



**African Academy for the Practice of International Law,  
Young Researchers Section**  
*International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law*

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**PRESS RELEASE  
(ENGLISH)**

Over the years, national legislation, international conventions, case law and custom have developed a law whose objective is the protection of the environment. From this law emerge the elements of an international criminal environmental law whose object is environmental crime. It brings together serious attacks on the environment such as: pollution of water, air and soil having impacts on human health, illegal exploitation of resources, trafficking in endangered species or their habitat, poor management of hazardous waste, use of dangerous nuclear or radioactive materials, use of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

The considerable scale of these environmental attacks has put the entire planet, including humans, in an unprecedented crisis situation.

Faced with this situation, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, whose mission is to fight against all acts which “*deeply offend the human conscience*” or which constitute serious “*threats to peace, security and well-being of the world*”, launched on February 16, 2024 a public consultation aimed at the upcoming publication of a draft general policy aimed at upholding the principle of accountability for environmental crimes under the Rome Statute.

In order to respond effectively to the request from the Office of the Prosecutor, the International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law Unit of the Young Researchers Section of the African Academy for the Practice of International Law (AAILP) provided a study. The working group formed for this purpose included Drusilla BRET-CUNYNGHAME-ROBERTSON, J'aurai MUPEPE NGALONGA, Mamadou FOFANA, Oumar KOUROUMA and Yvan Lionnel YOUMSSI EYA. They were led by Professor Catherine MAIA and Professor Dr. Mutoy MUBIALA, members of the AAPDI as well.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether it is possible to link serious environmental harm to the material jurisdiction of the ICC. In this sense, the consultation, after a fundamental reflection on the requirement for an adapted conceptual framework for environmental crime, explored

environmental incriminations from the Rome Statute and beyond in regional and national practices. Then, the study focused on the possible modes of liability before the International Criminal Court, ranging from individual liability to that of legal entities. It concludes with practical and precise recommendations addressed to the Office of the Prosecutor.

The Young Researchers Section, on behalf of the entire AAPDI, would like to congratulate and thank the Pole, more particularly the members of the Working Group and the supervising Professors.

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