Table of contents

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.2 PREVIOUS WORK 4

1.3 UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS (PROBLEM STATEMENT) 8

1.4 WORK PLAN 11

1.5 REFERENCES 13

2 STRATIGRAPHY OF THE KEIS SUPERGROUP 15

2.1 INTRODUCTION 15

2.2 STRUCTURE 16

2.3 REVISED STRATIGRAPHIC SUBDIVISION 17

2.4 LITHOSTRATIGRAPHY 27

2.4.1 LOCATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILES 27

2.4.2 TRANSVAAL SUPERGROUP 27

2.4.2.1 VOëLWATER SUBGROUP 27

2.4.2.1.1 Beaumont Formation 27

2.4.2.2 ELIM GROUP 28

2.4.2.2.1 Mapedi Formation 28

2.4.2.2.2 Lucknow Formation 28

2.4.3 KEIS SUPERGROUP 29

2.4.3.1 Olifantshoek Group 29

2.4.3.1.1 Neylan Formation 29

2.4.3.1.2 Hartley Formation 33

2.4.3.1.3 Volop Formation 34

2.4.3.1.4 Top Dog Formation 41

2.4.3.2 Groblershoop Group 41

2.4.3.2.1 Faanshoek Formation 42

2.4.3.2.2 Faansgeluk Formation 44

2.4.3.2.3 Maraisdraai Formation 45

2.4.3.2.4 Vuilnek Formation 46

2.4.3.2.5 Opwag Formation 50

2.4.3.2.6 Skurweberg Formation 55

2.4.3.3 Wilgenhoutsdrif Group 59

2.4.3.3.1 Grootdrink Formation 60

2.4.3.3.2 Zonderhuis Formation 60

2.4.3.3.3 Leerkrans Formation 63

2.5 THE DABEP FAULT REVISITED 64

2.6 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION OF STRATIGRAPHIC AND SEDIMENTOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT 67
2.7 TECTONO SEDIMENTARY MODEL 72
2.8 CONCLUSIONS 75
2.9 REFERENCES 76
3 CONTRASTING PROVENANCE OF SEDIMENTARY ROCKS OF THE KHEIS AND KAKAMAS TERRANES ADJOINING THE NAMAQUA FRONT. 80
3.1 INTRODUCTION 80
3.2 GEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW 80
3.2.1 KEIS SUPERGROUP 81
3.2.2 AREACHAP GROUP 84
3.2.3 KAKAMAS TERRANE 85
3.2.4 KORAS GROUP 86
3.2.5 NAMAQUA FRONT 87
3.3 PETROGRAPHY OF THE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS OF THE KHEIS AND KAKAMAS TERRANES 87
3.3.1 LUCKNOW FORMATION 88
3.3.2 KEIS SUPERGROUP 89
3.3.2.1 Olifantshoek Group 89
3.3.2.2 Groblershoop Group 96
3.3.2.3 Wilgenhoutsdrif Group 98
3.3.3 GOEDEHOOP FORMATION, KORANNALAND GROUP 101
3.4 HEAVY MINERAL POPULATIONS 102
3.4.1 METHOD AND CLASSIFICATION 102
3.4.2 OLIFANTSHOEK GROUP 103
3.4.3 GROBLERSHOOP GROUP 107
3.4.4 WILGENHOUTSDRIF GROUP 109
3.4.5 GOEDEHOOP FORMATION, KORANNALAND GROUP 109
3.5 DETRITAL ZIRCON AGE DETERMINATIONS 109
3.5.1 INTRODUCTION 109
3.5.2 LUCKNOW FORMATION of the TRANSVAAL SUPERGROUP 110
3.5.3 OLIFANTSHOEK GROUP 112
3.5.4 GROBLERSHOOP GROUP 122
3.5.5 WILGENHOUTSDRIF GROUP 126
3.5.6 KORANNALAND GROUP 131
3.5.6.1 Goedehoop Formation 131

