

CURRICULUM VITAE



Name:	Bloesch
First Name:	Urs
Date of Birth:	08.01.1956
Nationality:	Swiss
Marital Status:	Married, six children
Profession:	Forest Engineer, Dr. sc. nat.
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EDUCATION

1992 - 2001:	PhD in Forestry Sciences at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ): "The dynamics of thicket clumps in the Kagera savanna landscape, East Africa". Topics studied: Dry forest, savanna, climate, soil, fire, mammalian herbivory, termites
1984 - 1985:	Postgraduate Course on Developing Countries (NADEL), ETHZ
1977 - 1983:	MSc in Forestry Sciences, ETHZ
1972 - 1976:	College (Major in economy), Biel
1967 - 1972:	High School, Nidau
1963 - 1967:	Elementary School, Biel

CONSULTANCIES WITH ADANSONIA-CONSULTING¹

HUMANITARIAN FIELD

2019:	Bahamas, SDC	Debris and waste management in the aftermath of hurricane Dorian, Swiss Rapid Response Team
2017 – 2020:	Chad, SDC/UNHCR	Backstopping of pilot ecosystem restoration project around Sudanese refugee camps using natural regeneration of <i>Acacia senegal</i> (marketing of gum Arabic)
2016:	Haiti, FAO	Impact assessment of the hurricane Matthew on the forest sector: Valorisation of fallen wood and restoration priorities
2015:	Sweden, MSB, UNEP/OCHA, WWF, SDC	Co-organiser and lecturer at the joint training workshop for Environmental Field Advisors in Revinge
2015:	Nepal, SDC /UNDP	Participation in the evaluation of the environment and forestry sectors of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in the aftermath of the earthquake

¹ Dr. Urs Bloesch founded in 1995 his own consulting company Adansonia-Consulting GmbH.

2015:	South Sudan, SDC/UNHCR	Training of forest service, universities and UNHCR in forest mapping/inventory and community forest management in Juba
2015:	Chad, SDC/UNHCR	Elaboration of a pilot project for the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems around Sudanese refugee camps
2014:	South Sudan, SDC/UNHCR	Forest mapping and pre-inventory of Sudanese refugee hosting areas
2013:	South Sudan, SDC/UNHCR	Definition of environmental strategy for Sudanese refugee hosting areas
2012:	Uganda, UNEP/OCHA	Joint environmental and social impact assessment for Congolese refugee settlement at Rwamwanja (JEU, UNHCR, IUCN, Ugandan practitioners)
2011:	Chad, SDC-HA	Definition of future support of SDC-HA to UNHCR regarding the environmental sector
2010:	Pakistan, SDC-HA	Environmental impact assessment of the flooding on the natural resources including the promotion of environmentally-friendly Adobe brick houses in the reconstruction
2009:	Jordan, MSB/IFRC	Environmental training of MSB/IFRC staff in Amman regarding natural resources management in the recovery phase
2009:	Haiti, UNEP	Assisting the recovery phase in forestry sector after the 2008 hurricanes considering DRR (Haiti Regeneration Initiative)
2009:	Dem.Rep.Congo, ProAct/UNEP	Development of an environmental programme in the Kivu provinces including the promotion of energy-saving mud stoves
2008 / 2009:	Rwanda, UNEP	Post-conflict environmental assessment at country level, in charge of the forestry sector
2008:	Sweden, SRSA	Environmental training of SRSA staff in Revinge regarding natural resources management in the recovery phase
2005:	Pakistan, UNEP/OCHA	Environmental impact assessment of the earthquake and the subsequent relief operation on the natural resources
2004:	Chad, UNHCR	Rapid environmental assessment in the Sudanese refugee-hosting area and elaboration of an environmental action plan
2001 / 2002:	Pakistan, UNHCR	Assessment of the energy supply of Afghan refugees and the need of environmental rehabilitation of refugee-affected sites
2001:	Eritrea, SDC-HA	Assessment of the energy supply of internally displaced people and environmental rehabilitation of a former camp site
2000:	Guinea, UNHCR	Environmental training of UNHCR staff (and of other agencies) in Conakry
1996:	Tanzania, SDC-HA	Developing a concept for using grasses as burning material for Rwandan and Burundian refugees
1996:	Uganda SDC-HA	Feasibility study of the grass cooker in the Sudanese refugee camps
1995:	Rwanda, WB, UNHCR	Evaluation of the environmental impact of the repatriation and reinstallation programme of returnees
1995:	Tanzania, SDC-HA	Set up of a peat extracting project for the energy supply of the Rwandan refugee camp at Kagenyi

