

ICDP Workshop on Scientific Drilling Deep Drilling in the Turkana Basin (DDTB)

Nairobi, July 18-20, 2022

The Turkana Basin in the East African Rift System provides an unparalleled opportunity to understand our origins as a species due to its remarkably rich fossil record, which has been intensely studied for over six decades. However, because geologic and paleoanthropologic research has focused on outcrops, integrating these records with global paleoclimatic datasets involves contending with both spatial and temporal heterogeneity. Working across these scales complicates the scientific community's ability to parse out the impact of tectonics versus climate on shaping the paleoenvironmental context in which hominins evolved over the past 4 Ma. The Deep Drilling in the Turkana Basin (DDTB) project aims to recover a novel long core sedimentary record to minimize the impact of spatial paleoenvironmental variability on paleoclimatic and tectonic reconstructions, and provide insight into the sequence and significance of climate and environmental change over the last 4 Ma in this key paleoanthropologic locality. The proposed project will significantly advance existing paradigms surrounding rift development, climatic and environmental change, and the evolution of hominins and their associated ecosystems. Through international collaboration, we will provide support and training for the next generation of African scientists through unique partnerships with Kenyan organizations.

An ICDP funded workshop will provide the unique opportunity to discuss and develop ideas across different disciplines. Participation in the workshop will involve engaging in a series of 1 or 2 virtual discussions focused on technical and logistical issues related to DDTB. These virtual events will be followed by a conventional in-person meeting in Nairobi from **July 18-20, 2022**. The in-person workshop will follow the standard format of concurrent topical breakout sessions on scientific, technical, and funding themes that will then report back to the main group. Additionally, since diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), particularly focused on building meaningful partnerships with African colleagues and institutions, has been a significant objective since the inception of DDTB, we plan on allocating time to discussing these issues, along with education and outreach, in our workshop agenda.

Scientists wishing to contribute to this workshop are invited to apply with 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. Applications should be sent to Dr. Cat Beck (ccbeck@hamilton.edu) by **February 1, 2022**. A scientific committee will decide on invitations (costs will be covered as possible with ICDP funds), taking into account the relevance of the applicants' research relevant to the goals of the workshop and the need for balance among disciplines. We welcome applicants from any field but particularly encourage applicants with interests that will complement existing expertise in the project, including geothermal, ground water, and geomicrobiology. Preference will be given to scientists from ICDP member countries, early career scientists, and African scientists.