



Fluvial sediments in eastern Transcaucasia as palaeoenvironmental archives

Hans von Suchodoletz (1), Dominik Faust (1), Tengiz Urushadze (2), Besik Kalandadze (2), Peter Kühn (3), Ludwig Zöller (4), Markus Fuchs (4), Silvan Hoth (5,6), Nina Kukowski (5), and Eliso Narimanidze-King (7)

(1) University of Technology Dresden/Germany, Institute of Geography, (2) Ivane Javakhishvili State University, Tbilisi/Georgia, Institute of Exact and Natural Sciences, (3) University of Tübingen/Germany, Institute of Geography, (4) University of Bayreuth/Germany, Institute of Geography, (5) Geoforschungszentrum Potsdam/Germany, section 3.1., (6) StatoilHydro ASA, Stavanger/Norway, (7) University of Gießen/Germany, Institute of Geography

Eastern Transcaucasia (the eastern part of the Republic of Georgia) is an intramontane basin situated between the Greater Caucasus in the north and the Lower Caucasus in the south. Its climate is continental, separated from the Mediterranean climate by a low mountain range. Due to its proximity to the “Fertile Crescent”, Neolithic activity started quite early here, beginning at the latest from 7.5 ka. Fluvial sediments found in the first terraces along several larger and smaller rivers are naturally outcropped up to 12 metres, showing the alternation of fine and coarse fluvial material with intercalated soils and soil sediments. These sequences form excellent palaeoenvironmental archives, ranging from the Latest Pleistocene until the Mid-/Late Holocene. Using a multiproxy approach, it is intended to analyse terrace sediments from different catchment areas in order to compile climatic, anthropogenic and/or tectonic impacts on the system.