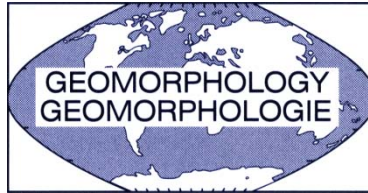


SECOND CIRCULAR



*International Association of Geomorphologists
Association Internationale de Géomorphologues*

IAG/AIG REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2011

**GEOMORPHOLOGY FOR HUMAN ADAPTATION TO
CHANGING TROPICAL ENVIRONMENTS**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA FEBRUARY 18-22, 2011

ORGANIZED BY

EAG - ETHIOPIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS

with the support of

Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia,
Paleoanthropology & Paleoenvironment Program, Addis Ababa University,
Ethiopia

Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Department of Geological Sciences, "Roma Tre" University, Rome, Italy
AIGEO - Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology, Italy

BAG - Belgian Association of Geomorphologists, Belgium

INTRODUCTION

The response to our call for papers by the first circular is very encouraging with more than 60 participants already registered from 20 countries. Prominent key note speakers also honoured us by confirming their participation.

This circular contains detailed information on the sessions and session conveners, key note speakers, field excursions and guides, accommodation and conference venue, as well as other practical information.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Registration and Reception: February 18, 2011

Scientific Sessions: February 19, 21 and 22, 2011

Mid Conference Field Excursion or City Tour: February 20, 2011

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Asfawossen Asrat - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Mohammed Umer - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Francesco Dramis - Department of Geological Sciences, "Roma Tre" University, Rome, Italy

Jan Nyssen - Department of Geography, University of Ghent, Belgium

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Asfawossen Asrat - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Mohammed Umer - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Bekele Abebe - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Valerio Acocella - Department of Geological Sciences, "Roma Tre" University, Rome, Italy

Kassa Amare - Department of Earth Sciences, Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Aklilu Amsalu - Department of Geography, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Asfawossen Asrat - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Woldeamlak Bewket - Department of Geography, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Paolo Billi - Department of Earth Sciences, Università di Ferrara, Italy

Mauro Coltorti - Department of Earth Sciences, University of Siena, Italy

Francesco Dramis - Department of Geological Sciences, "Roma Tre" University, Rome, Italy

Giandomenico Fubelli - Department of Geological Sciences, "Roma Tre" University, Rome, Italy

Tsige Gebru, University of Cologne, Germany

Mitiku Haile - Department of Land Resource Management and Environmental Protection (LARMEP), Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Nigussie Haregeweyn - Department of LARMEP, Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Jan Moeyersons - Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium
 Paola Molin - Department of Geological Sciences, "Roma Tre" University, Rome, Italy
 Jan Nyssen - Department of Geography, University of Ghent, Belgium
 Alberto Pizzi - Department of Earth Sciences, University of Chieti, Italy
 Jean Poesen - Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, K.U.Leuven, Belgium
 Valery J. Terwilliger, Geography Department, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, USA
 Mohammed Umer - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
 Kifle Woldearegay – Department of Applied Geology, Mekelle University, Ethiopia
 Gezahegn Yirgu - Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

CONFERENCE TOPICS AND CONVENERS

Session	Convener 1	Convener 2
1.Land Degradation and Resilience	Miodrag Zlatic (Belgrade, Serbia)	Mitiku Haile (Mekelle, Ethiopia)
2.Geomorphological Mapping	Paolo Paron (FAO, Nairobi, Kenya)	Michael Smith (Kingston, UK)
3.Quaternary Stratigraphy and Paleoclimate	Martin Williams (Adelaide, Australia)	Mohammed Umer (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
4.Coastal Geomorphology	Hervé Regnaud (Rennes, France)	Giuseppe Mastronuzzi (Bari, Italy)
5. Geoheritages and geoarchaeology	Metasebia Demissie (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)	Frances Williams (Adelaide, Australia)
6. Fluvial Geomorphology and Flooding Hazard	Maria J. Machado (CSIC, Madrid, Spain)	Paolo Billi (Ferrara, Italy)
7. Volcanic Geomorphology and Hazard	Valerio Acocella (Roma Tre, Italy)	Gezahegn Yirgu (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
8. Geomorphology of Tropical Mountains	Olav Slaymaker (British Columbia, Canada)	Jan Nyssen (Gent, Belgium)
9. Drylands Geomorphology and Desertification	Jean Poesen (Leuven, Belgium)	Nigussie Haregeweyn (Mekelle, Ethiopia)
10. Morphotectonics, Active Tectonics and Seismic Hazard	Cliff Ollier (Nedlands, Australia)	Mauro Coltorti (Siena, Italy)
11. Landslide Hazard Assessment and Zoning	Jan Moeyersons (Africa Museum, Tervuren, Belgium)	Bekele Abebe (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
12. Environmental Change and Human Impact	Andrew Goudie (Oxford, UK)	Alfredo Pérez-Gonzales (Madrid, Spain)
13. Karst Geomorphology	Zbigniew Zwolinski (Poznan, Poland)	Asfawossen Asrat (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
14. Wetlands Geomorphology	Requested	

