

Einfaches Seminar: Environmental Law and Climate Justice

Understanding international human rights law through branching scenarios – Case Study on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline

(Winter Semester 2024 Course No. 30348)

The Case Study: East African Crude Oil Pipeline

Major energy investment projects in Africa regularly cause clashes between energy access and human rights. While energy access is closely related to the realisation of socio-economic, civil and political rights, the clash becomes evident through the impacts on the environment and affected persons and communities at and around the project site. For example, the ongoing East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is a significant undertaking in the energy and infrastructure sector in East Africa designed to transport oil from Western Uganda through Tanzania to the Tanga port and subsequently into the Indian Ocean. While the EACOP project promotes unlocking East Africa's potential, it is accompanied by severe detrimental effects. It contributes significantly to the worsening of the global climate crisis at a time when East Africa already experiences first-hand the effects of the global climate crisis through extreme weather events, such as extreme droughts and flooding. Beyond environmental concerns, the project poses threats to human rights, which have led to the initiation of several lawsuits in Uganda, Tanzania at the East African Court of Justice and in France, underscoring the pressing need to address the (potential) consequences associated with the EACOP initiative.

Introduction

This is a special seminar. We all have a common goal. Together we are building a digital tool on different scenarios in claiming human rights based on the example of EACOP: The seminar focusses on learning about, understanding and actively applying international human rights law with its institutions and protection standards in the context of environmental law and climate justice. It will deepen and extend this knowledge through the active and independent engagement with a **case study on EACOP** towards the following question: How can human rights be claimed at regional and



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international levels? The case study will be worked on in **smaller groups** and adapted to create a **digital tool called "Branching Scenarios"** which can be widely used for digital learning about international human rights law and international environmental law, institutions, and procedural pathways. You don't need to have any technical or digital background to participate in this seminar. Additionally, you don't necessarily need prior knowledge of international human rights law or international environmental law, but an interest in these topics will be beneficial.

The aim of the course is to provide a critical and case-based examination of the structures and processes of international human rights law systems for the promotion and protection of human rights. After completing this course, you will be able to competently articulate the role of international human rights institutions in the protection of human rights and understand various methods and pathways of claiming these rights. Specifically, you will be able to critically assess and address questions such as the effectiveness and suitability of the principles and processes established for claiming human rights.

Teaching, Group Work and Assessment

The seminar takes place as a block seminar with four main days that are spread throughout the semester with independent teamwork in between. You will work in groups and handle different parts of the scenario. For example, one group will analyze ways to claim human rights violations before the East African Court of Justice, another will explore possibilities with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and yet others will consider holding international companies like TOTAL Energies accountable before the European Court of Human Rights. During the process the different parts will be puzzled together. The course will conclude with each student submitting a report and delivering a presentation based on the group work.



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	24 October 2024	07 November 2024	Independent Group Work	05 December 2024	Independent Group Work	30 January 2025
09.00 - 11.00	Introduction	Digital Tool "Branching Scenarios"		Progress Update		Technical Finishing
11.30 - 13.00	Introduction to International Human Rights Law	Course Processes around claiming of rights		Technical Introduction and Testing: Branching Scenarios		Final Presentations
14.00 - 16.00	Introduction of Group Work	Group Work "How to make a Toast"		Cross Discussions between the Groups		Final Presentations

Participation

If you are interested to join this seminar, please register by sending us your name, semester and matriculation number to: africanlegalstudies@uni-bayreuth.de. The allocation of your specific group and topic will take place during the first meeting.



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