

<b>Module Name: Global Environmental Changes</b>		
<b>Credits:</b> 5 ETCS-P	<b>Total Workload:</b> 150 h	<b>Contact hours:</b> 60 h
<b>Type:</b> core	<b>Semester:</b> 1st	<b>Language:</b> English
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Prof. J. Bauhus Email: juergen.bauhus@waldbau.unifreiburg.de		
<b>Additional Teaching Staff:</b> Prof. Matzarakis, Prof. Storch, Dr. Koehle, Prof. Spiecker, Prof. Herschbach, Prof. Pregernig		
<p><b>Course Description:</b>  Students will be introduced to some of the globally most important environmental problems such as water and air pollution, acid rain and forest decline, the loss of forests and biodiversity, global warming and others. At the same time, this module is designed to familiarise students with the research process in the environmental and social sciences. Based on selected reading from different sources, students will be challenged by the difficulty to assess the magnitude of environmental problems. Against this background, research ethics, the quality and reliability of scientific information, and the role of science in the public discourse will be discussed. Following the introduction of particular environmental problems by experts, students will work independently to examine the extent of one of these problems in their home country and will write a grant application for an NGO that intends to address the particular problem.</p>		
<p><b>Learning Goals and Qualifications:</b>  In this module students are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to gain an understanding of the most pressing environmental issues facing the globe</li> <li>• to develop an understanding of important models and assumptions used to predict future environmental conditions</li> <li>• to develop the capacity to assess scientific information critically</li> <li>• to appreciate the social dimensions and context of information</li> <li>• to reflect about the role of science in society, in particular in policy development</li> <li>• to learn about research ethics</li> </ul> <p>Development of the following qualifications is supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• literature research skills, reading of scientific documents</li> <li>• Writing of proposals</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Preliminary Reading:</b> B. Lomborg (2001) The sceptical environmentalist – Measuring the real state of the world. Cambridge Univ. Press.  <a href="http://www.grist.org/advice/books/2001/12/12/of/">http://www.grist.org/advice/books/2001/12/12/of/</a>  <a href="http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx">http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx</a>  <a href="http://na.unep.net/digital_atlas2/google.php">http://na.unep.net/digital_atlas2/google.php</a></p>		