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Specialisations: Courses & Programme

The master Forest and Nature Conservation consists of a common part with courses that students have to follow depending on pre-education and future plans, and a specialisation that you choose. You can choose from three specialisations: Policy & Society, Management and Ecology. Below you can find the courses and study programme of both the common part and the three specialisations.

Common part
The common part consist of courses which all Forest and Nature Conservation students have to follow. Some are dependent on your pre-education and the choices you make in the programme. In consultation with your study adviser you will determine which courses are necessary. Included is also an academic master cluster to work on your academic or consultancy skills. Within the common part you will also select an internship.

Specialisation Policy and Society
Central study objects within this specialisation are the dynamics between people, organizations and institutions in processes of policy making and policy innovation (often referred to as ‘governance’), in relation to forest and nature conservation issues, in time and space. The specialisation critically addresses the entire policy cycle: formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of policies and plans for the conservation and sustainable management of forest and natural areas, from the local to the global level. In the thesis and in the restricted optional courses you can either focus more specifically on economic aspects, people or governance.

Within this specialisation you will do your thesis at the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy group

Specialisation Management
The management specialisation can be directed to forest management, wildlife resource management, and management of ecosystems and landscapes (restoration ecology). Forest and nature management always takes place in a societal context. A detailed analysis is needed of the scientific principles which underlie the various management options chosen for a particular theme. It is evaluated if the proposed solutions are scientifically sound, realistic and feasible for nature and people.

Within this specialisation you will do your thesis at one of the following groups:

- Forest and Nature Conservation Policy group
- Forest Ecology and Forest Management group
- Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation group
- Wildlife Ecology and Conservation group

Specialisation Ecology
The emphasis of this specialisation is on understanding the ecological processes that form the basis for the structure, composition and functioning of forests and natural areas. Each profile can be further specified, for example by focusing on tropical forests, landscape ecology, animal ecology, plant ecology, biodiversity conservation and tropical nature conservation.

Within this specialisation you will do your thesis at one of the following groups:

- Forest Ecology and Management group
- Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation group
- Wildlife Ecology and Conservation group

An overview of all courses and the requirements for the study programme can be found in the course catalogue: [https://wur.osiris-student.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/start](https://wur.osiris-student.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/start)
The programme may change; no rights can be derived from this overview.
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Information booklet MSc Forest and Nature Conservation
Wageningen University
Thesis Projects Forest and Nature Conservation (examples)

Forest and Nature Conservation allows you to write your MSc thesis at four different chair groups. These are the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy group, the Forest Ecology and Forest Management group, the Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation group and the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation group. Below you will find examples of thesis projects per chair group.

Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group
www.wur.eu/fnp

- Small decisions – big consequences, influence of local institutions on small farmers’ decision-making on forest use and management in Brazil;
- Effects of the second world war on the forests of the south-west Veluwe;
- Science policy interface in EU biodiversity ecosystem services projects: understanding the use and influence of science-policy interfaces;
- Spiritual experiences in Dutch natural environments: a matter of perspective;
- Legal and Sustainable? An exploratory analysis of the interaction of FSC and EU FLEGT forest regimes;
- Natura 2000 as a discursive strategy: interpretations, power dynamics and (dis)empowerment of actors;
- Combatting Illegal Logging: The EU-FLEGT Action Plan. A discourse analysis of the development of a legality-definition between and within the European Union and Indonesia);
- Tenure Rights and Benefit Sharing Arrangements for REDD: A Case Study of Two REDD Pilot Projects in Cambodia;
- Planning for Tomorrow, Today; How (Dutch) Forest and Nature Management Organizations Cope with Uncertainty;
- Nature compensation factors for land-use conversion in the Netherlands – a comparative analysis;
- Change in nature images and environmental values of nature conservation volunteers.

