groenefontein Formation are 0.13, while initial  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratios of 0.51 were recorded.  $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$  values for the samples of the Groenefontein Formation are negative for all the samples. Samples 040916/2, 040916/5 and 040916/6 have  $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$  values of -3.15, -3.50 and -3.07 respectively. These highly negative  $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$  values indicate a more enriched source. Sm-Nd model ages ( $T_{\text{DM}}$ ) vary from 1.76 to 1.62 Ga, which indicate a Paleoproterozoic source.

##### **Huis Rivier Formation:**

Isotopic data for the Huis Rivier Formation shows constant Sm-Nd ratios of 0.12 and 0.13 for the lithologies, as well as consistent  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratios of 0.51.  $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$  values for 050916/1, 050916/2A and 050916/2B are -3.24, -2.54 and -2.68 respectively. The negative values point to an enriched source. Sm-Nd model ages ( $T_{\text{DM}}$ ) vary from 1.69 to 1.56 Ga, which indicate a Paleoproterozoic source.

Table 4-4: Whole rock isotopic data for the Cango Caves Group of the study area.

Sample	Formation	Sm	Nd	<sup>143</sup> Nd/ <sup>144</sup> Nd	<sup>147</sup> Sm/ <sup>144</sup> Nd	2s.e.	n	Epsilon(0)	Nd(t)	T(ma)	CHUR (t)	End(t)	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2s.e.	n	TDM	TCHUR	Rb	Sr
040916/2	Groenefontein	12.6	60.1	0.512223	0.1265	0.000004	76	-7.93	0.51177	550.00	0.51193	-3.155873	0.736122	0.000011	77	1.6177	0.9001	102.85	96.05
040916/3	Nooitgedagt	15.8	80.6	0.512109	0.1187	0.000004	76	-10.16	0.51125	1100.00	0.51122	0.667185	0.761770	0.000009	77	1.6684	1.0336	161.15	77.5
040916/4	Nooitgedagt	14.5	78.6	0.512100	0.1112	0.000003	74	-10.34	0.51130	1100.00	0.51122	1.5502	0.768330	0.000009	76	1.5599	0.9592	191.4	53.9
040916/5	Groenefontein	6.8	30.7	0.512234	0.1344	0.000003	76	-7.72	0.51175	550.00	0.51193	-3.501327	0.742820	0.000008	73	1.7583	0.9879	153.35	104.15
040916/6	Groenefontein	7.1	33.3	0.512234	0.1281	0.000004	76	-7.73	0.51177	550.00	0.51193	-3.069809	0.753517	0.000014	78	1.6300	0.8986	174.05	76.3
050916/1	Huis Rivier	9.1	42.9	0.512218	0.1287	0.000003	74	-8.04	0.51174	570.00	0.51190	-3.239953	0.742548	0.000009	77	1.6685	0.9409	140.3	96.1
050916/2A	Huis Rivier	15.8	76.5	0.512239	0.1248	0.000002	77	-7.62	0.51177	570.00	0.51190	-2.541009	0.724543	0.000010	78	1.5603	0.8455	109.1	300.1
050916/2B	Huis Rivier	15.4	74.6	0.512231	0.1245	0.000004	77	-7.78	0.51177	570.00	0.51190	-2.677816	0.724821	0.000009	77	1.5684	0.8589	110.95	298.5

-  $\epsilon \text{ Nd}(t) = ((^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}(i)/^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}(\text{CHUR}, t)) - 1) \times 10000$

-  $\text{TDM} = 1/(\lambda) \times \ln(1 + (^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}(0) - ^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}(\text{DM}) / ^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd} - ^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}(\text{DM}))) \times 0,000000001$  (after DePaolo, 1981) where  $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{DM}} = 0.51351$ ,  $(^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{DM}} = 0.2136$

-  $\text{TCHUR} = 1/(\lambda) \times \ln(1 + (^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}(0) - ^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}(\text{CHUR}, t)) / ^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd} - ^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}(\text{CHUR}, t)) \times 109$  (after DePaolo, 1981) where  $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})(\text{CHUR}, t) = 0.512638$ ,  $(^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})(\text{CHUR}, t) = 0.1967$





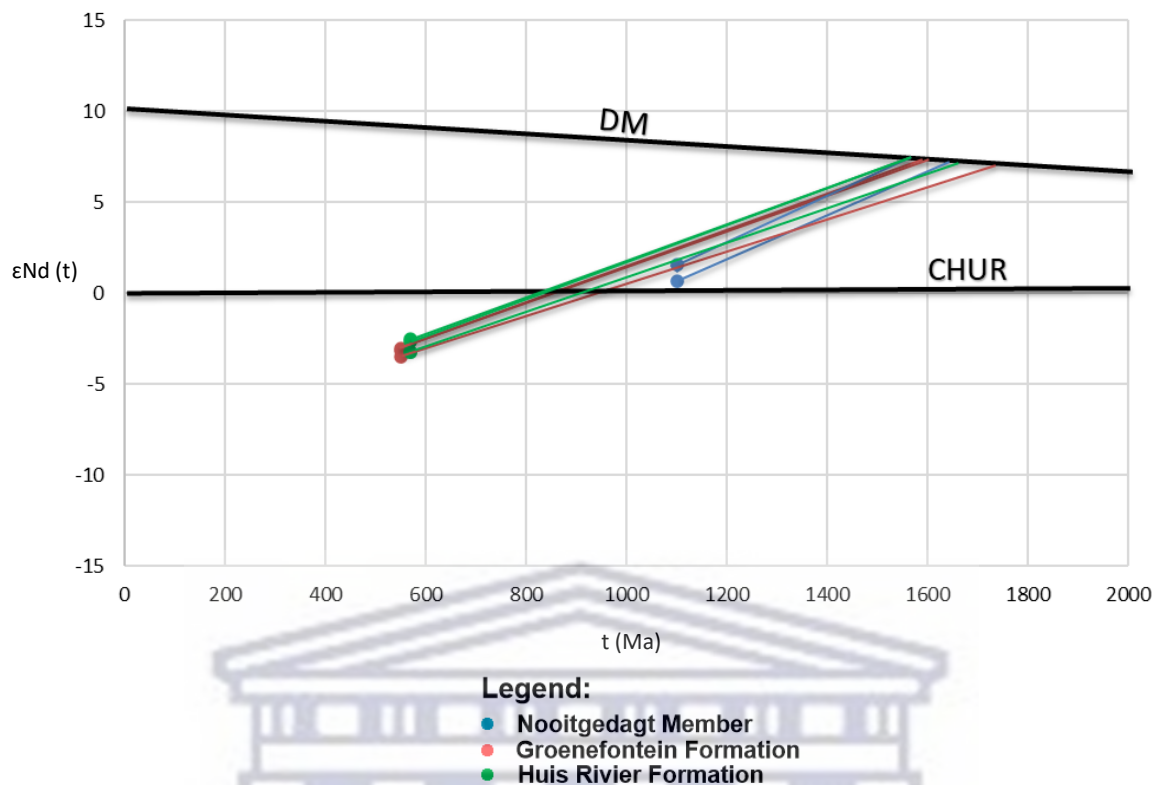


Figure 4-17:  $\epsilon Nd(t)$  vs Age (Ma) for the Nooitgedagt Member, Groenefontein Formation and Huis Rivier Formation of the Cango Caves Group (Eglinton, 2006).

### 4.3 U-Pb Geochronology

The Matjies River Formation (basal Nooitgedagt Member), Groenefontein Formation and the Huis Rivier Formation of the Cango Caves Group were dated. The Matjies River Formation and the Groenefontein Formation were sampled from the central Kango Inlier, whereas the Huis Rivier Formation was sampled from the west of the Kango Inlier. A description of the resultant U-Pb ages from the zircon grains for the sampled formations of the Cango Caves Group are described in this section.

Uncertainties on individual analyses in data tables are reported at  $2\sigma$  level and mean ages for pooled U/Pb analyses are quoted with 90%. To eliminate uncertainty, dates with discordance greater than 10% are not used in determining the weighted mean ages.

#### 4.3.1 Nooitgedagt Member:

One sample from the Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation was dated, 040916/3. The sample outcrops in the central zone of the Kango Inlier. **Appendix A** presents the U-Th-Pb isotopic analyses performed on zircon grains from 040916/3. The zircon grains from the Nooitgedagt Member are euhedral to subhedral and range in size from ~100 - 400  $\mu\text{m}$ . The zircons are transparent and display percussion marks caused by abrasion from transportation. The cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging of the grains show a mix of zircons displaying concentric zonation patterns and zircons with no zonation (**Figure 4-18**).

A total of 114 U-Th-Pb analyses on zircon grains from 040916/3 were completed. Twenty-four of these analyses did not pass the <10% discordancy test. 040916/3 produced a U-Pb Concordia age of  $1077 \pm 3$  Ma, with minimum and maximum ages of 1009 and 1135 Ma, respectively (**Figure 4-19**).

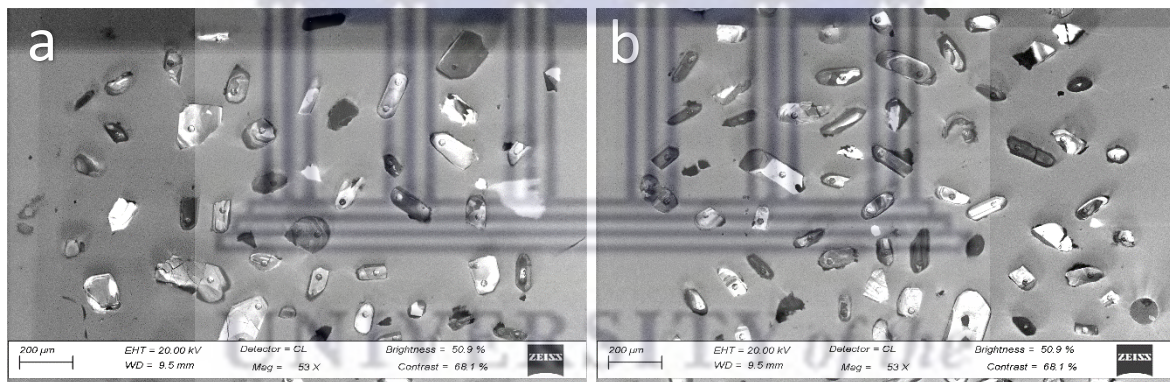


Figure 4-18: Cathodoluminescence images for 040916/3 from the Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation.

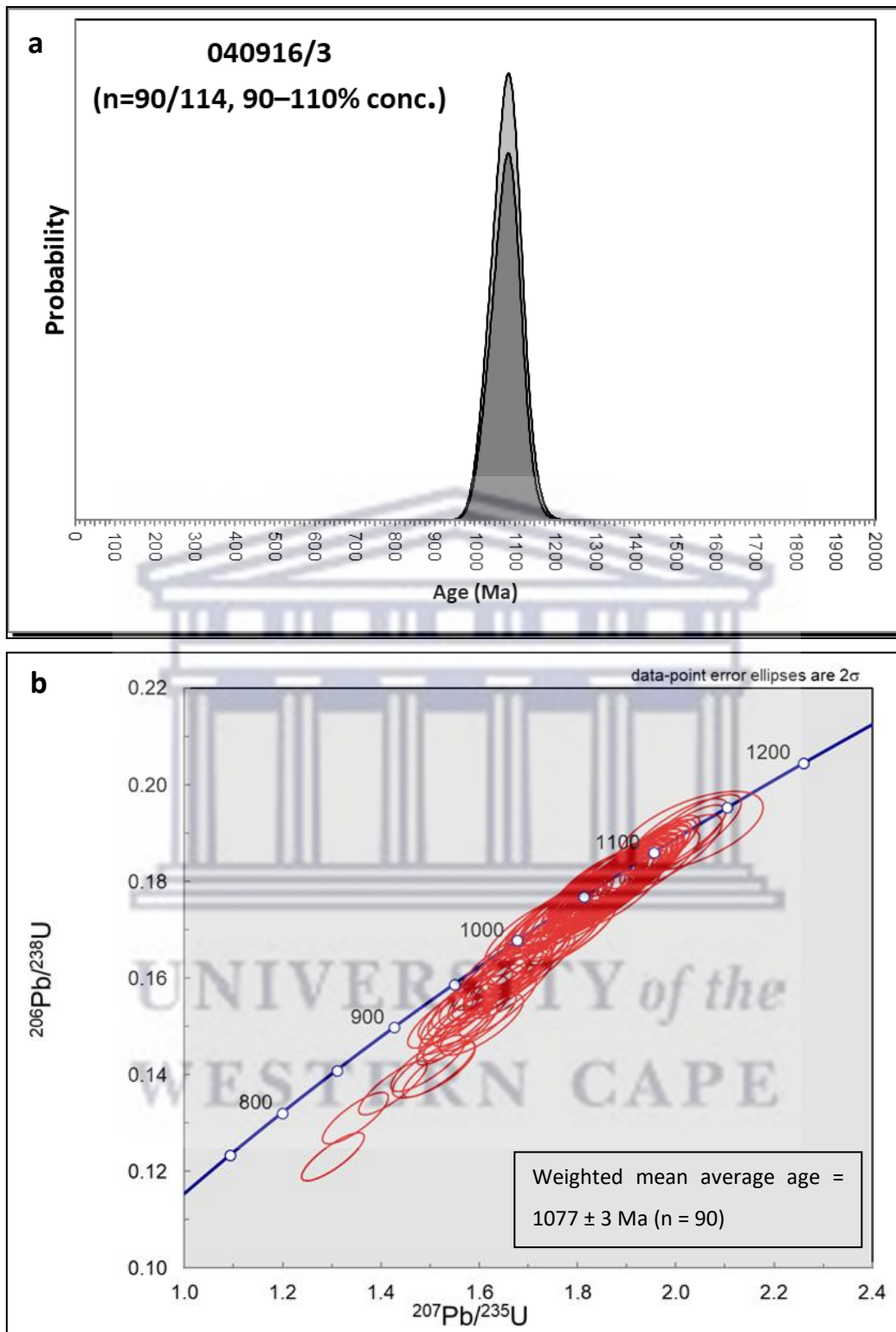


Figure 4-19: a – Probability distribution of sample 040916/3 from the middle Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation. b – Concordia diagram of 040916/3 showing the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of zircons: data-point ellipses are plotted at  $2\sigma$ .

