



Undergraduate Seminar for International Relations

Environmental Politics, Development and Global Governance

IRL4590 Fall 2021

Environmental Studies in IR

- International security
- International political economy
- Diplomacy
- Global governance and institutions
- International conflicts
- Regional cooperation (green détente)
- Global justice

Environmental studies and domestic politics

- Political system and env issues
- Domestic governance (multi stakeholders): liberal democracy
- Political parties eg. Green Parties (sustainable economy, green thoughts)
- Env. Policy (private polluting companies, carbon tax, fuel standards, ...)

Examples of environmental issues in IR

UN News (25 Aug 2020)

Devastated by pandemic, tourism sector must be rebuilt in a safe, equitable and climate friendly way – UN chief

https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1070902?utm_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm_campaign=dag843d4e9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_08_26_12_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=o_fdbf1af606-dag843d4e9-107128309



Charcoal and terrorism in Somalia

A charred harvest

The unlikely link between Gulf lounges and
Somalia's jihadists
(The Economist Oct 11th 2014)

Environmental accidents

- **Japanese Ship Involved in Mauritius Oil Spill Breaks Apart**
(VOA, 15 Aug 2020)

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/japanese-ship-involved-mauritius-oil-spill-breaks-apart>

Mauritius oil spill: Thousands march in Port Louis

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53959889>


Thousands of people have marched through the Mauritian capital, Port Louis, in protest at the authorities' handling of a massive oil spill, and the discovery of 39 dead dolphins.

Climate change diplomacy

- India urged to lead global push for clean energy, climate action (UN News Aug 28, 2020)

https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1071142?utm_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b76f111450-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_08_29_12_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fdbf1af606-b76f111450-107128309

India has a crucial role to play in promoting clean energy and climate action as the world looks to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) said on Friday.



Fundamentals for environmental studies

Week 1~2

What are the problems?

- Pollution
- Overuse
- Conversion

Top 10 Environmental issues:

- **Climate change ;**
- Energy
- Water
- **Biodiversity and land use**
- Deforestation
- Chemicals, toxic and heavy metals
- Air pollution
- Waste management
- Ozone layer depletion
- Oceans and fisheries

Environmental disaster

◆ Top 10 Environmental Disasters

<http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/completelist/0,29569,1986457,00.html>

Required reading

Harper, Charles (6th ed.). 2017.

Environment and Society: Human Perspectives on Environmental Issues.

London: Routledge.

**Chapter 1: 'ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN SYSTEMS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
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Environment and human welfare

Food safety and human security

Egg contamination scandal widens as 15 EU states, Switzerland and Hong Kong affected (guardian 11 Aug 2017)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/11/tainted-eggs-found-in-hong-kong-switzerland-and-15-eu-countries>



Egg contamination scandal widens as 15 EU states, Switzerland and Hong Kong affected (Guardian 11 August 2017)

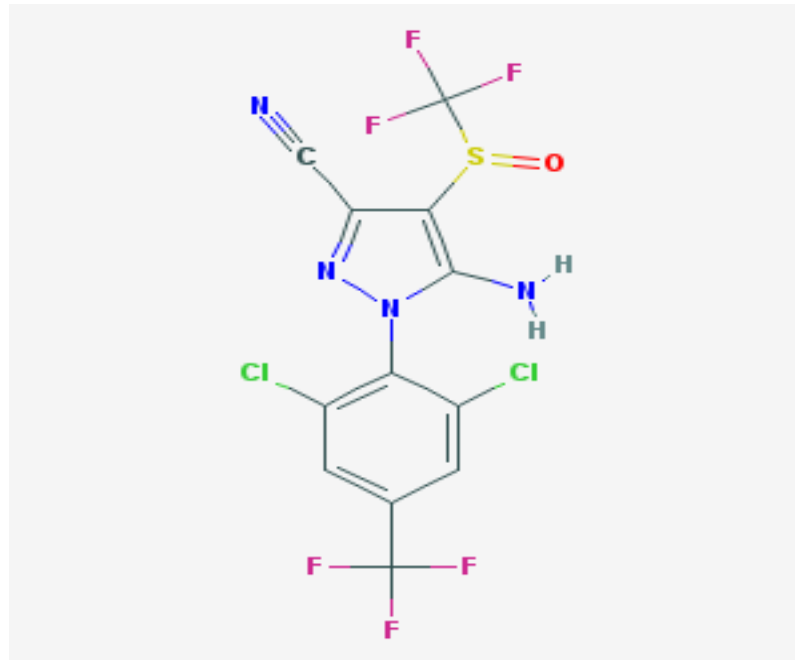
- Brussels spokeswoman says situation is evolving as two men remain arrested following raids in Belgium and the Netherlands

