

### **DALLOL VOLCANO, ETHIOPIA: A MULTI-RISK LOCAL AND GLOBAL STORY**

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Dallol is a unique volcanic system in the Afar, Danakil of Ethiopia. It is a low rise of salt- with a central depression hosting a highly acidic, highly saline and very hot (up to 150°C fluids), hydrothermal system. Several sites around Dallol host very active and changing hydrothermal systems, with sporadic violent phreatic eruptions.

A major intrusion event occurred in 2004, and since then the fumarole sites have oscillated in temperature, with a general heating trend.

Dallol has become one of the most visited sites for tourism in Ethiopia, and with greater road access is likely to become grow in importance. At the same time mining activity, that started in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, has expanded and the area is becoming increasingly frequented (if not populated, as average annual temperatures are over 35°C).

Dallol has become a global media phenomena, with films on channels Ushuaia, National Geographic and numerous reports, e.g. BBC etc. So the social volcanology of Dallol is a global event, as well as a local and national issue within the Afar and Ethiopia.

To develop and protect the area in a sustainable way, several options are available, but first more information is required to know what the social, media, economic and geological nature of the phenomena is.

We present the start of a first survey of international and local media to characterise the multiple realities of Dallol which could help guide future development of the area.

We also present an account of the multiple groups and stake holders involved in Dallol and attempt a first description of this fascinating geological – and social environment.

Many of these actors will be included in the final author list, as the situation is rapidly developing to create a consortium for the research and development of Dallol.