

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 - 10:20 – GNSS & InSAR observations at the Olkaria geothermal site – Bodo Bookhagen

10:20 - 10:40 – Geodynamic modeling of Rifts - Sascha Brune

10:40 – 11:10 – **coffee**

11:10 – 11:30 – Inversion tectonics in Turkana depression, Kenya – Ameha Muluneh

11:30 – 11:50 - Seismicity in East Africa – Joachim Saul

11:50 – 13:30 – Lunch

13:30 - 14:10 – **Lydia Olaka - invited talk**

14:10 - 14:30 – Seismicity in Olkaria Geothermal site, Kenya – Junior Kimata

14:30 -14:50 – Automatic fault mapping in East Africa rift system – Pauline Gayrin

14:50 -15:20 – **coffee**

15:20 – 15:40 – CO₂ degassing in the rift - Luisa Hirche

15:40 – 16:00- ICDP's plan to drill in Chew Bahir – Stefanie Kaboth-Bahr

16:00 – 16:20 - Tipping Points - Martin Trauth

16:20 – 17:00 – Discussions/concluding remarks

17:30 – 19:30 - Dinner

Day 2 - 27.02.2026 - ONLINE

09:30 - 09:40 – welcome

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

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 - 12:30 – Discussion

The online meeting ends at 12:30.