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/11/tainted-eggs-found-in-hong-kong-switzerland-and-15-eu-countries>

- Europe's latest food scandal has widened after the [European commission](#) announced that a total of **15 EU states, plus Switzerland and Hong Kong**, are now known to have received egg products contaminated by an insecticide harmful to human health.

fipronil (C₁₂H₄Cl₂F₆N₄OS)

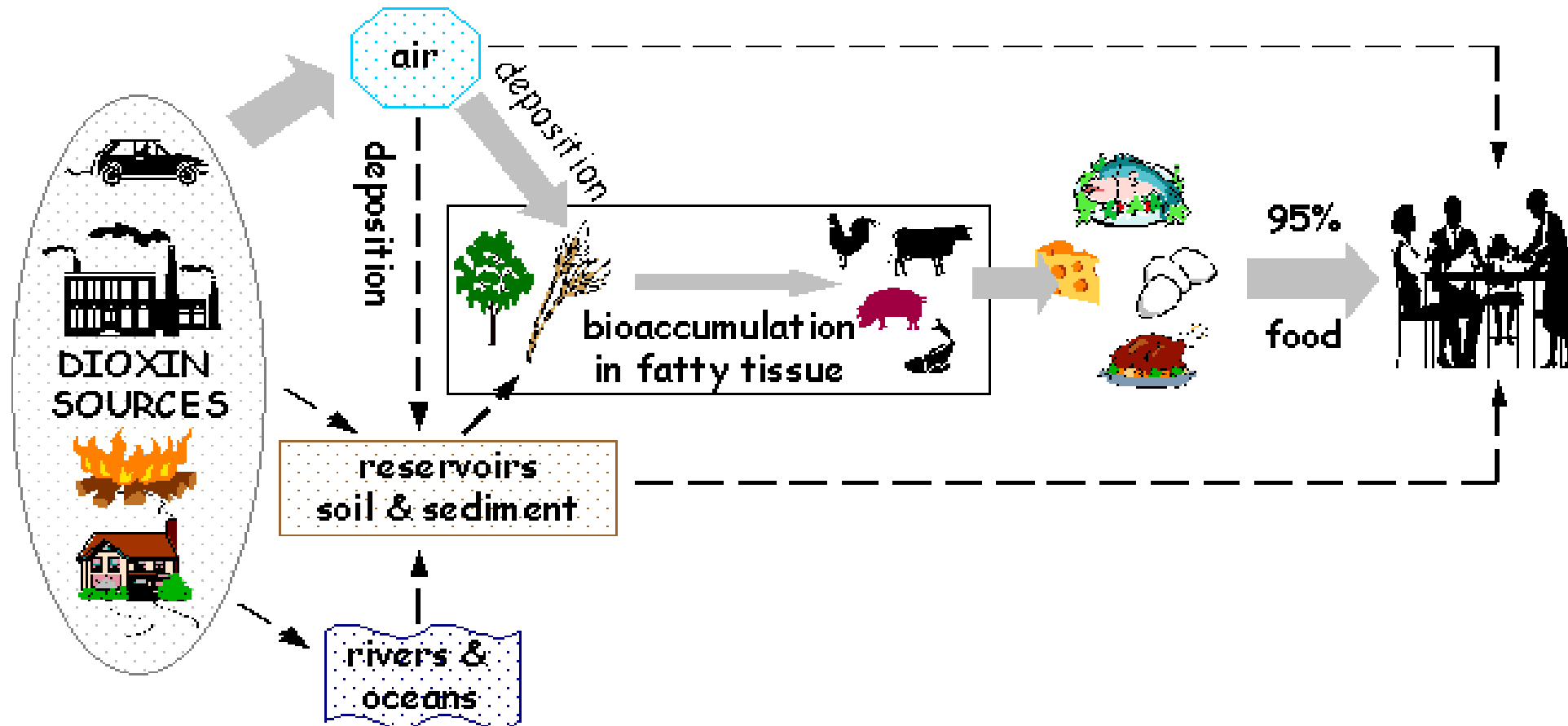
- Fipronil is **a toxic insecticide**. It is a common ingredient in veterinary products for getting rid of fleas, lice and ticks but is banned from being used to treat animals destined for human consumption.







