

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2025

Resources in Africa

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2025

- 8h00-9h00** Registration and coffee [Zaal Vos]
9h00-9h30 Opening and words of welcome by the presidents of the Africa Platform [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]
9h30-11h00 Individual Oral Presentations - Session One

	Session 1A Chair: Stijn Dewaele [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]	Session 1B Chair: Joost Dessein [Zaal Haas]	Session 1C UNU-CRIS panel - Cross-border resource management and regional cooperation Chairs: Frank Mattheis & Ine Lietaert [Zaal De Twistappel]	Session 1D Chair: Koen Bostoen [Zaal De Laatkamer]
9h30	Jan-Bart Gewald (African Studies Centre, Leiden University, The Netherlands) <i>The Diamond Floors of Rooifontein: Towards an environmental history of a post-industrial diamond mining site in Kimberley, South Africa</i>	Eli Mutwedu Mwishingo et.al. (Ecole Régional Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de gestion Intégrés des Forêts et territoires Tropicaux, DR Congo; Université Officielle de Bukavu, DR Congo; Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo & Institut National pour l'Étude et la Recherche Agronomiques (INERA/Yangambi), DR Congo) <i>Assessing floristic diversity and carbon stock recovery along secondary succession in the Congo Basin forests</i> online	Frank Mattheis (UNU-CRIS & UGent, Belgium) & Ueli Staeger (University of Amsterdam/UNU-CRIS, The Netherlands/Belgium) <i>Defending regional resources and norms: African regional organizations' sanctions against non-paying members</i>	Oluwatosin Omobolanle Ogwezy (University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria) <i>Nigeria's oral and cultural heritage in social cohesion and sustainable development</i> online
9h45	Divin-Luc Bikubanya (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium) <i>(Rural) Resources and communities: Historical pathways of the cement industry in Katana and Kabimba, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo</i>	Patrick Van Damme (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic & Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Is there a place for plant-based, South African products on the world market? Lessons from practice</i>	Nidhi Naglabatha et.al. (UNU-CRIS & UGent, Belgium), Mahmoud Radwan (University of Waterloo, Canada) & Padmi Ranasinghe (McMaster University, Canada) <i>Participatory negotiation support framework towards enhancing transboundary water security in the Congo Basin Region</i>	Denis Augustin Samnick (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium) <i>(Im)materiality and polymorphous resources: The carceral life of things at the Makala Central Prison</i>
10h00	Danelle van Zyl-Hermann (University of Basel, Switzerland) <i>African resources in the reconstruction of Europe after the Second World War</i> online	Emiel De Meyer (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe, Germany & Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Traditional plant knowledge as a reservoir of resilience to address climate change challenges in Karamoja, northeast Uganda</i>	Dereje Tesema Regasa (Jimma University, Ethiopia & UNU-CRIS, Belgium) <i>From neighbours to rivals: Revisiting the politics of protective territoriality across Oromia-Somali regional states in Ethiopia</i> online	Mark Obure-Morang'a et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium & University of Nairobi, Kenya) <i>Rethinking tales of the land and sea: Ecological epistemologies in Digo oral narratives, Kenya</i> online

