

Summer School: Forests and Landscapes 2023 Case Studies in Sustainability of Forest Governance and Management

Time: Monday 11. - Saturday 16. September

Place (Online): Institute of Geography, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 12, 3012 Bern

Host: Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management Unit

Forests are under immense pressure from anthropogenic exploitation and degradation as well as environmental and climate change. The resulting changes have dire consequences for the ecological integrity of forests and for the resilience of dependent livelihoods. There is thus a need to facilitate interdisciplinary research and cross-case learning focused on how governance and management strategies can secure forest sustainability. Accordingly, this summer school aims to enhance our understanding of the sustainability of forest governance, management, and use. It addresses the following questions: How can progress toward sustainability be achieved from the perspectives of biodiversity and environmental justice and tracked through science-based criteria and indicators? What emerging questions must be addressed to progress toward sustainable forest governance, management, and use?

This summer school will facilitate cross-case learning on sustainability and enable participants to:

- a. gain a deeper understanding of different governance and management strategies influencing sustainable forest outcomes.
- b. identify, develop, or improve (existing) frameworks or indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable forest use.

ECTS (5 ECTS) and attendance certificate: Active participation for at least 85% of the time.

Programme (Summary)

Mon 11.09.2023: Introduction; Aims and Objectives; Lecture.

Individual presentations and round table discussions of assigned concepts and applications to a case study on forest governance and management I

Tue 12.09.2023: Individual presentations and round table discussions II

Lecture comparative analysis; Group work on designing a comparative framework for analysis of the case studies.

Wed 13.09.2023: Individual work and free half-day OR Evening excursion - Forest management in Switzerland

Thu 14.09.2023: Group work on comparative analysis of the case studies

Alternative date: Evening excursion - Forest management in Switzerland

Fri 15.09.2023: Group work on preparing draft-comparative papers on sustainability in forest governance and management.

Sat 16.09.2023: Presentation of draft comparative papers; Synthesis and Wrap-up/Follow-up

Sun 17.09.2023: Departure of (in-person) participants

Application and selection criteria: (1) Registered as a PhD or MSc student; (2) Thesis/research topic related to forests; (3) English proficiency; (4) Scientific quality of the submitted case study (max. 5 pages incl. map of the study site); (5) Stable internet connection.

Accommodation: Self-organized, we will provide information on affordable places.

Number of participants: 20

Deadline: Monday 21. August 2023.

To register and submit your case study, kindly visit:

<https://form.jotform.com/231905210179047> to fill out the form and complete the submission process.

For further information, please contact **Frank** at frank.mintah@unibe.ch or **Chima** at chima.iheaturu@unibe.ch.