

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

PAGES - Past Global Changes

Pan Africa START-PAGES Workshop
on
African Palaeoperspectives: Linking the Past to the Present and the Future
(sponsored by START, PAGES and other funding agencies)

*Nairobi, Kenya
19th to 20th July, 2004*

Convenors:

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The Pan Africa START-PAGES Workshop on **African Palaeoperspectives: Linking the Past to the Present and the Future** will be held from 19th to 20th July, 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The PAGES Scientific Steering Committee noted in its last meeting (June, 2003) that the African palaeoclimate community is not “visible enough” in the international arena as a cohesive and well-networked unit. The scientists tend to work in isolation, have serious research funding and related travel constraints, and generally lack both a medium and forum within which they can interact and exchange information both regionally and internationally. Yet, Africa still remains one of the regions about which much more information is required if we are to better our present understanding of the earth’s palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironment, and contribute to a better understanding of earth system function.

Consequently, the PAGES SSC resolved to hold its meeting in 2004 in Nairobi from 16-18 July, and immediately thereafter, host the Pan Africa START-PAGES Workshop, from 19-20th July 2004. It is hoped that this workshop will bring to the fore the wealth of information on Africa’s palaeoclimate, and catalyse research, collaboration and networking amongst African scientists and with those from other regions. The workshop will provide a forum for scientists to interact with PAGES SSC members and to obtain more details on how to join and contribute to this very successful international effort to better understand the earth system.

This is a first call for papers/poster abstracts for the above mentioned forthcoming meeting which will be centred around the themes indicated below:

Theme 1: *African palaeoenvironments:* paleoenvironments and paleoclimate using a multiproxy data and modeling approach.

- document the amplitude, phase and geographic extent of climate change in the African region,
- determine the history of potentially important forcing factors,
- identify the important feedbacks which amplify or reduce the influence the effect of these forcings,
- identify the mechanisms of climatic coupling between Africa's sub-regions and globally.

Theme 2: *Climate variability at annual, interannual, decadal and longer time scales:* especially as relevant to improving predictability, through the use of high resolution paleoclimatic data such as corals, tree-rings, varved sediments and ice cores.

- Dynamics of low-latitude climate change
- Global ocean thermohaline variability
- Regional-scale hydrologic variability including coastal zones
- Dynamics of abrupt climatic change
- Model evaluation and improvement
- Climate change detection

Theme 3: *Marine Records off the Coast of Africa:*

- Mechanisms and consequences of past climate changes on ocean circulation, salinity, ventilation, carbon sequestration and flux, using oceanic sedimentary records.
- Marine records of terrestrial processes and land cover change
- Land-Ocean interactions

Theme 4: *Past Ecosystem Processes and Human-Environment Interactions:* integrates past human-environment interactions at subcontinental scale with research and modeling based on present day ecosystems and watersheds.

- Human Impacts on Terrestrial Ecosystems
- Land Use and Climate Impacts on Fluvial Systems During the Period of Agriculture
- Human Impact on Lake Ecosystems

Those interested in participating in the symposium should forward an abstract, specifying the theme of interest, and full contact details to the convenors (address given above).

Deadline for submission of abstracts is 31st January 2004. Some limited travel funds will be available particularly for African scientists. Contributors should, therefore, indicate whether they can attend without travel funds or, if in need of partial support, should specify the amount required or indicate whether it is for travel only or accommodation only. Those who can get funding from other sources are encouraged to initiate the process early.