15. Urban Geomorphology	Francesco Dramis (Roma Tre, Italy)	
16. Mining Areas Rehabilitation	Annibale Mottana (Roma Tre, Italy)	
17. Planetary Geomorphology	Rosaly M. Lopes (NASA, USA)	
18. Geoecology	Zbigniew Zwolinski (Poznan, Poland)	Asfawossen Asrat (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
19. Tectonic topography	Sierd Cloething (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)	Claudio Faccenna (Roma Tre, Italy)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The following prominent scholars will present key notes:

1. **Andrew Goudie** (Oxford): Environmental Change in Africa - past, present and future
2. **Olav Slaymaker** (British Columbia): The drivers of landscape change in the 21st century
3. **Jean Poesen** (Leuven): Research challenges for soil erosion, soil and water conservation in tropical environments
4. **Martin Williams** (Adelaide): Geomorphic evolution of the Ethiopian tributaries of the Nile: volcanism, tectonism, climatic change, human impact
5. **Miodrag Zlatic** (Belgrade and World Association of Soil and Water Conservation): Stakeholders' participation in land management for sustainability in mountainous regions

FIELD TRIPS

1. **Pre-Conference Field Trip 1 (MER): "Geomorphology of the Main Ethiopian Rift"** (dates: February 15 – 17, 2010; route: Addis Ababa, Butajira, Awasa, Langano, Addis Ababa).

Leaders: Asfawossen Asrat, Mohammed Umer, Paolo Billi.

Excursion Details: Departure from Addis Ababa will be on the 15th of February (morning) and traverse will be along the Addis Ababa-Butajira-Hosania-Durame-Awassa road. Along this traverse we will visit the volcanic and tectonic landforms as the road follows the escarpment zone along the western junction of the main Ethiopian rift from the NW highlands. Moreover, we will visit active land degradation zones as well as manifestations of environmental changes due to natural and human impacts. We will visit the lakes region (lakes Awassa, Langano, Shala and Ziway). The Ethiopian Rift Valley lakes are the northernmost of the African Rift Valley lakes. In central Ethiopia the Great Rift Valley splits the Ethiopian highlands into northwestern and Southeastern halves, and the Ethiopian Rift Valley lakes occupy the floor of the rift valley between the two highlands. These lakes have been one of the reference sites for paleoclimate research of the Late Quaternary in Africa. The shorelines and sections as well as cores from the lakes made the subject of a number of published outputs since the 1970s. We will visit Late Quaternary stratigraphic sections.

In addition, a visit to a number of development projects as well as urbanization around the lakes will give us an insight to the impact of human activity on the lake environment. We will also visit landslide zones at Wonod Guenet, at the Eastern margin of the Main Ethiopian Rift. Back to Addis on 17th February.

2. **Pre-Conference Field Trip 2 (AFAR):** *“Tectonic Landforms and Volcanism in the Southern Afar”* (dates: February 13 – 18, 2011; route: Addis Ababa, Nazret, Dire Dawa, Harar, Semera, Kombolcha, Addis Ababa).

Leaders: Valerio Acocella, Bekele Abebe, Mauro Coltorti, Gezahegn Yirgu.