DEVELOPMENT / CONSERVATION SECTOR

2023 – 2024	DRC, SDC	Environment, DRR and Climate Change study in South-Kivu province
2023	Tanzania, SDC	End of project evaluation <i>Conserving Forests through sustainable forest-based Enterprise Support in Tanzania</i> (sustainable charcoal)
2022 – 2025: (ongoing)	Chad, NIRAS / SDC	Technical backstopping for the elaboration of Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) market value chains
2020 - 2025: (ongoing)	Tanzania, ADAP	Vegetation studies and human disturbances in Miombo woodlands of protected areas in western Tanzania
2020 - 2025: (ongoing)	Tanzania, ADAP	Assessment of wild edible mushrooms in Miombo woodlands; development of a mushroom value chain in western Tanzania
2022:	Burkina Faso / Caritas Suisse	Elaboration of technical proposal of sustainable artisanal gold mining (SDC)
2020:	Chad, SDC	Promotion of non-wood forest products. Inception report
2019:	Tajikistan, SDC-HA	Outcome evaluation of the AKAH Disaster Risk Reduction / Natural Resource Management project in Khorog
2018/2019:	East Africa, Sahel ICARDA	Mid-term evaluation of land restoration project (IFAD, EU)
2018:	DRC, WWF	Mid-term review of the Forest Governance Programme
2018:	Tanzania, ADAP	Vegetation study of the Mlele Beekeeping Zone in Inyonga District
2017:	Algeria, UNDP-GEF	Mid-term review of Algeria's cultural parks
2017:	Switzerland, SDC, UNOSAT	Assessment of the impact of the hurricane Matthew on the forest cover (mangroves) in Haiti using remote sensing
2014:	Turkey, SDC, GFMC	Regional training on fire management in Antalya
2012:	Haiti, SDC	Evaluation of the <i>Programme de Préservation et Valorisation de la Biodiversité en haute altitude en Haïti</i> (PVB) implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
2011:	Burkina Faso, newTree	Evaluation of the forest inventory methodology for Assisted Natural Regeneration
2011:	Nepal, SDC	Evaluation of the SDC Programme Clean Building Technologies including Vertical Shaft Brick Kilns (VSBK)
2010:	Nigeria, UNEP	Environmental assessment of the impact of oil contamination on terrestrial and marine ecosystems (mangroves) in Ogoniland
2010:	Rwanda, BTC	Mid-term evaluation of the PAREF forestry project
2008 / 2009:	Tanzania, GTZ/ADAP/ UNDP/GEF	Assessment of the potential of wild edible mushrooms in the Miombo woodlands of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor for the livelihood improvements of the local population

2008:	Switzerland, BMZ/KfW	Participation in the evaluation of the German country programme in Burkina Faso
2007:	Tanzania, CTPL	Feasibility study of oil palm plantation (<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>)
2007:	Rwanda, ARECO	Impact of global change on the management of Mukura forest
2006:	Tanzania, GTZ	Preliminary vegetation study of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor. Biodiversity, conservation values and management
2003:	Burkina Faso, SDC	Rapid assessment of the climate and environmental impact of savanna burning in francophone West Africa
2002 / 2003:	Tanzania, GTZ	Ecological description and elaboration of conservation and management strategies for the new Saadani National Park
2001:	Eritrea, SDC-HA	Assessment of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> bush encroachment
1997:	Madagascar, CI	Elaboration of a fire management plan for the Ankarafantsika Reserve
1997:	Madagascar, WWF	Elaboration of a fire management plan for the Andringitra National Park
1997:	Tanzania, Care Internat.	Elaboration of a fire management plan for the former refugee camp of Benaco

