

GAPSYM18 - Resources in Africa

4 December 2025

De Krook - Miriam Makebaplein 1 - Ghent

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 (6 slots)

	Session 1A - Chair: Stijn Dewaele [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]	Session 1B - Chair: Joost Dessen [Zaal Haas]	Session 1C – Chairs: Frank Mattheis & Ine Lietaert UNU-CRIS panel - Cross-border resource management and regional cooperation [Zaal De Twistappel]	Session 1D – Chair: Koen Bostoen [Zaal De Laatkamer]
9h30	How “responsible sourcing” enables green extractivism: Strategic (in)visibility in the cobalt sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Assessing floristic diversity and carbon stock recovery along secondary succession in the Congo Basin forests	Defending regional resources and norms: African regional organizations' sanctions against non-paying members	Nigeria's Oral and Cultural Heritage in Social Cohesion and Sustainable Development <i>Oluwatosin Omobolanle Ogwezy</i>

	<i>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>	<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 – online</i>	<i>Frank Mattheis (UNU-CRIS & UGent, Belgium) & Ueli Staeger (University of Amsterdam/UNU-CRIS, The Netherlands/Belgium)</i>	<i>University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria) – online</i>
9h45	(Rural) Resources and Communities: historical pathways of the cement industry in Katana and Kabimba, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo <i>Divin-Luc Bikubanya (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium)</i>	Is there a place for plant-based, South African products on the world market ? Lessons from practice <i>Patrick Van Damme (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic & Ghent, Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	Participatory Negotiation Support Framework Towards Enhancing Transboundary Water Security in the Congo Basin Region <i>Nidhi Naglabatha (UNU-CRIS & UGent, Belgium), Mahmoud Radwan (University of Waterloo, Canada) & Padmi Ranasinghe (McMaster University, Canada)</i>	(Im)materiality and polymorphous resources: The carceral life of things at the Makala Central Prison <i>Denis Augustin Samnick (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium)</i>
10h00	African resources in the reconstruction of Europe after the Second World War <i>Danelle van Zyl-Hermann (University of Basel, Switzerland) – online</i>	Traditional plant knowledge as a reservoir of resilience to address climate change challenges in Karamoja, northeast Uganda <i>Emiel De Meyer (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe, Germany & Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	From neighbours to rivals: revisiting the politics of protective territoriality across Oromia-Somali regional states in Ethiopia <i>Dereje Tesema Regasa (Jimma University, Ethiopia & UNU-CRIS, Belgium) – online</i>	Rethinking Tales of the Land and Sea: Ecological Epistemologies in Digo Oral Narratives, Kenya <i>Mark Obure-Morang'a et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium & University of Nairobi, Kenya) – online</i>

10h15	On <i>Jerabos</i> and <i>Kpo-Fire</i> : Extraction, Infrastructural Violence, and Resistance on the Zambian Copperbelt and the Niger Delta <i>Jackson Tamunosaki Jack et.al. (University of Groningen, The Netherlands)</i>	What's in a Crop? A Contextual Investigation of Vulnerability and Resilience within the Organic (Pyrethrum) Industry in Tanzania <i>Edwin Otieno Ondiege (Ghent University, Belgium) - online</i>	Restructuring the African Peace and Security Architecture: Streamlining resources or limiting responsiveness? <i>Jamie Pring (Universität Basel, Switzerland & UNU-CRIS, Belgium) - online</i>	Bantu languages amid natural resources preservation strategies and ecosystem protection in Tanzania <i>Dietram Efrem Mgeni et.al. (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) - online</i>
10h30	Aligning Extractive Industries with the SDGs: Evaluating Environmental Protection Practices of Mining Companies in Tanzania <i>Hanifa T. Massawe (Mzumbe University, Tanzania & Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and Subordinate Courts thereto) - online</i>	Ethnobotanical survey of medicinal plants used by communities on the fringes of Budongo Central Forest Reserve, Uganda <i>Ivan Kahwa et.al. (Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda) - Online</i>	Regional citizenship and mobility as political resources: implications of the current fragmentation of ECOWAS' free movement regime <i>Amalie Ravn Weinrich (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)</i>	Whose Language? Whose Justice? Colonial Legacies in Africa Happyness Nokwatu Raselabe <i>(University of the Western Cape, South Africa) - online</i>
10h45	The Diamond Floors of Rooifontein: Towards an environmental history of a post-industrial diamond mining site in Kimberley, South Africa <i>Jan-Bart Gewald (African Studies Centre, Leiden University, The Netherlands)</i>	When governing sustainability transformations turn regressive: Contestations over seed legislation in Ghana <i>Siera Vercillo et.al. (Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands)</i>	Bridging Policy and Practice: How Far Has the Regional Malabo Declaration Taken Africa in the Fight Against Hunger? <i>Chibuzor Charles Ubah (Alliance of Bioversity International & UNU-CRIS, Belgium & Nidhi Nagabhatla (UNU-CRIS & UGent, Belgium)</i>	From BantUGent Corpus to Kirundi on Google Translate: Mutualization made real <i>Ferdinand Mberamihigo (Université du Burundi, Burundi; Centre de recherche en Langues, Cultures et Sociétés (CRELACS), Burundi & Ghent University, Belgium) - online</i>

