

PhD projects at the GeoHealth Centre

SOPHIE-BO HEINKEL

Applying place-related well-being as local driver for the sustainability of environmental protection activities – A case study of a wetland in Uganda

Keywords: Africa, ecosystem management, mental health, monitoring, place bonding, sense of place, sustainability, Uganda, well-being,

The PhD research project presented investigates the impact of wetlands on mental health and human well-being. It is part of the GlobE-Project „Wetlands in East Africa - reconciling future food production with environment protection“ Work Package D2 Human Health Impact. Healthy ecosystems contribute to the well-being of people depending on the ecosystem’s services. Moreover, the attachment to the surrounding environment creates a sense of place and provides place identity. Furthermore, it can be harmful to the people’s mental health, if access to the respective places is denied in order to establish national plans of environmental protection. Therefore an adequate integrated environmental management does not only conserve resources but also contributes to an increased collective and individual well-being.

In terms of the PhD research project, a catalog of potential environmental factors influencing mental health and place-related well-being has been devised. It will be tailored to the local characteristics of the environment by including the results of group interviews with representatives and stakeholders in place. In order to get an overview of the status quo of well-being in place, a cross-sectional study has been carried out. Furthermore, guided interviews with key informants shed light on the collective and individual well-being and local concepts of place bonding.

Thus potentials for establishing long-term activities of sustainable food production and nature protection at grassroots level can be monitored. This study aims to detect local sense of wetlands in East Africa as places which are to be used in a sustainable way in the future.



Contact:
Sophie-Bo Heinkel

Institute for Hygiene and Public Health
University of Bonn
Sigmund-Freud-Str. 25
53105 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49 (0)228 287 19872
Fax: -19516
Sophie-Bo.Heinkel@ukb.uni-bonn.de

www.ihph.de
www.wetlands-africa.de



| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Work Package | D2 Human Health Impact |
| Countries of work | Uganda |
| 1 st Supervisor | Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Kistemann MA (geogr.) |
| 2 nd Supervisor | Prof. Dr. Julia Verne |
| Subject | Geography |
| Faculty | Faculty of mathematics and natural science |
| University | Bonn |
| Working period | 11/2013 – 03/2017 |