Module title	**Sustainable Natural Resource Management**
Code	E3
Degree Programme	Master of Science in Life Sciences
Group	Environment
Workload	3 ECTS (90 student working hours: 42 lessons contact = 32 h; 58 h self-study)
Module Coordinator	**Name**: Dr. Dominic Blaettler **Phone**: +41 (0)31 910 22 50 **Email**: dominic.blaettler@bfh.ch **Address**: Berner Fachhochschule, HAFL, Länggasse 85, 3052 Zollikofen
Lecturers	• Dr. Dominic Blaettler, BFH-HAFL • Sandra Wilhelm, anderskompetent.ch • Guest lecturers
Entry requirements	To be able to successfully participate in this module, students should: • Have knowledge of the core concepts of natural resources management (NRM) and sustainable development, especially in their own field of expertise or study; • Have a basic understanding of concepts such as human behaviour, stakeholders, institutions and governance in NRM or environmental issues; • Take a strong interest in current issues at the human/environment interface. Documents covering these aspects will be made available on Moodle, along with key questions students should be able to answer (self-test). To prepare specifically for the module, students will have to read up literature before the start of the module in order to be well prepared for contact teaching.
Learning outcomes and competences	After completing the module, students will be able to: • Work with the core principles of sustainable NRM • carry out a stakeholder analysis, an institutional analysis and apply techniques of behaviour change • Assess conflict potential over natural resources, use conflict analysis tools and devise ways of conflict mediation (link between NRM and conflict management) • Differentiate between approaches to NRM and relate them to policy interventions/governance measures • Express their own opinion, debate with others, moderate discussions and produce session proceedings
Module contents	The key focus and overarching topic of the module is sustainable natural resources management, understood less as a technical but rather as a complex and dynamic process of human-environment interaction. Conflicts are a central issue, as natural resource management is often conflict management. 'Times of Crisis, Times of Change (UN, 2023) serves as a starting point for the module. Where do we stand regarding 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 to natural resources, their use and distribution? This paves the road for an Extended Case Study (Mongolia) where a number of the pertinent practical challenges of sustainable NRM become apparent. To go deeper requires having a closer look at theoretical and methodological aspects of NRM which

	go together with very concrete and real-life examples involving invited guest speakers from a variety of backgrounds. Topics include: human behaviour, stakeholders, institutions, governance, policy and conflict mediation. In addition, a series of case studies will shed light on the diversity of approaches for the management of different natural resources (forest, land, water). The case studies will be selected to reflect different geographical regions, different scales of assessment, different methods of analysis and different sources of conflict and potential solutions. Invited guest speakers will link theory and methodology to practice by sharing professional experience from their fields of expertise. More generally, E-3 module is also about interdisciplinary learning and Education for Sustainable Development.
Teaching / learning methods	• Thematic/methods inputs (lectures) • Guest lectures • Debates, and debate moderation • Case study exercises, group work ("family tables") • Self-test
Assessment of learning outcome	1. Reflection paper (individual task) (80%) 2. Discussion summary/proceedings (group task) (20%)
Format	Winter School
Timing of the module	Autumn semester, CW 4

Day of the block week	<1	1	2	3	4	5	>5
Contact teaching (lessons)		8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8	
Self-study (hours)	20						38

Venue	Zollikofen
Bibliography	Core reading for the Module: United Nations, 2023. Global Sustainable Development Report 2023: Times of Crisis, Times of Change – Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development. New York. Executive Summary. Gardner GT, Stern PC, 2002. Environmental problems and human behavior. 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publishing. GTZ, n.d. Conflict Analysis. GTZ: FRCS. SDC PED, 2011. Stakeholder Analysis. Bern: SDC. SDC, 2016. Analysing informal local governance institutions. Bern: SDC.
Language	English
Links to other modules	There is a link to several specialisation modules dealing with sustainability (e.g. 'Holistic assessment of production systems' of BFH or 'Policies and institutions as drivers for development and innovation' of BFH).
Comments	
Last Update	19.02.2025