3.5.6.2 Sandputs Formation 135
3.5.6.3 Collinskop Formation 137
3.5.7 SPRIGG FORMATION 140
3.6 CRYSTALLISATION AGE OF THE KOKERBERG GNEISS 143
3.7 DISCUSSION 146
3.7.1 COMPOSITION OF SOURCE ROCKS 146
3.7.1.1 Evidence from petrographic studies 146
3.7.1.2 Evidence from heavy mineral populations 146
3.7.1.2.1 Introduction 146
3.7.1.2.2 Origin of the opaque hematite-ilmenite and pyrite population 147
3.7.1.2.3 Mica, glauconite and rutile 148
3.7.1.2.4 Heavy mineral assemblages as indicators of plate tectonic environments 149
3.7.1.2.5 Zircon composition and texture 150
3.7.2 POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR DETRITAL ZIRCON AGE POPULATIONS 153
3.7.2.1 Keis Supergroup versus Korannaland Group age populations 153
3.7.2.2 Possible source areas for the Keis Supergroup 157
3.7.2.3 Possible source areas for the Korannaland Group 161
3.7.3 STRATIGRAPHIC VARIATIONS IN DETRITAL ZIRCON AGE POPULATIONS 163
3.7.3.1 Lucknow Formation of the Elim Group of the Transvaal Supergroup 163
3.7.3.2 Keis Supergroup 163
3.7.3.3 Korannaland Group 167
3.7.3.4 Sprigg Formation 168
3.8 TECTONIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PROVENANCE DATA 169
3.9 REFERENCES 172
4 $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ GEOCHRONOLOGY OF SELECTED SAMPLES IN THE KHEIS- AND KAKAMAS TERRANES 179
4.1 INTRODUCTION 179
4.2 SAMPLE LOCATIONS 179
4.2.1 GOEDEHOOP FORMATION of THE KORANNALAND GROUP 179
4.2.2 GROBLERSHOOP GROUP OF THE KEIS SUPERGROUP 181
4.3 $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ GEOCHRONOLOGY 183
4.4 DISCUSSION 187
4.5 CONCLUSIONS 188
4.6 REFERENCES 190
5 PLATE TECTONIC MODEL 191

5.1 INTRODUCTION 191
5.2 NEW FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY THAT NEEDS TO BE EXPLAINED IN A PLATE TECTONIC MODEL 196
5.3 BROAD TECTONIC FRAMEWORK 198
5.4 SUMMARY OF MAJOR FEATURES OF DIFFERENT TERRANES AND ROCK UNITS 201
5.4.1 KAAPVAAL CRATON 201
5.4.2 ZIMBABWE CRATON 202
5.4.3 LIMPOPO AND MAGONDI BELTS 205
5.4.4 KEIS SUPERGROUP 205
5.4.4.1 Olifantshoek Group 205
5.4.4.2 Groblershoop Group 209
5.4.4.3 Wilgenhoutsdrif Group 210
5.4.5 AREACHAP GROUP 212
5.4.6 KGALAGADI TERRANE 213
5.4.7 RICHTERSVELD AND KAKAMAS TERRANES 215
5.4.8 KEIMOES SUITE 218
5.4.9 KORAS GROUP 219
5.4.10 SPRIGG FORMATION 221
5.4.11 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS 221
5.5 PLATE TECTONIC MODEL 222
5.5.1 KEIS PASSIVE MARGIN BASIN AND PROVENANCE 222
5.5.2 COLLISIONAL TECTONICS 223
5.6 CONCLUSIONS 228
5.7 REFERENCES 230
6 CONCLUSIONS 236
A Appendix A: THE KAAPVAAL-KHEIS-NAMAQUA PROBLEM: A LITERATURE STUDY INTO 130 YEARS OF CONTINUING RESEARCH 242
A.1 INTRODUCTION 242
A.2 INITIAL DEVELOPMENT LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATIONS 243
A.2.1 PERIOD 1874 TO 1973 243
A.2.2 PERIOD 1974 TO 1980 250
A.2.3 PERIOD 1980 TO 1999 260
A.2.3.1 Wilgenhoutsdrif Formation 260
A.2.3.2 Kaaien Group 266
A.2.3.3 Marydale Group 268

