



The Bosumtwi Meteorite

Research at the Crater Lake

45 minutes, DigiBeta, 16:9, stereo
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Director: Manfred Suttinger
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Versions: English, German

We have all seen it in various disaster films: a massive meteorite crashes onto the Earth's surface, producing a natural disaster of almost inconceivable magnitude.

Many meteorites have struck the earth since its early days. The last one impacted in West African Ghana. The result of the impact is still clearly visible in and around the Bosumtwi Crater. Soon after the meteorite hit, water began to collect and formed a lake. As this lake has no in- or outflow its sediments layers are a perfect climate diary of the last one million years. A major international research project, has been drilling into the sediments below the crater lake to open a treasure chest of previously unimaginable detail.

The scientists have also been looking for traces of the rebirth of life. When the meteorite struck, it destroyed all life within an area of thousands of square kilometres. Scientists believe that around hot wells on the bottom of the lake, life started to develop again. They hope to be able to reconstruct biological development after sustained and large-scale destruction.

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