

IGCP 396 'Continental shelves in the Quaternary'

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Continental shelves provide a direct geological record of Quaternary sea-level changes but have not played a major role in land-sea correlation. This is attributed mainly to the lack of a major international initiative like the Ocean Drilling Programme on shelves. The main aim of IGCP 396 is to study and interpret the Quaternary sequences on shelves to permit global correlation of sea-level and climatic changes while at the same time identify beneficial uses for humankind. Major topics studied include: (1) Drilling methods; (2) Sea-level and climatic changes; (3) Comparison of dating methods; (4) Marine flora and fauna including corals; (5) Terrestrial flora and fauna including migration routes; (6) Soil development during low sea-level stands; (7) Continental shelf hydrology; (8) Correlation with the deep-sea record; (9) Correlation with the continental record; (10) Engineering properties of shelf sediments; (11) Contribution of shelves to the global carbon cycle, and, (12) Living and non-living resources and their management.

The seven working groups are: (1) Dating - Leader Allan Chivas; (2) Sequence stratigraphy - Leader Francesco Chiocci; (3) Siliciclastics - Leader Yoshiki Saito; (4) Carbonates - Leader Peter Davies; (5) Palaeo-oceanography - Leader Bill Austin; (6) Marine processes and marine geotechnics - Leader Wyss Yim, and, (7) Living and non-living resources - Leader Heiner Josenhans.

The poster will highlight activities and selected results of the project.