11h00-11h30 Coffee break [Zaal Vos]

11h30-12h30 Keynote lecture by Hannah Le Roux (University of Sheffield) [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]

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

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

14h00-15h30 Individual Oral Presentations - Session Two (6 slots)

	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 – Chair: An Ansoms Panel: Resources under Stress: Researching Land and Belonging in the African Great Lakes Region [Zaal Vergeten Straat]
14h00	The Making and Unmaking of the Cattle Frontier in Madagascar, 1870s-1970s <i>Samuël Coghe (Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	Extensive pig husbandry as a novel approach to primate conservation and sustainable use of African rainforest <i>Teresa Costa (Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	AfCFTA's Role in Promoting Sustainable Intra-African Timber Trade for Inclusive Green Growth <i>Lydia Afriyie-Kraft (University of Bern, Switzerland)</i>	Knowledge Networks and Ceramic Traditions in the Congo Basin: Indigenous Technological Decisions as Historical Resources <i>Dirk Seidensticker (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)</i>	Sécurisation foncière décentralisée : Genre, autorité publique et luttes dans l'arène coutumière au Sud-Kivu (RDC) <i>Patient M. Polepole (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique)</i>
14h15	Cattle and landscapes: Environmental legacies of the cattle industry in twentieth century Katanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo <i>Elene Vernaeye (Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	Evaluating the Impact of Integrated Soil Fertility Management under Deficit Irrigation on Subsurface Flow Dynamics <i>Abdu Yimer Yimam et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	Depth of Trade Integration and Trade Margins of Environmental Goods in Africa <i>Christopher Lchukeyan Segelan et.al. (University of Nairobi, Kenya)</i> - online	Causes and processes of land degradation in the rural Eastern Cape of South Africa: Views and experience from indigenous communities <i>Chenai Murata et.al. (University of Vienna, Austria)</i>	Creating protected areas during armed conflict: Inter-communal power relations and conflict in the Hauts Plateaux of Fizi in South Kivu, DR Congo <i>Vedaste Cituli (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique)</i>