Dioxin transmission



What is environment?

➤ Environment

- Surroundings (natural, social, human...)

Natural environment, incl. rocks, soil, water, air, atmosphere, living things...

➤ Ecosystem

- Basic unit of ecological analysis

Incl. varieties and populations of living things

- interdependence, interactions (=system)
- **“community of things”** (cf. sociocultural evolution)

Eco-system and service

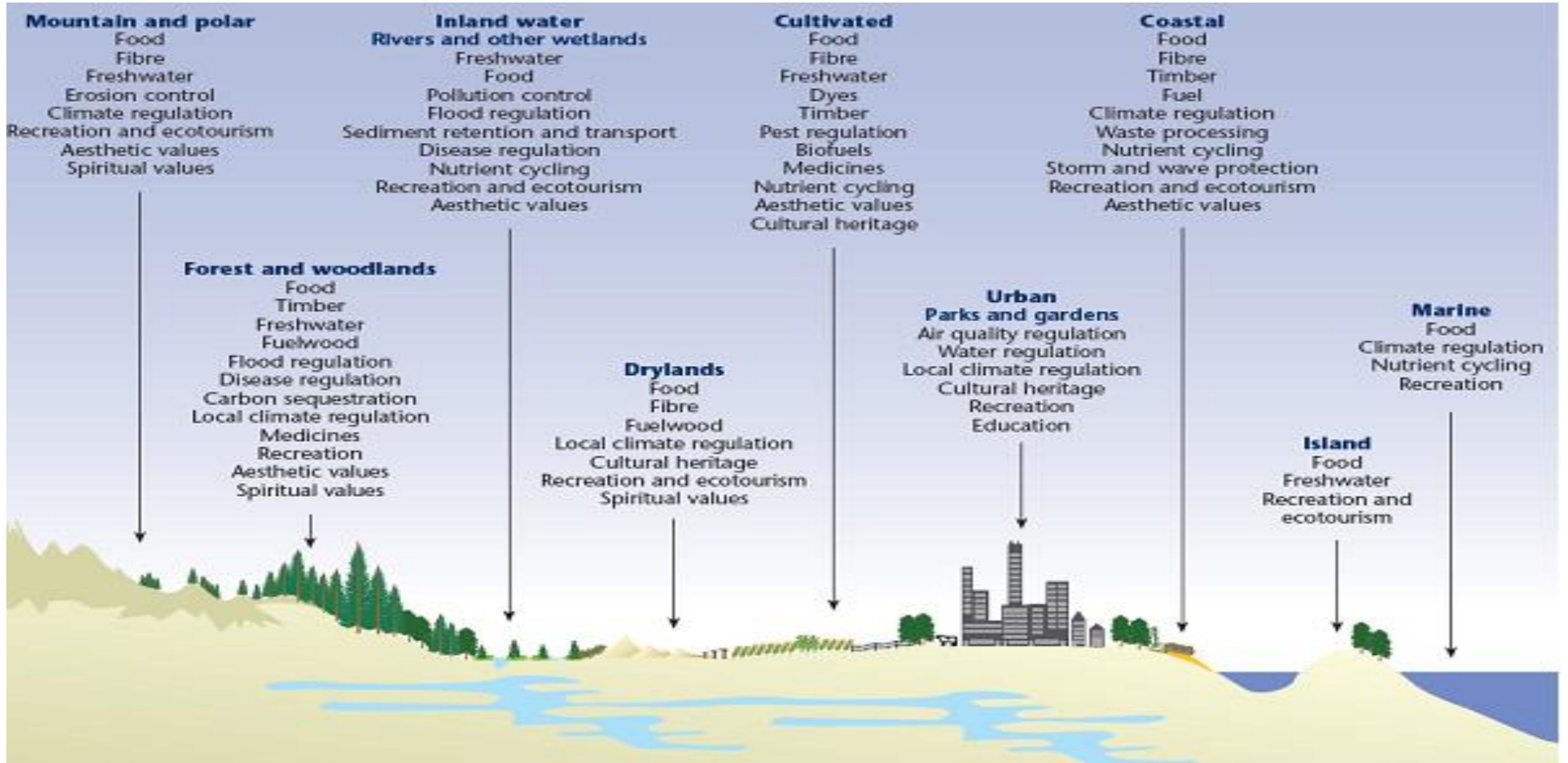
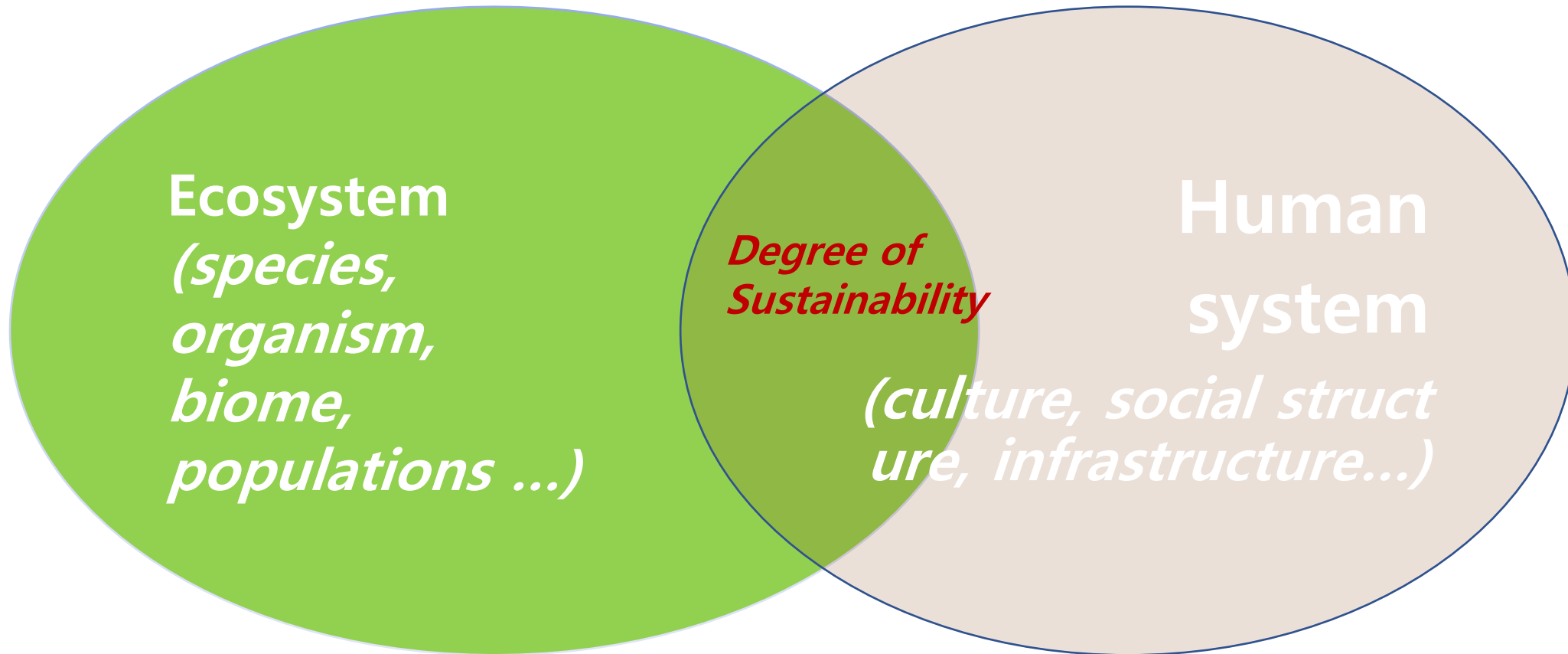


Figure: conceptual interaction



A pixelated illustration in shades of orange and grey. It depicts a person with a large, glowing lightbulb above their head, symbolizing an idea or reflection. The person is standing on a stack of books. To the right, there is a small figure of a person standing on a tall, thin pedestal. The background is white with faint grey lines and shapes.

Student's exercise /discussions

Reflection exercises

The background features a stylized illustration of a magnifying glass with a grey handle and frame, positioned over a yellow folder. Behind the folder are three books with blue, orange, and yellow covers. The entire scene is set against a light, hazy background.

Environmental problems in Central Asia

**Case
Studies**

Environment in Central Asia

"Problems"	Examples in Central Asia
Pollution	
Overuse	
Conversion	



Other learning materials

Links, exercises, and student activities

AUDIO-VISUAL SOURCES

Stevecutts animation

- "Welcome"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfGMYdaICIU>

Q: What are the current environmental issues in the film?