Forest Ecology and Forest Management Group
www.wur.eu/fem

- Responses of European tree species to climate change – Impact assessment for 5 tree species in the Boreal, Atlantic and Continental region;
- The influence of soil, vegetation and grazing on the regeneration of Juniperus communis in The Netherlands;
- Inter-specific competition in mixed forests of Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) and Common beech (Fagus sylvatica) under a drier and warmer climate – a model-based analysis;
- Seed selection by granivorous rodents in a Neotropical moist forest;
- Predicting plant invasions and invasive success;
- Canopy heterogeneity and texture analysis;
- Comparative effectiveness of three scatter-hoarding rodents as seed dispersers of a Neotropical palm;
- Resprouting ability of 13 tropical rainforest tree species;
- Aboveground biomass estimations with tree allometry: A validation;
- Secondary forest succession in Netherlands;
- The effect of species composition on browsing damage.
• Nitrogen limitation during stand development in a New Zealand Nothofagus forest: evidence from foliar nutrient concentrations;
• Pollinator abundance and seed set in an agricultural landscape at increasing distance from nature reserves;
• Indirect influence of humans on the Garry Oak ecosystem on Mandarte Island, British Columbia Canada;
• Evolutionary grazing history as predictor of livestock effects on global biodiversity;
• The role of large grazers in the openness of the temperate woodland domain; a floristic-ecological analysis;
• Leaf characteristics and physiology of the wood species in the forest savanna ecotone;
• Can drought pulses turn peat bogs into forest?;
• Effects of different grassland management on insects;
• Leaf litter decomposition mediated by isopods in terrestrial and aquatic systems;
• Plant Communities of the South Andes of Peru: Syntaxonomy and Synecology;
• Tracking and evaluating changes in vegetation and habitat structure in the En-Afeq Nature Reserve, Israel.

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Group
www.wur.eu/wec

• Comparing the bio-economic model of a fragmented versus non-fragmented elephant population in the Timbavati Nature Reserve, South-Africa;
• Differential resource use before and after re-settlement of households to outside Limpopo National Park, Mozambique;
• Browse effect of cattle on Black Cherry (Prunus serotina) in the Oxbol District, Denmark;
• Genetics and ecology of the West African Savannah Buffalo (Syncerus caffer brachyceros);
• Impact of forest fragmentation on the biodiversity/populations of amphibians;
• Hibernation Site Requirements of Bats in a Spatial Context;
• Long term recovery of Anurans from selective logging disturbance;
• Effect of disturbance and colony characteristics on predation by Kelp Gull;
• Effect of resource aggregation on search and foraging efficiency of goats in KwaZulu-Natal;
• Human-wildlife conflicts, implications for the conservation of the endangered Philippine crocodile;
• The dilemma of large herbivores in the African savannah;
• How resource competition affects seed dispersal.
Links and Tips

Information about Wageningen University and education
- Home page university: [www.wur.eu](http://www.wur.eu)
- Education site: [www.wur.eu/mfn](http://www.wur.eu/mfn)
- Online Study Guide: [https://ssc.wur.nl/Handbook/Programme/MFN](https://ssc.wur.nl/Handbook/Programme/MFN)
- Chair group sites: [www.wur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups.htm](http://www.wur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups.htm)

General information prospective MSc students
[http://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Prospective-Master-Students.htm](http://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Prospective-Master-Students.htm)

Application
- Online application procedure: [www.wur.eu/apply](http://www.wur.eu/apply) ➔ follow the required steps
- Application deadline: [www.wur.eu/apply](http://www.wur.eu/apply) ("application deadlines")
  - Dutch/ EU/ EFTA students: Application at Studielink: June 15, 2024
  - Dutch/ EU/ EFTA students: Submit documents at application portal: July 1, 2024
  - Non-EU students: Application at Studielink: April 15, 2024 (but earlier for some scholarships!)
  - Non-EU students Submit documents at application portal: May 1, 2024 (but earlier for some scholarships!)

Forest and Nature Conservation has a second start-moment in February. Information and deadlines can be found in the same link above.

Within approximately 3 weeks after your application you receive a notification of the result of your admission procedure.

Registration & Start
- After registration at SSC (Student Service Centre) ➔ WUR account ➔ access to websites, course registration, library, etc.
- Annual Introduction Days (AID): mid-August including a study day where you receive a lot of information about your studies. Around 2 weeks before start academic year.
  In February the "winter-AID" is organized.

Housing
- [www.idealis.nl](http://www.idealis.nl)
- [www.room.nl](http://www.room.nl)
- [www.housingdeskwageningen.nl](http://www.housingdeskwageningen.nl)
- [www.kamernet.nl](http://www.kamernet.nl)
- [www.dewoningstichting.nl](http://www.dewoningstichting.nl)
- [www.duwo.nl](http://www.duwo.nl)

More information

Email address MFN: mfn.msc@wur.nl
### List of (Dutch) employers

#### Overheden (20%)
- Actualisering Monumentenregister
- Algemene Inspectiedienst
- Dienst Landelijk Geboed (6)
- District Forest Office
- European Environmental bureau
- Europese Commissie
- Forestry Commission
- Gemeente Doetinchem
- Gemeente Enschede
- Gemeente Westland
- Malaysian Education Ministry
- Ministerie LNV (9)
- Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken
- Provincie Noord-Brabant
- Provincie Noord Holland
- Rijkswaterstaat Noord Brabant
- RNNRRC Yusipang (Ministry of Agriculture, Butan)
- Vlaamse gemeenschap (overheid)