### 4.3.2 Groenefontein Formation:

Three samples from the Groenefontein Formation were dated, including 040916/2, 040916/5 and 040916/6. Samples 040916/2 and 040916/5 were sampled from the central – northern zone of the Kango Inlier. These samples are from the lower Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation. 040916/6 was sampled within the central – eastern zone of the inlier and was sampled from the middle Nelsrivier Member.

Zircons from the Groenefontein Formation are more homogenous than the Nooitgedagt Member in terms of size, colour, shape and other morphologically distinguishing criteria. This is due to longer transportation distances and sedimentary mixing during the deposition. The zircon grains are subrounded and vary in size from ~100 - 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . The zircons display strong concentric zonation (Figure 4-20, Figure 4-21, Figure 4-22).

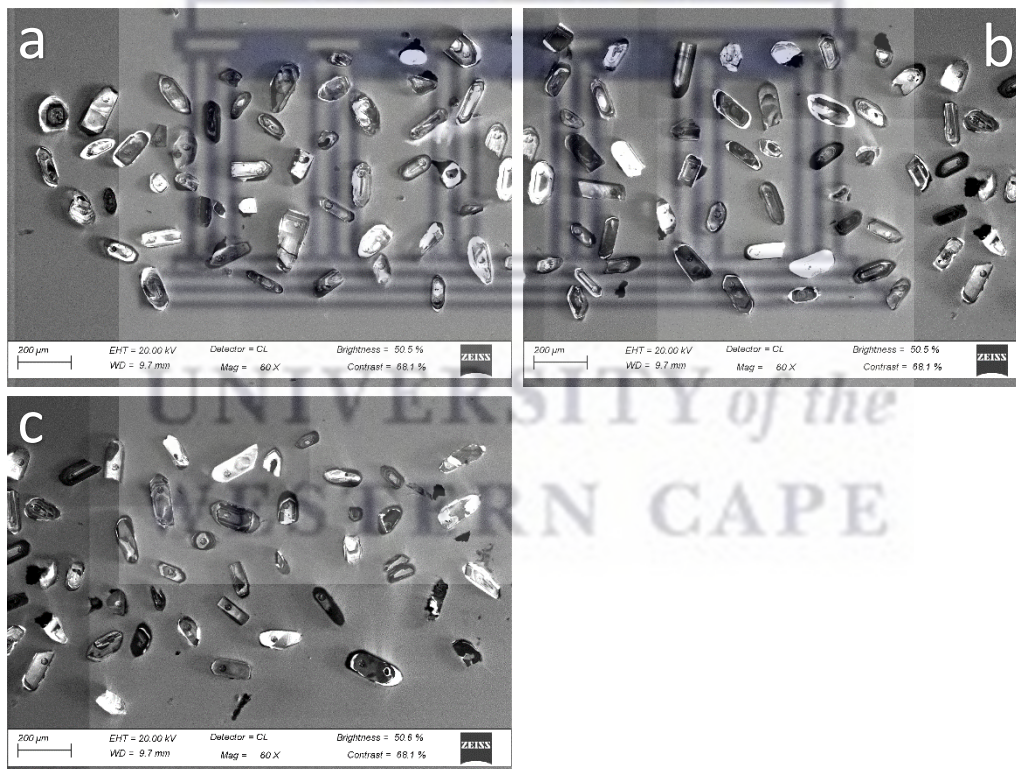


Figure 4-20: Cathodoluminescence images for 040916/2 from the lower Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation.



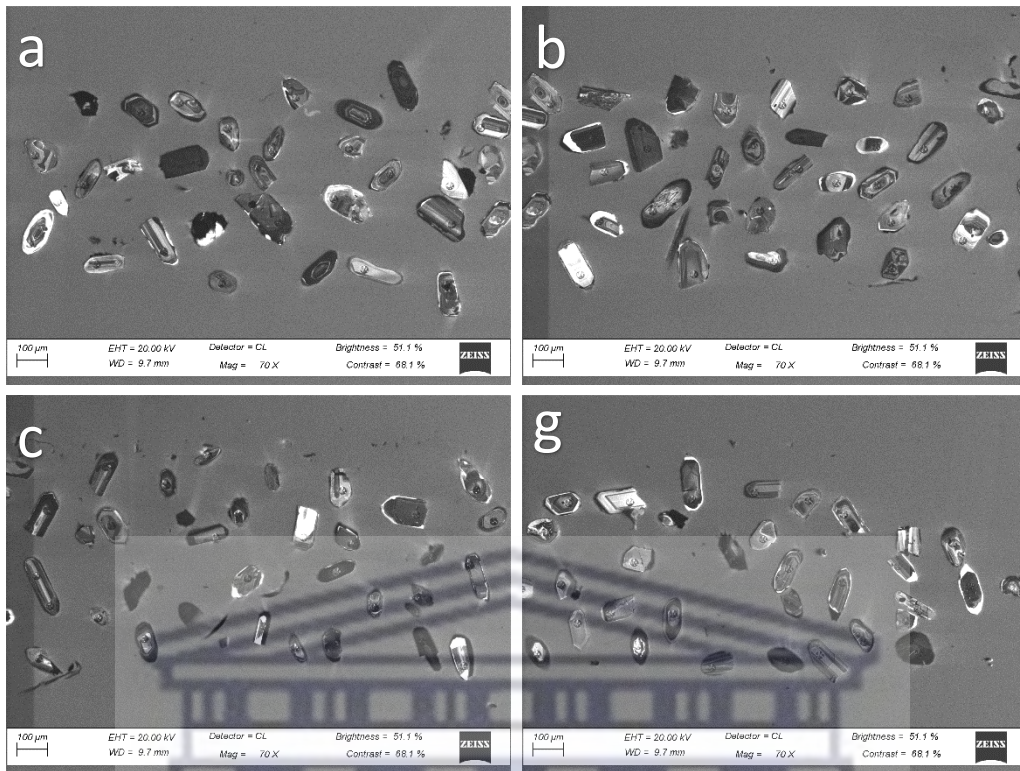


Figure 4-21: Cathodoluminescence Images for 040916/5 from the lower Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation.

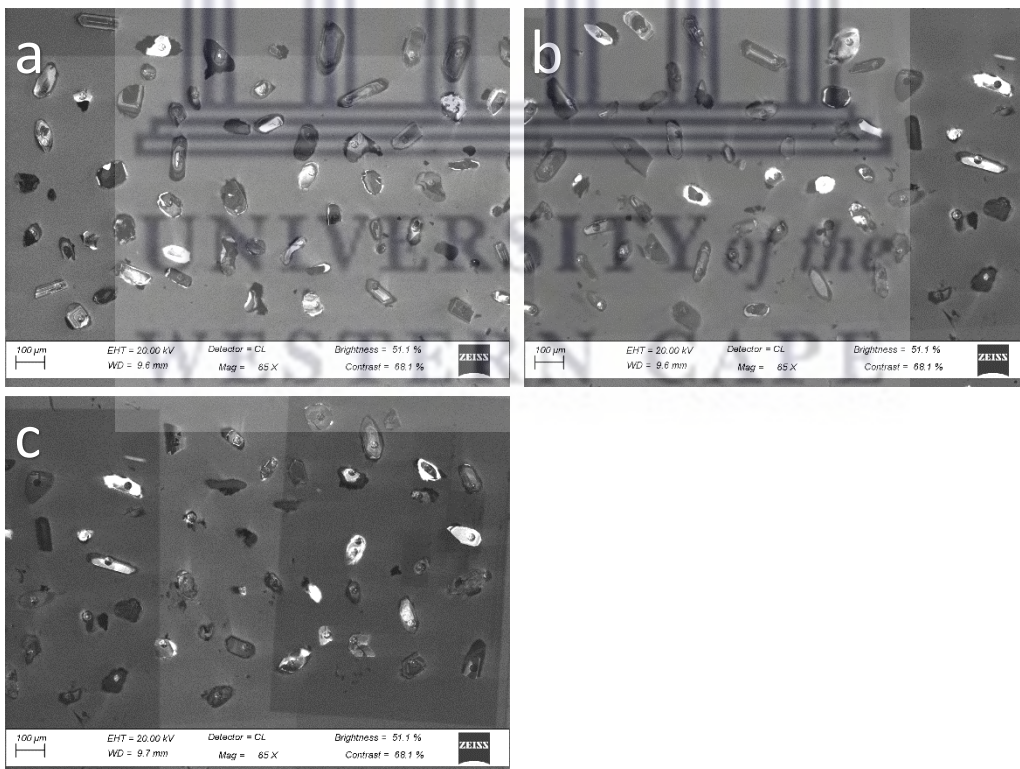
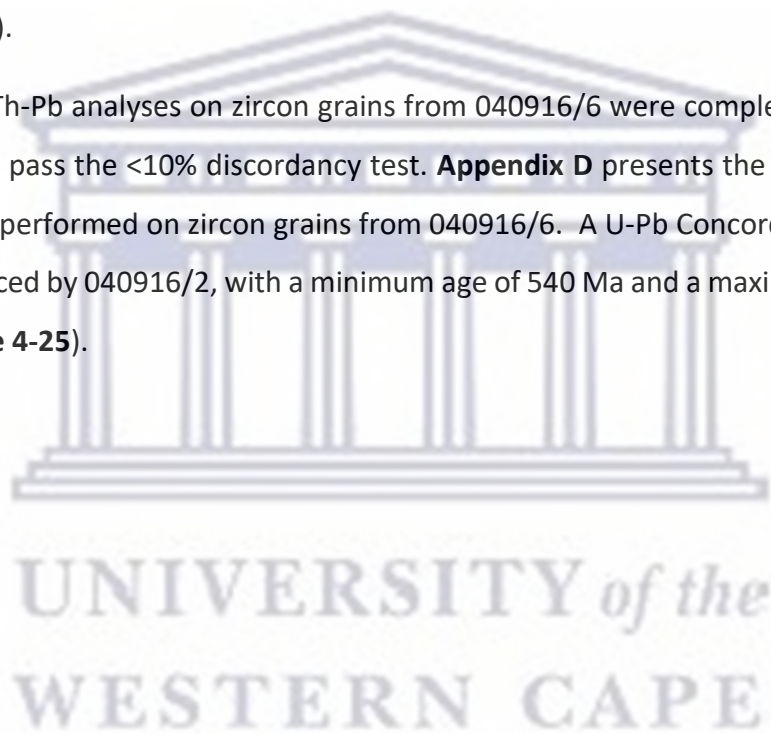


Figure 4-22: Cathodoluminescence images for 040916/6 from the middle Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation.

A total of 100 U-Th-Pb analyses on zircon grains from 040916/2 were completed. **Appendix B** presents the U-Th-Pb isotopic analyses results performed on zircon grains from 040916/2. Nineteen of these analyses did not pass the <10% discordancy test. A U-Pb Concordia age of  $1003 \pm 10.3$  Ma was produced by 040916/2, with a minimum age of 548 Ma and a maximum age of 1874 Ma recorded (**Figure 4-23**).

A total of 92 U-Th-Pb analyses on zircon grains from 040916/5 were completed, of which 30 analyses did not pass the <10% discordancy test. **Appendix C** presents the U-Th-Pb isotopic analyses results performed on zircon grains from 040916/5. A U-Pb Concordia age of  $1047 \pm 5.6$  Ma was produced by 040916/5, with a minimum age of 552 Ma and a maximum of 1886 Ma (**Figure 4-24**).

A total of 94 U-Th-Pb analyses on zircon grains from 040916/6 were completed, of which 34 analyses did not pass the <10% discordancy test. **Appendix D** presents the U-Th-Pb isotopic analyses results performed on zircon grains from 040916/6. A U-Pb Concordia age of  $1047 \pm 8$  Ma was produced by 040916/2, with a minimum age of 540 Ma and a maximum of 2708 Ma recorded (**Figure 4-25**).