10h15	Jackson Tamunosaki Jack et.al. (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) <i>On Jerabos and Kpo-Fire: Extraction, infrastructural violence, and resistance on the Zambian Copperbelt and the Niger Delta</i> online	Edwin Otieno Ondiege (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>What's in a crop? A contextual investigation of vulnerability and resilience within the organic (pyrethrum) industry in Tanzania</i> online	Jamie Pring (Universität Basel, Switzerland & UNU-CRIS, Belgium) <i>Restructuring the African peace and security architecture: Streamlining resources or limiting responsiveness?</i> online	Dietram Efrem Mgeni et.al. (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) <i>Bantu languages amid natural resources preservation strategies and ecosystem protection in Tanzania</i> online
10h30	Hanifa T. Massawe (Mzumbe University, Tanzania & Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and Subordinate Courts thereto) <i>Aligning extractive industries with the SDGs: Evaluating environmental protection practices of mining companies in Tanzania</i> online	Ivan Kahwa et.al. (Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda) <i>Ethnobotanical survey of medicinal plants used by communities on the fringes of Budongo Central Forest Reserve, Uganda</i> online	Amalie Ravn Weinrich (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) <i>Regional citizenship and mobility as political resources: Implications of the current fragmentation of ECOWAS' free movement regime</i> online	Happyness Nokwatu Raselabe (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) <i>Whose language? Whose justice? Colonial legacies in Africa</i> online
10h45	Sarah Katz-Lavigne et.al. (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium & Centre d'Expertise en Gestion Minière, Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo) <i>How "responsible sourcing" enables green extractivism: Strategic (in)visibility in the cobalt sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</i> online	Siera Vercillo et.al. (Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands) <i>When governing sustainability transformations turn regressive: Contestations over seed legislation in Ghana</i> online	Chibuzor Charles Ubah et.al. (Alliance of Bioversity International & UNU-CRIS, Belgium & Nidhi Nagabhatla (UNU-CRIS & UGent, Belgium) <i>Bridging policy and practice: How far has the Regional Malabo Declaration taken Africa in the fight against hunger?</i> online	Ferdinand Mberamihigo (Université du Burundi, Burundi; Centre de recherche en Langues, Cultures et Sociétés (CRELACS), Burundi & Ghent University, Belgium) <i>From BantUGent Corpus to Kirundi on Google Translate: Mutualization made real</i> online

11h00-11h30 Coffee break [Zaal Vos]

11h30-12h30 Keynote lecture by Hannah le Roux (University of Sheffield): Minehood: Placing the Witwatersrand between settlement and systems [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]

12h30-14h00 Lunch break [Krook café – ground floor]

13h00-14h00 Africa Forum – General Assembly of the Africa Platform (for AUGent staff) [Zaal Haas]

14h00-15h30 Individual Oral Presentations - Session Two

	Session 2A Chair: Stijn Dewaele [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]	Session 2B Chair: Piet Cools [Zaal Haas]	Session 2C Chair: Ine Lietaert [Zaal De Twistappel]	Session 2D Chair: Koen Bostoen [Zaal De Laatkomer]	Session 2E Panel: Resources under Stress: Researching Land and Belonging in the African Great Lakes Region Chair: An Ansoms [Zaal Vergeten Straat]
14h00	Samuël Coghe (Ghent University, Belgium) The making and unmaking of the Cattle Frontier in Madagascar, 1870s-1970s	Solomon Sebesbew Ewnetu et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium & Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia) How reliable are satellite rainfall estimates in complex terrain? A case study from the Ethiopian Highlands	Lydia Afriyie-Kraft et.al. (University of Bern, Switzerland) AfCFTA's role in promoting sustainable intra-African timber trade for inclusive green growth	Dirk Seidensticker (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany) Knowledge networks and ceramic traditions in the Congo Basin: Indigenous technological decisions as historical resources	Patient M. Polepole (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique) Sécurisation foncière décentralisée : Genre, autorité publique et luttes dans l'arène coutumière au Sud-Kivu (RDC)
14h15	Elene Vernaeve (Ghent University, Belgium) Cattle and landscapes: Environmental legacies of the cattle industry in twentieth century Katanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Abdu Yimer Yimam et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium & Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia) Evaluating the impact of integrated soil fertility management under deficit irrigation on subsurface flow dynamics	Socrates Kraido Majune et.al. (University of Nairobi, Kenya) Depth of trade integration and trade margins of environmental goods in Africa online	Chenai Murata et.al. (University of Vienna, Austria) Causes and processes of land degradation in the rural Eastern Cape of South Africa: Views and experiences from indigenous communities	Vedaste Cituli (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique) Creating protected areas during armed conflict: Inter-communal power relations and conflict in the Hauts Plateaux of Fizi in South Kivu, DR Congo
14h30	Espérant Mwishamali Lukobo (Ghent University, Belgium) Security governance in cobalt mining in Haut-Katanga and Lualaba, DRC: Actors, tensions, and resistance	Hermann N. Nana et.al. (University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon) Diverse causes of extreme rainfall in November 2023 over equatorial Africa online	Magdalena Sophie Fröhlich et.al. (University of Vienna, Austria) The United Nations Development Programme's finance strategy for Greater Kruger of South Africa: Green extractivism Disguised?	Mazarire Tichaona et.al. (North-West University, South Africa) Oil discovery in Namibia and public governance arrangements: Can Namibia avoid the resource curse? online	Yanaelle Ntwa-nese-Akensone Bompa (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique) Rooted resilience: Agroecological pathways in Central Africa amid climate crisis
14h45	Papa Sow (Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden) Zircon and ilmenite extraction in northern Senegal: Sand minerals that escalate ecocide online	Agassounon Mahougnon Bill et.al. (Université de Liège, Belgique & Université de Parakou, Bénin) Capacité des produits cartographiques mondiaux à caractériser les écosystèmes arides du Bénin : Hétérogénéité écologique et performances des cartes globales	Mieke Embo et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium & Artevelde University of Applied Sciences, Belgium) The development and validation of a PhD competency framework in Ethiopia: a modified Delphi study	Théodore Trefon et.al. (Africa Museum, Belgium & Ecole Régionale Postuniversitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion intégrés des Forêts et Territoires tropicaux (ERAIFT), DR Congo) The political economy of wildlife	Mbuluku Faïda Andreita (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique) Between adaptation and hegemony: Dynamics and controversies around climate-smart agriculture in Tshopo, Kwilu and Kongo Central

