

The Relative Importance of Geological, Climatic and Human Forces on the Environment in Ethiopia During the Holocene

Mohammed M.U. Department of Geology and Geophysics, Addis Ababa University, P.O.Box 3434, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Fax 251-1-552350 E-mail: mohammed_umer@hotmail.com

The environment within the Ethiopian region has been sensitive to different natural and anthropogenic factors at various time scales and during different times of the Quaternary. Towards the Holocene (last 10 000 yrs) the effects of tectonics and volcanism have reduced their intensities and have been localised to marginal zones in the Main Ethiopian Rift-Valley.(MER).

However climate change and variability at different time scales has been affecting the region within and outside the rift valley and continues to play a major role in limiting the availability of resources. During this century accelerated human impact is superimposed to a declining trend in rainfall having high inter-annual and inter-decadal variabilities.

Key words : Ethiopia, Main Ethiopian Rift, Environment, Climate,

Volcanism, Tectonics, Human Impact