

Como Meeting, Villa Olmo, Sept. 6 – 10, 2005
“DARK NATURE: RAPID NATURAL CHANGE AND HUMAN RESPONSE”

PROGRAM

Tuesday Sept. 6, 2005, morning

9:00 Registration open – Posters setup

Tuesday Sept. 6, 2005, afternoon

Opening Session

Chairman: Glen MacDonald

- 14:00 – 15:00 **Opening Ceremony**
- 15:00 – 15:15 **Suzanne Leroy:** *“Dark Nature Project: Presentation of the Project, State of the Art, Major Results from the previous Project Meetings”*
- 15:15 – 15:30 **Sylvi Haldorsen:** *“Mega-floods in Africa: Report from the Dark Nature Workshop in Mozambique, November 2004”*
- 15:30 – 16:00 Invited Lecture: **John Clague** *“Preparing for catastrophes - insights provided by the tsunami of December 26, 2004”*
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30 – 17:00 Invited Lecture: **Steve Wells** *“Rapid Changes in Landscape Dynamics: Separating Natural from Human-Induced Causes in Order to Develop Mitigation Strategies for Landscape Degradation”*
- 17:00 – 17:30 Invited Lecture: **Nils-Axel Mörner** *“Natural Disasters in the Past and in our Super-Vulnerable Present-to-Future”*
- 17:30 – 19:00 Welcome Cocktail

Wednesday Sept. 7, morning

Session 1: Rapid Climatic Change, Palaeoenvironmental Studies and Cultural Response A

Chairman: Steve Wells

- 8:45 – 9:00 **Valerio Comerchi** “*The subsidence of Como: human impact or natural tendency?*”
- 9:00 – 9:30 Invited Lecture: **Eduardo Piovano** “*Recurring flooding events during the Holocene in the South American extratropics - Laguna Mar Chiquita, Argentina*”
- 9:30 – 10:00 Invited Lecture: **Franco Ortolani** “*Natural, Rapid and Cyclical Climatic-Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Area and Human Responses During the Last 3000 Years*”
- 10: 00 – 10:15 **Verushka Valsecchi** “*Climate and land-use phases around the Alps - a case study from Lago Lucone (northern Italy)*”
- 10:15 – 10:30 **Sabina Rossi** “*Impact of Holocene explosive activity of Etna Volcano (Italy) estimated by pollen analysis of marine sediments*”
- 10: 30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 11:30 Invited Lecture: **Glen MacDonald** “*Prolonged Severe Drought in Western North America Prognosis and Lessons from the Past*”
- 11:30 – 12:00 Invited Lecture: **Savino di Lernia** “*Holocene Rapid Climate Changes and Social Responses in Marginal Environments: Cross-disciplinary Evidence from the Acacus Mts. (Libyan Sahara)*”

Poster session

Sabrina Capelletti “*Study of recent sediments in the city of Como (northern Italy): multidisciplinary analysis and implication for the environmental evolution of the area*”

Andrea Zerboni : “*The drying of the Garat Ouda lake (SW Fezzan, Central Sahara): a dramatic effect of the Middle Holocene climatic change on landscape and human occupation*”

12:00 – 14:00 Buffet Lunch

Wednesday Sept. 7, afternoon

Session 2: Rapid Climatic Change, Palaeoenvironmental Studies and Cultural Response B

Chairman: Sylvi Haldorsen

- 14:00 – 14:30 Invited Lecture: **Mauro Cremaschi** “*Over-exploitation of resources and a possible climatic co-factor in the collapse of the Terramare culture (Middle and Late Bronze age - Northern Italy)*”
- 14:30 – 15:00 Invited Lecture: **Eutizio Vittori** “*Natural calamities in the Latin authors of Roman age and the CLEMENS Project*”
- 15:00 – 15:15 **Laura Sadori** “*Pollen and charcoal evidence for human responses to climate change in Mediterranean environments*”
- 15:15 – 15:30 **Lanfredo Castelletti** “*Charcoal studies as means to record wood fire catastrophes and abrupt changes in vegetation: a balance between nature and human activity*”
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 16:30 Invited Lecture: **John Ridgway** “*Sea level rise, coastal processes and human response*”
- 16:30 – 16:45 **Anselmo Pizzala** “*Lake Como (Lario): non-natural trophic level trend due to pollution*”
- 17:00 – 19:30 **INQUA Subcommittee on Paleoseismicity / INQUA Scale Project Business Meeting**

Thursday sept. 8, morning

Session 3: Environmental Hazards and Societal Vulnerability

Chairman: John Clague

- 8:45 – 9:00 **Gianluca Groppelli** “*Using GIS analyses - in order to assess the hazards associated with lava flow activity*”
- 9:00 – 9:15 **Nicoletta Morello** “*The 1669 Mt. Etna eruption: scientific and social reactions*”
- 9:15 – 9:30 **Crescenzo Violante** “*Flood-dominated fan delta system induced by the A.D. 79 Somma-Vesuvius eruption at Amalfi Coast, Southern Italy*”