Excursion Details: The excursion will provide a unique occasion to visit the southern part of the Afar Triangle, where the Main Ethiopian Rift joins with the Gulf of Aden Rift and Red Sea Rift. The landscape of this area is strongly controlled by active tectonics and volcanism. On the excursion route spectacular volcanic features, such as the Debre Zeit volcanic district, the Fantale volcano (last eruption 1810) and the Kone caldera complex will be shown. Subsequently, the tectonic features of the northern margin of the south-eastern Ethiopian plateau, between the Awash Park and the historical town of Harar, will be visited. The last part of the trip will be held in the Tendaho Graben (ground fractures, 1969 Serdo earthquake epicentral area, hot springs) around Semera, the recently built capital of the Afar region.

3. **Post-Conference Field Trip (NEH):** *“Geomorphological hazards, land degradation and resilience in the northern Ethiopian highlands”* (dates: February 23– March 2, 2011; route: Addis Ababa, Dessie, Mekelle, Adigrat, Axum, Addis Ababa by flight).

Leaders: Francesco Dramis, Jan Nyssen, Paolo Billi, Giandomenico Fubelli, Asfawossen Asrat, Bekele Abebe, Mohammed Umer.

Excursion Details: Driving alternatively near the upper edge of the Rift escarpment and in the lowlands, this spectacular excursion presents results of geomorphic research that takes place in northern Ethiopia since more than 15 years. At Karakore the tectonic context and the surface effects of a strong ($M = 6.1$) earthquake that stroke the area in 1961 will be shown. A full day visit to the tectonic basin of Dessie will allow to observe a number of spectacular landslides of different types, including those affecting the Dessie urban area. More to the north, sandbed and boulderbed flashy, ephemeral streams coming from the highlands and ending up with distributary systems on the floor of the Kobo-Alamata basin will be shown. The excursion will follow further to Tigray, a dissected plateau with deeply incised gorges. Steep slopes, high population and livestock densities combined with slow evolution of the agricultural system have lead to important land degradation, mainly sheet, rill or gully erosion and landsliding. Affected sites will be visited and causes and consequences discussed. At the foot of Ferrah Amba, summit of Tigray

(3939 m a.s.l.), the impacts of global warming and direct human activities will be examined. In these highlands, which are one of the regions in the world where very intense soil conservation is carried out, findings regarding the efficiency of these techniques are discussed and encounters with smallholder farmers are foreseen. In situ, we also discuss sediment transport rates by rivers and reservoir sedimentation. Along the road, geomorphic activity will be illustrated through comparison of historical photographs with the current geomorphic features. Relevant topics of the excursion will be the long term geologic-geomorphic evolution of the eastern Tigray Highlands: the early Palaeozoic planation surfaces, Palaeozoic glacials, Mesozoic transgression-regression sequence (including a rock church hewn in sandstone), Tertiary volcanism, as well as the environmental evolution of the area during the Holocene. The excursion will end and culminate in Axum where the geomorphology and geoarchaeology of the town surroundings and the monuments of the Axumite civilisation (ca. 300 BCE – ca. 700 CE) will be presented.

4. **Post-Conference Field Trip Extension to Lake Tana, Lalibela (NEH-LAL):** (March 2-9, 2011 route: Axum, Simien Mts., Gondar, Bahar Dar, Lalibela, Addis Ababa; maximum number of participants 20). It is possible to interrupt the excursion on March 7 flying back to Addis from Bahar Dar.

Excursion Details: This post-conference extension trip will offer to the participants a unique occasion to visit the spectacular environment of the Simien Mts., the historical town of Gondar, Lake Tana, the Blue Nile waterfall and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela. The excursion will be organized by a travel agency.

5. **Post-Conference Field Trip Extension to the Danakil Depression (NEH-EX):** (dates: March 1 - 4, 2011; route: Mekelle, Berhale, Lake Asale, Dallol, Mekelle, Addis Ababa by flight; maximum number of participants 20).

Leaders: Jan Nyssen.

