



The African Quaternary: environments, ecology and humans

Conference and workshops 30 January - 7 February 2015

Third Announcement

For some time now we have realised that there is a large gap between the four-yearly INQUA International Congresses and the local conferences of INQUA Members. We therefore have great pleasure in announcing the first continent-wide conference on the African Quaternary (AfQUA). We invite you to share your ideas and concerns, learn new things and develop projects from local to continental scales, and meet colleagues from across Africa and the world. The conference will include invited plenary talks on topics of particular importance, sessions with regular talks and poster sessions.

Further, the AfQUA meetings recognise and specifically address the difficulties in communication when working in Africa. While these impediments can make things difficult for established researchers, they are even more serious for young scientists who are trying to learn their discipline and develop their careers. To help lessen these problems, we plan a series of training workshops to follow the conference. These will cover a range of topics, some practical and some academic, but all addressing skills that Quaternary scientists need to advance and express their science.

We hope that AfQUA meetings will become a regular feature of the Quaternary calendar and look forward to your participation.

Depuis un certain temps déjà, nous avons réalisé qu'il se passait trop de temps entre les différents congrès internationaux quadriennaux de l'INQUA et les conférences locales de ses membres. Par conséquent, nous avons le grand plaisir d'annoncer la première conférence à l'échelle continentale sur le Quaternaire africain (AfQUA). Nous vous invitons à partager vos idées et préoccupations, à apprendre de nouvelles choses et à développer des projets à l'échelle locale ou continentale, mais aussi à rencontrer des collègues de toute Afrique et du reste du monde. La conférence inclura des séances plénières sur des sujets de première importance, des séances avec des présentations et des séances de posters.

De plus, les réunions AfQUA reconnaissent et traitent spécifiquement les difficultés liées aux problèmes de communication lorsqu'on travaille en Afrique. Tandis que ces obstacles peuvent rendre les choses compliquées pour les chercheurs établis, ils sont encore plus sérieux pour les jeunes scientifiques essayant d'apprendre leur discipline et de développer leur carrière. Afin de faire diminuer ces problèmes, nous prévoyons d'organiser une série d'ateliers de formation après la conférence. Ceux-ci couvriront un vaste gamme de sujets, quelques uns pratiques et d'autres académiques, mais tous seront consacrés à des compétences utiles aux scientifiques du Quaternaire afin qu'ils puissent faire avancer et exprimer leur science.

Nous espérons que ces réunions AfQUA prendront dates dans le calendrier Quaternaire et nous nous réjouissons par avance de votre participation.

Venue

[Baxter Theatre Centre](#), Lower Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape Town, South Africa

Programme

30th January – 4th February 2015: Conference sessions
1st February 2015: Conference field excursions
5th – 7th/8th February 2015: Workshops

Important dates

15th September 2014 – abstract submission closes
15th September 2014 – deadline for financial support
30th September 2014 – confirmation of abstract acceptance
30th September 2014 – early bird payment closes
1st November 2014 – final deadline for all registrations and fee payments

Registration

Registration is open! Click here to register: <http://afqua2015.com/registration-2/>

Abstract submission

Abstract submission is open! Click here to submit your abstract/s:
<http://afqua2015.com/abstracts/>

Conference format

Oral and poster presentations will be primarily organised into general sessions according to topic and/or region, and *it is not necessary for presenters to conform their abstracts to a particular session*.

In addition, there will also be a series of Focus Sessions, which will highlight particular research themes. Follow this link to view the Focus Sessions: <http://afqua2015.com/format/>

Publication opportunities

Contributing authors have the option to submit papers for publication as proceedings in one of two peer-reviewed publications:

Palaeoecology of Africa volume 34
Quaternary International special AfQUA 2015 volume

More details can be found here: <http://afqua2015.com/publication-opportunities/>

Workshops

Six workshops have been finalised, these include:

1. Research skills
2. Quantum GIS
3. Analysing palaeoecological data in R
4. Spatial analysis and data-model comparisons
5. Stable isotopes for non-experts
6. Spectral analysis

More details about the workshops and how to sign up for them are available on the conference website <http://afqua2015.com/>

Field excursions

Two field trips are being planned, they are:

1. Cape Peninsula: Join us on a drive to the Cape of Good Hope, to see the impressive geology and landscapes of the Cape Peninsula, as well as the Fynbos of the Cape Floral Region. This trip will also allow an afternoon of leisure at Cape Point.
2. West Coast: The region northwest of Cape Town, the 'West Coast' boasts a rich archaeological record and a unique coastline. This excursion will include visits to archaeological and fossil sites, as well as geological localities of interest.

Further details will be provided soon – check conference website <http://afqua2015.com/>

Funding

It is strongly encouraged that individuals in need of financial assistance to attend this conference apply for funding independently. Potential funding sources will be showcased on the conference's [website](#) as well as [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, so please send us any information you may have regarding this aspect.

AfQUA will have the means to provide limited funding to support African students, to apply please email us (afqua2015@gmail.com) with the following:

1. A brief statement of your scientific background and motivation for attending AfQUA 2015 (max 1 page)
2. Your curriculum vitae
3. Letter of support from your institution/department head/supervisor

Conditions for funding:

- You must present at the conference (poster or oral presentation).
- Your abstract must be accepted by the organizing committee.
- You are prepared to submit your work as paper to one of the sponsor conference proceedings.

Deadline for funding applications is: 15th September 2014

Accommodation

[Download](#) the contact details of various establishments that offer accommodation in the vicinity of the University of Cape Town



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www.facebook.com/afqua2015



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