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Audi Foundation for the Environment awards prize for master's dissertation on climate protection

- Young researchers recognized for their dissertation
- Managing Director Dr. Dagobert Achatz: "This prize emphasizes the importance of climate protection and sustainable resource management"

Ingolstadt, January 19, 2016 – Audi's Foundation for the Environment (Audi Stiftung für Umwelt GmbH) awarded its Sustainable Resource Management Award (SRM Award) on Monday evening for the fifth time. With this prize, the Foundation for the Environment each year recognizes the best dissertations of the degree program for sustainable resource management at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). This year, the prize goes to the Australian Samuel Gordon Munro for his master's dissertation on carbon absorption in the semi-arid Mongolian steppes. The winner receives prize money of 1,500 euros.

"With the SRM Award, the Audi Foundation for the Environment is emphasizing the importance of innovation and research related to climate protection. We support young researchers whose work promotes sustainable resource management," stated Dr. Dagobert Achatz, Managing Director of the Audi Foundation for the Environment. "The work done by Samuel Gordon Munro provides a new insight into grassland as an ecological system and its contribution towards climate protection."

During the prize giving, the jury of the SRM Award praised the outstanding dissertation by the Australian winner. Munro investigated the potential of the Mongolian grasslands for absorbing atmospheric CO₂. Focusing on largely untouched grasslands, he succeeded in creating the first ever reference for their maximum carbon storage capacity. Soil is regarded as the biggest terrestrial carbon sink. In his dissertation, Munro discovers that, surprisingly, ground featuring severe erosion, arable farming or intensive grazing has a high level of carbon saturation and therefore only very low CO₂ storage capacity. This means that the quantitative contribution of grasslands to the world's carbon storage capacity must be reassessed - contrary to previous assumptions. His work therefore supplies

important data on how land usage can be changed in the future in order to benefit climate protection.

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Audi Stiftung für Umwelt GmbH (Audi Foundation for the Environment Ltd.) was founded in 2009 as a not-for-profit 100-percent subsidiary of AUDI AG, and is part of the company's commitment to the environment. Audi assumes social responsibility at many levels – for the sake of a positive future for the coming generations. The purpose of the not-for-profit foundation is to support the protection of nature and the environment and to promote related science and research. The main areas in which the foundation is active are the protection of the natural resources of people, animals and plants, the promotion of scientific work that contributes towards a sustainable human-environment system, promoting environmentally friendly technologies, and supporting environmental education.