



ICDP Workshop on Scientific Drilling of Lake Tanganyika, Africa

Exploring the paleoclimatic, tectonic, and evolutionary history of Africa's oldest lake

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 17-20 June, 2019

Lake Tanganyika is one of the oldest, largest, and deepest lakes anywhere on Earth and provides an outstanding opportunity to transform our understanding of processes controlling tropical climate, biological diversification, and Earth surface (source-to-sink) processes in continental rift basins. The lake contains an extraordinary tropical sedimentary record that continuously spans the Miocene to present at drillable depths, constitutes a textbook example of an explosive evolutionary radiation, and is a natural laboratory to study rates and processes of extensional deformation and coupled surface processes. Scientific drilling at Lake Tanganyika can therefore provide transformative insights into the climatic, geological, and biologic evolution of this tropical African rift system.

Existing sediment cores from Lake Tanganyika provide benchmark records of tropical environmental change, yet barely scrape the surface of the lake's sedimentary record. An ICDP funded workshop will be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from June 17-20, 2019 to develop scientific and logistical plans for drilling the lake's deeper sediments. The agenda of the workshop will include reviews of existing datasets that address the climatic and environmental evolution of Africa; a summary of the geologic and limnologic setting of Lake Tanganyika and its sediments; the formulation of scientific objectives and goals of a deep drilling project; and a discussion of scientific collaboration and responsibilities, potential drill sites, operations, outreach, logistics, funding and permitting. The principal workshop outcome will be a draft science plan that will form the basis for a proposal on Scientific Drilling in Lake Tanganyika.

The Project Steering Committee invites applications from members of the international community who are interested in scientific drilling of Lake Tanganyika to attend this workshop. Applications should include full contact details, a 2-page CV that summarizes your research experience and expertise, and a 1-page description of your interests and intended contribution to the project in a single PDF file. We welcome applicants from any field but particularly encourage applicants with interests that will complement existing expertise in the project, including geomicrobiology, borehole logging, and genetics. Applicants are requested to contact the workshop organizer before December 1, 2018 (James M. Russell, Brown University, Rhode Island, James.Russell@Brown.edu). Selected participants will be informed in late December, and costs will be covered as far as possible by ICDP funds. Preference will be given to scientists from ICDP member countries, junior scientists, and to scientists whose expertise and interests complement that of current project participants.