

Module title	3.2 Society and the environment
Workload (ECTS)	3 ECTS
Module coordinator	Dr. Dominic Blättler
Contributing lecturers	
Entry requirements	Builds on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1 Introduction to circular economy • 0.2 Bridging technology • 0.3 Bridging Life Sciences • 0.4 Bridging Economics and Management
Description	The overarching topic of the module is ‘society and the environment’, understood as a complex and dynamic process of human-environment interaction based on the inseparability of social and natural systems. The module is thus concerned with aspects of global change, development and globalisation, with social/environmental justice, individual responsibility and framework conditions, with environmental governance and policy as well as with societal transformation towards sustainability and sustainable development. The Global Sustainable Development Report (2019) and the IPCC’s Assessments Reports (e.g. 2021) serve as a starting point for the module: where do we stand regarding the environment, natural resources and their management, what are the challenges and where do we go? How are natural resources utilized, shared, by whom and how, and what norms and values regulate access, their use and distribution? What are needed, meaningful ways forward, entry points for transformation? Invited guest speakers will link theory to practice by sharing professional experience from their fields of expertise.
Learning outcomes and competences	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will be able to work with the core principles and approaches at the interface of the environment and society, and understand the importance of the interrelations between humans and their environments; • can carry out a range of related analyses/tools: (e.g. stakeholder analysis, institutional analysis, apply techniques of behaviour change etc); • will be able to assess conflict potential over natural resources, use conflict analysis tools and devise ways of conflict mediation and dispute settlement; • can relate issues to policy interventions/governance measures (e.g. public and/vs private, democratic and/vs authoritarian etc); • will be able to express their own opinion, debate with others, moderate discussions and produce focused session proceedings.
Assessment of learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final written exam, open book (80%) • Assessment of group moderation & discussion summary (20%)
Didactic approach	A week-long module in special week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary work • Group work • Case studies
Project-based learning	Daily case studies



Links to other modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.1 Introduction to circular economy• 0.2 Bridging technology• 0.3 Bridging Life Sciences• 0.4 Bridging Economics and Management
Bibliography	<p>United Nations, 2019. Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development. New York. Executive Summary.</p> <p>Gardner GT, Stern PC, 2000. Environmental problems and human behavior. 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publishing.</p> <p>GTZ, n.d. Conflict Analysis. GTZ: FRCS.</p> <p>Steg, L and Vlek C, 2009. Encouraging pro-environmental behaviour: An integrative review and research agenda. <i>Journal of environmental Psychology</i> 29.</p>
Language	English
Location	Bern