

# Geographisches Kolloquium Sommersemester 2023



Ort: Hörsaal H8 (GEO II)

Dienstag, 23. Mai 2023, 16.00 – 18.00 Uhr

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## Fitting a Round Peg into a Square Hole? Examining latest Conservation driven Decisions over the Maasai Pastoralists in Ngorongoro – Tanzania

The Ngorongoro district, with its three administrative divisions namely Loliondo, Ngorongoro and Sale, has experienced land use conflicts for several decades both emanating from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) and the erstwhile Loliondo Game Controlled Area which was recently renamed Pololeti Game Controlled Area. The NCA is famous worldwide and it has been categorized as the World Heritage Site for inhabiting a variety of fauna and flora and most importantly the cohabitation of wildlife species together with livestock and human beings – predominantly the Maasai. Insights of empirical data on the Ngorongoro conflict have established two major decisions that are being implemented by the government namely relocating Maasai from their ancestral land for which they have a legal claim; and the proposal by the Multiple Land Use Management Review Panel for the alteration of the NCA boundaries, a move that will affect more communities even in other districts such as Monduli and Longido. It is noted that these decisions are guided by the mainstream bioeconomy narrative and fortress conservation, instead of broad consultations with the potential victims of the decisions. Most importantly, the relocation exercise is not guided by the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). It is concluded that these decisions deny the key stakeholders the right to participate in the conservation processes. And an attempt to relocate and to forcefully change the lifestyle of pastoral communities is likened to fitting a round peg into a square hole, which might leave behind horrendous socio-economic and cultural ramifications.