

## Topics for MSc or Bsc thesis

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### A: Possible TOPICS for MSc/BSc thesis:

#### International scale (multi-level scale possible too)

1. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, interplay, effectiveness and/or impacts of international multilateral environmental (CBD, UNFCCC, SDGs) and trade (ITTA) agreements
2. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of international forest policy (UNFF, UNFI/NLBI, UN-SPF, CPF, C&I for SFM) and/or its interplay with other policy/governance processes
3. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of transnational regulatory governance (EUTR/EU FLEGT VPAs, US Lacey Act; Australian ITPA) and/or its interplay with other policy/governance processes
4. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of transnational public-private partnerships (REDD+ initiatives, The Bonn Challenge) and/or their interplay with other policy/governance processes
5. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, interplay, effectiveness and/or impacts of non-state market driven governance (e.g., forest sustainability certification (FSC, PEFC); palm oil sustainability certification (RSPB); and bioenergy/biomass sustainability certification (RSB), and their interactions with other policy/governance processes
6. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of deforestation free supply chains initiatives as private governance and market self-regulation, and/or their interplay with other policy/governance processes

#### European scale (multi-level scale possible too)

7. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of Pan-European forest policy (e.g., Forest Europe; Legally-Binding Agreement on Forests) and/or interplay with other policy/governance processes
8. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of EU Forest Policy (e.g., EU Forest Strategy and Forest MAP) and its interplay with other policy/governance processes
9. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of EU Biodiversity Policy (EU Habitats/Birds Directives, Natura 2000; EU Biodiversity Strategy) and/or its interplay with other policy/governance processes
10. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of EU Water Policy (EU Water Framework Directive), and/or its interplay with other policy/governance processes

11. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of EU Rural Development Policy/Common Agriculture Policy (EAFRD Regulation), and/or its interplay with other policy/governance processes
12. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of the EU Bioenergy Policy (EU Renewable Energy Directive) and/or the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, and their interplay with other policy/governance processes
13. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of the EU Climate and Bioenergy Policy (EU LULUCF Regulation; EU Climate and Energy Package), and/or their interplay with other policy/governance processes
14. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of the EU Environmental Sustainability and Timber Trade Policy (EUTR/EU FLEGT VPAs), and/or its interplay with other policy/governance processes

National and local scale (multi-level scale possible too)

15. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, interplay, effectiveness and/or impacts of policies governing sustainable forest management and/or integrated forest management
16. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of policies governing biodiversity conservation and/or rural development/agriculture and/or water management and/or climate change and/or bioenergy
17. Analysis of the design, development, implementation, effectiveness and/or impacts of policies governing sustainable land use, natural resource management and integrated landscape approaches
18. Analysis of trade-offs and synergies between forest ecosystem goods and services
19. Analysis of forest sector institutional reforms and/or capacity building/change management initiatives, including, but not limited to international development cooperation
20. Forest and forest-related law studies, forest ownership research

**B: Possible MAIN CONCEPTS/PERSPECTIVES to apply to the topics**

- Policy change, policy implementation, policy learning and policy integration
- Coalitional politics, stakeholder analysis, social network analysis, behavioral studies
- Political economy, institutional analysis and discourse studies
- Global governance, multi-level governance and environmental governance
- Europeanization, internationalization and globalization studies
- Trans- and inter-disciplinary sustainability analysis

**C: Possible MAIN methods to apply to the topics**

- Qualitative (interviews, content analysis of documents, focus groups, foresight) methods of empirical social science research
- quantitative (surveys, social network analysis, factor analysis, modelling) methods of empirical social science research
- Mixed (both qualitative and quantitative, see above) methods
- Foresight methods: STEEP/PESTE analysis, scenario building, policy back-casting, agent-based modelling (of forestry, land use and land use change, biodiversity conservation)
- Policy-science-practice interface, stakeholder engagement.

**D: Possible FORMAT for the thesis**

- **MSc:** regular research studies (6 months); **BSc:** mostly literature reviews (3 months)