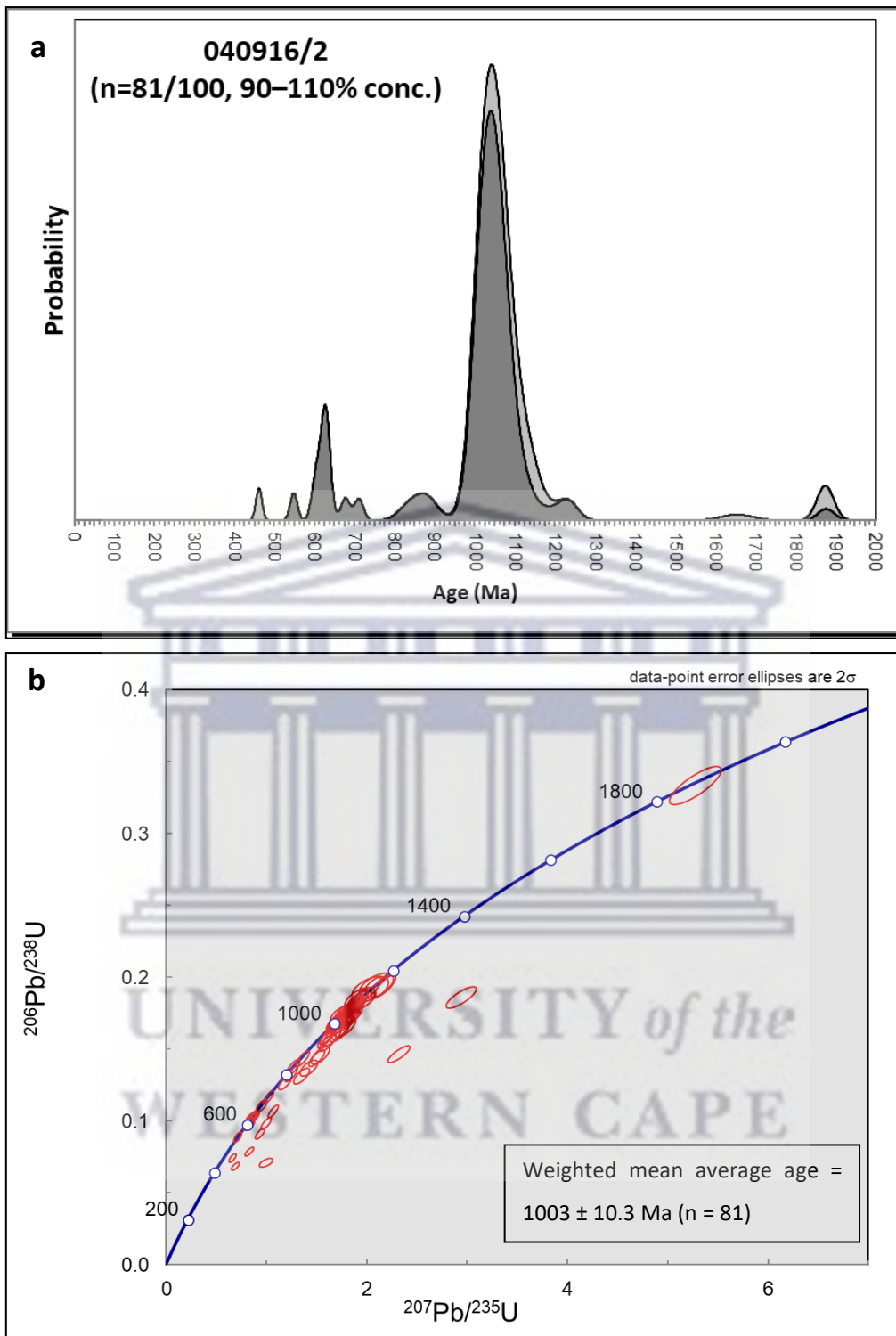


Figure 4-23: a – Probability distribution of sample 040916/2 from the lower Nelsrivier Member of the Groenfontein Formation. b – Concordia diagram of 040916/2 showing the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of zircons: data-point ellipses are plotted at  $2\sigma$ .

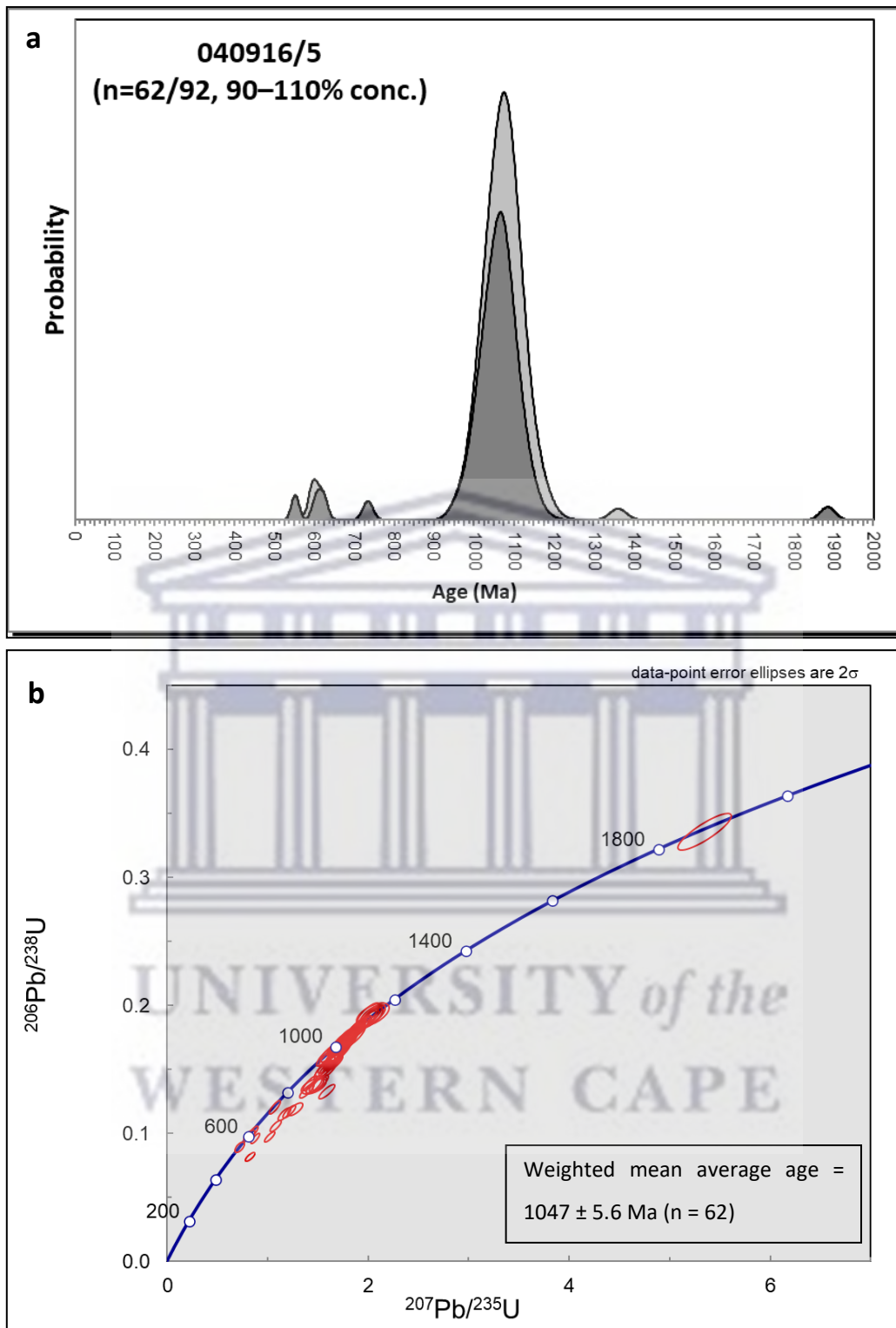


Figure 4-24: a – Probability distribution of sample 040916/5 from the lower Nelsrivier Member of the Groenfontein Formation. b – Concordia diagram of 040916/5 showing the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of zircons: data-point ellipses are plotted at  $2\sigma$ .



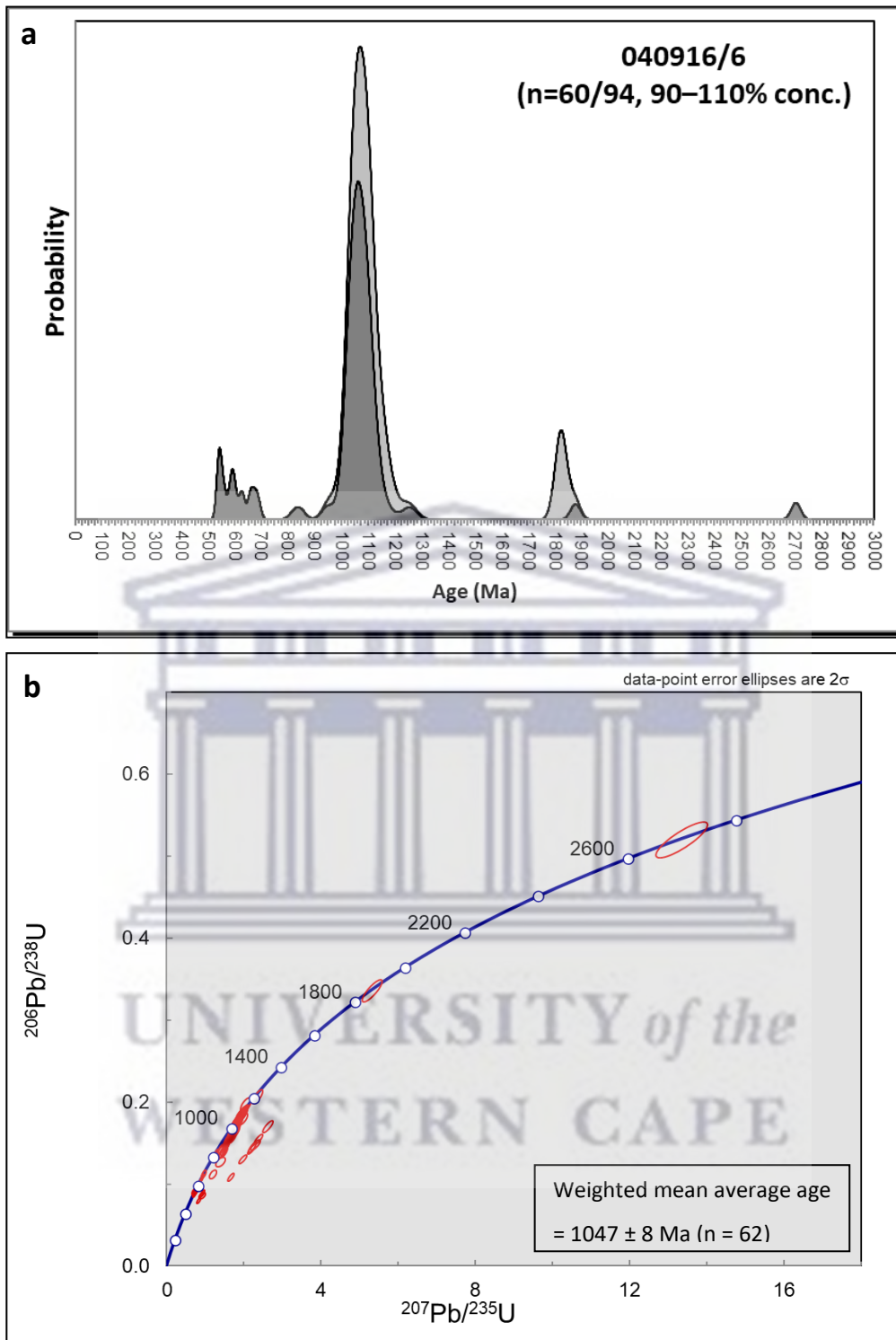


Figure 4-25: a – Probability distribution of sample 040916/6 from the middle Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation. b – Concordia diagram of 040916/6 showing the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of zircons: data-point ellipses are plotted at  $2\sigma$ .

### 4.3.3 Huis Rivier Formation

Two samples from the Huis Rivier Formation were dated, including 050916/1 and 050916/2B. Both samples were sampled from the eastern zone of the Kango Inlier.

The zircons from the Huis Rivier Formation are homogenous. The grains are subrounded to rounded and exhibit little to no zonation. The grains are ~100  $\mu\text{m}$  in size with minor longer elongated zircon grains (**Figure 4-26, Figure 4-27**).

A total of 80 U-Th-Pb analyses on zircon grains from 050916/1 were completed. **Appendix E** presents the U-Th-Pb isotopic analyses results performed on zircon grains from 050916/1. Seventeen of these analyses did not pass the <10% discordancy test. The analyses are plotted on Concordia diagrams (**Figure 4-28**). 050916/1 produced a U-Pb Concordia age of  $847 \pm 17.1$  Ma. The sample produced a minimum age of 550 Ma and a maximum age of 1149 Ma.

A total of 107 U-Th-Pb analyses on zircon grains from 050916/2B were completed, of which 15 analyses did not pass the <10% discordancy test. **Appendix F** presents the U-Th-Pb isotopic analyses results performed on zircon grains from 050916/2B. The analyses are plotted on Concordia diagrams (**Figure 4-29**). 050916/2B produced a U-Pb Concordia age of  $872 \pm 8.2$  Ma. The sample produced a minimum age of 558 Ma and a maximum age of 2427 Ma.

