

Into the field.

Interdisciplinary fieldwork learning in river basin governance in the Okavango Delta, Botswana.

The Okavango fieldtrip facilitated by King's Water and the Department of Geography is a field-based education for undergraduate and graduate students from different backgrounds. The learning experience takes place in different locations in and around one of the largest remaining near-pristine ecosystems in Africa and alongside students and academic staff from a US and Australian university.

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The goal.

The field learning provides a comprehensive understanding about the river ecosystem and human pressures facing it, as well as insights into aspects of conservation, governance, and hydro-politics prevalent in the Okavango basin. Students explore these issues through field-work exercises for which they acquire essential methods and skills.

A global initiative.

The fieldtrip is part of the Global River Basins Connects project in partnership with King's PLuS Alliance colleagues from Arizona State University and the University of New South Wales. Besides expanding access to world-class education, the project drives research in comparing seven global river basins to develop a better scientific understanding about them and impactful policies for their effective governance.

“The field trip was an unbelievable opportunity for me not only to apply the skills and knowledge I gained throughout my learning at Kings, but also to conduct my own research. Perhaps most exciting for me was the evidence of ‘the big five’ animals with trails through camp and the incredible noises heard every night” (Kieran: MSc. Water Science & Governance).

“Flying 300 m above large herds of elephants and the endless trails they establish in the swamps be assured to loose your breath. And this is just the way into the delta” (André: MSc Water Science & Governance).



“We explored complex transboundary challenges whilst being surrounded by amazing wildlife and nature. I truly enjoyed studying various social and physical issues from within the delta, learning from people directly involved in governance and conservation” (Mari: BSc Geography).

Field trip overview.

- ▶ Local actors from the river basin commission or wildlife organizations share their expertise and experience, enabling room for critical discussion and engagement with contested perspectives.
- ▶ Students venture out by foot, jeep or boat to survey the flora and fauna of the delta and gather data about socio-political challenges through interviews with the local inhabitants.
- ▶ Besides group-based exercises, students have the opportunity to pursue their own research interests, linking learning with a dissertation project for which they receive guidance by King's staff.

For enquires about the trip please contact:
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