

The East African Rift System: geology, resources, paleoenvironment, and human evolution

The East African Rift System (hereafter called EARS) is the longest continental rift system on planet Earth. In this GeoX network, we aim to provide a platform to discuss recent advances in the study of the rift and its surroundings and to foster collaboration among scientists from GFZ, TU Berlin, FU Berlin, the University of Potsdam and other GeoX institutes.

Date: - 26-27 February 2026

Venue: - Room BH-N 107
Ernst-Reuter-Platz
Technical University of Berlin
Berlin

Meeting agendas

The meeting aims to discuss the following **three** broad agendas:

1. Rift tectonics
2. Geothermal Resource explorations and Geohazard
3. Paleoenvironmental and human evolution studies in East Africa

Schedule of the meeting

Day 1 - 26.02.2026

09:00 - 09:30 – registration

09:30 - 09:40 – welcome

09:40 - 10:00 – getting to know each other

10:00 - 10:40 – **Lydia Olaka - invited talk**

10:40 - 11:00 – Geodynamic modeling of Rifts - Sascha Brune

11:00 – 11:30 – **coffee**

11:30 – 12:00 – GNSS & InSAR observations at the Olkaria geothermal site – Bodo Bookhagen

12:00 – 13:40 – Lunch

13:40 - 14:20 – Seismicity in East Africa – Joachim Saul

14:20 - 14:40 – Seismicity in Olkaria Geothermal site, Kenya – Junior Kimata

14:40 -15:00 – Inversion tectonics in Turkana depression, Kenya – Ameha Muluneh

15:00 -15:30 – **coffee**

15:30 – 15:50 – Automatic fault mapping in East Africa rift system – Pauline Gayrin

15:50 – 16:10- ICDP's plan to drill in Chew Bahir – Stefanie Kaboth-Bahr

16:10 – 16:30 - CO₂ degassing in the rift - Luisa Hirche

16:30 – 17:00 – concluding remarks

Day 2 - 27.02.2026

09:30 - 09:40 – welcome

09:40 - 10:00 – **Derek Keir – invited talk** - online

10:00 - 10:20 – Pleistocene alluvial sediments as indicators of Paleoclimate – Robert Bussert

10:20 - 11:00 – **coffee**

11:00 – 11:20 – River systems in the Kenya Rift during the African Humid Period: relevance for lake level fluctuations and biotic interchange - Rene Dommain

11:20 - 11:40 – Fauna, Lithics, and Paleoenvironments of the Pleistocene Nile Basin, Sudan: The PALEONILE Project – Faysal Bibi

11:40 - 12:00 – Climate human interaction – Stefanie Kaboth-Bahr

12:00 – 13:30 – Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 – round table discussion on tectonics, geothermal exploration and geohazard Paleoenvt and Human evolution.

15:00 -15:30 – **coffee**

15:30 – 17:00 round table discussion on tectonics, geothermal exploration and geohazard Paleoenvt and Human evolution.

17:30 – 20:00 Dinner

We invite participants to bring posters for discussion during the coffee break.

We expect a total of 30 attendees.

Please contact ameha@gfz.de to register until **20 Febuary 2026**.