Multi stage gold mineralization events in the Archean Tati Grenstone Belt, northeast Botswana: constraints from intergrative white mica Ar/Ar, garnet U/Pb and sulfide Pb/Pb geochronology

THIERRY BINELI BETSI¹, LEOBOGANG MOKANE², CHRIS MCFARLANE³, KELEBOGILE PHILI², TEOBOGO KELEPILE²

¹Department of Mining and Geological Engineering, Botswana International University of Sciences and Technology, private Bag 16 Palapye
²Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, Private Bag 16 Palapye
³Department of Earth Sciences, University of New Brunswick, 2 Bailey Drive, Fredericton, E3B5A3, Canada

The Tati Greenstone Belt (TGB) in northeastern Botswana hosts numerous Au deposits (Shashe, Mupane and Signal Hill) associated with sulfides, garnet and white mica. Integrative white mica Ar/Ar, garnet U-Pb and sulfides Pb/Pb dating techniques were combined with whole rock and sulfide Pb isotope characteristics to track the sources of gold and constrain the timeframes of gold mineralization events. All sulfides and arsenopyrite from the TGB yielded overlapping Pb/Pb errorchron ages of 2227 ± 66 Ma and 2220 ± 73 Ma, respectively, which coincide with the Shashe sulfides Pb/Pb errorchron age of 2250 ± 110 Ma. At Mupane, whereas Au mineralization-associated hydrothermal almandine garnet yielded overlapping Tera-Wasserburg lower intercept $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age and a concordia age of 2119 ± 18 Ma and of 2105 ± 24 Ma, respectively, sulfides produced an errorchron Pb/Pb age of 2873 ± 140 Ma, which coincides within error with the first Neoarchean Limpopo-Liberian Orogeny (2.70–2.65 Ga), granitoids intrusion emplacement (2.65–2.73 Ga) and deposition of banded iron formation (2.73 ± 0.15 Ga). Ore-related white mica from Signal Hill yielded an overlapping Ar/Ar plateau age of 1987 ± 24 Ma and a weighted mean Ar/Ar age of 1987 ± 13 Ma, which coincide within error with the 2.05–1.95 Ga second Limpopo-Liberian tectonic cycle, herein considered to have triggered the Au mineralization in this area. Lead isotope compositions of most of the sulfides overlap with those of spatially associated schists and granitoids, thus suggesting these units possibly represent Pb and by inference Au rock sources. The genetic model of the TGB Au deposits is consistent with many greenstonehosted gold deposits worldwide.