



## SECOND CIRCULAR

IGCP 610 “From the Caspian to Mediterranean: Environmental Change and Human Response during the Quaternary”

<http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP>

Institute of Earth Sciences of the Georgia Ilia State University  
12-19 October 2013

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<p>Organizers of the First Plenary Conference and Field Trip: Institute of Earth Sciences of the Ilia State University, Georgia Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada</p>		
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**AIMS AND SCOPE**

This Project will investigate the influence of environmental change on the development of humankind for the entire Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor [“CORRIDOR”] that encompasses the Eurasian intercontinental basins of the Caspian, Black, Marmara, Aegean, and Eastern Mediterranean seas with their connecting straits and coasts (Fig. 1). During the Quaternary, these basins were repeatedly connected and isolated from each other. This predetermined their environmental conditions

and hydrologic regimes and imposed specific impacts on diverse biological populations, including humans inhabiting the coastal domains.

The Project's goal is to provide cross-disciplinary and cross-regional correlation of geological, archaeological, environmental, and anthropological records in order to (a) explore interrelationships between environmental change and human adaptation during the Quaternary, (b) create a networking and capacity-building structure to develop new interdisciplinary research initiatives, and (c) provide guidance to heritage professionals, policy makers, and the wider public on the relevance of studying the "CORRIDOR" for a deeper understanding of Eurasian history, environmental changes and their relevance, and likely future impact on humans.

This Project succeeds IGCP 521 "Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor during the last 30 ky: sea level change and human adaptation" (2005-2010) that collected, integrated, and analyzed much scientific data and established a strong international team of multidisciplinary scientists from 32 countries.

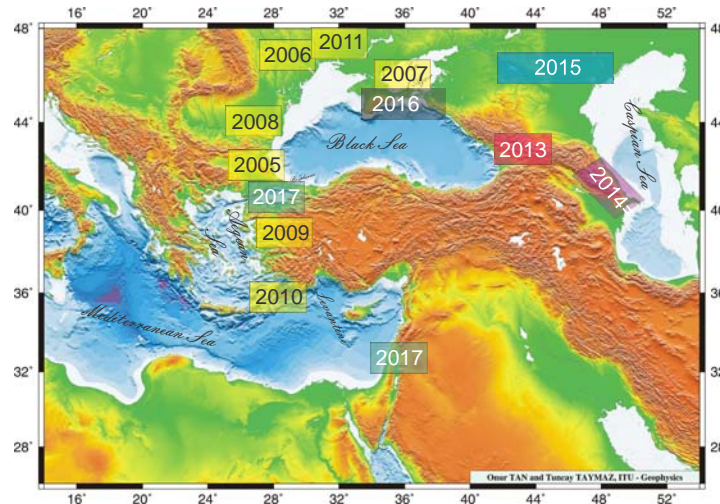


Figure 1. The Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean "CORRIDOR": in yellow are the locations of IGCP 521-INQUA 501 meeting and field trip sites (2005-2011); in other colors are sites to be studied by the present IGCP 601 Project: 2013 – Tbilisi, Georgia; 2014 – Baku, Azerbaijan, and Derbent, Dagestan (Russia); 2015 – Astrakhan' (Volga Delta) and the Manych Valley, Russia; 2016 – Sevastopol (Crimea), Ukraine, and the Taman Peninsula, Russia; 2017 – Haifa, Israel, and Istanbul, Turkey.

The First Plenary Meeting and Field Trip will focus on the Eopleistocene geological sequence of Tsermaghala Mountain that represents a stratotype of the Gurian Chauda; it possesses a thickness exceeding 1000 m deposited prior to the Matuyama-Brunhes Reversal (i.e., 780 ka BP) as well as archaeological sites of Lower to Upper Paleolithic age that include Dmanisi, Mashavera Gorge, Tetrtskaro, Tsalka-Bedeni Plateau, Faravani Lake, Akhalkalaki, Diliska, Chiatura, Bondi Cave, Undo Cave, Djruchula Gorge, as well as the Neolithic site Samele Cave and Medieval-Roman site Vardzia Cave.

The meeting will cover seven days. Two days (13-14 October) will be spent in plenary sessions, and four days (15-18 October) will be dedicated to the field trips.

