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QR | QUATERNARY RESEARCH



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Quaternary Research is an international journal devoted to the advancement of the interdisciplinary understanding of the Quaternary Period. We aim to publish articles of broad interest with relevance to more than one discipline, and that constitute a significant new contribution to Quaternary science. The journal's scope is global, building on its 50-year history in advancing the understanding of Earth and human history through interdisciplinary study of the last 2.6 million years.

Research areas include geoarcheology, geochemistry and geophysics, geochronology, geomorphology, glaciology, neotectonics, paleobotany and paleoecology, paleoclimatology, paleogeography, paleohydrology, paleontology, paleoceanography, paleopedology, quaternary geology, volcanology and tephrochronology.

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Photo Caption: The iconic sand dunes at Sossusvlei, Namibia lie on the eastern margin of the Namib Desert and Sand Sea, a region characterised by arid to hyperarid conditions since the late Cretaceous (ca. 80 Ma). Determined by factors associated with the variable intensity of low-latitude anticyclones, environmental conditions in the region are particularly sensitive to changes in global climate system. Contrary to predictions of increased aridity during glacial periods, a growing body of evidence derived from rock hyrax middens from the region indicates that Marine Oxygen Isotope Stages 2–3 were significantly more humid than in the Late Holocene. Cooler temperatures and higher/more regular rainfall promoted the expansion of relatively mesic shrubland into areas now dominated by sparse, xeric grasses, resulting in marked changes in the regional ecology. Photo: Brian M. Chase (See the article by Chase et al., pages 1–11 in this issue.