Illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, international negotiations on climate change, the use of pricing mechanisms to achieve environmental protection, trade-offs or synergies between conservation and development – all of these environmental issues are in essence social scientific questions.

By providing an introduction to different social scientific disciplines such as anthropology, business administration, development studies, economics and political and policy sciences, this course will help students grasp the importance of social sciences for environmental scientists. Students will also be better informed when choosing follow-up social science classes that are most relevant to their research interests.