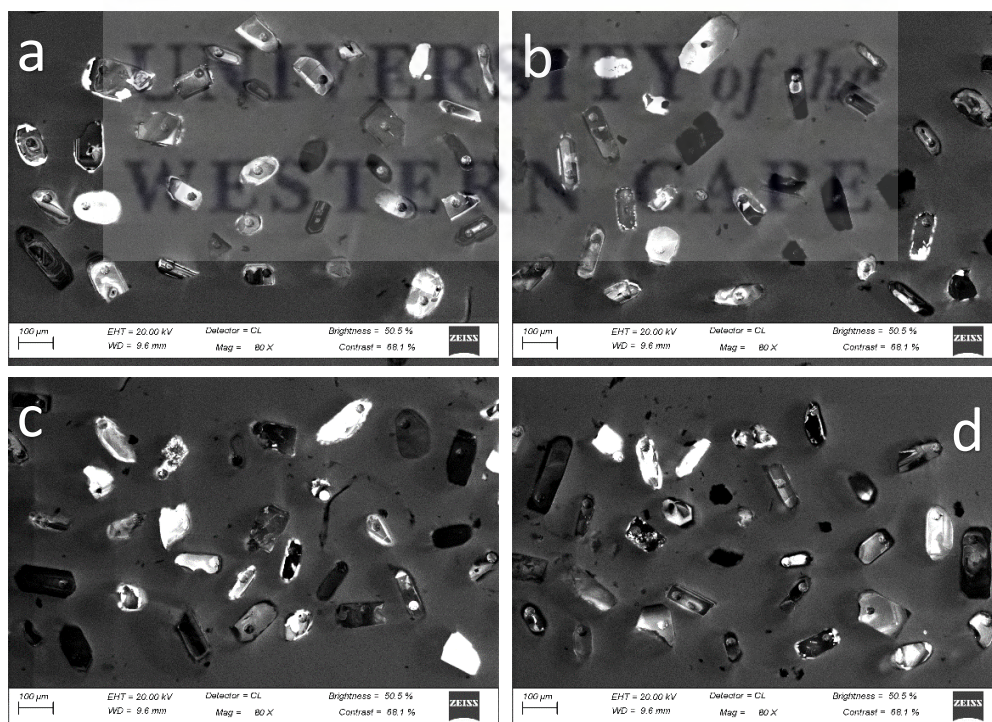


Figure 4-26: Cathodoluminescence images for 050916/1 from the Huis Rivier Formation.



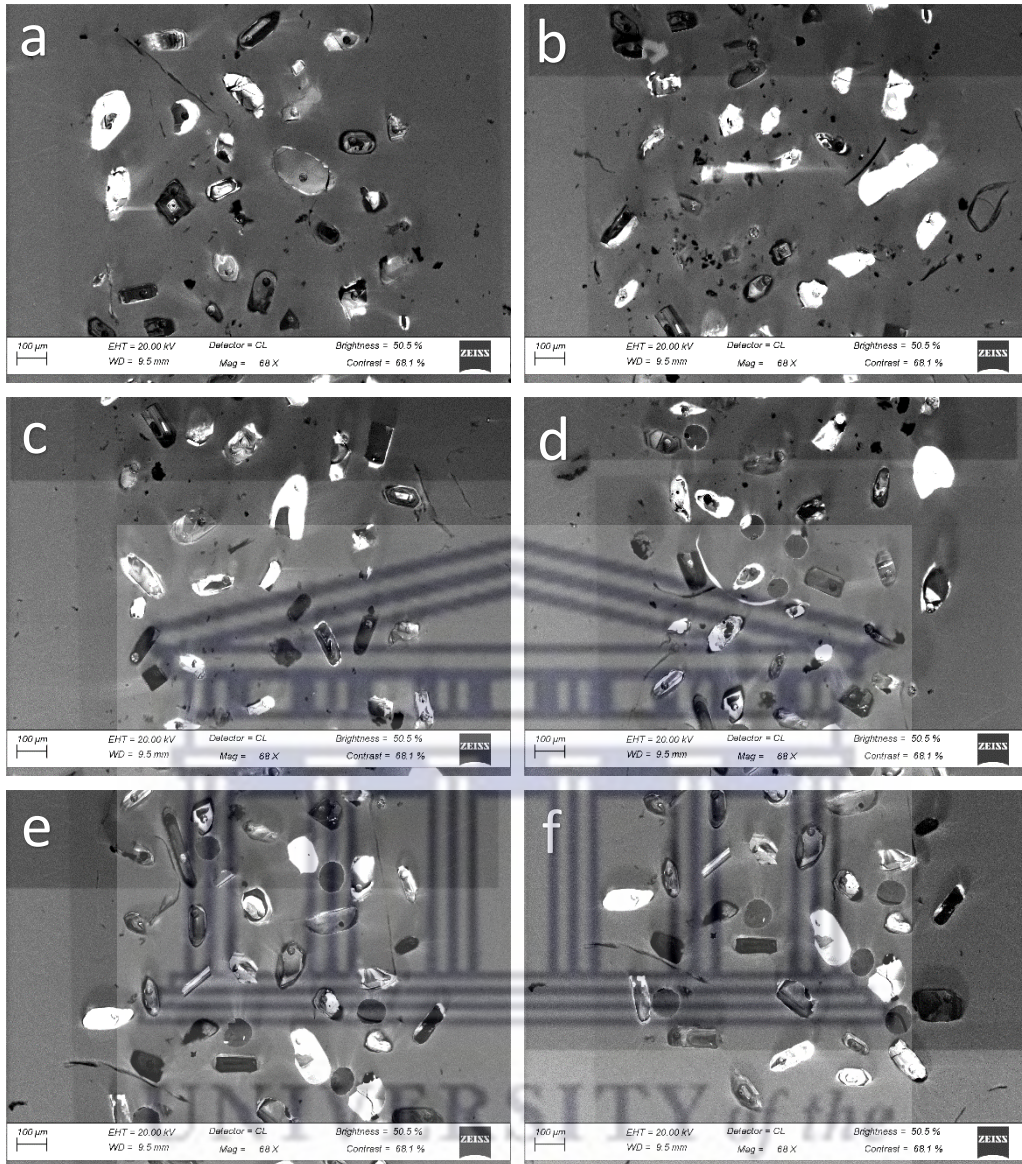


Figure 4-27: Cathodoluminescence images for 050916/2B from the Huis Rivier Formation.

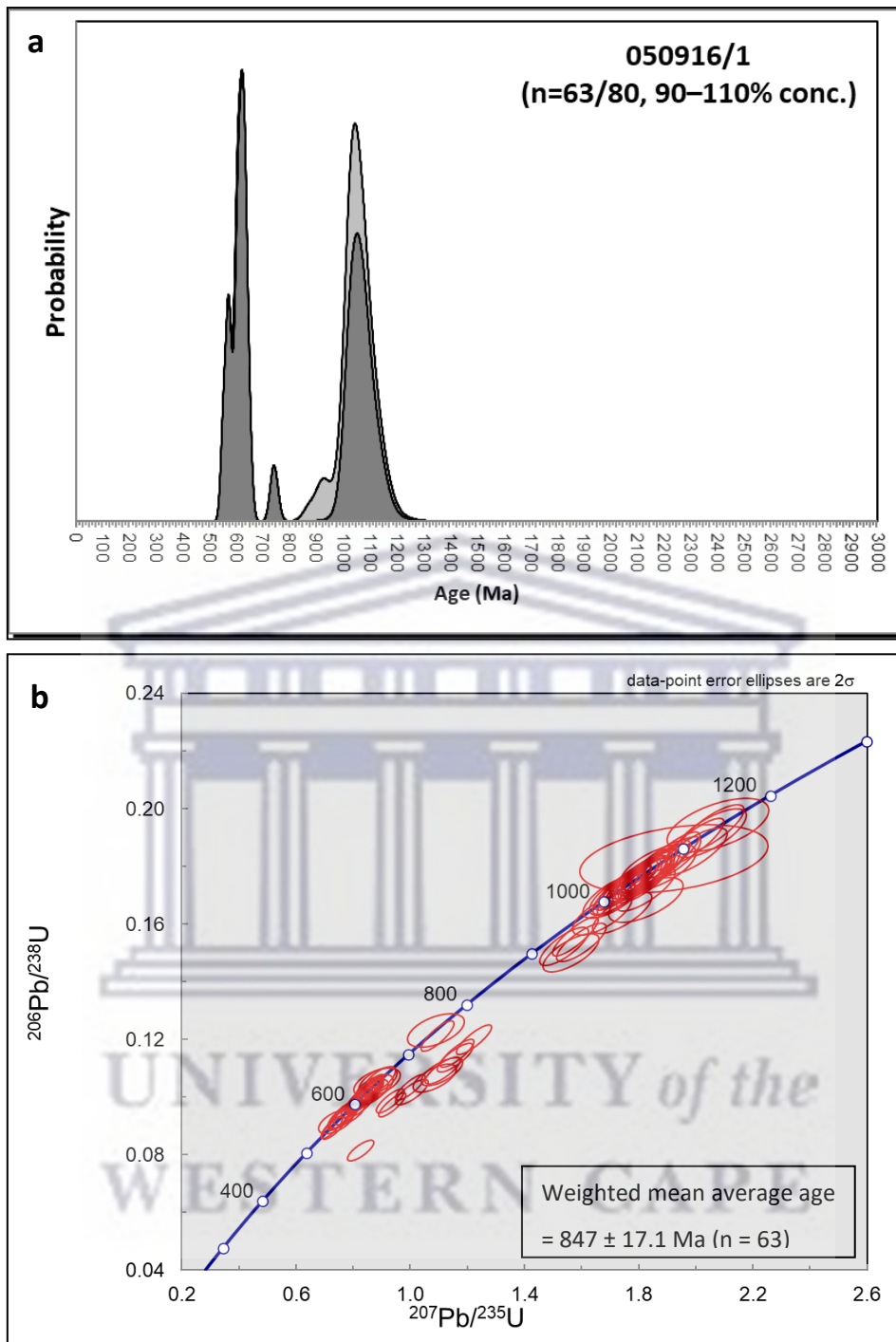


Figure 4-28: a – Probability distribution of sample 050916/1 from the Huis Rivier Formation. b – Concordia diagram of 050916/1 showing the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of zircons: data-point ellipses are plotted at  $2\sigma$ .



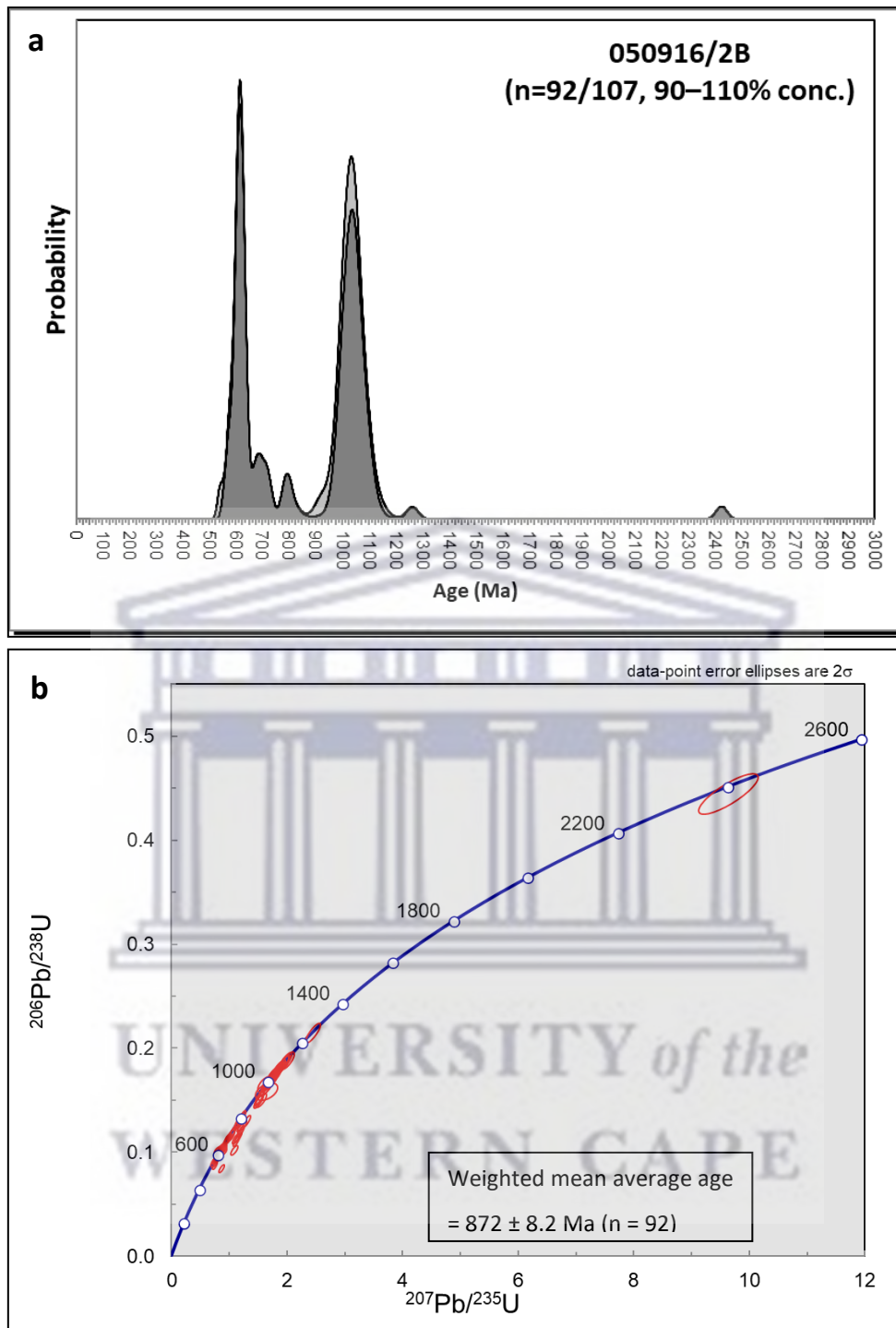


Figure 4-29: a – Probability distribution of sample 050916/2B from the Huis Rivier Formation. b – Concordia diagram of 050916/2B showing the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of zircons: data-point ellipses are plotted at  $2\sigma$ .

