

# ICDP Workshop on Scientific Drilling

## Lake Victoria Drilling Project (LVDP)

*Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 25-27 July 2022*

Lake Victoria (eastern Africa: Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya) is the world's largest tropical lake by surface area and home to the largest human population around any lake in the world. In addition to its critical importance for human life and livelihood, the lake's size also acts as a significant barrier to the dispersal of terrestrial organisms across the landscape, and it represents the boundary of several biogeographic zones. Lake Victoria is also an extremely sensitive archive of past hydroclimate variability. It completely desiccated at least once in the latest Pleistocene, and likely desiccated and refilled multiple times since it formed. These fluctuations in lake size provided a powerful, dynamic mechanism that forced major changes in human populations and ecological systems around the lake, including range expansion, contraction, and fragmentation of the region's ecosystems, all key drivers of macroevolutionary change. These processes likely contributed to the dispersal of early populations of *Homo sapiens* across Africa and the formation and subsequent extinction of diverse large herbivore communities that once roamed an extended Serengeti-like ecosystem.

The Lake Victoria Drilling Project (LVDP) aims to capitalize on the dynamic nature and extent of climatologically sensitive Lake Victoria, particularly the powerful role periodic desiccation and refilling had on the region. An ICDP funded workshop will be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 25-27 July 2022, to define scientific and drilling strategies for recovery of the entire estimated sedimentary sequence (~400 kyr). The agenda of the workshop will include a review of existing data, discussions of objectives of a drilling project, potential drill sites, building local partnerships, as well operations, logistics, and permitting. The workshop will be the basis for a draft of a future drilling proposal to ICDP.

We invite applications from the international community interested in the scientific drilling of Lake Victoria. Applicants should submit a single PDF file that includes contact information, a 2-page CV with relevant research experience and expertise, and a 1-page description of intended contributions to the project. Applications are **due by 25 January 2022**, and should be emailed to Drs. Melissa Berke ([mberke@nd.edu](mailto:mberke@nd.edu)) or Dan Peppe ([Daniel\\_Peppe@baylor.edu](mailto:Daniel_Peppe@baylor.edu)). Selected applicants will be contacted by late February, with as many costs as possible covered by ICDP workshop funds. While the meeting will be focused on in-person attendance, there will also be the option for virtual attendance of the workshop. Preference will be given to scientists from ICDP member countries, African scientists, early career scientists, and those whose expertise complements that of current project participants.