Module Specification

Conservation in Practice

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 15 Jun 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Conservation in Practice

Module code: USSK5E-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Wildlife and Society 2023-24

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module builds on the knowledge gained in the Level 1 Wildlife and Society module to provide knowledge and practical experience of solutions to the problems faced by species of conservation concern.

Outline syllabus: Taught elements of the course will include case studies which emphasise the pathway from international to local level efforts to conserve biodiversity.

Conservation Prioritisation :
Need for prioritisation.
Species versus habitat versus ecosystem conservation.
Biodiversity hotspots.
Prioritisation at international, national and local levels.
IUCN red lists, Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP).

Species Management:
Species surveying and monitoring.
Minimum Viable Population and Minimum Dynamic Area.
Effective population sizes, loss of genetic diversity and inbreeding depression.
Population Viability Analysis.
Metapopulations and Ecological Networks.
Computer modelling and mapping.
Rewilding.
In situ versus ex-situ conservation.
Establishing protected areas.
Species reintroduction.

Community-based Conservation:
Community-Based Natural Resource Management / Integrated Conservation and Development Projects.
Alternative income strategies.
Ameliorating human-wildlife conflict.

Conservation Legislation:
Introduction to international (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Birds Directive, Habitats Directive) and national (Wildlife and Countryside Act; Natural Environment White Paper) legislation.
Marine conservation.

Specific case studies of their impacts and limitations.

Practical Skills:
Workplace experience of methods used day-to-day by different conservation organisations allowing development of a range of practical skills and experience relevant to practical conservation.
Experience of working, alone and in teams, in a safe and ethical manner.
Relationship between practical skills used by conservation organisations and ecological theory that underpins conservation in practice.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Teaching is delivered as interactive lectures; tutorials; workshops and laboratory or field practical classes.
Students are expected to spend 60 hours gaining practical skills while volunteering for a professional conservation organisation.

A variety of learning approaches are used. Practical sessions provide experience of relevant laboratory and field techniques. Practical, workshop and tutorial sessions provide opportunities for data handling and interpretation, problem-solving and discussions with academic staff. Interactive lectures provide contexts and overviews of topics to guide student-centred learning. Student learning is supported by audio-visual material, specialist software packages, and computer modelling and mapping exercises.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Describe a wide spectrum of species conservation techniques and critically evaluate their application in different scenarios

MO2 Discuss landscape scale conservation within the context of current international and national legislation

MO3 Plan, implement and accurately report a scientifically robust population estimate for a particular species/group

MO4 Develop a variety of employability skills and attributes relevant to gaining and sustaining employment in wildlife conservation post graduation

MO5 Relate academic studies to wildlife conservation practice

MO6 Use a reflective process to demonstrate development of skills in core areas

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 168 hours

Placement = 60 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussk5e-30-2.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessments include both summative (assessment that contributes to module mark) and formative (assessment that does not contribute to module mark) assessment and feedback opportunities. These assessments have been designed to test student's theoretical understanding of key topics and their ability to apply that understanding to practical situations. In doing so they will be prepared not only for practical aspects of conservation but also the rigours of planning and reporting; vital skills in the conservationist's toolkit.

Assessment 1 requires the students to design, implement and report a scientifically-robust species population survey (2000 words). This will include mapping techniques (Geographic Information Systems).

Assessment 2 is a professional experience portfolio, which links to the 60-hour work placement the students will undertake in the conservation sector, and comprises: a CV; a poster; timesheets and an employer reference.

Opportunities for formative assessment are embedded in the module teaching and take a variety of forms, including: problem-solving workshops and in class multiple choice quizzes

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)
Description: Species population survey report (2000 words)
Weighting: 60 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Professional experience portfolio
Weighting: 40 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6

Report (Resit)
Description: Species population survey report (2000 words)
Weighting: 60 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Professional experience portfolio
Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Zoo][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Zoo][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2021-22