## 5. DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Petrography

The physical, chemical and biological properties of sedimentary rocks are influenced by the provenance and depositional environment. The provenance and depositional environments are a result of the geological and tectonic history of the area in which the sediments accumulate (Boggs and Boggs, 2009). For this reason, the characteristics of sediments, such as grain size and sorting, are important when trying to understand the depositional evolution of sedimentary rocks (Visher, 1969). Sediment characteristics reflect the depositional environment and sediment from different sedimentary environments exhibit unique grain properties.

The wacke samples of the Nooitgedagt Member are poorly sorted and comprised of subangular fine to very-fine-grained sand sized particles and larger rounded clasts. The texture of these rocks suggests rapid deposition close to the source from which the sediments were weathered and eroded, most likely due to submarine avalanches on the edge of the continental shelf (Serra, 1986).

Microcline being present within the rocks of the Nooitgedagt Member suggests that the sediments were derived from an igneous source. The presence of sericite in the rocks suggests they have undergone hydrothermal alteration (Haldar and Tisljar, 2014). Based on the petrographic results, the base of the Nooitgedagt Member is therefore comprised of rocks which have been deposited on the edge of a continental margin, from sediments which have been rapidly deposited and buried near the source from which it was weathered.

The rocks of the Groenefontein Formation are texturally immature. They are poorly sorted, and the mineral grains are subangular at the base, whereas in the middle of the formation, the grains are more subrounded. The grains are fine grained at the base of the formation, whereas in the middle the mineral grains are very-fine grained. The fining up within the Groenefontein Formation suggests that there was a deepening of the sedimentary basin (Serra, 1986). Another explanation is that an initial rapid deposition closer to the source was followed by the deposition of sediment that had undergone a longer transportation time.

The large amounts of quartz veins and sericitic alteration suggests hydrothermal alteration of the Groenefontein Formation rocks (Haldar and Tisljar, 2014). Further evidence of hydrothermal infiltration and alteration is presented by the oxidation weathering exhibited in the block samples as well as in the thin sections.

The Huis Rivier Formation samples are fine to very-fine grained and are moderately sorted. Additionally, turbidites were found in the wacke samples. Based on the texture of the rocks and presence of turbidites, the rocks were most likely deposited in a deepening basin by turbiditic currents (Serra, 1986).

There is a high degree of alteration within the rocks of the Huis Rivier Formation, evident by chloritisation, sericitisation and weathering of opaque minerals (Haldar and Tisljar, 2014). Chloritisation is often associated with low-grade metamorphism (Morad et al., 1994). This provides evidence for the low-grade greenschist metamorphism experienced by the rocks of the Congo Caves Group. There is evidence of deformation from compressional forces within the Huis Rivier Formation, evident by kinking of deformation twins in plagioclase and the cross-hatched twinning in the calcite.

The sampled rocks from the Congo Caves Groups have been classified as either wacke or litharenite. Based on the petrographic results, it can be determined that the rocks of the Congo Caves Group are highly altered (due to hydrothermal alteration) and were deposited in a deepening basin, initially caused by rapid deposition from nearby sources followed by increased transportation times as the basin deepened.

The presence of sericite in all the rocks suggests that the sediments of the Congo Caves Group were sourced from igneous material (Haldar and Tisljar, 2014). The Namaqua basement rocks which underlie the Congo Caves Group could be a possible provenance source (Naidoo et al., 2013).

## 5.2 Geochemistry

### 5.2.1 Alteration

Weathering patterns were determined by CIA calculations and were cross-checked using K/Cs ratios and WIP.

Based on the high K/Cs ratios, low CIA and the high K concentrations, it is clear that the Nooitgedagt Member has undergone a degree of K-metasomatism. The WIP vs CIA plot (**Figure 4-12**) also indicates that the lithological successions of the Congo Caves Group have undergone moderate degrees of weathering. CIA values for the Congo Caves Group indicate moderate degrees of weathering. Within the Congo Caves Group, there is a gradual decrease in the degree of weathering from the Nooitgedagt Member, the lowest succession, to the Huis Rivier Formation, at the top.

Therefore, the Congo Caves Group has undergone moderate degrees of weathering, possibly with rapid sedimentation rates over short transportation distances. This is in agreement with the petrographic observations.

### 5.2.2 Sediment provenance and tectonic setting

An overview of the REE patterns for each Formation is illustrated in **Figure 4-16**.

The rocks of the Congo Caves Group are characterised by relatively flat REE patterns. The REE concentrations are similar to the upper continental crust normalised concentrations after Taylor and McLennan (1985). There are slight enrichments and depletions with regards to the LREE and HREE. The Nooitgedagt Member is enriched in LREE and HREE relative to the UCC. The positive Eu anomaly for the Nooitgedagt Member is possibly due to the enrichment of K within the samples.

The Groenfontein Formation samples are all slightly enriched in HREE. The wacke samples have LREE values similar to the UCC and the litharenite is slightly enriched in the LREE. The Huis Rivier Formation is enriched in LREE and HREE relative to the UCC. Both the Groenfontein and Huis Rivier formations exhibit moderate-to strong-negative Eu anomalies, indicating an overall upper-continental felsic provenance for these formations. Overall, the



Cango Caves Group is characterised by low La/Lu values, which indicate that the rocks have undergone little fractionation.

The Zr/Sc and Th/Sc ratios (**Figure 4-14**) are good indicators of source compositions. The Nooitgedagt Member and the Groenefontein Formation show typical upper crustal Th/Sc vs Zr/Sc ratios and have therefore experienced minimal reworking. In contrast, the Huis Rivier Formation has high Sc concentrations, which indicates less fractionated source components mixed with UCC concentrations. The rocks have therefore undergone minimal reworking.

The isotope geochemistry results indicate that a less fractionated (mafic to intermediate) source appears to be the main source component for the Cango Caves Group. Source rocks, which were eroded and weathered to form the rocks of the Cango Caves Group, are likely to have been granitic or granodioritic. There is a change from a granitic source for the Nooitgedagt Member (lower stratigraphical unit) to a mixture between granitic and granodioritic sources for the Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations.

The tectonic setting of the Cango Caves Group was interpreted using the plots of La/Sc vs Ts/Zr, La-Th-Sc and Th-Sc-Zr/10, after Bhatia and Crook (1986) (**Figure 4-15**). The tectonic setting of the Nooitgedagt Member points to a Continental Island Arc source. The Groenefontein Formation also appears to have a Continental Island Arc to Active Continental Margin provenance source (**Figure 4-15**). The Huis Rivier Formation has also undergone minor reworking of the detrital material and points to a Continental Island Arc with a tendency towards the Passive Margin setting.

### 5.3 Geochronology

U-Pb analysis of detrital zircons was used to determine absolute ages of the Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation, the Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation and Huis Rivier Formation, of the Cango Caves Group. The zircons were analysed using laser ablation-single collector-magnetic sector field ICP-MS.

The U-Pb ages for Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation are only Mesoproterozoic, ranging between 1000 and 1150 Ma. This study produced a Concordia  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of 1077 Ma. The determined age falls within ages, after Naidoo (2008), of 1070 to 1268 Ma for the Nooitgedagt Member. U/Pb isotope dating of detrital zircons, from Barnett

et al. (1997), suggests that the gneisses of the Mesoproterozoic Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt (1100 Ma) are possible source rocks for the Nooitgedagt Member.

Eglington (2006) recorded ages from ~1200 - 1300 Ma for the Natal sub-province. These ages produced by Barnett et al. (1997) and Eglington (2006) for the Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt align with age data of the Nooitgedagt Member from this study, and there is no other evidence of mixing of any other source material for the Nooitgedagt Member. For this reason, sediments from the Nooitgedagt Member were most likely only supplied by the Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt.

The Groenefontein Formation produced  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of ~1003 - 1047 Ma. These detrital ages represent the source material. The  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages suggests that the Groenefontein Formation was sourced from the Namaqua Natal Mobile Belt. A younger age of ~540 - 552 Ma was also produced for detrital zircons of the Groenefontein Formation.

The younger ages most likely reflect a younger source material and more closely reflect the depositional age of the Groenefontein Formation. These zircon ages suggest an input of detritus from Pan-African-age terranes proximal to the Kango Inlier. These ages closely correlate with ages of the Cape Granite Suite of 555 - 510 Ma (Scheepers and Armstrong, 2002). The Groenefontein Formation was, therefore, most likely sourced from granitoids from the Namaqua Natal Mobile Belt, with an influence of granitic or granodioritic material from a Pan-African source.

The Huis Rivier Formation produced  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of ~847 - 872 Ma with older detrital of Namaqua Natal Mobile Belt ages. A younger age of ~550 - 558 Ma was also produced for detrital zircons of the Huis Rivier Formation.

As with the Groenefontein Formation, the younger ages most likely reflect a younger source material and more closely reflect the depositional age of the Huis Rivier Formation. The younger detrital ages suggest there was an influence of material of Pan-African ages. The ages correlate with the Cape Granite Suite of 555 - 510 Ma (Scheepers and Armstrong, 2002). The Huis Rivier Formation was most likely sourced from granitoids from the Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt with an influence of granitic or granodioritic material from a Pan-African source.

The Groenefontein and Huis Rivier formations were deposited above the Groenefontein Unconformity. The Mesoproterozoic and Neoproterozoic ages for these formations imply that after the Groenefontein Unconformity, a new source area started to supply sediments of the Groenefontein Formation. This supply increased during the deposition of the Huis Rivier Formation.

The zircon ages indicate that prior to the formation of the Groenefontein Unconformity, i.e., during deposition of the Matjies River Formation, supply of sediments only occurred from a northern and eastern source area, namely from the Mesoproterozoic Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt (Naidoo et al., 2013; Nel et al., 2018). After the formation of the Groenefontein Unconformity, another new source area also started to supply sediments of Neoproterozoic age. This source area presumably represents the Terra Australis Orogen (TAO) located to the south of the Kango Inlier (Cawood, 2005; Naidoo et al., 2013) and played an increasingly important role during the deposition of the Cango Caves Group.

#### **5.4 Basin Evolution**

This section will discuss the basin evolution of the lower Kango Inlier based on the petrographic, geochemical and geochronological data of the Cango Caves Group.

The Cango Caves Group was deposited in a deepening basin, initially from rapid deposition from nearby sources followed by increased transportation times as the basin deepened. Rapid deposition for the Cango Caves Group is supported by Naidoo (2008), which states that a period of rapid deepening of the basin allowed for rapid sedimentary rates for the Cango Caves Group following a period of transgression.

The Nooitgedagt Member was deposited in a shallow marine to marine shelf environment. This was followed by the Kombuis Member which predominantly accumulated on a shelf (Germis et al., 2009). The deposition of the Matjies Rivier Formation was followed by the Groenefontein Unconformity and by tectonic extension and the deepening of the basin, into which the Groenefontein Formation and Huis Rivier turbidites were deposited.

The basin evolution is discussed below:

Naidoo (2008) suggests the most reliable scenario for the basin development involves the TAO. The Orogeny was an Active Continental Margin to the south of Gondwana, which was

related to peri-Gondwana terranes such as Patagonia and the Falkland Islands (Cawood, 2005). Subduction related to the TAO was at ~570 Ma (Cawood, 2005).

Paleocurrent data from Le Roux (1977) indicate that the Huis Rivier Formation was sourced mainly from the north and south (also sourced from the east). The southern source for the Huis Rivier Formation supports this scenario as long as no arc-related succession is found to the south of South Africa (Naidoo, 2008).

Petrographic, geochemical and isotopic evidence of the Cango Caves Group, from Naidoo et al., (2013), supports the scenario of a TAO, as a young, evolving foreland basin.

For the abovementioned reasons, evidence from previous work and this study suggest the Cango Caves Group was most likely deposited in a foreland basin related to subduction driven processes along southern Gondwana with TAO influencing subduction processes. Subduction related to the TOA resulted in the progressive deepening of the foreland basin and the deposition of the Cango Caves Group. Tectonic processes by the TAO exhumed rocks of the Natal Belt (Naidoo et al., 2013), which were eroded to form the source rocks of the Cango Caves Group. Furthermore, there is evidence of Pan-African aged source material within the Cango Caves Group (Groenefontein and Huis Rivier Formations) which indicate that, during the deposition of the Cango Caves Group, there was an increased influence from the Pan-African orogeny.

