



Paleoclimate: Changes and Adaptation

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Message from the Guest Editors

Climate may be defined as the weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period. Climate is the planetary response of the atmospheric circulation to its changing composition, to the solar system configuration, to the Earth's rotation and to the oceans' and continents' distributions. It displays, as a result, a restless moving pattern, expressed at a global scale by subsiding and uplifting atmospheric convection cells. These changes have long been recognized and documented in the geologic record since very early times. In many rocks, different geologic features, such as fossil fragments and imprints, paleoweathering surfaces, prehistoric remains and historic reports, contain climate signals that can be analysed and interpreted. The continued gathering of those data and information is the pathway to learn more about past climates and its complex changes. Lessons from the past support the view that deep change is the rule, not the exception, even where no reference is available, due to strongly contrasting extremes, chaotically defined by the whole ensemble of extra-planetary, external, and internal geodynamic controls.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Understanding the Earth's origin and its bio-geological evolution, the multiple implications of the geosciences (as a coherent set of interconnected disciplines), and the sociocultural and ethical interdisciplinary approaches, will be crucial for a better understanding of Nature, and also for undertaking scientifically based political decisions.

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