Excursion Details: From the cloud forest on the edge of the escarpment (2500 m a.s.l.), the first day is a continuous 4WD driving down into the Rift Valley on rough roads. On the way down, we meet camel caravans bringing up the salt to the highlands. Frequent stops along the road will allow observing textbook examples of geomorphic features, including flatirons, dykes, natural subsurface dam in a river bed, etc. At around 1000 m a.s.l. desert geomorphology dominates. This is the home of the Afar nomads. The pediment of the escarpment has been built up since the Tertiary. Deep cross-sections will be visited and a clear grain size gradient observed: from large boulders and dreikanter ventifacts at the upper part, to the salt flats in the Danakil Depression, the hottest place on Earth, at 126 m below sea level. The night is spent in the village of M'hamed Ilah, core of the artisanal salt mining industry. Don't expect much comfort here; sleeping is simply in the open air. The

second day starts with a visit to the salt excavations and further to the crater of Dallol, coloured by sulfur, salt, and other minerals. On the drive back, everybody will be happy with a stop at a river to wash off salt and dust. For participants in good health only.

6. **Intensive Course on Landslide Geomorphology and Mapping (LANDMAP):** (dates: February 14-17, 2011; working area: Dessie basin and town; maximum number of participants: 20).

Instructors: Giandomenico Fubelli, Jan Moeyersons.

Course Detail: The intensive course will be focused on the reconnaissance, classification and mapping (by detailed geomorphological field survey and air-photo interpretation) of the numerous landslides of different types and size that affect the Dessie urban area and the tectonic basin where the town is located. The landslide susceptibility of the study area will be assessed by means of a GIS-assisted methodology. A proficiency certificate will be given to the participants.

CONFERENCE AND EXCURSION FEES

Event	By December 10, 2010
Conference registration	240.00 €
Accompanying person	120.00 €
Students (PhD, MSc)	120.00 €
Pre-conference field trip 1 (MER)	240.00 €
Pre-conference field trip 2 (AFAR)	300.00 €
Post-conference field trip (NEH)	850.00 €
Extension to the Danakili Depression	200.00 €
Extension to Simien Mts., Lake Tana, Lalibela	680.00 €*
Intensive Course on landslide mapping	150.00 €

*780€ if there are less than 10 participants. The balance should be paid at the Conference desk.

Conference registration fees will cover costs of reception, coffee/tea breaks and lunch during the scientific sessions, One day Mid Conference excursion or city tour and conference materials. Pre-/post-conference excursion fees will cover costs of transportation, accommodation, meals, and guidebook. Participants are required to **pay registration fees by bank transfer before December 10, 2010 (see address below and the attached payment form)**. After this date, it will be possible to pay the registration fees at the conference registration desk with a 10% surcharge. Refund will be charged by 20% deduction. No refund will be made after December 10, 2010.

Bank Transfer address:

**UNICREDIT Banca di Roma, Agenzia 108,
via Ostiense 105/A,
Roma (IBAN: IT53W0300203252000400014281
Swift CODE: BROMITR1108 by UNICRITMM)**

**in favour of Università degli Studi "Roma Tre", via Ostiense 161, 00154 Roma
specifying: "IAG/AIG Conference 2011- Dipartimento Scienze Geologiche".**

Note: Please send a **SCANNED COPY OF BANK TRANSFER DOCUMENT** to the following address:

Prof. Francesco Dramis
Department of Geological Sciences,
"Roma Tre" University, Rome, Italy
E-mail: dramis@uniroma3.it

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Subject to funding, the Organizers may provide full or partial financial assistance to the participation of African Geomorphologists and/or Research/Postgraduate students on a competitive basis. Applicants for fellowship should fulfill the following: be a citizen of and working in any African Country and have an abstract accepted for oral or poster presentation.

Applications for fellowship letters, together with a brief CV and a supporting letter from the pertinent institution should be sent along with Registration form and Abstract to the Conference Secretariat by **August 31, 2010**, and results of the competition will be communicated to applicants by the end of September 2010.

In addition, the International Association of Geomorphologists will offer up to 7 grants to Young Geomorphologists from African countries. The grants are mainly intended to cover travel costs and the fee of the pre-Conference Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists. The IAG grant holders will be also exempted from paying the Conference registrations fees. A specific "Call for IAG grants" will be soon available on the IAG website (<http://www.geomorph.org>).

