Maintaining and restoring biodiversity, resources and services of freshwater ecosystems

“Water is life” is not just a slogan! Mankind fully depends on water and services provided by aquatic ecosystems, hence human activities have led to serious degradation of rivers, lakes and groundwater ecosystems. Interdisciplinary trained experts are needed to support society in maintaining and restoring ecological services of freshwater ecosystems.

Scientific approach
The programme is providing scientific expertise and practical skills conveyed by biologists, ecologists, landscape planners, river engineers, modellers, systems analysts, statisticians, GIS-experts, water managers, lawyers, and historians. Graduates are qualified to investigate, monitor and manage aquatic ecosystems by integrating ecological, technical and socio-economic knowledge and skills.

Programme contents
The Master programme includes courses on:
• physico-chemical characteristics of freshwater ecosystems;
• identification and ecology of algae;
• floodplain vegetation, invertebrates and fishes;
• fisheries & aquaculture;
• indicative value of aquatic organisms;
• assessment of human impacts;
• ecological status assessment and biomonitoring;
• conservation and restoration ecology;
• planning and evaluation of measures to manage aquatic ecosystems sustainably.

Students can also choose to study courses in Kenya and/or The Netherlands, within the “International Joint Master Programme in Limnology and Wetland Management” (LWM).

Career prospects
Graduates work at private companies (e.g. technical bureaus, civil engineering, environmental consultancy), governmental and non-governmental organisations, especially international organizations such as the European Commission, UNESCO, FAO, International River Commissions, development cooperation agencies, non-profit organisations, environmental associations, as well as in the research and education sector.

The International Master’s Programme
Applied Limnology is recognised as an International Master’s degree. It is open to all applicants with a degree (Bachelor/Master’s or equivalent) in natural sciences from an accredited university. Since the Master’s programme is taught in English, the prospective students must show competency in the English language. Graduates will be awarded the degree “Master of Science in Applied Limnology.”