



## **Module Specification**

### **Wildlife and Society**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Wildlife and Society

**Module code:** USSK5D-30-1

**Level:** Level 4

**For implementation from:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Health, Science & Society

**School:** CHSS School of Applied Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Applied Sciences

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** People and wildlife are often treated as separate and distinct entities, when in reality they are often interconnected elements of the same landscape. This module aims to provide a theoretical understanding of this fact and promotes the role that communities and other stakeholders play in conducting any successful conservation initiative in a sustainable way.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** Students will learn the historical context of colonial conservation strategies and explore current or recommended initiatives in conservation aimed at fostering inclusivity and ethical practices in project implementation. Students will learn how environmental issues intertwine with political and economic agendas and will be introduced to environmental policies at national, European and global scales. Lastly, students will learn to evaluate the need for interdisciplinary approaches to conservation challenges, with a focus on social and economic dimensions.

**Outline syllabus:** This module introduces key concepts underpinning the discipline of Conservation Science. It examines how conservation problems and their solutions relate to social, political and economic imperatives, and the broad methods conservation organisations use to effect change. Specifically this module will introduce the following:

Introduction to Biodiversity and Conservation:

What biodiversity is and where it is found. Economic and social values of biodiversity. Threats to biodiversity and drivers of extinction.

Society:

Historical impacts of environmental degradation on human societies. Different cultural and religious perspectives on environment. Historical growth of environmentalism and impact on global societies, economies and politics. Shaping the agenda and roles of pressure groups and industry at local and national level.

Sustainable Development:

What is Sustainable Development? The meaning of the 'three pillars of Sustainable Development' – economic development, social development and environmental protection. Introduction of Sustainable Development models, for example the triple Bottom Line.

Economics:

Introduction to economic concepts: supply and demand, allocation of resources, marginal principle, scarcity, tragedy of the commons. Economic theory in relation to environmental issues. Economic-based approaches to valuing ecosystems and

solving environmental problems (payments for ecosystem services; trading permits; carbon and biodiversity offsetting, taxes).

Policy Making and Implementation:

Legislative framework for policy making: Parliament, local authorities, the European Union. The Governmental institutions involved in the implementation of Sustainable Development initiatives (government departments, local authorities, Environment Agency etc). Global policy frameworks – Sustainable Development Goals and UN Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Scientific controversies with reference to contemporary issues for example Fracking and GM case studies.

Meet the Employers:

Introduction to the different organisations working to benefit biodiversity and the methods they use.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be employed. The module will be delivered using interactive lectures combined with workshops and field visits where appropriate. Lectures will be used to introduce main concepts and to guide and inform student centred learning while workshops will provide students the opportunity to discuss issues in-depth. These will be further supported by field visits to local conservation practitioners which will enable students to experience real-world conservation work first hand. Student learning will be supported through the University's E-Learning Environment. A culture of continuous learning will be developed through the implementation of regular on-line discussion groups which discuss identified topics in-depth. All sessions will be used to inform and provoke the process of critical thinking and awareness required for levels 5 and 6.

The module places considerable emphasis on recognising and using subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts and principles. The module will introduce the idea of analysing, synthesising and summarising information critically, including prior

research. Learning methods include the application of knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems.

Scheduled learning includes interactive lectures, workshop and supervised fieldwork.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion.

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

**MO1** Demonstrate an understanding of how non-sustainable human interactions with the environment can lead to loss of ecological and social capital.

**MO2** Discuss how environmental problems and their solutions relate to political and economic imperatives in relation to Sustainable Development and policy.

**MO3** Describe the role of conservation organisations and the different methods used to effect change at local, national and international levels.

**MO4** Discuss the need for, and barriers to, an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of conservation problems with particular reference to their social and economic dimensions.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 234 hours

Face-to-face learning = 66 hours

Total = 0

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussk5d-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussk5d-30-1.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Assessment 1 is a group presentation (15 minutes; approx. 3 minutes per student) to develop a conservation organisation (40% of module marks) including submission of minutes of preparation meetings to allow for individual contributions to the group to be monitored).

Assessment 2 is an online exam, with a 24 hour submission window, which takes place at the end of the year (60% of the module marks). The paper consists of several long answer questions, designed to test students' understanding of key concepts.

Opportunities for formative assessment are embedded in the module teaching and take a variety of forms, including: in class and on-line tests and quizzes, problem-solving workshops, and model answers for past exam questions.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Group presentation to develop a conservation organisation (15 minutes; approx. 3 minutes per student).

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

**Examination (Online) (First Sit)**

Description: Online exam (24 hours)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Group presentation to develop a conservation organisation (15 minutes).

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

**Examination (Online) (Resit)**

Description: Online exam (24 hours)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] - Withdrawn MSci 2024-25

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2023-24