15h00	Simplice Ayangma Bonoho (Université de Montréal, Canada) Encadrer l'exploitation des ressources naturelles en contexte colonial : l'usage réglementé de la faune en Afrique équatoriale française (1910-1960)	Alain Kadorho et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium; Université Officielle de Bukavu, RD Congo & Ecole Régionale d'Aménagement et de gestion Intégrées de Forêts et Territoires tropicaux, RD Congo) Mechanism of monodominance of <i>Gilbertiodendron dewevrei</i> , a hyperdominant tree species in the Congo Basin online	Christian Koba Fazili (Ghent University, Belgium) Croissance urbaine planifiée et non planifiée : cartographie des frontières invisibles dans la ville en plein essor de Kasumbalesa	Naomi Nabami (University of Antwerp, Belgium) Rethinking women's marginalization through ICBT in the Uganda-Congo borderland regions	Midagu Kabumba Alain (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique) Happily ever after? – Conservation, compensations et reconfigurations communautaires autour du Parc Virunga (RDC)
15h15	Teresa Costa et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium) Extensive pig husbandry as a novel approach to primate conservation and sustainable use of African rainforest	Serge Alebadwa et.al. (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany) Contrasting patterns of denitrification product ratios (N ₂ O/(N ₂ O+N ₂)) in the Congo Basin		Sisa Ngabaza (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) 'We did not know it was abuse': Empowering women with disabilities against gender-based violence online	

15h30-16h00 Coffee Break [Zaal Vos]