### WELCOME TO THE FIRST PLENARY CONFERENCE AND FIELD TRIP

*On behalf of the Organizing and Executive Committees as well as the Institute of Earth Sciences of the Iliia State University, Georgia, and Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada, we are delighted to welcome you to the IGCP 610 First Plenary Conference and Field Trip being held on 12-19 October 2013 in Georgia.*

*This conference is the first in a series of IGCP 610 Plenary Conferences and Field Trips. It is expected that IGCP 610 conferences will bring together multidisciplinary scientists from all over the world and in the process enhance West-East scientific dialogue by providing a supportive background for collaboration regarding the correlation and integration of discoveries on the influence of climatically/tectonically induced sea-level changes and coastline migration on humanity. This is an*

area of strategic importance not only for all coastal countries but also for at least 17 other countries sharing a drainage basin that is one-third the size of the European continent.

The First Plenary Conference and Field Trip has been organized and sponsored by the Ilia State University, Georgia, and Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada, with very moderate financial contributions from IGCP.

We are happy to welcome to Georgia distinguished specialists and students in the Humanities, Earth, and Life Sciences from countries around the world.

We wish you a very pleasant stay in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Organizing and Executive Committees of IGCP 610 First Plenary Meeting and Field

## VENUE

The conference will be held under the auspices of the Institute of Earth Sciences of the Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia ([www.iliauni.edu.ge](http://www.iliauni.edu.ge)) and will be held at the Ilia State University.

## SCHEDULE

### 12 October 2013

12 October  
17.00-19.00      **Registration.**  
Ilia State University, Cholokashvili Av. 3/5, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995322231026; +995322231026 FREE; +995322230517;  
+995322230517 FREE; Fax: +995322231026; Email:  
uni@iliauni.edu.ge.

18.00      **Ice-Breaking**  
Ilia State University, Cholokashvili Av. 3/5, Tbilisi, Georgia

### 13 October 2013

8.30-18.00      **Registration.**  
Ilia State University, Cholokashvili Av. 3/5, Tbilisi, Georgia.  
9.00-18.00      **Technical Sessions.**  
Ilia State University, Cholokashvili Av. 3/5, Tbilisi, Georgia  
18.00      **Sightseeing Tour and Other Cultural Events** (to be announced).

### 14 October 2013

9.00-18.00      **Technical Sessions.**  
Ilia State University, Cholokashvili Av. 3/5, Tbilisi, Georgia  
20.00      **Conference Dinner.** Restaurant “Mravaljamieri”, Martsckhena  
Sanapiro 19, Tbilisi, Georgia.

### 15 October 2013

## FIELD TRIP 1

9.00-18.00 Dmanisi earliest hominids archaeological site.  
Depart from Tbilisi and Mashavera River Late Pliocene basaltic volcanic flow.  
return to Tbilisi to the  
same hotel as you  
booked.

16 October 2013

**FIELD TRIP 2**

8.00-18.00 Mtskheta - one of the oldest cities in the world.  
Depart from Tbilisi and Chiatura Paleolithic sites.  
overnight in Kutaisi Sataplia cave and Dinosaurs footprints.  
(Tskaltubo Resort,  
ARGO Hotel)

17 October 2013

**FIELD TRIP 3**

8.00-18.00 Paliastomi Lake and Tsvermagala Chaudian Black Sea Terrace.  
Depart from Kutaisi Shekvetili and Batumi Black Sea coastal strip.  
and return to Kutaisi,  
(overnight in Tskaltubo  
Resort, ARGO Hotel)

18 October 2013

**FIELD TRIP 4**

8.00-18.00 Dzirula pre-Mesozoik Massif.  
Depart from Kutaisi Borjomi resort and mineral water springs.  
(Tskaltubo Resort, Vardzia Cave Town and andesine volcanic flow.  
ARGO Hotel) and Quaternary Abul-Samsari Volcanic Ridge  
overnight in Tbilisi.

19 October 2013

**DEPARTURE FROM TBILISI TO RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

The TECHNICAL SESSIONS will be organized as follows.

