



The 3rd Great African Rift Colloquium

(Narok, Kenya, 2024)

Call for Abstracts

The GDR Rift is pleased to propose its 3rd Colloquium to be held in the East African Rift itself, in Narok, Kenya, from the 13th to the 17th of May 2024, hosted by the Maasai Mara University. The colloquium is open to all researchers, students and staff who wish to address issues related to the Great Rift in an interdisciplinary approach. The symposium will focus on four main themes, but any other theme will be considered if relevant. For each theme, topics from the natural and social sciences are welcome.

I. Main scientific thematic

1. Cultural heritage, human and wildlife evolution as a contributor to biodiversity conservation in the Rift

The Rift is arguably a paleontological and archeological epicenter. There exists a strong cultural integration of humans within wildlife ecosystems and biodiversity in the Rift that worth understanding, replicating and expanding. The adaptability of indigenous communities in a dynamic Rift has already been noted, from

prehistory to the present day. What innovative approaches exist to conserve biodiversity in the Rift ? In particular, what can we learn from the anthropology and biodiversity conservation nexus with a focus on environmental anthropology, osteological and archaeobotanical trends in the Rift? These sessions host study cases that describe repertoires of adaptation, from environmental constraints to political, colonial ones, and how human activities shape the environment.

2. Modeling and AI trends towards conservation of the Rift

The session will report technological advances as an essential transverse tool to further understand and mitigate the challenges in the Rift. This includes new methods of exploring the interior and surface of the Rift, i-e mathematical as well as computer programs employed in studying the Rift. Artificial intelligence (AI) has seen immense development over the past few years in several disciplines (geophysics, paleontology, archeology) and we would be excited to see its contextualization in forthcoming challenges of the Rift.

3. Energy and resources paradigm in the Rift

The Rift present vast supplies of geothermal, solar, wind, hydro and biomass energy. How can we balance clean energy extraction with other resources and humanity in the wake of climate change? What new technologies will be at play which are affordable, accessible, efficient, easy to use and climate-friendly? From production to consumption, energies and more generally natural resources are the subject of a large spectrum of studies, applied or not, and certainly deserve an interdisciplinary approach.

4. Emerging challenges in human and other animal health in the Rift

Climate change has fueled outbreaks and transmission of various human and other animal diseases in the Rift, such as cholera, yellow fever and Rift Valley fever. What lessons have been learnt from covid-19 that are worth implementing in the Rift for zoonotic and viral diseases to humans and other animals? Studies of these current threats can be compared to studies of the past, concerning both zoonose and the original condition, namely domestication.

II- Workshop training areas.

In addition to the thematic sessions, oral presentations and posters that form the core of the colloquium, other sessions will be organised for the exchange of ideas and scientific collaboration:

- Pedagogical/teaching sessions on specific methods and technologies.
- Networking in an interdisciplinary approach.
- Developing research proposals and managing grants.

III- Field visits.

The first three days of the symposium will be devoted to scientific presentations. The following two days will be devoted to two site visits, giving participants the opportunity to discover different places that could be the subject of multidisciplinary research: remarkable rift geography and human and animal occupation of a territory.

IV- Application

Please complete the application form below (or download it from the GDR Rift website) and send it to: [**rift.colloquium2024@gmail.com**](mailto:rift.colloquium2024@gmail.com)

You will receive a confirmation email as soon as your application has been submitted.

Submission: until January, 12th.

Selection of proposals: January, 26th.

V- Funding

This colloquium is free of charge, but registration is mandatory.

The field trips will be financed by the GDR Rift in collaboration with the University of Maasai Mara.

Flights and accommodation are to be financed by each participant. However, in line with our policy of encouraging scientific collaboration, we will provide funding for a number of participants. Priority will be given to students and young researchers from the Rift countries.

Scientific committee :

Pr. Justus Simiyu – Maasai Mara University
Pr. Romulus Abila – Maasai Mara University
Dr. Aloys Osano – Maasai Mara University
Dr. Jean-Baptiste Eczet – EHESS
Pr Olga Otero – Université de Poitiers
Dr Antoine Souron – Université de Bordeaux
Mr. Reson Lankeu – Maasai Mara University
Dr. Charity Konana – Maasai Mara University
Dr. Christel Tiberi – CNRS
Mr. Bakari Chaka – Maasai Mara University (Secretariat of the Team)

Director of the GDR Rift :

Pr. Christel Tiberi – CNRS

Websites :

<https://rift-cnrs.fr/>

<https://www.mmarau.ac.ke/>

APPLICATION FORM

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Full Name :

Nationality :

Institution :

Status (Professor, student, etc.) :

Title of the scientific contribution :

Type of participation (oral presentation, poster) :

Summary (500 words max.) :

Do you plan to take part in the field trips ? YES NO

Do you plan to ask for a mobility grant ? YES NO

Send it to: rift.colloquium2024@gmail.com

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