16h00-17h30 Individual Oral Presentations - Session Three

	Session 3A Chair: Amaury Frankl [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]	Session 3B Chair: Nick Rahier [Zaal Haas]	Session 3C Chair: Michel De Paepe [Zaal De Twistappel]	Session 3D Chair: Karen Büscher [Zaal De Laatkomer]
16h00	Franck Mugisho Zahinda et.al (University of Antwerp, Belgium & Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo) Building on the back of nature: Assessing the environmental cost of aggregate mining in eastern DR Congo online	Guy Masudi Mwana Mulenda et.al. (University of Hasselt, Belgium & Université de Lubumbashi, DR Congo) Entrepreneuriat foncier et urbanisation rapide à Lubumbashi: études de cas des quartiers Kyaluwaya et Maisha online	Olusola Ogunnubi (Queen's University, Kingston, Canada) Theorizing African agency in the political economy of global energy transition	Peter Uledi (University of the Free State, South Africa) "Plunder for profit?" Zimbabwe's look east policy, Chinese firms, natural resources, and the environment since 2000 online
16h15	Steven Van Bockstael et.al. (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) The taxation of artisanal mining in conflict-affected contexts: from armed predation to 'informal formalisation'	Olisa Daniel Iweze (University of Benin, Nigeria) Community lands under siege: The rise of Egodina Osha youth land grabbers in Asaba and neighbouring communities in Nigeria online	Craig McGregor et.al. (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa) South Africa – Namibia green hydrogen corridor: Skills development online	Joseph Bahati Mukulu (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium & CEGEMI, Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo) Mapping the construction minerals supply chains: actors, power and governance online
16h30	Josaphat Musamba (Ghent University, Belgium) Le séquençage armé à l'est du Congo : Scruter les acteurs armés dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement des ressources naturelles	Serge Mugisho Mukotanyi et.al. (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium; Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo & Africa Museum, Belgium) Does scale matter? Comparative analysis of land-use/cover changes in industrial, artisanal and small-scale mining landscapes in the Democratic Republic of Congo	Funminiyi Peter Oyawole et.al. (University of Ghana, Ghana & Federal University of Agriculture, Nigeria) Risk attitudes and preferences for solar powered irrigation among rice farmers in northern Nigeria online	Takudzwa Mharadze (Zimbabwe Open University, Zimbabwe & University of Johannesburg, South Africa) Africa at the nexus of green colonialism: Geopolitics and governance of critical raw materials in the DRC and Namibia online
16h45	Knowledge Mwonzora (Nelson Mandela University, South Africa) Diamond rush: Securitization and de-militarization debate of the diamond fields in Chiadzwa Community in Zimbabwe online	Olutomiwa Binuyo et.al. (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) Land, livelihoods, and the limits of reform: The RUGA controversy in Nigeria online	Wilson Omalenge Ndenyele (Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya) Community wellbeing and ghost biofuels projects: Abandoned Jatropha Curcas large scale land deal plantations in East Africa online	Josephine Vaccaro (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain) The Expropriation Without Compensation Act: Exposing the need for a paradigm shift
17h00	Sylvie Imata Bulaya et.al. (Université de Gand, Belgique & Institut Supérieur de Bukavu, RD Congo) De la course aux matières premières aux déplacements massifs des populations : comprendre la polycrise à l'Est de la RD Congo	Zenebe Uraguchi (Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland) Whose land is it anyway? – An evolutionary economics approach to land, institutions, and capital accumulation in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Tanzania	Jetina Tsvaki et.al. (Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research Zimbabwe (CeSHAR), Zimbabwe & Aga Khan Health Services, Kenya) Quantifying carbon emissions and their impact on mitigation intervention implementation in identified healthcare facilities hotspots: Case studies from Kenya, Zimbabwe, and South Africa	Juliet Musoke Nakabuye et.al. (Ghent University, Gent, Belgium & Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) and socio-ecological safeguards: A critical review of EIAs in Uganda's Albertine oil exploration zone

17h15	Lukong Stella Shulika et.al. (IIE Varsity College, South Africa) Blood minerals and broken states: The politicisation of resource extraction in Africa's conflict zones online	Zanele Vilakazi et.al. (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) Contested resources, politics and war online		
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- 19h30-21h30** Ghent University Nelson Mandela Lecture, with South African Ambassador to Belgium HE Tokozile Xasa, former Namibian Ambassador to Belgium Mekondjo Kaapanda-Girrus, impact investment professional and author Loïc De Cannière and Lieselot Declercq, entrepreneur and director of d-teach - moderated by Mo* journalist John Vandaele and opened by UGent pro-vice-rector Mieke Van Herreweghe
With guest performances by Tutu Puoane and Jolyn Phillips
[Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]
- 21h30-23h00** Reception [Krook café – ground floor]