- 9:30 – 10:00 Invited Lecture: **Fekri Hassan** “*The Dark Side of the Nile: catastrophic Nile floods and human responses in ancient and historical times in Egypt*”
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Manfred Thüring** “*Assessment of heavy rainfall-induced natural hazards in Alpine environments the experience of the Interreg III-B project CatchRisk*”
- 10:15 – 10:30 **Daniela Fanetti** “*The tsunami risk in Lake Como (Italy)*”
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 11:30 Invited Lecture: **Salomon Kroonenberg** “*Rapid Caspian Sea level change, and how to prepare for Nature’s trend breaks*”
- 11:30 – 11:45 **Gianluca Norini** “*Recent left-oblique slip faulting in the Toluca City area (Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt). Seismic and volcanic hazard implications*”
- 11: 45 – 12:00 **Alfonsa Milia** “*Debris avalanches and cryptodomes offshore Vesuvius (Italy): consequences on the natural environment*”
- 12:00 – 14.00 Buffet Lunch

Poster session

Achimo Mussa: “*The Impact of Mega-floods in Mozambique*”

Andrea Uttini: “*Geotechnical characterization and modeling, via particle method, of the Sciara del Fuoco volcanic debris, Stromboli island, Italy*”

Domenico Berti: “*Surface rupturing at Mt. Etna volcano: consequences on environment and human activities*”

Franco Ortolani: “*Tsunami and rapid catastrophic environmental change. The hazard along the Italian coastal area*”

Luca Ferreli: “*Capable faults of the eastern Etna region and reduction of their environmental hazard: an application of the ITHACA database*”

Thursday sept. 8, afternoon

Session 4: Earthquake Ground Effects, Seismic Hazard, and the INQUA Scale Project

Chairman: Nils–Axel Mörner

- 14:00 – 14:30 Invited Lecture: **Leonello Serva** “*Dark nature: examples from Italy*”
- 14:30 – 15:00 **Luca Guerrieri** “*The database of coseismic environmental effects as a tool for earthquake intensity assessment within the INQUA EEE scale project*”
- 15:00 – 15:15 **Elisa Kagan**, “*Damaged cave deposits record 200,000 years of paleoseismicity: Dead Sea transform region*”
- 15:15 – 15:30 **Eliana Esposito** “*INQUA intensity Scale evaluation for the 1980 Southern Italy ‘historical’ earthquake*”
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 16:30 **Alessandro M. Michetti** “*Dark Nature and Paleoseismology: understanding the seismic landscape of the Southern Alps, Italy*”
- 16: 30 – 16:45 Invited Lecture: **Ruben Tatevossian** “*Study of the Verny, 1887, Earthquake in Central Asia: Using Environmental Effects to Scale the Intensity*”
- 16: 45 – 17: 00 **George Papathanasiou** “*Using the INQUA scale for the assessment of intensity: case study of 14/08/2003 Lefkada earthquake, Greece*”
- 17:00 – 17:15 **Anna Fokaefs** “*Testing the new INQUA intensity scale in Greek earthquakes*”
- 17:15 – 17:30 **Francesca Giardina** “*Seismic hazard assessment for a high populated and industrialized area: the case of the Insubria region (Lombardian Southern Alps, Italy)*”

Poster session

Kervin Chunga “*The 12 Dec, 1953, Earthquake, Ms 7.3, Ecuador – Peru border region: a case study for applying the new INQUA Intensity Scale*”

Yolanda Zamudio Diaz “*Applying the INQUA Scale to some historical and recent Peruvian earthquakes*”

Giancanio Sileo “*Reverse faulting between the “Gonfolite Lombarda” and Pliocene marine clays at Monte Morello (Novazzano, Ticino): remarks on the chronology of*

compressional tectonics in the Southern Alps, and implications for seismic hazard assessment in the Insubria Region”

Franz Livio “*Geological evidence of Quaternary tectonic activity as a tool for the evaluation of the seismic potential of a region: some preliminary results on Castenedolo, Ciliverghe and Capriano Folds (BS) – (Northern Po Plain, Italy)*”

Kervin Chunga “*Seismic Hazard Assessment for Guayaquil City (Ecuador): Insights from Quaternary Geological Data*”

Social Dinner

Friday sept. 9, morning

Session 5: Sustainability, Land Use, and Rapid Environmental Change

Chairman: John Ridgway

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| 8:45 – 9:00 | Thomas Heyd “ <i>Rapid Natural Change, Human Response, and the Role of Culture</i> “ |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Invited Lecture: Ezio Vaccari “ <i>Natural catastrophic events, historical records and the development of scientific knowledge</i> ” |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Federico Aligi Pasquaré “ <i>Monitoring media coverage of natural hazards in Italy</i> “ |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Project Leader: Suzanne Leroy “ <i>Rapid environmental changes and civilisation collapse: can we learn from them?</i> ” |
| 10.30 –11.00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Invited Lecture: Andrea Piccin “ <i>The role of knowledge in the territorial governance</i> ” |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Invited Lecture: David Ludlow “ <i>Sustainability Policy and Rapid Natural Change</i> “ |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Buffet Lunch |

Friday sept. 9, afternoon

Chairman: Leonello Serva

14:00 – 15:30 **Plenary Debate - Environmental sustainability has a meaning after the Dark Nature Project?**

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:00 **Plenary Debate**

18:00 **Closing Ceremony**

Saturday sept. 10, full day

8:00 – 20:00 **Field Trip to the Como Lake and Val Chiavenna/Piuro**