

## PhD projects at the Research Group of Medical Geography & Public Health

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### Wetland-related Diseases, Health Risk Perceptions and Behaviour in Ewaso Narok Swamp, Kenya

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Wetlands are beneficial sources of safe water and nutrition and places from which people derive their livelihoods. At the same time, wetlands are known sources of water-related diseases and their use can threaten human health. Potential exposures are manifold and routes of transmission include the ingestion of contaminated water, water-washed diseases caused by poor personal hygiene, water-based diseases caused by parasites found in water and vector-related diseases transmitted by insect vectors which breed in water. As such diseases affect quality of life, agricultural productivity, family and social networks, and consequently socioeconomic development, they need to be addressed in the context of wetland use. The most common uses, as found in East Africa, are: extraction of water for domestic use (including drinking water), crop production, pastoralism, fishery and collection of building materials. Each of these activities is differently linked to water contact and water-related transmission pathways that entail different health risks.

In order to learn about wetland-related diseases, health risk perceptions and behaviour in wetlands, this PhD research applies a mixed-methods approach containing (i) a literature review, (ii) a quantitative household survey, (iii) an observational household assessment, (iv) qualitative interviews with wetland users and experts. A focus is being set on diarrhoea, typhoid fever, malaria, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, and pesticide-related health risks. The study takes place in Ewaso Narok Swamp in semiarid Laikipia, Kenya, one model case of a wetland in East Africa.



The study aims at contributing to the development of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in Wetlands assessing physical health aspects related to the use of wetlands. It is integrated into the Work Package D2 of the project GlobE Wetlands in East Africa - reconciling future food production with environment protection.



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Work Package	D2 Human Health Impact
Countries of work	East Africa
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Subject	Medical Geography, Public Health
Faculty	Faculty of Natural Science
University	University of Bonn
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