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