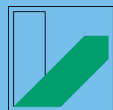


The Politics of Raw Materials in Africa and Beyond



Challenges and Opportunities

5.-7. December 2025
Conference Centre Hohenheim



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

 Akademie
der Diözese
Rottenburg-Stuttgart

Friday, 5 December 2025

18:00
Dinner

19:00
Welcome, Opening and Round of Introductions

20:00

The Politics of Raw Materials in Africa and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities

Christoph Helbig, Bayreuth University
Willi Haas, Institute for Social Ecology at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Godelive Batano, Bayreuth University

The evening continues with a relaxed get-together and dancing.

Saturday, 6 December 2025

8:00
Breakfast

8:45
Thought for the Day

9:00 - 11:30

Critical Raw Materials and Africa's Role in Secure Resource Supply

9:00 - 10:00
Critical Raw Materials in Africa – An Assessment
Jürgen Vasters, Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources

10:00 - 10:30
Coffee/Tea

10:30 - 11:30
Raw Material Extraction in Africa – An Internal Perspective
Penda Diallo, United Nations Institute for Training & Research

11:30 - 15:30

The Geopolitics of Raw Materials

11:30 - 12:30
Is there a threat of a new resource colonialism?
Johannes Knierzinger, Vienna University

12:30
Lunch

14:30 - 15:30
Raw Material Policy and Practice from a Civil Society Perspective
Thérèse Mema Mapenzi, Justice and Peace Commission in the DR Congo

15:30 - 16:00
Coffee/Tea

16:00 - 18:00

Environmentally Friendly and Climate-Resilient Resource Extraction?

16:00 - 17:00
Local Value Addition and Challenges in Resource Extraction in Southern Africa
Meike Schulze, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

17:00 - 18:00
Environmentally Friendly and Climate-Resilient Resource Extraction
Martin Kofi Mensah, Freiberg University of Mining and Technology

18:00
Dinner

19:00

Operation Africa. The Hunt for the Raw Materials of the Future.

Film Evening and Conversation with the Filmmaker
Jan-Philipp Scholz, Filmmaker and Editor

The evening continues with a relaxed get-together and dancing.

Sunday, 7 December 2025

from 7:00
Breakfast

8:45
Thought for the Day

9:00 - 11:30

Sustainability through Circular Economy and Resource Transition

9:00 - 10:00
Sustainability via Circular Economy
Willi Haas, Institute for Social Ecology at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna/ Marzia Traverso, RWTH Aachen University

10:00 - 10:30
Coffee/Tea

10:30 - 11:30
About the Necessity of a Raw Material Transition / Energy Transition
Constantin Bittner / Hanna Pilgrim, Working Group on Raw Materials

11:30 - 12:30

How Can Africa Develop its Role in Secure Resource Supply while Protecting the Environment?

Summary and Concluding Discussion

12:30
Lunch and Ending of the Conference

Speakers

Prof. Dr. -Ing. Christoph Helbig
Bayreuth University

Priv.-Doz. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Willi Haas
Institute for Social Ecology at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Godelive Batano, Ph.D.
Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies

Dr. -Ing. Jürgen Vasters
Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources

Dr. Penda Diallo
United Nations Institute for Training & Research

Dr. Johannes Knierzinger
Vienna University

Thérèse Mema Mapenzi
Justice and Peace Commission in the DR Congo

Meike Schulze
German Institute for International and Security Affairs

Ing. Martin Kofi Mensah, Ph.D.
Freiberg University of Mining and Technology

Jan-Philipp Scholz
Filmmaker and Editor at the German International Broadcaster Deutsche Welle

Prof. Dr. Marzia Traverso
RWTH Aachen University

Constantin Bittner / Hanna Pilgrim
Working Group on Raw Materials

Conference Chair

Dr. Heike Wagner
Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart

Dr. Malick Faye
Bayreuth University

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christoph Helbig
Bayreuth University

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Rothfuß
Bayreuth University

The Politics of Raw Materials in Africa and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities

The African continent is rich in natural resources that are crucial for the global supply of critical raw materials. But how can Africa expand its role in securing raw material supply while simultaneously protecting the environment?

Africa is home to a variety of critical raw materials such as copper, cobalt and platinum. These materials are indispensable for the production of power grids, electric vehicles and the hydrogen economy. However, the extraction and mining of these resources also pose significant challenges. Various actors (e.g., China and the EU) simultaneously position themselves as investors and markets. Is this a threat for a new form of resource colonialism?

Raw material extraction often has negative environmental impacts. Are there ways to make extraction more environmentally friendly? How can Africa promote its raw materials sustainably and responsibly to secure both its own and the global supply, while also protecting the interests of the population and the environment? What role can circular economy play by using resources more efficiently and minimizing waste? How can companies and governments in Africa improve environmental protection while strengthening the African economy?

Förderung durch

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On Participation

Conference Fees

Meals, Conference Fee, Single Room Accommodation	199,00 €
Meals, Conference Fee, Double Room Accommodation	181,00 €
Meals, Conference Fee, without Accommodation nor Breakfast	120,00 €

Reduced Fee

Meals, Conference Fee, Double Room Accommodation	85,00 €
Meals, Conference Fee, without Accommodation nor Breakfast	59,00 €

The conference language is German

Registration and Inquiries

Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart
Assistant: Christine Herrmann
Kirchplatz 7, 88250 Weingarten
Tel: +49 751 5686 412
E-Mail: ch.herrmann@akademie-rs.de

Registration: www.akademie-rs.de/vakt_25674
Please submit your registration in writing no later than November 20, 2025. You will receive a confirmation E-Mail.
In case of cancellation between November 21 and November 28, 2025 (date of receipt), we will charge 50% of the conference fees. After this period, or in case of no-show, the full fee will be charged.
Substitution by another person is possible without any cancellation fees.

Free Places for Students

The Academy Association may grant free places for students and doctoral candidates. If interested, please contact Dr. Heike Wagner by sending a brief E-Mail and your CV to internationale-beziehungen@akademie-rs.de. Legal recourse is excluded.
The conference language is German

Photo and Video Recordings

By registering for on-site events, you consent to the possibility that photos or videos may be taken and published in which you may be identifiable.

Conference Centre and Travel Information
Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart
– Hohenheim Conference Centre –
Paracelsusstraße 91, 70599 Stuttgart
Tel: +49 711 451034 600; Fax: +49 711 451034 898
Travel Information: www.akademie-rs.de/hohenheim-anreise
There are two public charging stations for electric vehicles located in close proximity.

Godelive Kusimwa Batano