A.2.3.4 Olifantshoek Sequence 268
A.2.3.5 Keimoes Suite 273
A.2.3.6 Areachap Group 274
A.2.3.7 Tectonic Domains 275
A.2.3.8 Koras Group 279
A.3 A NEW LITHOLOGICAL SUBDIVISION FOR THE KHEIS TECTONIC PROVINCE (1999) 282
A.3.1 OLIFANTSHOEK SUPERGROUP 283
A.3.2 BRULPAN GROUP 284
A.3.3 VAALKOPPIES GROUP 288
A.3.4 WILGENHOUTSDRIF GROUP 289
A.4 STRUCTURAL FEATURES AND DEFORMATIONAL HISTORY 292
A.4.1 STRUCTURAL CONTROL ON KORAS DEPOSITION 292
A.4.2 STRUCTURAL EVOLUTION OF THE TRANSITIONAL ZONE BETWEEN THE KAAPVAAL CRATON AND THE NAMAQUA MOBILE BELT 293
A.4.3 LINEAMENTS AND FAULTS OF THE KHEIS BELT 295
A.4.4 TECTONIC TERRANES AND PROVINCES IN THE UPINGTON AREA 297
A.4.5 DEFORMATION ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE NAMAQUA PROVINCE 304
A.4.6 POLYPHASE DEFORMATION OF THE KHEIS TECTONIC PROVINCE 306
A.4.7 THE DABEP FAULT AS A TERRANE BOUNDARY 307
A.5 THE METAMORPHISM OF THE SUCCESSIONS OF THE WESTERN MARGIN OF THE KAAPVAAL CRATON, KHEIS- AND NAMAQUA-NATAL MOBILE BELT. 312
A.5.1 METAMORPHISM OF THE AREA BETWEEN WILGENHOUTSDRIF AND KAKAMAS 312
A.5.2 METAMORPHISM OF THE KHEIS TECTONIC PROVINCE 313
A.6 MODELS FOR THE SEDIMENTOLOGICAL AND TECTONIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUCCESSIONS ON THE WESTERN MARGIN OF THE KAAPVAAL CRATON, KHEIS- AND NAMAQUA-NATAL MOBILE BELT. 316
A.6.1 OLIFANTSHOEK SEQUENCE 316
A.6.1.1 Deposition of the Volop Group of the Olifantshoek Sequence 316
A.6.1.2 Rifting and the formation of the Olifantshoek sequence 317
A.6.2 WILGENHOUTSDRIFT GROUP 320
A.6.2.1 The deposition of the Wilgenhoutsdrif Formation 320

A.6.2.2 Tectonic events giving rise to the formation of the Wilgenhoutsdrif Formation 321
A.6.3 AREACHAP GROUP 322
A.6.3.1 Tectonic model for the development of the Areachap Group and the Keimoes Suite 322
A.6.3.2 Two-stage model for the development of the Jannelsepan Formation 323
A.6.4 KHEIS TECTONIC PROVINCE 324
A.6.4.1 Depositional environment of the Kheis Tectonic Province 324
A.6.4.2 Tectonic evolution of the Kheis Tectonic Province 325
A.6.5 NAMAQUA MOBILE BELT 328
A.6.5.1 The tectonic development of the Namaqua Mobile Belt and its foreland 328
A.6.5.2 A geodynamic model for the northeastern boundary of the Namaqua Province 330
A.6.5.3 Rifting model for the north-eastern boundary of the Namaqua Province 331
A.6.5.4 Evolution of the lavas of the Koras Group and the Namaqualand granites 333
A.6.5.5 Tectonic model for the Namaqua Province 334
A.6.5.6 Development of the Namaqua Province 336
A.6.5.7 Evolution of the Namaqua-Natal Province in terms of a complete Wilson Cycle 338
A.6.5.8 Kinematic evolution of Namaqua-Natal-Dronning Maud Land 339
A.6.6 THE KORAS GROUP 341
A.6.6.1 Deposition of the Koras Formation 341
A.6.6.2 The deposition of the Koras Group 342
A.6.6.3 Deposition of the Koras Group in three domains 342
A.6.6.4 Similarities between the Wilgenhoutsdrif- and Koras Groups 343
A.7 DISCUSSION 345
A.8 REFERENCES 347
B Appendix B: PETROGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF SEDIMENTARY ROCKS FROM THE KEIS SUPERGROUP AND THE KORANNALAND GROUP 353
C Appendix C: REINTERPRETED STRATIGRAPHIC MAP OF THE KHEIS TERRANE AND NAMAQUA PROVINCE IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA 400
D Appendix D: REINTERPRETED LITHOLOGICAL MAP OF THE KHEIS TERRANE AND NAMAQUA PROVINCE IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA 402