**13 October**

**PANEL 1: STRATIGRAPHY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL RECONSTRUCTIONS**

*Moderators: Nikolay PANIN (Romania) and Andrei CHEPALYGA (Russia)*

**14 October**

## PANEL 2: RECENT ECOSYSTEMS

Moderators: Nelly SERGEEVA (Ukraine) and Valentina YANKO-HOMBACH (Ukraine, Canada)

## PANEL 3: ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, AND ETHNOLOGY

Moderators: Nikoloz TUSHABRAMISHVILI (Georgia) and Olena SMYNTYNA (Ukraine)

## PANEL 4: MODELLING

Moderators: Nikolay ESIN (RUSSIA) and Alexander KISLOV (RUSSIA)

## POSTER SESSION

### ACCOMMODATION

Participants must arrange their accommodations in Tbilisi by themselves. The cost is not covered by the conference registration fee. Accommodations during Field Trip 2 and 3 will be arranged in Tskaltubo Resort and ARGO Hotel (<http://hotelargo.ge/resort-tskaltubo/?lang=en>) by the organizers, and this cost of 40 Euro per night (including breakfast and dinner) per person must also be paid by participants.

### REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee (Please refer to the "Registration Form")

	Registration before August 31, 2013	Registration after August 31, 2013
	Euro	Euro
Participant	300	350
Accompanying person	250	300
Student*	200	250

\*Student identification is required.

The registration fee covers **Ice-Breaking Party, conference kit, refreshments during coffee breaks, lunches during field trips, museum entrance fees, and bus transportation during the field trip. It does not cover hotel accommodation in Tbilisi, Kutaisi (Tskaltubo Resort), Conference Dinner, and dinners during the field trips.**

### REFUND POLICY

Fifty percent refund before July 31, 2013. No refund is possible after July 31, 2013.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

IGCP 610 has very limited funds available ONLY to young stage researchers from developing countries. Preference in funding allocations will be given to students who plan to present a high quality paper accepted by the Scientific Committee. An application for support may be e-mailed to the Organizing Committee requesting in your own words a funding amount with justification.

### CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The official conference language is English.

### ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATION

Each speaker will have 15 minutes for presentation including questions. Plenary speakers will have 30 minutes. Poster format is 100x80 cm. Projection Equipment: Screens, LCD (PowerPoint presentation) projectors, and overhead projectors are available.

## PUBLICATION

Accepted contributions will be published in the Proceedings of the First IGCP 610 Conference. The full papers will be published as the IGCP 610 First Special Volume in the journal *Quaternary International* and other journals (to be announced later). For preparation of the manuscript, refer to the *QI* journal's Instructions for Contributors.

## VISA

Visitors from other countries must carry a valid passport and, in certain cases, visas to be able to enter Georgia. For more information on visas and other required travel documents, please contact the Georgian Embassy or Consulate in your area before your departure. Each attendee is responsible for obtaining his/her visa to enter Georgia.

## CLIMATE

In Georgia, the middle of October is a good time for field trips. Daily temperature is about 20-25° C, and at night, it is about 15-20° C.

## TRAVEL

Tbilisi is easily accessible by direct, regular or charter flights from all main airports of Europe and Asia. The International Airport is located a few kilometers east of the capital of Georgia (Tbilisi). Regular buses and taxis connect the airport with the city. The organizers will do their best to meet participants at the Airport. Please send your flight details, the date and time of your arrival, to the Executive Secretary Tinatin Ghviniashvili: [tinatin.ghviniashvili.1@iliauni.edu.ge](mailto:tinatin.ghviniashvili.1@iliauni.edu.ge).

## DEADLINES

<b>31 May 2013</b>	First Circular on IGCP 610 website ( <a href="http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/">http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/</a> )
<b>15 May 2013</b>	Abstract submission and registration opens
<b>15 August 2013</b>	Abstract submission closes
<b>5 September 2013</b>	Notification of abstract acceptance
<b>31 August 2013</b>	Deadline for early registration
<b>15 May 2013</b>	Submission of application for financial support opens
<b>31 July 2013</b>	Submission of application for financial support closes
<b>6 October 2013</b>	Second Circular and the Conference Programme on IGCP 610 website ( <a href="http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/">http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610</a> )
<b>31 December 2013</b>	Submission of full paper to IGCP 610 Special Volume of <i>Quaternary International</i> closes.