



## The role of Holocene environmental catastrophes in human history IGCP 490

### The main structural questions to be answered are

- *Chronology of Catastrophes*
- *Causes and mechanisms of past environmental catastrophes*
- *Impacts on past civilisations and ecosystems*
- *Mechanisms of recovery*

### Practical objectives:

- (1) To review the state-of-the-art in the broad theme of Climatic, Ecological and Health Catastrophes
- (2) To identify research 'targets' in this thematic area that would benefit from interdisciplinary collaboration
- (3) To explore research funding opportunities
- (4) To foster the cross-disciplinary participation of scientists from West Africa as well as from other developing nations within the region

### When

Sunday 4-Sunday 18 Jan. 2004 with the option of doing only one week.

### Scientific programme

*Week 1:* The banc d'Arguin, protection problems, one day/2 days boat trip on the shallow area of the Banc, the beach rock, the remains of the mangrove at Cape Timiris, the Neolithic middens.

*Week 2:* The biodiversity and human occupation in the cordon de Zerga (Palaeozoic esker) (between Atar-Chinguetti), the Holocene lake sediment, rock art, the travertines (active and dead) of Tergit (near Atar) and the recent desertification, the meteoritic impact crater of Aouelloul.

### Scientific committee

- Suzanne Leroy (Geography and Earth Sciences, Brunel University, West London),
- Aziz Ballouche (Geographie, Universite de Caen),
- Mohamed Salem Ould Sabar (Geologie, Universite de Nouakchott),
- Nick Brooks (Saharan Studies Programme, University of East Anglia),
- Iain Stewart (Geography and Earth Sciences, Brunel U. and Department of Geography & Topographic Science, U. of Glasgow)

### Links

IGCP 490: [www.brunel.ac.uk/depts/geo/igcp490/igcp490home.html](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/depts/geo/igcp490/igcp490home.html)