14h30	Security Governance in Cobalt Mining in Haut-Katanga and Lualaba, DRC: Actors, Tensions, and Resistance <i>Espérant Mwishamali Lukobo (Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	Diverse causes of extreme rainfall in November 2023 over equatorial Africa <i>Hermann N. Nana et.al. (University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon) - online</i>	The United Nations Development Programme's Finance Strategy for Greater Kruger of South Africa: Green Extractivism Disguised? <i>Magdalena Sophie Fröhlich et.al. (University of Vienna, Austria)</i>	Oil Discovery in Namibia and Public Governance Arrangements: Can Namibia Avoid the Resource Curse? <i>Mazarire Tichaona et.al. (North-West University, South Africa) - online</i>	Rooted Resilience: Agroecological Pathways in Central Africa Amid Climate Crisis <i>Yanaelle Ntwa-nese-Akensone Bompa (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique)</i>
14h45	Zircon and ilmenite extraction in Northern Senegal: sand minerals that escalate ecocide <i>Papa Sow (Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden) - online</i>	Capacité des produits cartographiques mondiaux à caractériser les écosystèmes arides du Bénin : Hétérogénéité écologique et performances des cartes globales <i>Agassounon Mahougnon Bill et.al. (Université de Liège, Belgique & Université de Parakou, Benin)</i>	The development and validation of a PhD competency framework in Ethiopia: a modified Delphi study <i>Mieke Embo et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium & Artevelde University of Applied Sciences, Belgium)</i>	The Political Economy of Wildlife <i>Théodore Trefon et.al. (Africa Museum, Belgium & Ecole Régionale Postuniversitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion intégrés des Forêts et Territoires tropicaux (ERAIFT), DR Congo)</i>	Between Adaptation and Hegemony: Dynamics and Controversies around Climate-Smart Agriculture in Tshopo, Kwilu and Kongo Central <i>Mbuluku Faïda Andreita (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique)</i>
15h00	Encadrer l'exploitation des ressources naturelles en contexte colonial : l'usage réglementé de la faune en Afrique équatoriale française (1910-1960) <i>Simplice Ayangma Bonoho (Université de Montréal, Canada)</i>	Mechanism of monodominance of <i>Gilbertiodendron dewevrei</i> , a hyperdominant tree species in the Congo Basin <i>Alain Kadorho et.al. (Ghent University, Belgium; Université Officielle de Bukavu, RD Congo & Ecole Régionale d'Aménagement et de gestion Intégrées de Forêts et</i>	Croissance urbaine planifiée et non planifiée: cartographie des frontières invisibles dans la ville en plein essor de Kasumbalesa <i>Christian Koba Fazili (Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	Rethinking women's marginalization through ICBT in the Uganda-Congo borderland regions <i>Naomi Nabami (University of Antwerp, Belgium)</i>	Happily Ever After? – Conservation, Compensations et Reconfigurations Communautaires autour du Parc Virunga (RDC) <i>Midagu Kabumba Alain (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique)</i>

		<i>Territoires tropicaux, RD Congo</i> – online			
15h15		Contrasting pattern of denitrification product ratio (N ₂ O)/(N ₂ O+N ₂) in the Congo Basin <i>Serge Alebadwa et.al.</i> (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany)		'We did not know it was abuse': Empowering women with disabilities against gender-based violence <i>Sisa Ngabaza (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)</i> – online	

15h30-16h00 Coffee Break [Zaal Vos]

16h00-17h30 Individual Oral Presentations - Session Three (6 slots)

	Session 3A - Chair: Amaury Frankl [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]	Session 3B – Chair: [Zaal Haas]	Session 3C – Chair: Michel De Paepe [Zaal De Twistappel]	Session 3D – Chair: Karen Büscher [Zaal De Laatkomer]
16h00	Building on the back of nature: Assessing the environmental cost of aggregate mining in eastern DR Congo <i>Franck Mugisho Zahinda et.al (University of Antwerp, Belgium & Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo)</i> – online	Entrepreneuriat foncier et urbanisation rapide à Lubumbashi: étude de cas des quartiers Kyaluwaya et Maisha <i>Guy Masudi Mwana Mulenda et.al.</i> (University of Hasselt, Belgium & Université de Lubumbashi, DR Congo) – online	Theorizing African Agency in the Political Economy of Global Energy Transition <i>Olusola Ogunnubi (Queen's University, Kingston, Canada)</i>	"Plunder for Profit?" Zimbabwe's Look East Policy, Chinese Firms, Natural Resources, and the Environment since 2000 <i>Peter Uledi (University of the Free State, South Africa)</i> – online
16h15	The taxation of artisanal mining in conflict-affected contexts: from armed predation to 'informal formalisation'	Community Lands Under Siege: The Rise of Egodina Osha Youth Land Grabbers in	South Africa – Namibia Green Hydrogen Corridor: Skills Development	Mapping the construction minerals supply chains: actors, power and governance