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## 6. CONCLUSION

A provenance study was conducted on the Congo Caves Group with a focus on the Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation, the Nelsrivier Member of the Groenefontein Formation, and the Huis Rivier Formation. The provenance study was achieved by quantifying the mineralogical, geochemical, isotopic and geochronological compositions of the rocks. The final aim was to attempt to decipher the crustal evolution of the Congo Caves Group and basin evolution of the lower Kango Inlier.

Based on the petrographic analysis, the Congo Caves Group was determined to have been initially deposited by rapid deposition from nearby sources, followed by increased transportation times as the basin deepened. The rocks have undergone hydrothermal alteration based on the large number of quartz veins, chloritisation and sericitisation. The presence of sericite in all the rocks suggests that the sediments of the Congo Caves Group were sourced from igneous material.

The geochemical and petrographic results indicate moderate degrees of weathering for the Congo Caves Group. There is a gradual decrease in the degree of weathering from the Nooitgedagt Member, the lowest succession, to the Huis Rivier Formation, at the top. Thus, indicating lower sedimentation rates and greater transportation distances in the younger units of the Congo Caves Group.

Overall, the Congo Caves Group is characterised by low La/Lu values, therefore indicating that the rocks had undergone little fractionation. The results indicate that a mafic/intermediate source appears to be the main source component for the Congo Caves Group. Source rocks, which were eroded and weathered to form the rocks of the Congo Caves Group, are likely to have been granitic or granodioritic. The rocks appear to have been sourced from granitoids of the Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt from sources to the east, north and south of the basin.

Provenance-indicating discrimination diagrams show sources from mixed tectonic settings for the Congo Caves Group. A Continental Island Arc source was determined for the Nooitgedagt Member; a Continental Island Arc to Active Continental Margin provenance source was determined for the Groenefontein Formation; and a Continental Island Arc with a tendency towards the Passive Margin source was determined for the Huis Rivier Formation.

The zircon ages for Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation are only Mesoproterozoic, between 1000 and 1150 Ma. This study produced a Concordia  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of  $1077 \pm 3$  Ma. This indicate that the sediments of the Nooitgedagt Member of the Matjies River Formation were only source from the Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt.

The Groenefontein and Huis Rivier Formations were deposited after the Groenefontein Unconformity and produced both Mesoproterozoic and Neoproterozoic ages. The Groenefontein and Huis Rivier Formations produced Concordia ages of  $\sim 1003 - 1047$  Ma and  $\sim 847 - 872$  Ma, respectively. The Groenefontein formation produced younger detrital ages of  $\sim 540 - 552$  Ma, and the Huis Rivier formation produced younger detrital ages of  $\sim 550 - 558$  Ma. These younger detrital ages more closely reflect the depositional ages.

The zircon ages indicate that prior to the formation of the Groenefontein Unconformity, supply of sediments only occurred from the Mesoproterozoic Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt. These sediments were sourced from a northern and eastern source area (Nel et al., 2018). After formation of the Groenefontein Unconformity another new source area also started to supply sediments of Neoproterozoic age. This source area presumably represents the TAO located to the south of the Kango Inlier (Cawood, 2005; Naidoo et al., 2013) and played an increasingly important role during the deposition of the Cango Caves Group.

The evolution of the Kango Inlier most likely began from an erosional setting which initiated the deposition of the basal Nooitgedagt Member of the Cango Caves Group. Subsequent to the deposition of the Kombuis Member, extension within the basin was governed by subduction related to the southern Pan-African orogeny, creating a foreland basin. Extension was coupled with the progressive deepening of the basin as the rest of the Cango Caves Group was deposited. Subduction was presumably related to the TAO along southern Gondwana.

The TAO exhumed rocks of the Namaqua-Natal Mobile Belt, which were eroded to form source rocks of the Cango Caves Group. Furthermore, source material of Pan-African age within the Cango Caves Group (Groenefontein and Huis Rivier Formations) indicates that, during the deposition of the Cango Caves Group, there was an increased influence from the Pan-African orogeny.

Progressive subduction along southern Gondwana resulted in the folding of the Cango Caves Group, this was followed by uplift and the deposition of the Kansa Group sediments (Gerns et al., 2009).



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## APPENDIX LIST

**Appendix A** – LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronological data for zircons of sample 040916/3

**Appendix B** – LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronological data for zircons of sample 040916/2

**Appendix C** – LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronological data for zircons of sample 040916/5

**Appendix D** – LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronological data for zircons of sample 040916/6

**Appendix E** – LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronological data for zircons of sample 040916/1

**Appendix F** – LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronological data for zircons of sample 040916/2B



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## 040916/2

Sample	Analysis	Analysis	U [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Pb [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Th [ppm]	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>204</sup> Pb	Th/U meas	RATIOS					AGES [Ma]					Conc. %			
								<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	rho <sup>c</sup>	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb <sup>e</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	2 σ	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U		2 σ	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	2 σ
040916/2	042-73	A_227	89	16	41	7452	0.46	1.889	0.082	0.1802	0.0060	0.77	0.0760	0.0021	1077	47	1068	35	1096	56	97
040916/2	042-75	A_229	412	73	49	322249	0.12	1.830	0.073	0.1773	0.0058	0.82	0.0749	0.0017	1056	42	1052	35	1065	46	99
040916/2	042-76	A_230	297	53	65	4971	0.22	1.865	0.075	0.1796	0.0059	0.82	0.0753	0.0018	1069	43	1065	35	1077	47	99
040916/2	042-77	A_231	337	34	136	151340	0.41	0.852	0.047	0.1020	0.0035	0.62	0.0606	0.0026	626	35	626	21	624	94	100
040916/2	042-78	A_232	332	64	139	1861	0.42	2.166	0.099	0.1941	0.0065	0.73	0.0809	0.0025	1170	54	1144	38	1219	61	94
040916/2	042-79	A_233	1332	99	316	3288	0.24	0.660	0.030	0.0741	0.0025	0.74	0.0646	0.0020	514	23	461	15	760	65	61
040916/2	042-80	A_234	184	35	61	52132	0.33	2.039	0.084	0.1922	0.0063	0.80	0.0770	0.0019	1129	46	1133	37	1120	49	101
040916/2	042-81	A_235	338	59	90	17411	0.27	1.776	0.072	0.1745	0.0057	0.82	0.0738	0.0017	1037	42	1037	34	1037	47	100
040916/2	042-82	A_236	462	85	80	7197	0.17	1.914	0.077	0.1832	0.0060	0.82	0.0758	0.0017	1086	44	1084	36	1089	46	100
040916/2	042-83	A_237	631	98	250	2352	0.40	1.605	0.069	0.1546	0.0051	0.78	0.0753	0.0020	972	42	927	31	1076	54	86
040916/2	042-85	A_239	281	48	54	210112	0.19	1.700	0.070	0.1699	0.0056	0.80	0.0726	0.0018	1009	42	1011	33	1003	50	101
040916/2	042-87	A_243	630	90	27	49457	0.04	1.360	0.055	0.1435	0.0047	0.82	0.0687	0.0016	872	35	864	29	891	48	97
040916/2	042-88	A_244	446	78	163	35734	0.36	1.784	0.071	0.1753	0.0058	0.82	0.0738	0.0017	1040	42	1041	34	1037	46	100
040916/2	042-89	A_245	285	46	99	2490	0.35	1.728	0.079	0.1621	0.0055	0.74	0.0773	0.0024	1019	47	969	33	1128	62	86
040916/2	042-90	A_246	1023	93	264	1297	0.26	0.935	0.040	0.0913	0.0030	0.77	0.0743	0.0020	670	29	563	19	1048	55	54
040916/2	042-92	A_248	610	80	42	5539	0.07	1.349	0.062	0.1313	0.0044	0.73	0.0745	0.0024	867	40	795	27	1056	64	75
040916/2	042-93	A_249	119	22	23	270	0.19	2.940	0.123	0.1860	0.0062	0.80	0.1146	0.0029	1392	58	1100	37	1874	46	59
040916/2	042-94	A_250	273	46	86	5452	0.32	1.702	0.070	0.1697	0.0056	0.81	0.0728	0.0018	1009	41	1010	33	1008	49	100
040916/2	042-95	A_251	66	13	18	1479	0.27	2.092	0.139	0.1941	0.0071	0.55	0.0781	0.0043	1146	76	1144	42	1150	110	99
040916/2	042-96	A_252	139	14	98	62942	0.71	0.869	0.046	0.1033	0.0035	0.65	0.0610	0.0025	635	34	634	22	639	87	99
040916/2	042-97	A_253	413	80	38	3937	0.09	2.182	0.088	0.1939	0.0064	0.82	0.0816	0.0019	1175	47	1142	38	1236	45	92
040916/2	042-98	A_254	1002	89	184	8785	0.18	0.712	0.032	0.0887	0.0030	0.74	0.0582	0.0018	546	25	548	18	538	67	102
040916/2	042-99	A_255	223	38	66	4605	0.30	1.747	0.081	0.1717	0.0058	0.73	0.0738	0.0024	1026	48	1021	35	1036	65	99
040916/2	042-100	A_256	318	54	87	8445	0.27	1.704	0.070	0.1689	0.0056	0.81	0.0732	0.0017	1010	41	1006	33	1018	48	99
040916/2	042-101	A_259	530	85	284	10796	0.54	1.616	0.066	0.1597	0.0053	0.81	0.0734	0.0018	976	40	955	32	1025	49	93
040916/2	042-102	A_260	1120	120	83	1386	0.07	1.069	0.043	0.1070	0.0035	0.83	0.0725	0.0016	738	30	655	22	999	46	66
040916/2	042-103	A_261	163	17	50	72317	0.30	0.855	0.038	0.1012	0.0034	0.75	0.0613	0.0018	627	28	622	21	648	63	96
040916/2	042-104	A_262	471	48	147	37830	0.31	0.855	0.036	0.1022	0.0034	0.79	0.0607	0.0016	627	26	627	21	628	55	100
040916/2	042-105	A_263	423	75	105	326585	0.25	1.823	0.074	0.1764	0.0059	0.81	0.0750	0.0018	1054	43	1047	35	1067	48	98
040916/2	042-106	A_264	224	28	90	124626	0.40	1.184	0.054	0.1272	0.0043	0.73	0.0675	0.0021	793	36	772	26	853	65	90
040916/2	042-108	A_266	483	83	158	5092	0.33	1.790	0.074	0.1713	0.0057	0.81	0.0758	0.0018	1042	43	1019	34	1090	49	94
040916/2	042-109	A_267	572	97	35	11255	0.06	1.709	0.069	0.1700	0.0056	0.82	0.0729	0.0017	1012	41	1012	34	1011	47	100
040916/2	042-110	A_268	312	43	21	7334	0.07	1.267	0.054	0.1373	0.0046	0.78	0.0669	0.0018	831	36	829	28	836	56	99
040916/2	042-111	A_269	1876	148	186	1058	0.10	0.825	0.036	0.0788	0.0026	0.77	0.0760	0.0021	611	27	489	16	1094	55	45
040916/2	042-112	A_270	106	18	24	5366	0.23	1.705	0.075	0.1695	0.0057	0.76	0.0729	0.0021	1010	44	1010	34	1012	58	100
040916/2	042-113	A_271	422	74	77	325164	0.18	1.810	0.074	0.1764	0.0059	0.82	0.0744	0.0017	1049	43	1047	35	1053	47	99
040916/2	042-114	A_272	690	71	254	309468	0.37	0.859	0.036	0.1026	0.0034	0.80	0.0607	0.0015	629	26	630	21	628	55	100
040916/2	042-115	A_273	171	29	64	1678	0.37	1.731	0.108	0.1681	0.0061	0.58	0.0747	0.0038	1020	64	1002	36	1060	103	94

