## Environmental crime through the optics of green criminology

**Aleš Bučar-Ručman**, Assistant at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University in Maribor, Kotnikova 8, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

The paper presents the circumstances and causes of a lack of proper environmental regulatory measures and legislation on national and global levels and also focuses on difficulties encountered in the implementation of existing environmental legislation. The consequences of environmental pollution and degradation, which have begun to exceed the absorption capacities of our planet, will have major implications for life on the planet and for humanity. In spite of paying relatively small attention to these problems in criminology, a new criminological approach has nevertheless been formulated in the last two decades, which focuses attention on environmental problems, i.e., green criminology. The contribution presents the characteristics of green criminology, its perception of problems of environment protection, their causes and possible solutions and some of the socio-political implications that could be brought about by environmental changes and interventions in the environment.

**Key words**: criminology, green criminology, environment, environmental changes, ecological crime, environmental crime, green crime, formulation of policy

**UDC**: 502/504 : 343./.7