	<i>Steven Van Bockstael et.al. (University of Groningen, The Netherlands)</i>	Asaba and Her Neighbouring Communities in Nigeria <i>Olisa Daniel Iweze (University of Benin, Nigeria) - online</i>	<i>Craig McGregor et.al. (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa) - online</i>	Joseph Bahati Mukulu <i>Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium & CEGEMI, Universite Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo</i>
16h30	Le séquençage armé à l'est du Congo Scruter les acteurs armés dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement des ressources naturelles <i>Josaphat Musamba (Ghent University, Belgium)</i>	Does scale matter? Comparative analysis of land-use/cover changes in landscapes dominated by industrial, and artisanal and small-scale mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo <i>Serge Mugisho Mukotanyi et.al. (Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium; Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo & Africa Museum, Belgium)</i>	Risk Attitudes and Preferences for Solar Powered Irrigation among Rice Farmers in Northern Nigeria <i>Funminiyi Peter Oyawole et.al. (University of Ghana, Ghana & Federal University of Agriculture, Nigeria)</i>	Africa at the Nexus of Green Colonialism: Geopolitics and Governance of Critical Raw Materials in the DRC and Namibia <i>Takudzwa Mharadze (Zimbabwe Open University, Zimbabwe & University of Johannesburg, South Africa) - online</i>
16h45	Diamond rush: Securitization and De-militarization debate of the diamond fields in Chiadzwa Community in Zimbabwe <i>Knowledge Mwonzora (Nelson Mandela University, South Africa) - online</i>	Land, Livelihoods, and the Limits of Reform: The RUGA Controversy in Nigeria <i>Olutomiwa Binuyo et.al. (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) - online</i>	Community wellbeing and Ghost biofuels Projects: Abandoned Jatropha Curcas large scale land deal plantations in East Africa <i>Wilson Omalenge Ndenyele (Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya) - online</i>	The Expropriation Without Compensation Act: exposing the need for a paradigm shift <i>Josephine Vaccaro (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain)</i>
17h00	De la course aux matières premières aux déplacements massifs des populations : comprendre la polycrise à l'Est de la RD Congo	Whose Land Is It Anyway? – An Evolutionary Economics Approach to Land, Institutions, and Capital Accumulation in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Tanzania	Quantifying Carbon Emissions and its Impact on Mitigation Intervention Implementation on Identified hotspots: Case Study of Selected Health Facilities in Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) and Socio-Ecological Safeguards: A Critical Review of EIAs in Uganda's Albertine Oil Exploration Zone

	<i>Sylvie Imata Bulaya et.al. (Université de Gand, Belgique & Institut Supérieur de Bukavu, RD Congo)</i>	<i>Zenebe Uraguchi (Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland)</i>	<i>Jetina Tsvaki & Aquinius Mung'atia et.al. (Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research Zimbabwe (CeSHHAR), Zimbabwe & Aga Khan Health Services, Kenya)</i>	<i>Juliet Musoke Nakabuye et.al. (Ghent University, Gent, Belgium & Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda)</i>
17h15	Blood Minerals and Broken States: The Politicisation of Resource Extraction in Africa's Conflict Zones <i>Lukong Stella Shulika (IIE Varsity College, South Africa) - online</i>	Contested Resources, Politics and War <i>Zanele Vilakazi et.al. (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) - online</i>		

19h30-21h00 Ghent University Nelson Mandela Lecture, with Belgian public intellectual David Van Reybrouck, professor in international politics and economic development Adebayo O. Olukoshi, former Namibian ambassador to Belgium Mekondjo Kaapanda-Girnus and Lieselot Declercq, entrepreneur and director of d-teach - moderated by journalist John Vandaele and opened by UGent pro-vice-rector Mieke Van Herreweghe [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]

21h30-23h00 Reception [Krook café – ground floor]