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040916/5

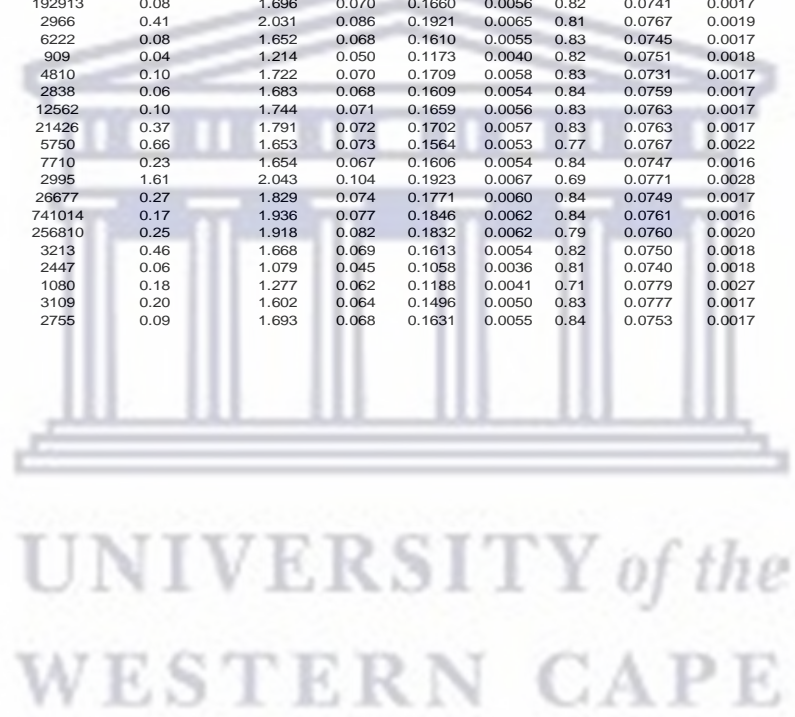
Sample	Analysis	Analysis	U [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Pb [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Th [ppm]	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>204</sup> Pb	Th/U meas
040916/5	045-83	A_101	141	27	45	22341	0.32
040916/5	045-84	A_102	238	44	20	16825	0.08
040916/5	045-85	A_103	447	44	122	1124	0.27
040916/5	045-86	A_106	69	11	14	2416	0.20
040916/5	045-87	A_107	114	19	25	20701	0.22
040916/5	045-88	A_108	982	137	381	2251	0.39
040916/5	045-90	A_110	242	39	66	2951	0.27
040916/5	045-91	A_111	266	50	62	356377	0.23
040916/5	045-92	A_112	950	162	22	14051	0.02
040916/5	045-93	A_113	313	56	58	5862	0.19
040916/5	045-94	A_114	360	60	29	431382	0.08
040916/5	045-95	A_115	163	27	13	192913	0.08
040916/5	045-96	A_116	223	43	91	2966	0.41
040916/5	045-97	A_117	214	35	17	6222	0.08
040916/5	045-98	A_118	756	89	34	909	0.04
040916/5	045-99	A_119	211	36	21	4810	0.10
040916/5	045-100	A_120	327	53	20	2838	0.06
040916/5	045-101	A_123	294	49	31	12562	0.10
040916/5	045-102	A_124	269	46	100	21426	0.37
040916/5	045-103	A_125	187	29	123	5750	0.66
040916/5	045-104	A_126	369	59	84	7710	0.23
040916/5	045-105	A_127	137	26	221	2995	1.61
040916/5	045-106	A_128	370	65	99	26677	0.27
040916/5	045-107	A_129	559	103	95	741014	0.17
040916/5	045-109	A_131	195	36	48	256810	0.25
040916/5	045-110	A_132	483	78	225	3213	0.46
040916/5	045-112	A_134	613	65	38	2447	0.06
040916/5	045-113	A_135	715	85	131	1080	0.18
040916/5	045-114	A_136	362	54	74	3109	0.20
040916/5	045-115	A_137	405	66	36	2755	0.09

RATIOS

<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	rho <sup>c</sup>	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb <sup>e</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>
2.052	0.095	0.1919	0.0066	0.75	0.0775	0.0024
1.934	0.079	0.1845	0.0063	0.83	0.0760	0.0017
1.022	0.042	0.0975	0.0033	0.84	0.0760	0.0017
1.700	0.074	0.1621	0.0056	0.79	0.0761	0.0020
1.711	0.072	0.1673	0.0057	0.81	0.0742	0.0018
1.523	0.066	0.1399	0.0048	0.79	0.0790	0.0021
1.669	0.068	0.1595	0.0054	0.84	0.0759	0.0017
1.982	0.080	0.1879	0.0064	0.84	0.0765	0.0017
1.732	0.069	0.1709	0.0058	0.85	0.0735	0.0016
1.850	0.075	0.1780	0.0060	0.84	0.0754	0.0017
1.687	0.068	0.1681	0.0057	0.84	0.0728	0.0016
1.696	0.070	0.1660	0.0056	0.82	0.0741	0.0017
2.031	0.086	0.1921	0.0065	0.81	0.0767	0.0019
1.652	0.068	0.1610	0.0055	0.83	0.0745	0.0017
1.214	0.050	0.1173	0.0040	0.82	0.0751	0.0018
1.722	0.070	0.1709	0.0058	0.83	0.0731	0.0017
1.683	0.068	0.1609	0.0054	0.84	0.0759	0.0017
1.744	0.071	0.1659	0.0056	0.83	0.0763	0.0017
1.791	0.072	0.1702	0.0057	0.83	0.0763	0.0017
1.653	0.073	0.1564	0.0053	0.77	0.0767	0.0022
1.654	0.067	0.1606	0.0054	0.84	0.0747	0.0016
2.043	0.104	0.1923	0.0067	0.69	0.0771	0.0028
1.829	0.074	0.1771	0.0060	0.84	0.0749	0.0017
1.936	0.077	0.1846	0.0062	0.84	0.0761	0.0016
1.918	0.082	0.1832	0.0062	0.79	0.0760	0.0020
1.668	0.069	0.1613	0.0054	0.82	0.0750	0.0018
1.079	0.045	0.1058	0.0036	0.81	0.0740	0.0018
1.277	0.062	0.1188	0.0041	0.71	0.0779	0.0027
1.602	0.064	0.1496	0.0050	0.83	0.0777	0.0017
1.693	0.068	0.1631	0.0055	0.84	0.0753	0.0017

AGES [Ma]

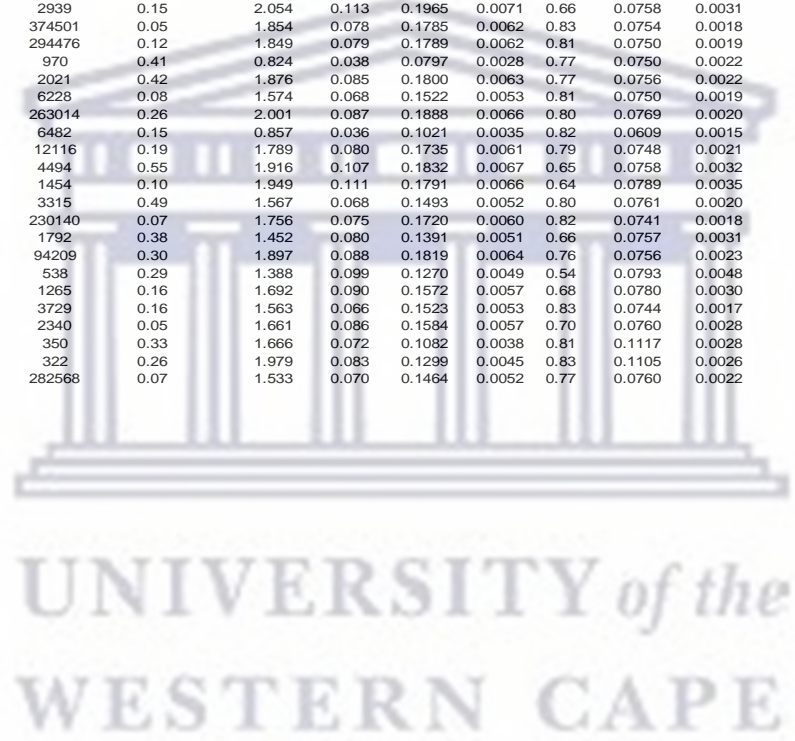
<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	2 σ	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	2 σ	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	2 σ	Conc.
1133	52	1132	39	1135	61	100
1093	45	1092	37	1095	45	100
715	29	600	20	1095	45	55
1009	44	968	33	1097	53	88
1013	42	997	34	1046	49	95
940	41	844	29	1171	53	72
997	41	954	32	1092	45	87
1109	45	1110	38	1108	44	100
1020	41	1017	34	1028	43	99
1063	43	1056	36	1078	44	98
1003	40	1001	34	1008	45	99
1007	42	990	34	1044	47	95
1126	47	1133	39	1113	49	102
990	41	962	33	1054	46	91
807	33	715	24	1071	48	67
1017	41	1017	34	1016	46	100
1002	41	962	33	1091	44	88
1025	41	989	33	1102	45	90
1042	42	1013	34	1103	45	92
991	44	936	32	1113	56	84
991	40	960	32	1061	44	90
1130	57	1134	40	1123	73	101
1056	43	1051	35	1066	45	99
1094	44	1092	37	1097	43	100
1087	47	1084	37	1094	53	99
997	41	964	33	1069	48	90
743	31	648	22	1041	49	62
835	41	724	25	1145	68	63
971	39	899	30	1138	44	79
1006	40	974	33	1077	44	90







040916/6										RATIOS					AGES [Ma]					Conc.	
040916/6	046-75	A_093	1217	176	929	404	0.76	2.215	0.090	0.1445	0.0050	0.85	0.1111	0.0024	1186	48	870	30	1818	39	48
040916/6	046-76	A_094	319	56	51	9897	0.16	1.786	0.074	0.1744	0.0060	0.83	0.0743	0.0017	1041	43	1036	36	1049	47	99
040916/6	046-77	A_095	653	57	136	287742	0.21	0.707	0.034	0.0874	0.0031	0.73	0.0587	0.0019	543	26	540	19	554	71	97
040916/6	046-78	A_096	434	226	238	137117	0.55	13.347	0.546	0.5201	0.0180	0.85	0.1861	0.0041	2705	111	2699	93	2708	36	100
040916/6	046-79	A_097	465	82	132	5727	0.28	1.840	0.084	0.1761	0.0062	0.76	0.0758	0.0022	1060	49	1046	37	1090	59	96
040916/6	046-81	A_099	1032	89	169	1052	0.16	0.884	0.038	0.0866	0.0030	0.80	0.0741	0.0019	643	28	535	19	1043	52	51
040916/6	046-82	A_100	400	71	24	16967	0.06	1.793	0.074	0.1765	0.0061	0.83	0.0737	0.0017	1043	43	1048	36	1033	46	101
040916/6	046-83	A_101	601	87	44	3630	0.07	1.535	0.063	0.1453	0.0050	0.84	0.0767	0.0017	945	39	875	30	1112	45	79
040916/6	046-84	A_102	318	55	32	2718	0.10	1.768	0.083	0.1739	0.0061	0.75	0.0737	0.0023	1034	48	1034	36	1034	62	100
040916/6	046-85	A_103	159	28	80	1917	0.50	1.849	0.100	0.1755	0.0063	0.66	0.0764	0.0031	1063	58	1042	38	1105	81	94
040916/6	046-86	A_106	380	64	148	9212	0.39	1.796	0.092	0.1677	0.0060	0.70	0.0777	0.0028	1044	53	999	36	1139	73	88
040916/6	046-87	A_107	154	30	23	2939	0.15	2.054	0.113	0.1965	0.0071	0.66	0.0758	0.0031	1134	62	1156	42	1091	82	106
040916/6	046-89	A_109	417	74	22	374501	0.05	1.854	0.078	0.1785	0.0062	0.83	0.0754	0.0018	1065	45	1059	37	1078	47	98
040916/6	046-90	A_110	327	59	39	294476	0.12	1.849	0.079	0.1789	0.0062	0.81	0.0750	0.0019	1063	46	1061	37	1067	50	99
040916/6	046-92	A_112	716	57	296	970	0.41	0.824	0.038	0.0797	0.0028	0.77	0.0750	0.0022	610	28	494	17	1069	58	46
040916/6	046-93	A_113	165	30	69	2021	0.42	1.876	0.085	0.1800	0.0063	0.77	0.0756	0.0022	1073	49	1067	37	1084	58	98
040916/6	046-94	A_114	680	103	56	6228	0.08	1.574	0.068	0.1522	0.0053	0.81	0.0750	0.0019	960	41	913	32	1069	50	85
040916/6	046-95	A_115	278	52	72	263014	0.26	2.001	0.087	0.1888	0.0066	0.80	0.0769	0.0020	1116	49	1115	39	1119	52	100
040916/6	046-96	A_116	509	52	77	6482	0.15	0.857	0.036	0.1021	0.0035	0.82	0.0609	0.0015	628	27	626	22	635	53	99
040916/6	046-97	A_117	199	35	37	12116	0.19	1.789	0.080	0.1735	0.0061	0.79	0.0748	0.0021	1041	46	1032	36	1062	55	97
040916/6	046-98	A_118	264	48	145	4494	0.55	1.916	0.107	0.1832	0.0067	0.65	0.0758	0.0032	1087	61	1085	39	1091	85	99
040916/6	046-100	A_120	393	70	41	1454	0.10	1.949	0.111	0.1791	0.0066	0.64	0.0789	0.0035	1098	63	1062	39	1170	87	91
040916/6	046-101	A_123	257	38	126	3315	0.49	1.567	0.068	0.1493	0.0052	0.80	0.0761	0.0020	957	42	897	31	1098	52	82
040916/6	046-106	A_128	267	46	20	230140	0.07	1.756	0.075	0.1720	0.0060	0.82	0.0741	0.0018	1030	44	1023	36	1043	50	98
040916/6	046-107	A_129	216	30	82	1792	0.38	1.452	0.080	0.1391	0.0051	0.66	0.0757	0.0031	911	50	840	31	1088	83	77
040916/6	046-108	A_130	103	19	31	94209	0.30	1.897	0.088	0.1819	0.0064	0.76	0.0756	0.0023	1080	50	1077	38	1086	60	99
040916/6	046-109	A_131	256	33	75	538	0.29	1.388	0.099	0.1270	0.0049	0.54	0.0793	0.0048	884	63	770	30	1180	119	65
040916/6	046-110	A_132	556	87	90	1265	0.16	1.692	0.090	0.1572	0.0057	0.68	0.0780	0.0030	1005	53	941	34	1148	77	82
040916/6	046-111	A_133	456	69	74	3729	0.16	1.563	0.066	0.1523	0.0053	0.83	0.0744	0.0017	956	40	914	32	1053	47	87
040916/6	046-112	A_134	319	51	17	2340	0.05	1.661	0.086	0.1584	0.0057	0.70	0.0760	0.0028	994	51	948	34	1096	74	86
040916/6	046-113	A_135	635	69	211	350	0.33	1.666	0.072	0.1082	0.0038	0.81	0.1117	0.0028	996	43	662	23	1827	45	36
040916/6	046-114	A_136	379	49	99	322	0.26	1.979	0.083	0.1299	0.0045	0.83	0.1105	0.0026	1108	47	787	28	1808	43	44
040916/6	046-115	A_137	386	57	28	282568	0.07	1.533	0.070	0.1464	0.0052	0.77	0.0760	0.0022	944	43	881	31	1094	58	81