#### Advies- en ingenieursbureaus (13%)
- Adviesbureau (2)
- Archeologisch adviesbureau
- BAAC (bouwhistorie, archeologie, architectuur, cultuurhistor.)
- Berenschot bv
- Bugel Hajema Adviseurs
- Bureau Veluwe Rangers
- Bureau Waardenburg
- De Groene Ruimte (2)
- Ecnosellancy
- Eenerwoude Ingenieursbureau
- Elings Vormgevers van Natuur en Landschap
- Envisie b.v.
- Form International
- Hilie en Natuur Planbureau (2)
- RBOI (Ruimtelijke planning)
- Royal Haskoning (internationaal adviesbureau)
- Tauw (milieu en ruimte)

#### Universiteiten (18%)
- Don Mariano Marcos Memorial University, Philippines
- Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias (Argentinie?)
- Free University Bolzano, Italy
- Khulna University, Bangladesh
- Kweime Krumah University, Ghana
- Sokoin University of Agriculture, Tanzania
- University Ethiopia
- University Kwazulu, Natal
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- TU Eindhoven
- Universiteit Groningen
- Universiteit Helsinki
- Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (2)
- Universiteit Tilburg
- Universiteit Utrecht
- Wageningen University

#### Stichtingen en Verenigingen e.d.(14%)
- Bosmenstichting
- Bosgroep Zuid Nederland
- Agrarische natuur- en landschapsvereniging ’Den Haneker"
- Het Nationaal Groenfonds
- Het Zuid Hollands landschap
- Landschapsbeheer Nederland
- Milieufedensie NGO
- Nova Atlantis Foundation The Netherlands
- Foundation for Nature Conservation in Surinam (Stinasu)
- Jesuit Volunteer Philippines Foundation
- Rotterdam Milieucentrum
- Stichting Ark (natuurontwikkeling)
- Stichting Duincentrum De Zandwaaijer
- Stichting Erdkern Groen
- Stichting FACE (bebossing, tegen broeikaseffect)
- Stichting Natuurschool
- Stichting Probas
- Stichting RAYON (reptielen, amfibien, vissen)
- Stichting Recreatie, Kennis en Innovatiecentrum
- The Two Moors Threatened Butterfly Project
- Vereniging voor Zoogdierkunde & Zoogdier
- Vogelbescherming (2)

#### Onderwijsinstellingen (4%)
- Almire college
- Hogeschool Larenstein
- Huiswerkbegeleidingsinstituut
- MBO opleiding
- VWO
- Middelbare school

#### Internationale organisaties (9%)
- ASEAN (Association of South East Asia Nation)
- Association of Indonesian Forest
- Birdlife Indonesia
- COS Overijssel centrum internationale samenwerking
- European Forest Institute
- INBAR International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
- Millennium Relief & Development Serv
- Parc Naturel Regional des caps et marais d'opale
- SEMINIS (Sustainable production fruit and seeds)
- SGS Nederland BV (o.a. certificering FSC-hout) (2)
- WNF (Worldwide Fund for Nature)

#### Onderzoeksinstituten (7%)
- Altera (onderzoeksinstituut Groene Ruimte)
- EFI (European Forest Institute)
- Forest & Landscape Denmark
- Forestry Research Center
- IPGRI (International plant genetic resources institute) (2)
- NINA (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research)
- Onderzoeksinstituut Duitsland (2)
- Plantenziektenkundige Dienst
- The Royal Museum for Central Africa

#### Bedrijven (5%)
- Aquadeco (eigen bedrijf)
- Eneco Energie
- KEGO-deuren
- LTO Noord Projecten B.V.
- Ogin Biogasinstallaties Nederland BV
- Peru for less (travelorganization)
- Reisburo gespecialiseerd in ecotourisme
- Scholtes Roses (Rozenkwekerij)
- T-Kartor AB (Zweden, Denemarken)
- Worldwood

#### Overig (9%)
- Annies Connect (Callcenter, mensen met handicap)
- Artica BV (internet, standbouw, communicatie)
- Artproject "Not a Cornfield"
- Centrum voor de kunsten in Deventer
- FeedbackDialog (software products and services)
- Kloosterkerk
- Menzis verzekeringen
- Thuiszorg
- TGP post (2)
- Worldwood
## Calendar Academic Year 2024-2025

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To find out more, check our website: