

# Perception of Nature and Gender by Foresters engaged in Environmental Education

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1. Scientific Focus (Research Project)
2. The „Hidden Agenda“ at the Forest Related Environmental Education (FREE): Models of social change
3. Gender sensitive Education
4. The target-groups: Gender related attitudes to nature
5. The „professionals“: Goals, Nature concepts and practice
6. Conclusion

Project 1:  
Construction of nature  
and sex and their  
impact on general  
principles in forestry

Univ. Lüneburg

Project 2: Profession  
concepts and perception  
of profession;  
requirements on  
education and training

Coordination Univ.  
Lüneburg

Project 3a:  
The forest administration  
as a male domain:  
historical reconstruction  
of the organisational  
structure

Univ. Freiburg

Project 3b:  
The forest administration  
as a male domain:  
sociological impact  
analysis on re-building  
processes

**Network structure**

# Questions of today

- ▶ Which objectives?
- ▶ Which knowledge of nature, concepts?
- ▶ Who is doing it, how prepared?
- ▶ Gender: an issue at all?

## Approach and Methods

### ► Quantitative Enquiry (Status Quo-Analysis)

	forwarded	response
Ministries	16	7
Forest administration/ Services	20	9
Institutions of FREE	145	51

**FREE = Forest Related Environmental Education**

## Approach and Methods

### ▶ Qualitative Enquiry

- Interviews with experts (37)
- Telephone interview with participants of the certificate training (15)
- Personal questionnaire to ascertain the professional stages and courses of education
- Participating monitoring (12)
- Internet research (content analysis)

## Models of social change

- Adolescents are passive technique consumer
- No direct Nature contact
- Lack of „Nature knowledge“
- Estrangement of Nature – Neglection, Ignoration

- ▶ Identification of structural differences,
- ▶ Reflection on gender different learning approaches and interests in topics,
- ▶ Integration of gender aspects in target-group oriented communication.



# Gender aspects and attitudes to nature at adolescents (Target-group)

## Male orientation:

- Competitive behaviour,
  - Spatial expansion,
  - Technical orientation
  - self confidence and willingness for risks,
  - awareness of the own body strength
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- Prefer competitive games
  - Prefer sportive body related actions
  - attraction to facts and technical aspects about nature and environmental problems
  -

## ▶ Female orientation:

- Solidarity with others as a principle,
- Cooperative behaviour,
- Home oriented use of space,
- Integration of technique to the social context
- Selfcontrol and deficiency as a body awareness concept.

→ Prefer context or solution oriented knowledge about nature

## Objectives of FREE

1. Knowledge about the sylvan ecosystem
2. Change in awareness and behaviour towards environmental matters
3. Sustainable use of resources
4. Public relation for forestry
5. „Social work“

- ▶ Gender aspects are only considered rudimentally and only of a few, although the importance and impact is seen of nearly 50% of the interviewed persons.
- ▶ Obviously there is a lack of basical knowledge for an alternative offer that considers gender aspects.

- ▶ FREE is a part time business but not a domain of women
- ▶ The majority of well paid positions is covered by men
- ▶ Most of the freelancers or volunteers are women
- ▶ 71% of the personal has a silvicultural qualification (80% are men)
- ▶ More than 50% of the women has a pedagogic qualification.

# Conclusion

- ***Indefinite: aims and concept*** of education: What should FREE contribute for? Communication of facts about nature? Obligate part of the school education? Nature and body experience? Education for a sustainable development? Social therapy?
- ***Little appearance:*** Cooperation with „social“ caring institutions and with economical orientated organisations, like e.g. touristic enterprises or wood-working industry.
- ***Some topics are underrepresented:*** Global aspects, forest as working places, the interconnexion of ecological, economical and social aspects of forest management,
- ***Unclear:*** Which new skills are needed ?
- ***Missing:*** No effective and supportive control of quality exists.



**Thank you!**

Project 1: Social nature- and gender perceptions, concept analysis (using the example of FREE)

FREE

Project 2: Profession conceptions and professionalization in the forest related environmental education, education concepts

concepts

„Waldwissen“  
gender ratio

Work/education

Projekt 3a: Historical reconstruction (relating to gender) of the organisation structure of forest administrations

organisation

Project 3b: organisationsociological impact analysis (especially relating to gender): forest administration today

**Connection to contents**



## Gender Analysis of Nature Knowledge and Experiences at Forest Administrative Services

- ▶ Impact of concepts of Nature and forestry on forest administration, practice of forestry and the communication of knowledge
- ▶ Interrelation between concepts of nature and gender relations in forestry organisations
- ▶ Possibilities and preconditions for recognition and integration of gender-sensitive management of forest affairs especially in the field of forest related environmental organisation (FREE)