## 050916/1

Sample	Analysis	Analysis	U [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Pb [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Th [ppm]	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>204</sup> Pb	Th/U meas
050916/1	051-92	A_248	947	147	215	12088	0.23
050916/1	051-93	A_249	571	61	55	3257	0.10
050916/1	051-96	A_252	537	55	186	7177	0.35
050916/1	051-97	A_253	516	51	77	10055	0.15
050916/1	051-98	A_254	225	20	156	98725	0.69
050916/1	051-99	A_255	437	75	181	11648	0.42
050916/1	051-100	A_256	692	127	264	6206	0.38
050916/1	051-101	A_259	284	51	121	13381	0.42
050916/1	051-103	A_261	122	23	59	115032	0.48
050916/1	051-104	A_262	426	41	98	203415	0.23
050916/1	051-105	A_263	352	43	143	209636	0.41
050916/1	051-106	A_264	266	27	91	8234	0.34
050916/1	051-107	A_265	99	10	37	1005	0.37
050916/1	051-108	A_266	262	44	59	1050	0.22
050916/1	051-109	A_267	501	57	174	1145	0.35
050916/1	051-110	A_268	207	38	69	6506	0.33
050916/1	051-111	A_269	248	42	110	2378	0.44
050916/1	051-112	A_270	392	70	88	4187	0.22
050916/1	051-113	A_271	453	74	149	1688	0.33

## RATIOS

<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	rho <sup>c</sup>	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb <sup>e</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>
1.579	0.066	0.1557	0.0055	0.85	0.0735	0.0016
0.892	0.046	0.1060	0.0038	0.70	0.0610	0.0023
0.847	0.038	0.1019	0.0036	0.79	0.0603	0.0016
0.831	0.035	0.0990	0.0035	0.83	0.0609	0.0015
0.730	0.033	0.0891	0.0032	0.79	0.0594	0.0016
1.752	0.074	0.1729	0.0061	0.84	0.0735	0.0017
1.915	0.081	0.1839	0.0065	0.84	0.0755	0.0017
1.869	0.080	0.1798	0.0064	0.82	0.0754	0.0018
2.053	0.102	0.1915	0.0069	0.73	0.0777	0.0026
0.801	0.035	0.0971	0.0034	0.81	0.0599	0.0015
1.096	0.047	0.1213	0.0043	0.82	0.0656	0.0016
0.856	0.038	0.1023	0.0036	0.81	0.0607	0.0016
0.887	0.055	0.1056	0.0039	0.60	0.0609	0.0031
1.825	0.107	0.1683	0.0063	0.64	0.0786	0.0036
1.157	0.052	0.1138	0.0041	0.80	0.0737	0.0020
1.993	0.094	0.1852	0.0067	0.76	0.0781	0.0024
1.732	0.077	0.1707	0.0061	0.80	0.0736	0.0019
1.836	0.079	0.1787	0.0063	0.83	0.0745	0.0018
1.742	0.085	0.1639	0.0059	0.74	0.0771	0.0025

## AGES [Ma]

<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	2 σ	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	2 σ	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	2 σ	Conc.	%
962	40	933	33	1029	45	91	
647	34	649	24	641	80	101	
623	28	625	22	615	59	102	
614	26	609	22	634	52	96	
557	25	550	20	583	60	94	
1028	43	1028	36	1027	47	100	
1086	46	1088	38	1082	46	101	
1070	46	1066	38	1079	49	99	
1133	56	1130	41	1140	68	99	
598	26	598	21	598	55	100	
751	32	738	26	792	51	93	
628	28	628	22	628	56	100	
645	40	647	24	637	108	102	
1055	62	1003	38	1163	90	86	
780	35	695	25	1034	55	67	
1113	53	1095	39	1149	61	95	
1020	45	1016	36	1030	53	99	
1058	45	1060	38	1055	48	101	
1024	50	978	35	1123	65	87	







## 050916/2B

Sample	Analysis	Analysis	U [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Pb [ppm] <sup>a</sup>	Th [ppm]	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>204</sup> Pb	Th/U meas
050916/2B	052-66	A_354	630	108	51	7583	0.08
050916/2B	052-67	A_355	1860	188	455	5315	0.24
050916/2B	052-68	A_356	392	70	91	5284	0.23
050916/2B	052-69	A_357	205	36	78	8580	0.38
050916/2B	052-72	A_362	162	27	28	5143	0.17
050916/2B	052-73	A_363	78	12	27	11270	0.35
050916/2B	052-74	A_364	24	4	19	605	0.77
050916/2B	052-75	A_365	522	59	120	2385	0.23
050916/2B	052-76	A_366	256	45	100	6129	0.39
050916/2B	052-77	A_367	415	76	111	9928	0.27
050916/2B	052-78	A_368	869	102	106	4955	0.12
050916/2B	052-79	A_369	996	94	109	450010	0.11
050916/2B	052-80	A_370	407	68	223	328618	0.55
050916/2B	052-81	A_371	810	77	192	369895	0.24
050916/2B	052-82	A_372	347	60	105	23303	0.30
050916/2B	052-83	A_373	342	46	84	26932	0.25
050916/2B	052-84	A_374	254	33	154	2489	0.61
050916/2B	052-85	A_375	182	33	52	158413	0.29
050916/2B	052-86	A_378	484	215	118	27609	0.24
050916/2B	052-87	A_379	652	64	11	308597	0.02
050916/2B	052-88	A_380	90	15	36	25897	0.39
050916/2B	052-89	A_381	650	81	43	9166	0.07
050916/2B	052-90	A_382	252	28	76	1203	0.30
050916/2B	052-91	A_383	1212	138	455	1600	0.38
050916/2B	052-92	A_384	339	63	127	301166	0.37
050916/2B	052-93	A_385	148	27	83	3811	0.56
050916/2B	052-94	A_386	483	84	24	15098	0.05
050916/2B	052-95	A_387	467	82	112	15085	0.24
050916/2B	052-97	A_389	805	97	141	464643	0.17
050916/2B	052-98	A_390	320	69	71	13623	0.22
050916/2B	052-99	A_391	106	11	1	53048	0.01
050916/2B	052-101	A_395	221	28	142	9072	0.64
050916/2B	052-102	A_396	439	76	72	364448	0.16
050916/2B	052-103	A_397	25	2	12	11745	0.50
050916/2B	052-104	A_398	287	48	51	228389	0.18
050916/2B	052-105	A_399	962	101	8	29043	0.01
050916/2B	052-106	A_400	1361	139	281	153462	0.21
050916/2B	052-107	A_401	641	62	361	298204	0.56
050916/2B	052-108	A_402	156	27	71	127815	0.46
050916/2B	052-109	A_403	86	14	36	69115	0.42
050916/2B	052-110	A_404	528	92	26	74957	0.05
050916/2B	052-111	A_405	550	71	135	61688	0.25
050916/2B	052-112	A_406	211	37	36	4831	0.17
050916/2B	052-113	A_407	102	10	27	49493	0.26
050916/2B	052-114	A_408	441	67	74	8793	0.17
050916/2B	052-115	A_409	528	92	218	3802	0.41

## RATIOS

<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U <sup>b</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>	rho <sup>c</sup>	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb <sup>e</sup>	2 σ <sup>d</sup>
1.719	0.072	0.1708	0.0061	0.85	0.0730	0.0016
0.840	0.038	0.1010	0.0036	0.80	0.0603	0.0016
1.848	0.084	0.1794	0.0065	0.79	0.0747	0.0021
1.798	0.077	0.1763	0.0063	0.83	0.0740	0.0018
1.667	0.073	0.1667	0.0060	0.82	0.0725	0.0018
1.547	0.077	0.1501	0.0055	0.73	0.0748	0.0025
1.643	0.158	0.1581	0.0069	0.45	0.0754	0.0065
1.112	0.049	0.1129	0.0040	0.81	0.0715	0.0019
1.779	0.076	0.1742	0.0062	0.84	0.0741	0.0017
1.929	0.082	0.1844	0.0066	0.84	0.0759	0.0017
1.034	0.046	0.1174	0.0042	0.80	0.0639	0.0017
0.777	0.033	0.0938	0.0033	0.84	0.0601	0.0014
1.682	0.071	0.1676	0.0060	0.84	0.0728	0.0017
0.806	0.043	0.0949	0.0035	0.69	0.0616	0.0024
1.783	0.076	0.1736	0.0062	0.84	0.0745	0.0017
1.224	0.053	0.1344	0.0048	0.82	0.0661	0.0016
1.167	0.062	0.1283	0.0047	0.69	0.0660	0.0026
1.872	0.081	0.1807	0.0065	0.83	0.0751	0.0018
9.641	0.422	0.4445	0.0160	0.82	0.1573	0.0039
0.817	0.035	0.0984	0.0035	0.84	0.0602	0.0014
1.753	0.083	0.1704	0.0062	0.76	0.0746	0.0023
1.203	0.051	0.1250	0.0045	0.84	0.0698	0.0016
1.122	0.049	0.1108	0.0040	0.82	0.0735	0.0018
1.157	0.049	0.1142	0.0041	0.85	0.0735	0.0016
1.937	0.082	0.1850	0.0066	0.84	0.0759	0.0017
1.843	0.081	0.1795	0.0064	0.82	0.0745	0.0019
1.758	0.075	0.1737	0.0062	0.84	0.0734	0.0017
1.779	0.076	0.1750	0.0063	0.84	0.0737	0.0017
1.065	0.046	0.1202	0.0043	0.83	0.0643	0.0015
2.449	0.104	0.2145	0.0077	0.84	0.0828	0.0019
0.879	0.042	0.1045	0.0038	0.75	0.0610	0.0019
1.219	0.063	0.1259	0.0046	0.71	0.0703	0.0026
1.768	0.076	0.1731	0.0062	0.83	0.0741	0.0018
0.824	0.058	0.0995	0.0038	0.54	0.0600	0.0036
1.648	0.071	0.1659	0.0059	0.83	0.0720	0.0017
0.885	0.038	0.1050	0.0038	0.84	0.0612	0.0014
0.847	0.036	0.1019	0.0036	0.85	0.0603	0.0014
0.798	0.034	0.0970	0.0035	0.83	0.0597	0.0014
1.726	0.076	0.1712	0.0062	0.81	0.0731	0.0019
1.698	0.078	0.1684	0.0061	0.79	0.0732	0.0021
1.784	0.076	0.1746	0.0062	0.84	0.0741	0.0017
1.154	0.049	0.1290	0.0046	0.84	0.0649	0.0015
1.835	0.080	0.1771	0.0064	0.82	0.0751	0.0019
0.854	0.048	0.1012	0.0038	0.66	0.0612	0.0026
1.523	0.065	0.1516	0.0054	0.84	0.0729	0.0017
1.776	0.093	0.1741	0.0064	0.70	0.0740	0.0028

## AGES [Ma]

<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	2 σ	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	2 σ	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	2 σ	Conc. %
1016	43	1017	36	1013	45	100
619	28	620	22	614	58	101
1063	48	1064	38	1060	56	100
1045	45	1047	37	1040	48	101
996	44	994	36	1000	51	99
949	47	902	33	1062	68	85
987	95	946	41	1078	173	88
759	34	689	25	971	53	71
1038	44	1035	37	1044	47	99
1091	46	1091	39	1092	45	100
721	32	716	26	738	56	97
584	25	578	21	606	49	95
1002	42	999	36	1008	46	99
600	32	584	21	659	83	89
1039	44	1032	37	1054	46	98
812	35	813	29	808	52	101
785	42	778	29	806	81	97
1071	46	1071	38	1072	49	100
2401	105	2371	86	2427	42	98
606	26	605	22	610	50	99
1028	49	1014	37	1058	62	96
802	34	759	27	922	47	82
764	33	677	24	1027	51	66
781	33	697	25	1028	45	68
1094	46	1094	39	1093	46	100
1061	46	1064	38	1054	50	101
1030	44	1033	37	1024	46	101
1038	44	1039	37	1034	47	101
736	32	731	26	751	50	97
1257	53	1253	45	1265	45	99
641	31	641	23	641	68	100
809	42	764	28	936	75	82
1034	44	1029	37	1044	48	99
610	43	611	23	605	128	101
989	43	990	35	987	49	100
644	27	643	23	646	50	100
623	26	625	22	615	49	102
596	26	597	21	592	52	101
1018	45	1019	37	1017	52	100
1008	46	1003	36	1018	58	99
1040	44	1037	37	1045	46	99
779	33	782	28	771	49	101
1058	46	1051	38	1072	50	98
627	35	621	23	647	91	96
940	40	910	33	1010	48	90
1037	54	1034	38	1041	75	99