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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; typically one topic is covered in one two-hours session that combines reading, group discussions with presentations.

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

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

The land sharing/land sparing debate

Swiss Context I - Setting priorities in species conservation: the Swiss list of priority species

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

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: theory and concepts (written exam around mid semester)

This part covers the first part of the semester. Each week will be dedicated to a distinct topic, and will consist of theory in the form of lectures and group discussions. At the end of this part, a short, written exam will take place in class. It will be a closed-book exam of 60 minutes. General questions on the material covered during the first 7 weeks will be asked.

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

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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. The grade for the final report contributes two thirds of the grade for the species action plan.

Each student will also present his/her action plan during a short presentation, which will be graded. The short presentation contributes a third of the grade for the species action plan. The written report contributes the remaining two thirds.

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).

Forme de l'enseignement

Concise lectures, interactive group workshops, and thematic discussions