



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

BIO468 International biodiversity resource management, 5 higher education credits

Internationell hantering av biologiska naturresurser, 5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Science on 2011-11-14 and was last revised on 2017-02-06 by Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences to be valid from 2017-02-06, spring semester of 2017.

Field of education: Science 100%

Department: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

Position in the educational system

The course is given within NABiS - Masters in Biodiversity and Systematics but is also available as a stand-alone course

Advanced

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Biodiversity and Systematics, Nordic Master's Programme (N2BIS), 2) Environmental Sciences (N2MVN) and 3) Ecotoxicology, Master's Programme (N2TOX)

Main field of studies

Biology

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Bachelor of Science in Biology or Environmental Sciences. Minimum of 10 ects in Systematics (Classification) in any organism group.

Learning outcomes

After completion of the course the student is expected to

Knowledge and Understanding

- be able to account for the global networks of decision-making in the field of biodiversity conservation
- have insight into the contents of international conventions concerning biodiversity

Skills and Abilities

- be able to describe the red list classification system and its scientific background
- account for EU directives and regulations on nature conservation and their implementation in the Nordic countries
- read and understand the technical language used in acts related to the protection of biodiversity

Judgement and Approach

- appreciate their own impact on sustainable development as world citizens and as taxonomists

Course content

The course presents an overview of biodiversity management in an international perspective. It is divided into three modules:

1. Introduction to International Biodiversity Management
 - 2a. Treaties
 - 2b. Other agreements and conservation tools
3. Case study

1. Introduction to International Biodiversity Management

Governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across the globe interact to conserve the Earth's biodiversity. This module concerns the networks of decision-making and implementation in the field of biodiversity. Among the questions covered are: What are the implications of individual state legislation, EU legislation and international treaties? What is the role of NGOs such as IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) and IPBES (International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)? What is the difference between a treaty, other types of international agreements, and EU directives and regulations? What is the implication of a state signing and ratifying a treaty? What is the relationship between biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources?

2a. Treaties

The contents of the following treaties will be studied and their implications discussed:

- o Convention on Biological Diversity including the Global Taxonomy Initiative
- o Convention on International Trade with Endangered Species (CITES)
- o Ramsar and the World Heritage Conventions
- o Convention on Migratory Species

- o Convention to Combat Desertification
- o The Bern Convention and its implication for EU legislation
 - EU Habitats Directive (Natura 2000)*
 - EU Birds directive*

2b. Other agreements and conservation tools

This module will address the issue of intellectual property of biodiversity and a number of practical approaches to avoid loss of biodiversity.

- o TEED report on intellectual properties
- o Redd+ (Restriction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation - native species; UNEP)
- o Red lists (IUCN)
- o *In situ* and *ex situ* conservation, genbanks, museum collections

3. Case study

Species highlighted in international treaties or national directives will be the focus of papers authored by individual students. For a selected species, the student should describe the biological background and the particular aspects leading to its position under threat of extinction as well as account for the protection provided by international legislation and agreements. This module is meant to give students an understanding on how scientific knowledge is used in environmental conservation work.

Form of teaching

The course is given as e-learning on the Gothenburg University teaching platform GUL. It comprises three modules.

Module 1 includes taped or live lectures, texts and review questions. Answers to review questions are compulsory and should be submitted before start of the next module.

Module 2 includes reading treaties, agreements and other on-line resources. Seminars following up on each item are carried out as discussion fora on GUL and are compulsory. There will be a written exam testing the learning outcomes of Module 1 and 2.

A case study is comprised by module 3. It should result in a written report that will be read and commented on by fellow students at an event scheduled on GUL. The report as well as the opposition on fellow students work are compulsory.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

Written exam on learning outcomes for module 1 and 2 amounts to 80% of the grade

Case study report and opposition on fellow students' work amounts to 20% of the grade

Course evaluation

A possibility to submit a written course evaluation will be provided at the end of the course. The result of the evaluation will be presented on GUL. Actions taken to improve the course are communicated to current as well as coming students.