



IDEAL NEWS

Newsletter of the International Decade for the East African Lakes

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55455

Welcome to volume 1, number 1 of IDEAL News. We intend to publish this newsletter quarterly in an attempt to keep all potential participants in IDEAL informed of its developments. The newsletter will also serve as a platform for anyone interested in communicating his/her research ideas, plans or experiences on the African rift lakes. All correspondence regarding these topics or requests for addition to or deletion from our mailing list should be sent to Nicolas Boillot, Editor, IDEAL NEWS, LRC, University of Minnesota, MN 55455.

This first newsletter is long overdue. Many of you on the mailing list expressed interest in IDEAL more than a year ago. The intervening time has involved considerable activity at funding agencies, scientific meetings and in Africa, laying some of the groundwork for an initiative of this size. As you will see in the following articles, we are starting to move.

Kerry Kelts and Nicolas Boillot at the University of Minnesota have agreed to prepare and distribute IDEAL NEWS, at least in its first year of production, using funds provided by NSF to Duke University.

IDEAL GAINS MOMENTUM

Progress in the U.S.

IDEAL is moving forward! NSF has just awarded a grant of \$100,000 to Duke University (T. Johnson and D. Livingstone, PI's) for a one year effort in planning. This funding is actually drawn from several sources, and is funneled through the Climate Dynamics / Paleoclimate Program of the Division of Atmospheric Sciences, with Dr. Herman Zimmerman as Program Manager. Contributions of \$20,000 each are provided by the Divisions of Atmospheric Sciences, Earth Sciences, Environmental Biology and International Programs at NSF, along with \$20,000 from NASA. This broad base of support reflects the multidisciplinary nature of IDEAL. While the level of funding is not as much as was requested, it will go a long way towards providing communications such as this newsletter and travel subsidies for participants at a scientific symposium in early 1993 (see below). Travel support will also be provided for planning meetings where participants will discuss coring technology and strategy, research vessel design, and needs for a field station to be established on one of the lakes by 1994. It is clear that IDEAL will not spin up at an optimum level of funding. We will have to start modestly and have the patience to allow the program to grow gradually. If our early results are successful, however, and if European funding is at a level comparable to that of the U.S., we are confident that we will achieve a program as ambitious as was first envisioned in Bern in 1990.

Progress in Africa

Dr. Eric Odada in the Department of Geology at the University of Nairobi has succeeded with Mr. George Kitaka, UNESCO - Nairobi, to obtain funds from UNESCO to host the IDEAL

International Symposium on the Limnology, Climatology and Paleoclimatology of the East African Lakes. This will be held somewhere in East Africa early in 1993. The Preliminary Call for Papers is attached to this newsletter. The location and exact date of the symposium will be established soon, and communicated to the scientific community. In the meantime, give thought to preparing a contribution and find the funds to get to Africa. This promises to be a landmark meeting that will delineate our current state of knowledge on the large rift lakes prior to the inception of IDEAL field programs.

Progress in Europe

Dr. Jean-Jacques Tiercelin recently completed a visit to several laboratories in Europe and the United States, on behalf of UNESCO, to summarize the various research programs that currently are under way on the rift lakes. It is clear from his report that there is a great need for heads of these programs to communicate with one another and avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort. Dr. Tiercelin has recommended to UNESCO that they host a meeting in Europe this fall, at which leaders of many of the research programs in East Africa, and perhaps representatives of funding agencies, will come together to discuss coordination of their efforts.

The Societas Internationalis Limnologiae Theoreticae et Applicatae (SIL) will host its XXV International Congress in Barcelona, Spain, August 21 - 27, 1992. There will be a Special Scientific Session on the African Great Lakes, chaired by Dr. F. C. Roest. In addition, an informal discussion of IDEAL will be presented, much as was done at the ASLO meeting in Santa Fe last February, to alert the limnological community in Europe of the need and opportunities that will be provided by IDEAL. If any of you plan to be at the SIL Congress in Barcelona, be sure to attend the IDEAL meeting.

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Symposium on the Limnology, Climatology and Paleoclimatology of the East African Lakes

The African and Northern Hemisphere Steering Committees for the International Decade for the East African Lakes (IDEAL), in co-operation with UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa (ROSTA), wishes to announce the International Symposium on the Limnology, Climatology and Paleoclimatology of the East African Lakes, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in East Africa, during January/March 1993.

BACKGROUND

The great lakes of the East African Rift Valley are among the most promising of the large lakes of the world for providing the best records of global climatic and environmental change in the tropics. Their levels, chemistry and biota are very sensitive to climate variability, so their sedimentary signals of paleoclimate are strong.

The African rift lakes extend over nearly 20 degrees of latitude, from about 5 degrees north to 15 degrees south, thereby offering not only a record of climate change in the tropics, but also the opportunity to compare tropical climate history north and south of the equator. The purpose of this symposium therefore is to bring together international scientists who are actively involved in the study of the African rift lakes as archives of environmental and climate dynamics, to review the current level of knowledge of climate variability in East Africa. Through increased understanding of how large lakes at low latitudes respond to climatic forcing, it may be possible to decipher the long records of climate variability stored in the sediments of these complex natural systems. These records can make a major contribution to the study of global climate change.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the symposium are three fold:

1. to review the current knowledge of limnology, climate and paleoclimate in East Africa;
2. to prepare a monograph (synthesis volume) on the limnology, climate setting and sediment records of the East African lakes;
3. to establish scientific priorities for the IDEAL programme.

The programme of the symposium will include oral presentations by invited key speakers and posters contributed by active researchers. Ample time will be budgeted for discussion and presentation of posters. A symposium volume will be published that includes significant reviews or overviews of major topics by the invited speakers as well as shorter contributions (4-5 pp) by authors of the posters.

The contributors are encouraged to focus on any of the following topics:

-structural and tectonic framework; modern climate setting; GCM's (climate models); sedimentology of the lakes; palaeoclimate of East Africa inferred from lake sediments, tree

rings, ice cores and other proxies; paleobiology/evolutionary history; physical and chemical limnology; primary productivity (nutrient dynamics, food webs); pelagic and nearshore ecosystems; fisheries resources and anthropogenic effects.

However, any researched contributions that are within the broad themes of the title of the symposium will be welcome.

LANGUAGE

The working language of the symposium will be English. However, papers submitted in French will be accepted for publication in the proceedings of the symposium, provided they are accompanied by two abstracts, one in French and the other in English.

PARTICIPATION

The Steering Committees for IDEAL, together with collaborating agencies, will sponsor invited key speakers and a limited number of participants from Europe, North America and Africa who will be selected on the basis of the scientific quality of their abstracts.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

-Interested scientists/researchers are invited to send abstract of their contributions by 15 September 1992. The Organizers will inform authors of the acceptance of their abstracts before 1 November 1992. All submissions should be addressed to either:

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FRONT PAGE LOGO: The IDEAL NEWS logo is a cave painting of a hippopotamus. It dates at about 3500 BC and is from Aoumrhet in the Sahara, a region that today is much too dry to support hippos. (Reproduced from H. H. Lamb's *Climate History and the Modern World*, London and New York, Methuen, and originally published in *À la Découverte des Fresques du Tassili*, Paris and Grenoble, B. Arthaud.)