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Evidence-based conservation of species and habitats (3CB2004)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en conservation de la biodiversité	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

Equipe enseignante

Christophe Praz

Contenu

This course examines fundamental concepts within conservation biology, and aims to complement other courses, notably "Evidence-based Conservation of Ecosystems." These two complementary courses aim to explore similar concepts from distinct perspectives. In this particular course, the emphasis lies on Central Europe, particularly Switzerland, with a focus on both species and habitat conservation.

The class incorporates a blend of concise lectures, interactive group workshops, and thematic discussions. The main report upon which the evaluation is based consists of an action plan for a selected species. Throughout the semester, this action plan is also the topic of group workshops.

The following topics are covered:

Cycle 1 – essential concepts in evidence-based conservation

Arguments for biodiversity conservation

The “effectiveness revolution” in conservation; evidence-based conservation and adaptive management

The research-implementation (or knowing-doing) gap in conservation

How to formulate SMART objectives in conservation action

Cycle 2 – key topics in conservation biology

Drivers of biodiversity declines: climate change, invasive species, habitat destruction.

The land sharing/land sparing debate (joined activity with Clara Zemp, class “Evidence-based conservation of ecosystems”).

Cycle 3 – conservation in practice: the Swiss context

Important actors in conservation

Setting priorities in species conservation: the Swiss list of priority species

The three axes of conservation action in Switzerland: Species specific measures, the ecological infrastructure, sectoral policies

Habitat conservation in Switzerland

Forme de l'évaluation

The evaluation comprises two parts: the first part contributes one-third of the final grade, while the second part contributes the remaining two-thirds.

Part one: the land sparing/land sharing debate, joined activity with Prof. Clara Zemp

This role-playing group activity will be thoroughly explained during class sessions. The activity comprises three sections:

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1. Preparation of the debate
2. Debate
3. Debriefing

Sections 2 and 3 will be assessed for this course in groups. Each section contributes equally to the grade for this activity, constituting one-third of the overall grade for the course.

Part two: species action plan (individual assessment)

Every student will be tasked with writing a species action plan, adhering to the guidelines outlined during lectures. The final version of this action plan will account for two-thirds of the final grade for the course.

The assembly of this action plan will progress gradually throughout the semester through the submission of various sections of the action plan through assignments on Moodle. You will be asked to upload sections of the action plan on various weeks, with some of these assignments serving as topics for group workshops. It is crucial to note that the evaluation is based on the final report rather than on the individual assignments. You have the opportunity to refine and enhance the individual assignments, such as after group workshops, in preparation for the final report.

The grading for the final report follows the criteria outlined in the "Grading_criteria_for_action_plan" table, which is available for reference on Moodle.

Modalités de rattrapage

If needed (grade below 3.0 or average in module below 4.0), the evaluation must be repeated. Specific comments on how to improve the report will be provided and a new version of the report must be handed in before the end of the next exam session, in coordination with professor (not in Pidex).

Pré-requis

You should register to the course "Evidence-based conservation of ecosystems" by Prof. Clara Zemp during the same semester. The lectures "3BL2270 Methods in biodiversity monitoring" and "3BL2275 Animal conservation" are highly recommended as prerequisites.

Forme de l'enseignement

Concise lectures, interactive group workshops, and thematic discussions