

## **Mobility, networks and institutions in the management of natural resources in contemporary Africa - extension**

Initiative: Wissen für morgen – Kooperative Forschungsvorhaben im subsaharischen Afrika (beendet)

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The first phase of the project investigated the relationship between mobility and the management of natural resources in African savannah environments as a result of processes of globalization, commoditization and rural impoverishment that lead to an increasing flow of people, ideas and capital. In the course of the project broader conceptions of mobility have been explored. Mobility strategically employed by human actors embodies not only the physical mobility of people between places but is closely connected to other flows that occur between places, including a variety of natural resources but also cultural repertoires, modes of business decision making, property rights and related institutional models. The new and different, even contrasting patterns of mobility are in analytical terms linked to the emergence of new sets of actors and brought land back on the academic and development agenda. The project examines land from a mobility angle and more specifically with a close focus on the two opposing interconnections between mobility and land based resources. The new mobilities raise critical questions about sustainability and put the on-going shift from community based to elite based management models on the agenda.

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