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The Eastern Congo rediscovered from the geological point of view

Friederike U. Bauer (1), U.A. Glasmacher (1), M. Malikwisha (2), V.S. Mambo (2), and B.V. Mutete (2)

(1) University of Heidelberg, Institute of Geosciences, Heidelberg, Germany (friederike.bauer@geow.uni-heidelberg.de), (2) Ruwenzori State University, Butembo, D.R. Congo

In the East African Rift System (EARS) the feedback between tectonic uplift, erosional denudation and associated possible climate changes is studied by the multidisciplinary research group – RiftLink. Focus thereby is placed on the Albertine Rift, and therein raising Rwenzori Mountains. Within this framework, the presented research project seeks to unravel the uplift and denudation history of this mountain range and its surroundings, using low-temperature thermochronology.

The thermochronological data revealed so far, fit well into the general age pattern known from the EARS, but are lacking proof from the opposite side, i.e. the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R. Congo). This, however, the authors intend to cope with new samples from the Eastern D.R. Congo, taken during a joint field-work in June/July 2009. The main intention of the expedition to the D.R. Congo was to get an overview of the geology, landscape, and morphology to the west of the Rwenzori Mountains. Field-work focused on the area between Lake Edward and the Blue Mountains at Lake Albert, covering an entire N – S transect along the western rift shoulder.

The presentation aims to give an overview on the variations in geology, morphology and climate along the western shoulder of the Albertine Rift, observed during the field-campaign.