REGISTRATION

Registration with reduced payment has been completed on May 1, 2010. Registration with the indicated fees above will be open until August 31, 2010, the deadline for Abstract submission. Please send all details in the attached registration form to the Conference Secretariat (asrata@geol.aau.edu.et or moha_umero@yahoo.com) before **August 31, 2010**.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts will be accepted for oral or poster presentation. Please indicate your preference when submitting. Abstracts are to be submitted by e-mail as an attached file in Word format to the Conference Secretariat (asrata@geol.aau.edu.et or moha_umero@yahoo.com). The deadline

for abstract submission is **August 31, 2010**. Acceptance will be decided by the end of **September 2010**.

Format:

Abstract is limited to one A4-size page, text only without any figures or tables. Top, bottom, left, and right margins 25 mm.

Title: Upper and lower case, left justified, Times font, 14 pt bold.

Contributors' names: Upper and lower case, left justified, first name first, surname last, Times font, 11 pt.

Affiliation: Upper and lower case, left justified, Times font, 10 pt. Numbered superscripts should be used to indicate the affiliation of each contributor. E-mail address can be added in parentheses at the end of the corresponding contributor's affiliation.

Main text: Single-spaced text, Times 10 pt font, no section headings.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 31, 2010	Abstract submission Deadline Registration Deadline
September 30, 2010	Decision on abstracts and fellowship requests communicated to applicants
December 10, 2010	Deadline for payment of fees by bank transfer Deadline for money refund

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence concerning **REGISTRATION, ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND APPLICATION FOR SPONSORSHIP** should be addressed to:

Asfawossen Asrat and Mohammed Umer

Department of Earth Sciences Addis Ababa University

P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: 251-911-407553; 251-911-405950

E-mail: asrata@geol.aau.edu.et ; moha_umer@yahoo.com

All Correspondence concerning **PAYMENTS FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND EXCURSION** should be addressed to:

Prof. Francesco Dramis

Department of Geological Sciences,

“Roma Tre” University, Rome, Italy

E-mail: dramis@uniroma3.it

CONFERENCE VENUE

GHION HOTEL, Addis Ababa

Visit the hotel web site for details at <http://www.ghionhotel.com.et>

ACCOMMODATION

It is suggested to book your room at the **Ghion Hotel** where the conference will be held. Many other hotels suitable for all sorts of budgets are located at walking distance from the venue. A list of the major hotels along with pertinent information is indicated in the following address: <http://www.ethiopiahotelguide.com/index.php> Participants are expected to make reservations on their own.

VISAS

Visas are required for all visitors to Ethiopia (except nationals of Kenya) and can be obtained from Ethiopian diplomatic missions abroad. According to new regulations, citizens from 33 countries, including North American and most European countries, can obtain a *Tourist Visa* at the Addis Ababa Bole airport. Participants are strongly advised to check on visa requirements with their nearest Ethiopian Embassy or Consulate. For a scientific visiting/workshop visa application, you need an official invitation letter. If you wish to apply for this visa, please send an e-mail to the Conference Secretariat (asrata@geol.aau.edu.et or moha_umero@yahoo.com) with your personal details, including: full names (as in passport), gender, birthday (month/day/year), nationality, passport number, professional position, institute/university/company name, detailed mailing address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. The official invitation letter will be sent to you by **September 30, 2010**. More information concerning Ethiopian visa application can be found at: http://www.mfa.gov.et/Consular_Affair_Diplomatic/Consular_Affair.php

TRAVEL SERVICE

Flights to/from Addis Ababa: *Ethiopian Airlines* serves the following destinations: Abidjan, Accra, Bamako, Bangkok, Beijing, Beirut, Brazzaville, Brussels, Bujumbura, Cairo, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Delhi, Djibouti, Dubai, Entebbe, Frankfurt, Harare, Hargeisa, Hong Kong, Jeddah, Johannesburg, Kharthoum, Kigali, Kilimanjaro, Kinshasa, Lagos, Lilongwe, Libreville, Lome, London, Luanda, Lumumbashi, Lusaka, Malabo, Mombassa, Mumbai, Nairobi, N'Djamena, Paris, Rome, Ryad, Sanaa, Stockholm, Tel Aviv, Washington, Zanzibar. Others: *Lufthansa*: Frankfurt; *British Airways*: London; *KLM*: Amsterdam; *Turkish Airline*; *Emirates*; *Egypt Air*.