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Conservation biology (3BL2265)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en biologie	**Cours: 30 pg**	**Voir ci-dessous**	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Contenu

This course presents an introduction to conservation biology in Switzerland and elsewhere. It is divided in three parts: a theoretical part (approximately 10 hours), which includes lectures and group discussions, a practical part (10 hours) and at least one excursion.

The theoretical part covers the following topics:

- a general introduction to the field of conservation biology is given
- the concept of "evidence-based" conservation is presented
- the main factors leading to biodiversity decline are discussed (habitat destruction, habitat degradation, habitat fragmentation, climate change, impact of invasive species, impact of pathogens)
- strategies commonly implemented in species conservation and habitat conservation are detailed

During the practical part, which will provide the basis for the evaluation (continuous assessment, graded), each student will focus on one endangered animal species of his/her choice and compile an action plan for that species, following the IUCN guidelines for action plans. She/he will evaluate de degree of threat (ideally using the IUCN criteria), list the known threats and propose concrete conservation measures. In addition a monitoring program should be proposed. Finally, a short research project should be outlined on the conservation of this species. A short presentation (10 minutes) will be given and the reports should be handed in on the last week of the semester.

Forme de l'évaluation

CA graded : Both the presentation and the report will be graded; criteria will include both the scientific content and the form. The average between both grades will be taken.

Retake attempt : must be registered at next session and coordinated with professor (not in Pidex).

Documentation

Essentials of Conservation biology (Primack 2014, Sinauer)
Principles of Conservation Biology (Groom et al., 2006, Sinauer)
Fundamentals of Conservation biology (Hunter & Gibbs, 2007, Blackwell)

The course is based on these books, which can be found in the library. The purchase of these books by the students is not necessary.

Forme de l'enseignement

Mix of lectures, group discussions, practical exercises and excursions

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Discover the main concepts in conservation biology
- Discuss the importance of an evidence-based approach in conservation
- Analyse the main threats to biodiversity
- Synthesise threats to one selected species
- Formulate conservation measures for that species

Compétences transférables

- Write a short, concise report in the form of an action plan
- Summarize data from various sources
- Communicate your research

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