

TROPICAL AFRICAN GEOMORPHOLOGY AND LATE-QUATERNARY PALEOENVIRONMENTS RESEARCH PROJECT (TAGELAQP)

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(1) Previous research and publications :

The first series of the TEGELAQP programme was carried out in Cameroon and Kenya during 1980-1986. The object was : 1) to gather the basic geomorphological and ecological data used for verifying a hypothetical model on the tropical desiccation in Africa during the maximum of the last (Würm) glaciation in the higher latitudes; 2) to provide basic data for the reconstruction of an environmental history of African rainforest and savanna zones since the maximum of the last glaciation; and 3) to investigate the processes of recent environmental changes taking place in those zones due to the human manipulation. The results of field research in 1980/81 in Cameroon, in 1982/83 and 1984 in Cameroon and Kenya have been published in the following publications.

Kadomura H.(ed) : Geomorphology and environmental changes in the forest and savanna Cameroon - A preliminary report of the Tropical African Geomorphology and Late-Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Research Project 1980/83. Hokkaido Univ., Sapporo, March 1984, 177 p.

Kadomura. H.(ed) : Geomorphology and environmental changes in tropical Africa : case studies in Cameroon and Kenya - A preliminary report of the Tropical African Geomorphology and Late-Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Research project 1984/85. Hokkaido Univ., Sapporo, March 1986. 297 p.

(2) Floristic boundary between evergreen and semideciduous forests in southwestern Cameroon

On the basis of ecological and floristic investigation along a transect in the forest area between Ebolowa and Kribi, southwestern Cameroon during the 1984 season field work. H. Chujo (Chubu Univ., Kasagai, Japan) reaches following preliminary conclusion : The coastal evergreen forest which is dominated by Pycnanthus angolensis, Hexalobus crispiflorus and other evergreen species is replaced by a semideciduous forest with Piptadeniastrum africanum, Fagara heitzii, etc. at 80 km east of coastline. This floristic boundary coincides with the escarpment with c.500 m high bordering the South Cameroon Plateau and relates with an abrupt decrease in precipitation. He suggests that this finding is of relevance to the reconstruction of detailed picture of a late-quaternary arid phase forest refuge. His paper will be appear in the coming volume of African Study Monographs, Kyoto University.

(3) New programme (TAGELAQP/SAPITA)

As an extension of "The Tropical African Geomorphology and Late-Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Research project (TAGELAQP) 1980/86", we started a new programme on "Savannization processes in Tropical Africa (SAPITA) 1987/91". The object of the programme is principally the same as the previous one but places an emphasis on comparative and chronological studies of natural and anthropogenic savannization processes in several areas of tropical Africa both in the

northern and southern savannas. In the 1987/88 season, we carried out geomorphological, pedological, climatological and ecological field research in the Miombo woodlands of Northwest and Northeast Zambia during July-September. From November 1987 to late January 1988, we will also undertake similar field work in Northern Cameroon dry savannas, the "Grassfields" of the west Cameroon Highlands, and formerly forested areas of Western Kenya Highlands. The results of the 1987/88 season field research will be published in March 1989.