ASG Governing Land-use in a Changing Climate

Global increases in population, consumption and land-use change, combined with increasing atmospheric CO2 concentrations and biodiversity loss, raise serious concerns about the sustainability of the current human development path due to the degradation of global, regional and local natural resources and ecosystem services. A positive vision for sustainable land-use needs to be developed where the baseline for “sustainability” is defined on a relevant system state, moving away from a polarized view of ecosystems as either “natural” or “human dominated”, and instead focusing on the interface between human and nature, connecting to the Anthropocene rather than the Holocene.

The aim of the suggested Pufendorf Advanced Study Group is i) to outline such a vision of what a sustainable use of ecosystems and natural capital could look like on levels connected to the different scales where policy action commonly occurs (landscape, nation, region) while connecting to the globally sustainable, and ii) framing the question of a sustainable land-use and utilization of ecosystem services from an integrated socio-economic and ecological point of view, accounting for drivers of land-use and land-use change on both the demand- and supply-side of ecosystem services.

The objective is to outline a framework for measuring, tracking and governing sustainable land-use, locally to globally and vice versa. The framework should enable us to suggest road-maps towards “sustainability” using an evidence based method, meeting socio-ecological needs for ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in the future, and detect slippery slopes towards unsustainability that threaten future human welfare.