

## **1. Cultural Ecosystem Services of Lake Zurich (and/or Lägern)**

*Supervisor: Norman Backhaus*

This master thesis is concerned with the concept of Ecosystem Services (ESS) and focuses on cultural ecosystem services. Lake Zurich does not only provide clean water for consumption and production, but it is also valued by people for its mere presence, its looks, its history etc. An initial research question (that has to be focused) could be "What cultural aspects do people value of Lake Zurich and why?". In a first stage a qualitative approach is envisaged in order to grasp the variety of notions and aspects. A proper selection of research sites is part of the master thesis (Kilchberg could be a starting point). Depending on the scope of this step an analysis of literature (i.e. fiction, newspapers) could complete this master thesis.

Building on the results of this first Master thesis a second quantitatively oriented thesis could follow. Using these results a concise questionnaire has to be developed, tested and applied at selected places around the lake. The results of the survey should furthermore critically assess regarding the quantification of cultural ESS. The same could also be done for the Lägern. However, the body of literature concerning forests and their valuation needs to be considered.

## **2. Use of images in URPP**

*Supervisor: Norman Backhaus*

The visualization of projects and results has become increasingly important in almost any kind of research. Also URPP researchers are producing images (i.e. maps, graphs, photographs etc.) in order to communicate within their groups and towards the outside. This Master thesis analyses with what kind of images the URPP as an institution works in its project and communication.

## **3. Social crowding in FRIM park near Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia**

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The Forest Research Institute Malaysia is located in a park that includes forested parts, waterways and lawns. Especially on weekends the park is frequented by day-trippers from the greater Kuala Lumpur area. Moreover, joggers from nearby suburbia Kepong like doing their rounds in the morning. People often say that there are too many people and that social crowding occurs. The master student shall develop together with people from FRIM a questionnaire for a quantitative survey. He/she will organize and supervise the survey together with our Malaysian counterparts who will determine time and place of the survey. It is the aim to ascertain whether social crowding is felt and by whom and what thresholds there are.