

## Conferences

### Objectives

- To promote the latest research and interdisciplinary work being carried out in the East African Rift.
- Generating and strengthening interaction networks between members of the GDR Rift, GDR countries and conference partners
- Providing a forum for dialogue and exchange for young researchers in the Rift Valley



### Achievements

4 symposia: 2020 (Kick-off 2 days in Covid video); 2022 (Lyon, 3 days, scientific); 2023 (Paris, 2 days, general public); 2024 (Narok, Kenya, 5 days, scientific).

### Budget & operations

- Budget managed by the director's UMR (Géosciences Montpellier) for Lyon and Paris,
- Strong involvement of CNRS Terre et Univers and CNRS Ecologie et Environnement,
- The Maasai Mara University, the French Embassy in Kenya, the CFEE and the IFRA will be heavily involved in the organisation of the event in 2024,
- For each Colloquium, an organising committee was appointed and met to prepare the event in addition to the GDR's scientific committee.



### Reflective assessment

- Budgetary priority given to young researchers and GDR member countries through mobility grants,
- Excellent participation from statutory colleagues, researchers, doctoral students and post-doctoral students from the Rift countries,
- Difficulty of the chosen site, which favours the presence of certain nationalities over others,
- Collective reflection on inter-disciplinarity and the challenges of the Rift (e.g. Resources),
- Collective reflection on the organisation of the colloquia (fieldwork, workshops, etc.).

## • Kick Off - Video conference - 9-10 November 2020

First conference of the inter-institute project GDR RIFT - Great African Rift in videoconference (cause covid).

**Key theme of the conference: *Defining the "Rift" object***, since it is perceived in significantly different ways from one community to another. This symposium provided an opportunity to approach the Rift from an interdisciplinary perspective and to prepare effectively for interactions between the different communities within the Rift research group.

To build this dialogue between disciplines, we have **focused this first meeting on discussions** rather than scientific presentations.

**Four workshops** based on the GDR's scientific themes provided an opportunity to discuss these definitions, the scientific challenges and the way in which we want to interact together: the Rift's heritage, system dynamics, natural resources, training and education.

## • Conference, Lyon - 22-24 November 2022



70 participants from France, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti (including 12 students from the Rift Valley countries).

6 sessions and 3 workshops:

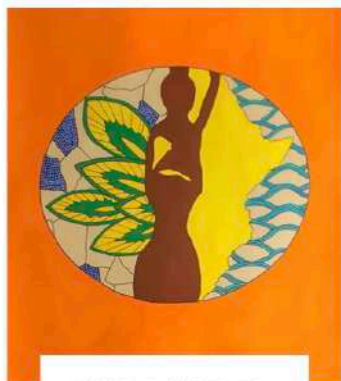
- System dynamics and risks
- Understanding the rift: the contribution of modelling
- Energy versus Resources
- Wetlands
- The rift as a factory of diversity
- Relationships between health and the environment
- Heritage workshop
- Turkana workshop
- Student workshop



## GDR Rift 2021- 2025 report

### • Symposium "The Great African Rift, where time meets time" Paris - Nov. 2023

Le Grand Rift africain à la confluence des temps  
*Regards croisés scientifiques sur l'évolution de la biodiversité, des environnements et des sociétés*



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- Conference in partnership with the Collège de France, to mark the publication of the book *Cherche Midi* and in tribute to Yves Coppens
- Papers delivered by the authors of the chapters in the book
- Institute Directors present
- Round table on the future of research in the Rift (and more widely in Africa)
- All presentations available on the Collège de France Youtube channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_v6VXG68RBI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_v6VXG68RBI)



### • Conference, Maasaï Mara University, Narok, Kenya - May 2024



- Promoting interdisciplinary research in Rift
- Exchanges between students and researchers during oral sessions, posters, workshops and field trips
- 94 participants from 55 institutions and 19 countries (Africa + Europe)
- 46 GDR mobility grants to encourage the participation of young researchers
- Topics covered: Modelling and AI, ecology and biodiversity, energy and resources, health and conservation.