

Interactive comment on “Holocene sea level and environmental change at the southern Cape – an 8.5 kyr multi-proxy paleoclimate record from lake Voëlvlei, South Africa” by Paul Strobel et al.

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Reply on RC2 by CP editors in chief and handling editor

Anonymous Reviewer 2 was asked to provide a scientific review on the manuscript "Holocene sea level and environmental change at the southern Cape – an 8.5 kyr multi-proxy paleoclimate record from lake Voëlvlei, South Africa" submitted to Climate of the Past.

The Reviewer contacted the Editor and co-Editors in chief to raise the issue of a lack of authors from South Africa in this manuscript, despite the work being part of

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a joint German- African "training and knowledge exchange program". This issue, as also expressed by the reviewer, is not a specific authorship issue associated with the manuscript that the editorship of CP can act upon, but instead is a general issue about inclusion and diversity in Science. While it is not the role of the CP-editorship to judge or propose rules related to equity and diversity in research, we do agree that one-way to improve diversity in science is to consider diversity from the start of a project, including providing opportunities for the involvement of early career-researchers and researchers from countries that are currently under-represented in science. This could provide a training and networking opportunity for these researchers, helping them to build a career in science.

It should here be noted however that the authors were not consulted about the issue prior to the submission of the comment by Anonymous Reviewer 2, and we find the accusatory tone of the review very unfortunate. The editor has discussed the question of diversity to the author team and we, editor and co-editors-in chief, are satisfied that in this case the author team provided acceptable replies and is appropriate. We are therefore, in the process of seeking an additional scientific review of the manuscript so that the peer-review process may continue fairly and transparently.

Laurie Menviel, Nerilie Abram, Marit-Solveig Seidenkranz, Denis-Didier Rousseau (CP co-editors-in-chief) and Keely Mills (CP editor)

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