Teaching Environmental Governance in Developing Countries
Concept and Experiences from a Students’ Excursion to Kenya

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Environmental governance in Kenya

- a relevant issue?
  • High problem pressure
  • Discrepancy between policy objectives and implementation regarding the environment
  • Environmental Governance vs. government capacities

- Teaching and research on environmental issues in Africa
  limited by data availability and limited coverage in literature

- Conceptual lacks behind governance concepts and analysis
  with regard to the subjects of sustainability, environmental challenges, developing countries and the especially
  interlinkages between those subjects

- Joint excursion with the international partners can tackle and partly overcome these barriers, leads to practical
  experiences and is highly conducive for intercultural understanding

The objective of the presented excursion was

- to develop a common understanding of environmental governance in the context of sustainable development
- to apply methodological knowledge and theories in practice
- to enable students to reflect specific Kenyan problems from a scientific and intercultural perspective

Guiding Questions and Topics

Guiding Questions
1. What are major environmental problems? Whom do...? Where do they develop?
2. Which governance goods and services are provided? by whom at which level, by which actors? by which means?
3. What are the stakeholders responsibilities and duties...? and which level do they pursue?
4. How does the constellation between different actors look like?
5. Do we find networks? On which and between which level do they develop?

Topics
1. Environmental problems in Kenya (e.g. resource degradation, renewable energy)
2. National level (KCC)
3. Local level (e.g. Fluorspar Mining)
4. Civil Society (e.g. NGO councils)
5. Business (CSR in the flower industry)
6. Instruments (Corporate Social Responsibility, Environmental Impact Assessment)

Teaching Concept

- Interlinkage of teaching and research
- International and intercultural Cooperation and Understanding
- Inter-/Multidisciplinary Approach: Bringing different Concepts and Theories together
- Transdisciplinary Approach: Inclusion and Understanding of non-scientific perceptions
- Keeping Gender-Aspects and allocation in mind during preparation and devolution
- Environmental protection and environmental governance - perfectly suitable for an interdisciplinary approach!

Scientific results

- Detailed and structured overview on the manifold environmental problems, the Kenyan solution approaches and governance structures
- Presented in overview tables (see e.g. an example below), daily protocols on the excursion sights and detailed reports on the subjects which will be discussed with the scientific community (workshop) and finally published

Participations and Preparation

- Preparatory courses at the Department of Political Science, FU Berlin
  Winter term 2006/2007: "HS 15472 Global and national environmental governance in Germany and Kenya"
  Summer term 2007: "HS 15462 Umweltpolitik in Entwicklungsländern am Bsp. Kenia"

- Freie Universität Berlin: Environmental Policy Research Centre, Moi University Eldoret: Departments of Geography and Environmental Health

Participations and Preparation

- Participants and Preparation
  - Students’ comments on the excursion

Students’ comments on the excursion

Jacinta Mary, Kenyan student: "Everyday we were facing specific issues that we have to do. I really love the guys. I loved the discussions, they really enabled us to get to each other and especially that part for switching to an understandable language when you are caught in the act. It was crucial to have the Kenyan students with us, because they have the best knowledge about the environmental issues in Kenya. And they gave me their insights, and for me it was very important to have a friend and not for short of help and I could make new friends. So I am looking forward to the back exchange next year."

Sarah, German student: "I want to thank all the international and Kenyan students and lecturers. It was so great to be there. I made a lot of new friends and had a lot of new experiences in Kenya. I was able to see much more than I expected. I learnt a lot about environmental governance and sustainability in developing countries."

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