

Publication

Assessing health impacts in complex eco-epidemiological settings in the humid tropics: advancing tools and methods

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 524411

Author(s) Winkler, Mirko S.; Divall, Mark J.; Krieger, Gary R.; Balge, Marci Z.; Singer, Burton H.; Utzinger, Juerg

Author(s) at UniBasel [Utzinger, Jürg](#) ;

Year 2010

Title Assessing health impacts in complex eco-epidemiological settings in the humid tropics: advancing tools and methods

Journal Environmental impact assessment review

Volume 30

Number 1

Pages / Article-Number 52-61

Keywords Health impact assessment, Developing countries, Environmental health areas, Risk analysis matrix, Gold-mining project, Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the developing world, large-scale projects in the extractive industry and natural resources sectors are often controversial and associated with long-term adverse health consequences to local communities. In many industrialised countries, health impact assessment (HIA) has been institutionalized for the mitigation of anticipated negative health effects while enhancing the benefits of projects, programmes and policies. However, in developing country settings, relatively few HIAs have been performed. Hence, more HIAs with a focus on low- and middle-income countries are needed to advance and refine tools and methods for impact assessment and subsequent mitigation measures. We present a promising HIA approach, developed within the frame of a large gold-mining project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The articulation of environmental health areas, the spatial delineation of potentially affected communities and the use of a diversity of sources to obtain quality baseline health data are utilized for risk profiling. We demonstrate how these tools and data are fed into a risk analysis matrix, which facilitates ranking of potential health impacts for subsequent prioritization of mitigation strategies. The outcomes encapsulate a multitude of environmental and health determinants in a systematic manner, and will assist decision-makers in the development of mitigation measures that minimize potential adverse health effects and enhance positive ones. (C) 2009 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved

Publisher Elsevier

ISSN/ISBN 0195-9255

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/dok/A5842823>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1016/j.eiar.2009.05.005

ISI-Number WOS:000272928500006

Document type (ISI) Article