

# **Report of 2006 Field Activities and Preliminary Results: Cape Bounty, Melville Island**



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## **Field activities**

We camped at Cape Bounty from June 1- August 4. Work involved collecting sediment cores from the two lakes, measuring river flow, water quality and sediment transport, and measuring the amount of carbon dioxide that the plants and soil released. We also measured the snow cover in the spring and collected weather observations at three locations. These stations were left over the winter to continue recording.

## **Preliminary results**

The sediment cores all contain layers that are likely produced each year, and should allow us to count back thousands of years to estimate past river and weather. We now have four years of sediment transport data to compare with river and weather records and this will help us understand the record in the sediments. 2006 was a very warm year with a heavy snow cover. The spring melt was the largest of the four years we have measured and the sediment and nutrient load was high. Our results suggest that these conditions do not transport as much sediment as we would have expected based on another high snowfall year in 2004. Therefore, we may have observed a limit on the amount of sediment available to be transported.

## **Proposed work for 2007**

We will establish a camp at Cape Bounty from May 27-August 5 to measure river and sediment delivery processes. We will also collect several short sediment cores from both lakes and continue to record the weather. We will be collecting samples from several small streams that flow over vegetation and ground disturbed by the melting of ground ice, to see what impacts the disturbance has on the water quality. It will be important to continue this work for several years to collect enough information to understand what the sediment record tells us about past river and weather conditions. We will continue the vegetation sampling and measure the amount of carbon dioxide that is released at Cape Bounty.

We hope, with funding from IPY, to hire two students from Resolute to come to the field camp to learn how sample and handle water and weather measurements. We hope that this experience will be useful for future employment and help show the community the kind of work we do.

A large, dark, textured image showing a close-up of a rock surface. The surface is covered in intricate, wavy patterns and a prominent, lighter-colored, crystalline structure on the right side. The overall appearance is that of a geological specimen, possibly a mineral or rock sample, with a complex, layered structure.

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