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# EDITORIAL

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The history of the Earth is rich with examples of local events with global impacts. [Recent research](#) has confirmed that the impact of a large asteroid or comet in the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico 66 million years ago, wiped out dinosaurs off the surface of our planet since it hit around a time sea level rise and active volcanism had made these animals more susceptible to extinction. More recently, some 74,000 years ago, the Toba super-eruption in the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, resulted in a noticeable decrease – [even if short-lived](#) – in global average temperatures.

Given the importance of local events with global consequences in the geosciences, we are dedicating this issue of the EGU newsletter to this theme.

In the Articles section, Jonathan Fuhrmann explores how salinity changes in the Mediterranean can bring about climatic changes on a global scale. In her article, Amanda Gläser-Bligh takes a different view on the theme by looking into how gas flaring affects the Arctic and how a global solution is needed to reduce the burn off of natural gas. Adam Booth tackles the question of our 'alien origins', writing about how local meteorite impacts may hold the key to

the emergence of life on Earth. Becky Summers' article focuses on research in the West Antarctica Ice Sheet, the area that is contributing the most to global sea level rise at present.

In his quarterly contribution, the EGU President Günter Blöschl writes about local and global water issues, encouraging an interdisciplinary approach to solving them. You can read his article in the EGU Voice section.

On the Education section, we focus on an annual event in Vienna that is bringing about international changes in geoscience teaching, the GIFT (Geosciences Information For Teachers) workshop. Representatives from the EGU Committee on Education report on the 2014 edition of GIFT, which focused on Our Changing Planet.

The Young Scientists section is dedicated to early-career researchers' involvement in policy. By providing usable scientific information to their local representatives, researchers can influence policymaking on issues relating to global change.

Other sections of the newsletter, while not directly related to the general theme of this GeoQ, are equally relevant. In EGU News, for example, we inform EGU members about our journals' new impact factors, among other news. We also highlight the EGU 2015 call for sessions. Our annual General Assembly is another example of a local event with a global impact, at least in what scientific presentation and discussion are concerned! This is your chance to play a role in shaping the scientific programme of the conference, so make sure you submit your suggestions [online](#) before 12 September.

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The current and previous editions of the EGU newsletter (GeoQ and The Eggs) are available online at [www.egu.eu/newsletter](http://www.egu.eu/newsletter).

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COVER PHOTO: Untouched nature in the Antarctic (Credit: Eva Nowatzki, distributed via [imaggio.egu.eu](http://imaggio.egu.eu))

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