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

2003 - 2009:	Tanzania, CEPF/Syngenta	Assessment of the biodiversity and the conservation values of coastal forest patches in Handeni District, Tanzania (CEPF/Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture)
2003 - 2009:	Tanzania, SUA/WSL/ KFPE/ESAPP	Joint research project between the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Tanzania and the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) about soil and vegetation dynamics in savanna landscapes and Miombo woodlands of Tanzania (KFPE/ESAPP)

FORMER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

1994: Tanzania	UNHCR Environmental Coordinator in Kagera and Kigoma Regions, Tanzania: • Organisation of the energy supply and its rational use for 600'000 Rwandan refugees; coordination of local NGO's • Elaboration of an environmental rehabilitation programme
1994: Switzerland	Desk Officer for the Rwanda programme at the Headquarters of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Berne: • Planning, monitoring and supervision of the programme (Swiss projects and Swiss funded NGO-projects) • Analysis of the political situation

1991 - 1994: Rwanda/ Burundi	Deputy Chief for the Rwandan and Burundian Development Programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) / Swiss Embassy in Kigali: • Supervision of the Swiss Projects in Rwanda and Burundi in the forestry, agriculture, education and infrastructure sector (World Bank Project) • Supervision of Swiss funded NGO-projects • Policy dialogue with the Rwanda government in the above mentioned sectors (mainly forestry programme) • Representation of the Swiss government • Coordination of the energy supply (wood, charcoal, peat) for 900'000 Rwandan displaced people together with the Rwandan Forest Direction
1988 - 1991: Rwanda	Forestry advisor at the Prefecture level in the Rwandan Forest Service in Kibuye, Rwanda (INTERCOOPERATION): • Planning, budgets, monitoring and evaluation of the operation • Training of Rwandan foresters • Forest management plans including pine forests, secondary rainforests and bamboo stands, agroforestry • Design and construction of forest roads
1987 - 1988: Switzerland	Acting head of Forest Service in Laufen and consultancies: • Forestry inventory of the forest of La Neuveville • Elaboration of vegetation map of the forests of Biel (1300 ha)
1985 - 1987: Burkina Faso	Expert in the forest project "Bois de Villages" (INTERCOOPERATION): • Definition of the land use (forest aspects, fire) • Sinking of wells • Tree nurseries and afforestation at community level • Energy saving methods (improved stoves) • Education of national foresters and Swiss forestry students • Elaboration of annual action plans and budgets • Bookkeeping
1983 - 1984: Switzerland	• Elaboration of forest management plan of the commune of Pieterlen • Logging in the forest of the Burgergemeinde Biel

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

2007 – 2014: Switzerland	Lecturer at the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL / Bern University of Applied Sciences in Zollikofen (Tropical Forest Management)
2004 – 2023: (Switzerland)	Invited lecturer at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ), University of Basel (Centre for African Studies Basel), University of Berne (Geographical Institute), University of Geneva (IUED), Bern University of Applied Sciences (Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering) in Biel, <i>Haute Ecole du Paysage, d'Ingénierie et d'Architecture</i> (HEPIA) in Geneva, and at the Institute of Communication and Leadership (IKF) and Institute for Peace & Dialogue (IPD) both in Lucerne

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENTS

2020 -	Certified wild mushroom controller in Switzerland (VAPKO)
2017 -	Expert of the European Multiple Environmental Threats Emergency Network (EMETNET) Roster
2016 -	Member of the Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Expert Network, UNEP/OCHA

2014 - 2023	Member of the Strategic Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (SAGEE) on behalf of Swiss Government, UNEP/OCHA
2010 - 2015:	Head of Environment/Disaster Risk Reduction Expert Group of Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SDC)
2010 -	Member of Mycological Society Biel
2008 -	Honorary member of ARECO (<i>Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes</i>)
2004 -	Expert of the Swiss Solidarity Group
1995 -	Member of Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA)'s Expert Group DRR, Environment and Climate

PUBLICATIONS

Bloesch, U. (1999) Fire as a tool in the management of a savanna / dry forest reserve in Madagascar. *Applied Vegetation Science*, 2, 117-124.

