

Eawag Seminar Invitation

Economics and the Preservation of the Natural Environment

Speaker **Prof. Dr. Lucas Bretschger**
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When **March 6, 11.00 – 12.00 a.m.**

Where **Forum Chriesbach, room C20, Eawag Dübendorf**

Abstract The world economy is affecting the natural environment in a way that puts future living standards at risk. Important issues include global warming, fading resource stocks, scarce water supplies, and decreasing biodiversity. It is broadly accepted that the future of our planet should be one of our major concerns. However, when it comes to concrete policies, most clearly those related to climate change, grave difficulties arise. It is often claimed that the protection of ecosystems is very expensive. The Trump administration stressed the cost argument as a motivation for the US withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. These conclusion need to be reconsidered by applying state-of-the-art resource economics. It turns out that well-designed stringent environmental policies are not causing major negative impacts on the economy but can effectively help to achieve preservation targets for ecosystems.