

# MSc Forest and Nature Conservation

*Wageningen University & Research  
Information booklet 2021 - 2022*



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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 studyhandbook: <https://ssc.wur.nl/Handbook/Programme/MFN>

The programme may change; no rights can be derived from this overview

MSc Forest and Nature Conservation, Specialisation A: Policy & Society										
		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Re-exam	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Re-exam	
	# wkn	8	8	4	2	4	8	8	2	
MSc 1	MO	YRM-21306 Research Methodology For Human Environment Interactions	Free choice	FNP-31306 Communities Conservation and Development (MO+AF)		FNP-31806 Social and Political Theory for Forest and Nature Conservation Research	FNP-32306 Decision-Making in Forest and Nature Management: Theory & Practice	SDC-33306 Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences (MO+AF)	ENP-39306 Advanced International Environmental Politics (MO+AF)	
	AF	REG-31306 Trends in Forest and Nature Conservation	Free choice	MAT-22306 Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics (MO+AF)			ENP-33306 Environment and Development			GEO-36306 Environmental Psychology
MSc 2		FNP-80436 MSc Thesis Forest and Nature Conservation Policy					FEM-70424 MSc Internship Forest Ecology and Forest Management FNP-70424 MSc Internship Forest and Nature Conservation Policy REG-70424 MSc Internship Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-70424 MSc Internship Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation			
		Choose in consultation with your study adviser			Academic Master Cluster (AMC) can be scheduled in all periods (mind entrance criteria). There are two main options: 1. Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Training (MOS); 2. Research Master Cluster: Academic Research Proposal Writing SDD-track: ENP-60312 in period 2 (Former) HBO-students: Choose four MOS					
		Compulsory Course								
		Choose 1 course								
		Choose 1 Course								
		Choose 1 Course								
		Free choice								
		Re-exam period								

The programme may change; no rights can be derived from this overview

<b>MSc Forest and Nature Conservation, Specialisation B: Management</b>										
		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3 <b>MO+AF!</b>	Re-exam	Period 4 <b>MO+AF!</b>	Period 5	Period 6	Re-exam	
	# wkn	8	8	4	2	4	8	8	2	
MSc 1	MO	REG-31806 Ecological Methods 1 OR YRM-21306 Research Methodology For Human Environment Interactions	REG-32806 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	FNP-31306 Communities, Conservation and Development (MO+AF)		FNP-31806 Social and Political Theory for FNC Research	FNP-32306 Decision-Making in Forest and Nature Management: Theory and Practice	SDC-33306 Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences (MO+AF)	REG-30306 Animal Ecology (MO+AF) PEN-30306 Plant, Vegetation and Systems Ecology (MO+AF)	
	AF	REG-31306 Trends in Forest and Nature Conservation	FEM-30806 Resource Dynamics and Sustainable Utilization	MAT-22306 Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics (MO+AF)		FEM-32306 Agroforestry		FEM-30306 Forest Ecology and Forest Management		REG-33306 Disease Ecology (MO+AF)
MSc 2		FNP-80436 MSc Thesis Forest and Nature Conservation Policy FEM-80436 MSc Thesis Forest Ecology and Forest Management REG-80436 MSc Thesis Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-80436 MSc Thesis Plant Ecology & Nature Conservation					FNP-70424 MSc Internship Forest and Nature Conservation Policy FEM-70424 MSc Internship Forest Ecology and Forest Management REG-70424 MSc Internship Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-70424 MSc Internship Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation			
		Choose in consultation with your study adviser Choose at least 2 courses Choose 1 course Choose 0-2 in consultation with your study adviser Re-exam period			Academic Master Cluster (AMC) can be scheduled in all periods (mind entrance criteria). There are two main options: 1. Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Training (MOS); 2. Research Master Cluster: Academic Research Proposal Writing (Former) HBO-students: Choose four MOS					

The programme may change; no rights can be derived from this overview

<b>MSc Forest and Nature Conservation, Specialisation C: Ecology</b>											
		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Re-exam	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Re-exam		
	# wkn	8	8	4	2	4	8	8	2		
MSc 1	MO	REG-31806 Ecological Methods 1	Free choice	FEM-31806 Models for Ecological Systems		Free choice	Free choice	REG-32306 Ecological Methods II (MO+AF) <b>OR</b> REG-33306 Disease Ecology (MO+AF)	REG-30306 Animal Ecology (MO+AF) OR PEN-30306 Plant, Vegetation and Systems Ecology (MO+AF)		
	AF	REG-31306 Trends in Forest and Nature Conservation	Free choice				FEM-30306 Forest Ecology and Forest Management				
MSc 2		FEM-80436 MSc Thesis Forest Ecology and Forest Management					FNP-70424 MSc Internship Forest and Nature Conservation Policy				
		REG-80436 MSc Thesis Wildlife Ecology and Conservation					FEM-70424 MSc Internship Forest Ecology and Forest Management				
		PEN-80436 MSc Thesis Plant Ecology & Nature Conservation					REG-70424 MSc Internship Wildlife Ecology and Conservation				
		PEN-70424 MSc Internship Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation									
Choose in consultation with your study adviser				Academic Master Cluster (AMC) can be scheduled in all periods (mind entrance criteria). There are two main options: 1. Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Training (MOS); 2. Research Master Cluster: Academic Research Proposal Writing (Former) HBO-students: Choose four MOS							
Compulsory Course											
Choose at least 2 courses											
Free choice											
Re-exam period											

## 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](http://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](http://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.

## Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation Group

[www.wur.eu/ncp](http://www.wur.eu/ncp)

- 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](http://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 Oxboel 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>
- 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>

### 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
  - Dutch/ EU/ EFTA students: Submit documents at application portal: July 1
  - Non-EU students: Application at Studielink: April 15 (but earlier for some scholarships!)
  - Non-EU students Submit documents at application portal: May 1 (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 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.idealise.nl](http://www.idealise.nl)
- [www.room.nl](http://www.room.nl)
- [www.housingdesk.wageningen.nl](http://www.housingdesk.wageningen.nl)
- [www.kamernet.nl](http://www.kamernet.nl)
- [www.dewoningstichting.nl](http://www.dewoningstichting.nl)
- [www.duwo.nl](http://www.duwo.nl)

## List of (Dutch) employers

<p><b>Overheden (20%)</b></p> <p>Actualisering Monumentenregister            Algemene Inspectiedienst            Dienst Landelijk Gebied (6)            District Forest Office            European Environmental bureau            Europese Commissie            Forestry Commission            Gemeente Doetichem            Gemeente Enschede            Gemeente Westland            Malaysian Education Ministry            Ministerie LNV (9)            Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken            Provincie Noord- Brabant            Provincie Noord Holland            Rijkswaterstaat Noord Brabant            RNRRC Yusipang (Ministry of Agriculture, Butan)            Vlaamse gemeenschap (overheid)</p>	<p><b>Advies- en ingenieursbureaus (13%)</b></p> <p>Adviesbureau (2)            Archeologisch adviesbureau            BAAC (bouwhistorie, archeologie, architectuur, cultuurhist.)            Berenschot bv            Bugel Hajema Adviseurs            Bureau Veluwe Rangers            Bureau Waardenburg            De Groene Ruimte (2)            Econsultancy            Eeleroude Ingenieursbureau            Elings Vormgevers van Natuur en Landschap            Envisie b.v.            Form International            Milieu en Natuur Planbureau (2)            RBOI (Ruimtelijke planning)            Royal Haskoning (internationaal adviesbureau)            Tauw (milieu en ruimte)            Taxatieburo</p>
<p><b>Universiteiten (18%)</b></p> <p>Don Mariano Marcos Memorial University, Philippines            Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias (Argentinië?)            Free University Bolzano, Italy            Khulna University, Bangladesh            Kwame Nkrumah University, Ghana            Sokoine 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(13)</p>	<p><b>Internationale organisaties (9%)</b></p> <p>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 &amp; 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)</p>
<p><b>Stichtingen en Verenigingen e.d.(14%)</b></p> <p>Bomenstichting            Bosgroep Zuid Nederland            Agrarische natuur- en landschapsvereniging 'Den Haneker'            Het Nationaal Groenfonds            Het Zuid Hollandse landschap            Landschapsbeheer Nederland            Milieudefensie NGO            Nova Atlantis Foundation The Netherlands            Foundation for Nature Conservation in Surinam (Stinasu)            Jesuit Volonteer Philippines Foundation            Rotterdams Milieucentrum            Stichting Ark (natuurontwikkeling)            Stichting Duincentrum De Zandwaaier            Stichting Erkend Groen            Stichting FACE (bebossing, tegen broeikaseffect)            Stichting Natuurschool            Stichting Probos            Stichting RAVON (reptielen, amfibien, vissen)            Stichting Recreatie, Kennis en Innovatiecentrum            The Two Moors Threatened Butterfly Project            Vereniging voor Zoogdierkunde &amp; Zoogdier            Vogelbescherming (2)</p>	<p><b>Onderzoeksinstituten (7%)</b></p> <p>Alterra (onderzoeksinstituut Groene Ruimte)            EFI (European Forest Institute)            Forest &amp; Landscape Denmark            Forestry Research Center            IPGRI (International plant genetic resources institute) (2)            NINA (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research)            Onderrzoeksinstituut Duitsland (2)            Plantenziektenkundige Dienst            The Royal Museum for Central Africa</p>
<p><b>Onderwijsinstellingen (4%)</b></p> <p>Almere college            Hogeschool Larenstein            Huiswerkbegeleidingsinstituut            MBO opleiding            VWO            Middelbare school</p>	<p><b>Bedrijven (5%)</b></p> <p>Aquadeco (eigen bedrijf)            Eneco Energie            KEGRO-deuren            LTO Noord Projecten B.V.            Ogin Biogasinstallaties Nederland BV            Peru for less (travelorganization)            Recreatiemaatschappij Rivierengebied            Reisburo gespecialiseerd in ecotourisme            Scholtes Roses (Rozenkwekerij)            T-Kartor AB (Zweden, Denemarken)            Worldwood</p>
	<p><b>Overig (9%)</b></p> <p>Annie's 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)            KLM            Kloostergemeenschap            Menzis verzekeringen            Thuiszorg            Tpg post (2)            TTP            Voedingswinkel</p>

# Calendar Academic Year 2020-2021

Schematic overview of the academic year at Wageningen University (21-22 not known yet):

## Calendar academic year 2020-2021



Period	Calendar Week	Academic Week	Date	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Academic Year 2019-2020	32	33	34	35	36	37
	49	50	51	52	1	2
	3/8	10/8	17/8	24/8	31/8	7/9
Education	38	39	40	41	42	43
	44	45	46	47	48	49
	50	51	52	1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21
Exams	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26
Education and exams	27	28	29	30	31	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31
Resit exams (3-2/12-2)	32	33	34	35	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31	1

Period	Calendar Week	Academic Week	Date	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
Education and exams	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36
	37	38	39	40	41	42
Education	43	44	45	46	47	48
	49	50	51	52	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26
Friday, April 30 Exams	27	28	29	30	31	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31
Exams *	32	33	34	35	36	37
	38	39	40	41	42	43
	44	45	46	47	48	49
	50	51	52	1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Education and exams	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
Holidays	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
Resit exams (2-8/11-8)	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
Holidays	31	32	33	34	35	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31
Academic Year 2021-2022	32	33	34	35	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8