Klötzli, F. & Bloesch, U. et al. (1999) Manifest: Welche Forschung braucht der Naturschutz heute? *Vierteljahrsschrift der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich*, 144(3), 89-100.

Bloesch, U. (2001) The use of fire in the environmental rehabilitation on the sites of a former refugee camp at Benaco, Tanzania. *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Forstwesen*, 152(9), 377-382.

Bloesch, U., Bosshard, A., Schachenmann, P., Rabetaliana Schachenmann, H. & Klötzli, F. (2002) Biodiversity of the subalpine forest/grassland ecotone of the Andringitra Massif, Madagascar. In: Körner, Ch. & Spehn, E. M. (eds.) *Mountain biodiversity: a global assessment*, pp. 165-175. Parthenon Publishing, London.

Bloesch, U. (2002) The dynamics of thicket clumps in the Kagera savanna landscape, East Africa. PhD thesis N° 14386, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH). Shaker, Aachen.

Bloesch, U. & Klötzli, F. (2002) The vegetation of the Saadani National Park and possible conservation- and management strategies. Tanzania Wildlife Discussion Paper No. 33. Baldus, R.D. & Siegel, L. (Eds.). Wildlife Division / GTZ. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Klötzli, F. & Bloesch, U. (2003) The rich vegetation mosaic of the proposed Saadani National Park. *Kakakuona*, 31, 56-57.

Bloesch, U. & Klötzli, F. (2004) Coastal forests of the Saadani National Park. Conservation values and management strategies. Tanzania Wildlife Discussion Paper No. 37. Baldus, R.D. (Ed.). Wildlife Division / GTZ. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Bloesch, U. & Klötzli, F. (2005) Zur Waldfähigkeit der Saadani – Küstensavannen in Tansania. *Berichte der Reinhold-Tüxen-Gesellschaft*, 17, 55-69.

Bloesch, U. & Hahn, R. (2007) Biodiversity values, threats and conservation strategies of the Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor, Tanzania. Proceedings of the 6th TAWIRI Scientific Conference, 3-6 December, Arusha, Tanzania.

Bloesch, U. (2008) Thicket clumps: A typical feature of the Kagera savanna landscape, East Africa. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, 19, 31-44.

Nduwamungu, J., Munishi, P.K.T., Bloesch, U., Hagedorn, F. & Lulu, K. (2009) Recent land cover and use changes in miombo woodlands of eastern Tanzania. *Tanzania Journal of Forestry and Nature Conservation*, 78, 50-59.

Bloesch, U. Troupin, G. et Derungs, N. (2009) Les plantes ligneuses du Rwanda. Flore, écologie et usages. Shaker, Aachen, 757 p.

Bloesch, U. (2009) Wild edible mushrooms from the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Ruvuma Region, Tanzania. Leaflet. Adansonia-Consulting, Biel.

Bloesch, U. (2011) Forest Resources. In: Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, UNEP (ed.) Rwanda: From post-conflict to environmentally sustainable development, pp. 120-141. UNEP, Geneva.

Wiedemeier, D., Bloesch, U. & Hagedorn, F. (2012) Stable forest-savanna mosaic in northwestern Tanzania: local-scale evidence from $\delta^{13}C$ signatures and ^{14}C ages of soil fractions. *Journal of Biogeography*, 39, 247-257.

Belem, B., Kaguembega-Mueller, F., Bellefontaine, R., Sorg, J.P., Bloesch, U. & Graf, E. (2017) Assisted natural regeneration with fencing in the central and northern zones of Burkina Faso. *Tropicultura*, 35(2), 73-86.

Leiterer, R., Bloesch, U., Wulf, H., Eugster, S. & Joerg, P.C. (2018) Vegetation monitoring in refugee-hosting areas in South Sudan. *Applied Geography* 93, 1-15.

LANGUAGES

German	Mother tongue
French	Very good knowledge
English	Very good knowledge
Swahili	Working knowledge
Italian	Basic knowledge

REFERENCES

SDC	Sebastian Eugster (sebastian.eugster@eda.admin.ch), Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Mobile: +41 79 876 84 20
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Evilard, 15 December 2025

Dr. Urs Bloesch

