



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF TOURISM & NATURAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT**

**BACHEOR OF SCIENCE (WILDLIFE RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT)**

**COURSE CODE: WRM 4242-1**

**COURSE TITLE: TROPICAL ECOLOGY**

**DATE 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

**TIME: 11:00AM -13:00PM**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **ALL** questions in Section A, and any **THREE** questions in Section B

This paper consists of 2 printed pages. Please turn over



### Section A: Answer ALL Questions (20 marks)

1. Explain the following as used in tropical ecology:
  - a) Tropical ecosystem (2 marks)
  - b) Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) (2marks)
2. Explain why the tropical rain forests soils are nutrient-poor and non-fertile (2 marks)
3. State **two** roles played by frugivores in the regeneration of tropical forests (2 marks)
4. Highlight two reasons why animal migration is an important phenomenon in the tropical savanna (4 marks)
5. Explain the importance of habitat evaluation in forested ecosystems (4 marks)
6. Describe any **two** theories/ hypotheses put forth to explain the high diversity in the tropical ecosystems (4 marks)

### Section B: Answer any THREE questions (30 marks)

1. Basing your arguments on the temperature and rainfall, analyze the characteristics of tropical ecosystems (10 marks)
2. Fire plays a key role in the savanna ecosystems. Discuss this statement (10 marks)
3. Anthropogenic activities are among the leading drivers to the degradation of tropical ecosystems. With specific examples, discuss the impacts such activities have on the tropical ecosystems (10 marks)
4. Discuss why the tropical ecosystems should be conserved (10 marks)