



MATEO LAZRI

Mateo's Path to Forest Engineering

Mateo always knew that his connection to nature was more than just a passing interest. Since childhood, he felt a strong attraction to the world of plants, animals, and lush landscapes—a pure love, yet not fully articulated as a professional path. Only through career counseling did he realize that this early passion could translate into a real profession. That moment was when his enthusiasm began to take concrete shape.



A project by Swiss Agency
for Development and Cooperation SDC



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The decision to pursue studies in forest engineering was no coincidence. Mateo vividly recalls a personal moment—during a walk in the forest, he felt a deep sense of peace and fulfillment, unlike anything he had experienced before. *"I wasn't thinking about anything else, I didn't feel tired—I was simply in the right place,"* he reflects. It was then that he understood—this wasn't just a childhood dream, but the path he would follow with conviction.

During career counseling, Mateo also faced choices that helped him better understand what he did not want. Occupations like veterinary medicine or physiotherapy were quickly ruled out, as he felt no affinity toward them. Instead, a new field sparked his curiosity—protected area management. At first unfamiliar, it soon became a discipline that fascinated him. A joint program between the Agricultural University of Tirana and the University of Tuscia in Italy revealed to him how nature and science could merge in remarkable ways to build a sustainable career.

Mateo admits that he hasn't faced significant moments of uncertainty, as deep down, he has always felt that his path was connected to nature. What career counseling changed for him was the way he envisions the future. Now, he doesn't just think about a profession but about a way of life, a form of contribution, a means to live in harmony with himself.

Despite the silent pressure of family expectations to pursue *"more secure"* branches, his parents chose not to intervene.

They let him make the decision himself—a quiet but profoundly powerful form of support. His friends, on the other hand, were always there to reflect together, to discuss paths, dilemmas, and opportunities.

Today, Mateo is nearing the completion of his studies in forest engineering and feels more at ease than ever with the choice he has made. He plans to pursue a master's degree in the same faculty and is determined to dedicate himself to environmental protection and the sustainable management of natural resources. If he could go back and tell someone what he experienced, he would say: *"Listen to your heart. It will lead you where you need to be. And sometimes, that path begins exactly where you feel most at peace."*

