



Workshop on coring the Paleogene hemipelagic sediments of Tanzania

(Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 10-12 September, 2014)

We invite applications to a Workshop of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP) in order to develop proposals to core the Paleogene hemipelagic marine mudstones (Kilwa Group) of southern coastal Tanzania. Our primary aim is to investigate tropical climatic and biotic change through much of the Paleogene period by continuous coring and logging of at least one deep (> 1 km) reference section. Drilling targets include critical intervals of extreme climate and major climate change, including the Paleocene/Eocene thermal maximum, the early and middle Eocene climatic optima, the middle/late Eocene biotic turnover, the late Eocene impact events, and the Eocene / Oligocene transition and earliest Oligocene glacial maximum. The Kilwa Group sediments are known for their exceptionally well-preserved microfossils and organic biomarkers, and have proven potential for the application of a wide range of marine and terrestrial paleoclimate proxies that allow us to reconstruct conditions in the low-latitude ocean, atmosphere, and on the adjacent African continent. We also aim to investigate the deep biosphere, sediment diagenesis and maturation, and implications for structural geology and basin development.

Members of the international scientific community who are interested in contributing to the planning and writing of a proposal, and participating in the subsequent research project, are invited to apply. Funding through the ICDP is available to subsidize travel of up to 10 Tanzanian and 20 international academic participants. Preference will be given to scientists from ICDP member countries who complement the existing research expertise of the project co-investigators (a copy of the Workshop Proposal is available from the organizers). Potential fields of interest include biostratigraphy, paleobiology, cyclostratigraphy, seismic stratigraphy, paleomagnetism, paleoclimatology, climate modelling, impact studies, basin analysis, and microbiology. The agenda of the workshop will include reviews of existing knowledge from previous research as well as discussions of objectives and goals of the drilling project, scientific collaboration and responsibilities, potential drill site(s), operations, logistics, and funding strategy.

Interested scientists are requested to contact the ICDP workshop organizers with a 2-page CV, including publications and previous relevant grant funding, and an expression of interest before April 18, 2014 (Paul N. Pearson, Cardiff University, UK, pearsonp@cardiff.ac.uk; Hudson Wellington, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation, Tanzania, wellington@tpdc-tz.com). Applicants will be informed of the outcome by early May, 2014.