

## ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

Session September 2026

Field of doctoral studies: FORESTRY

Doctoral supervisor: Prof. dr. Aureliu-Florin HĂLĂLIŞAN

### TOPICS FOR THE ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

<p>TOPIC 1: Effectiveness of participatory forest management and household livelihood outcomes in selected ASAL counties of Kenya</p>
<p><b>Contents / Main aspects to be considered</b></p> <p>To evaluate Participatory Forest Management (PFM) effectiveness on household livelihood outcomes in selected Kenyan ASAL forests, identifying which management aspects most influence specific outcomes and for which subgroups.</p> <p><b>Specific objectives.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess ASAL adapted PFM aspects like NTFP access rules, benefit-sharing and restoration incentives on livelihood capitals like financial assets from eco-tourism and social cohesion through grazing committees.</li> <li>• To determine which elements like equitable NTFP quotas vs. conflict mediation drive key outcomes such as diversified income, resilience to droughts, and reduced human-wildlife conflicts, disaggregated by outcome type.</li> <li>• To analyze differential livelihood impacts across subgroups, including women-led households, pastoralists, CFA vs. non-members in targeted ASAL sites.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommended bibliography:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agrawal, A. (2001). Common property institutions and sustainable governance of resources. <i>World Development</i>, 29(10), 1649–1672.</li> <li>2. Chambers, R., &amp; Conway, G. (1992). Sustainable rural livelihoods: Practical concepts for the 21st century (IDS Discussion Paper No. 296). <i>Institute of Development Studies</i>.</li> <li>3. Department for International Development. (1999). Sustainable livelihoods guidance sheets. DFID.</li> <li>4. Ellis, F. (2000). Rural livelihoods and diversity in developing countries. <i>Oxford University Press</i>.</li> <li>5. Government of Kenya. (2012). Sessional Paper No. 8 of 2012 on the national policy for the sustainable development of northern Kenya and other arid lands. <i>Government Printer</i>.</li> <li>6. Government of Kenya. (2016). Forest Conservation and Management Act No. 34 of 2016. National Council for Law Reporting / <i>Government Printer</i>.</li> <li>7. Ming'ate, F. L. M., Rennie, H. G., &amp; Memon, A. (2014). Potential for co-management approaches to strengthen livelihoods of forest dependent communities in Kenya. <i>Land Use</i></li> </ol>

*Policy*, 41, 304–312.

8. Ostrom, E. (1990). *Governing the commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action*. Cambridge University Press.
9. Schreckenberg, K., & Luttrell, C. (2009). Participatory forest management: A route to poverty reduction? *International Forestry Review*, 11(2), 221–238.
10. Scoones, I. (1998). Sustainable rural livelihoods: A framework for analysis (IDS Working Paper No. 72). *Institute of Development Studies*.

Prerequisites / Remarks: Knowledge of Kenyan forest management; Knowledge of survey methodologies (qualitative and quantitative assessment)

**Scientific Doctorate.**

Professional Doctorate

**without tuition fee (state budget funded)**

with tuition fee or with funding from other sources than the state budget

## TOPIC 2: Integrated approaches to sustainable forest management and rural livelihoods in Rwanda

### Contents / Main aspects to be considered

**Scope:** To assess integrated approaches to sustainable forest management and their contribution to rural livelihoods in Rwanda.

### Specific Objectives

1. To examine the major drivers of forest resource pressure in Rwanda, particularly firewood dependence and to assess the contribution of plantation forestry and community woodlots to sustainable forest management.
2. To evaluate the role of forest certification as a voluntary tool for improving forest management practices.
3. To analyze the relationship between forest management and rural livelihoods.
4. To propose policy recommendations for improving sustainable forest management in Rwanda.

### Recommended bibliography:

1. Mutandwa, E. & Kanyarukiga, R. (2016). Understanding the role of forests in rural household economies: Experiences from the Northern and Western provinces of Rwanda. *Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science*, 78(2), 115–122.
2. Iiyama, M., Mukuralinda, A., Ndayambaje, J.D., et al. (2018). *Tree-Based Ecosystem Approaches (TBEAs) as Multi-Functional Land Management Strategies—Evidence from Rwanda*. *Sustainability*, 10(5), 1360.
3. Kiyani, P., Andoh, J., Lee, Y.H., & Lee, D.K. (2017). *Benefits and challenges of agroforestry adoption: A case of Musebeya sector, Nyamagabe District in Rwanda*. *Forest Science and Technology*, 13(4), 174–180.
4. Lutagira, J. & Mulyunyi, P. (2017). *Impact of Integrated Watershed Management Practices on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Rwanda: Case of Mwange Watershed, Gicumbi District*. *International Journal of Science and Research*.
5. Clay, N. (2019). *Fixing the ecosystem: Conservation, crisis and capital in Rwanda's Gishwati Forest*. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.
6. Rwanda Ministry of Environment (2018). *National Forest Policy of Rwanda*.

<p>7. Ming'ate, F.L.M. (2016). <i>Co-management and sustainable livelihoods framework for forest governance</i>.</p> <p>8. Chinangwa, L., et al. (2016). <i>Livelihoods and welfare impacts of forest co-management</i>. International Journal of Forestry Research.</p> <p>9. Sayer, J., et al. (2017). <i>Building landscape approaches to forest restoration and conservation</i>.</p> <p>10. Ellis, F. (2016). <i>Rural Livelihoods and Diversity in Developing Countries</i>.</p> <p>11. Ostrom, E. (2016). <i>Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action</i>.</p>
<p>Prerequisites / Remarks: <i>Knowledge of Rwandan forest management; Knowledge of survey methodologies (qualitative and quantitative assessment)</i></p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Scientific Doctorate</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Professional Doctorate</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>without tuition fee (state budget funded)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with tuition fee or with funding from sources other than the state budget</p>

**Doctoral supervisor,**

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