



High-resolution bathymetry and sedimentology data from Lake Kivu's Main Basin reveals morphology and geochemistry controlled by active subaquatic volcanism since the Holocene

Kelly Ann Ross (1,2), Benoît Smets (3,4,5), Sandra Ogorka (1), Marc DeBatist (6), Martin Schmid (1), and Flavio Anselmetti (7)

(1) Surface Waters Research and Management (Surf), Eawag: Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, Switzerland (kellyann.ross@eawag.ch), (2) ETH Zurich - Institut of Biogeochemistry and Pollutant Dynamics, Switzerland, (3) European Center for Geodynamics and Seismology Department of Geology, Luxembourg, (4) Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Department of Geography, Belgium, (5) Royal Museum for Central Africa, Department of Earth Sciences, Belgium, (6) Renard Centre of Marine Geology Department of Geology and Soil Science, Ghent University, Belgium, (7) Institute of Geological Sciences, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Volcanic activity has shaped the subaquatic morphologic and structural features in Lake Kivu's Main Basin since the Holocene. Previous studies have speculated on the subaquatic geologic hazards in Lake Kivu that could expel a detrimental quantity of gas locked in its deep waters. A high-resolution bathymetric map covering 224 km² of the Main Basin was acquired using swath bathymetric techniques, and 12 gravity cores were recovered throughout the basin. New geomorphologic features on the lake floor are interpreted as subaquatic volcanoes that are expected to have erupted within the last 1.2 to 5 ka. Subaquatic volcanism is observed in the sediment record in the last 1.5 ka BP, which manifests as increasing concentrations of organic carbon and Pb and the cessation of CaCO₃. The bathymetric and sediment data acquired in this study will be indispensable for a hazard assessment related to a potentially catastrophic eruption.