



The Global Paleofire Working Group 2 at AFQUA

Nairobi, Kenya, July 14th-22nd 2018

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to announce that the Global Paleofire Working Group by PAGES (GPWG₂) will be organizing a **session** and a **3-day workshop** respectively during and after the AFQUA conference next summer at Nairobi, Kenya.

Session

Session FS05: *Africa on Fire: state-of-the-art and perspectives about fire history, fire ecology and fire-vegetation-climate interactions across tropical biomes*

Conveners: Julie Aleman & Boris Vanni re

If you are interested in contributing a talk or a poster to *this session*, please submit an abstract before the **30th of April, 2018**. More information is available at <https://afquacongress.wixsite.com/afqua2018/abstract-submission>. If you need financial support to attend the conference, the limit for the application is **March 31st, 2018**.

Workshop

Title: *African Fire History and Ecology: Building Understanding and Capacity through Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange*

Number of places available: 15-20 persons maximum

Date and location: **July 20-22th 2018 after the AFQUA conference, at the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.**

Early career scientists and African researchers who use or would like to develop paleofire analyses in their research are especially encouraged to apply.

Organizers/Speakers: Julie Aleman, Colin Courtney-Mustaphi, Daniele Colombaroli, Olivier Blarquez & Boris Vanni re.

Workshop program

Overview

This workshop aims to address major issues about paleofire research in Africa. Two major challenges are emerging from recent and ongoing GPWG₂ work: 1) local, regional, continental, and global fire history must be connected to and understood in relation to modern fire data and activities, and 2) understanding the dominant controls of fire (e.g. climate, vegetation and humans) during the late Quaternary in each region is highly dependent on collaborative, interdisciplinary research.

Africa poses a particularly critical gap in our knowledge of fire history at this time. With this workshop, we aim at building a strong network of researchers focused on fire at different temporal and spatial scales (paleoecologists, archaeologists, historians, etc...) and identify laboratories that can act as hubs to disseminate methodologies, materials and training to other facilities. The workshop will have a significant capacity-building component and it is hoped that it will inspire new work on paleofire across the continent.

Objectives

- 1) Develop the use of charcoal-based paleofire analyses in various sites in Africa and build a network of African scientists and Institutes to widespread the systematic analysis of charcoal during sediment cores analysis.
- 2) Assess available data and identify geographical and methodological gaps.
- 3) Promote the development of new projects and collaborations.

Tentative schedule

Day 1: Dedicated to the technical aspects of charcoal analysis, from the selection of a coring sites to charcoal particles extraction and counting.

Day 2: Statistical analyses, discussion about available data, and identification of geographical and methodological gaps (using the Global Charcoal Database).

Day 3: Drafting of new projects and development of collaborations.

How to apply

The deadline to apply is **May 15th, 2018**. Please send an email to [*paleofire@gmail.com*](mailto:paleofire@gmail.com) with a short letter describing your interest in the workshop, how you would like to contribute and what you would like to learn. Please also briefly describe your background and current research. Limited financial support will be available, so if you need it please state it in your application.