

## Introduction to Environment and society

### *Introductory video*

#### **Contributor names:**

Vicky Johnson  
George Revill  
John Allen  
Richard Edwards  
Martha Knight  
Guido Pietroluongo

**VICKY JOHNSON:** The environment and society module looks at the environment through a range of different themes with thinking about cultural, economic, political, and social.

**GEORGE REVILL:** We live at a key moment in environmental society relations. We face problems of climate change, habitat loss, loss of biodiversity, and overuse to resources. It's that link between humans and environment that is the key issue for this module.

**VICKY JOHNSON:** While studying the module, we think about the environment and site in different ways and actually these are really relevant to the workplace and to your employability. So for example, you'll be think about representations and how charities use representations to get members of the public interested in the environment.

**RICHARD EDWARDS:** This is an injured tiger that comes to this normal two up, two down semi-detached in suburbia, and he's looking for help. And this family takes this tiger in. We are unashamedly plucking on the heartstrings of our supporters.

**GEORGE REVILL:** In this age, we call the Anthropocene which links environment and society together so closely. We have tended to separate these two things out. Entanglement is the way in which environmental things and social things are always part of each other in some way.

So if one looks at farming, think of the chicken you might buy in the supermarket. It's a chicken, it's natural. But in actual fact, it's been bred in a particular way. It's not a natural chicken. It's actually a human designed chicken.

**JOHN ALLEN:** These birds are 17 days old, that's half their life. In the next half of their life, they'll put on three times the weight. And they have to do that to be the right weight the right time, the right price for the supermarkets.

**GEORGE REVILL:** One of the innovative things we have in this module is something we call virtual field work. So you in inverted commas go to somewhere, in this case Greece. You look at a range of materials, you investigate those materials and you come out with some findings.

**MARTHA KNIGHT:** One of the things we're going to look at is marine pollution. And we met a research team looking at the issue of microplastics. And along the way, we witnessed the dissection of a turtle.

**GUIDO PIETROLUONGO:** The first items that we found in the digestive system was a red balloon. And then what we found was a lot of plastic, and in general debris, human debris.

**VICKY JOHNSON:** If you're a student considering studying environment and society, I would really recommend it particularly because it allows you to look at the issues through a range of different angles.

**GEORGE REVILL:** The sort of environmental challenges we face today require complex solutions. We need to find interesting ways of examining the entanglements that link

environmental society together. And by doing that, we will find innovative solutions to the problems that faces.