

Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Law (C003185)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture
			excursion

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Van Uytvanck, Jan		lecturer-in-charge
Cliquet, An	RE22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

Bachelor of Science in Biology	crdts	offering
	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

nature conservation, nature management, conservation biology, values, impact factors, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services

Position of the course

Retrieve insight in the way man has treated and treats the environment and biodiversity in particular, how his acting had impact on biodiversity, and how he contemporarily deals with it. Strategies, measures and concrete realisations are dealt with, concerning nature conservation, management, restoration and (sustainable) developmen. International and regional nature conservation policy is introduced shortly (further elaborated in the master's programme). Special attention is given to the development of a long term vision on the conservation and development of nature and biodiversity (Ecosystem Assessment, ecosystem services concept, ...).

Several guest lecturers will share their insights in specific management and legal issues

Contents

Excursions (4)

Examples of specific conflicts between nature conservation and various land use forms and different nature management tools are illustrated during four field excursions in a selection of nature reserves and landscapes. Excursions are respectively dedicated to pattern management, process management, heathland management, forest management.

Interactive lectures

- Nature and biodiversity: from anthropocentric to ecocentric valuation, goals and concepts, complexity, historical and ecological references and visions for the future
- Anthropogenic impact factors (habitat destruction and fragmentation, pollution, acidification, dessiccation, climate change, non-indigenous species, ...)
- Nature management strategies: from strongly human steered to rewilding
- Ecosystem management, Nature restoration and development
- Ecosystem types and management: heathland, grassland, forest, water and marches, dunes and estuaries, former agricultural land, novel ecosystems and urban environments
- Population management: from communities to species and genes

- Climate adaptation and nature management
- Nature management monitoring and evaluation
- Introduction to international and regional nature conservation policy

Initial competences

Elements of the courses in Biodiversity and Ecology from BA1 and Biogeography from BA2

Final competences

- 1 The student has insight in the way man used the environment and the growing negative impact on landscape, nature and biodiversity. He knows what means (s. L.) were developed to remedy the negative anthropogenic impact factors.
- 2 The student has a global overview of the currently available nature management strategies and techniques for nature conservation and restoration of ecosystems, communities, species and genes. He knows the the broad outline of international en regional conservation policy that underpins nature and biodiversity conservation.
- 3 The student is aware of the way in which he can contribute to biodiversity conservation as biology scientist.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

On campus lessons are preferred; in case generic corona measures obstruct on campus lectures, spoken lessons will be digitally available

Learning materials and price

Learning

- Van Uytvanck J. et al., 2022. Natuurbeheer - Praktijk & Wetenschap hand in hand, Sterck & Devreese, Gorredijk = course book
- powerpoint presentations, including listed (international) papers
- It will be indicated during the lectures and on Ufora which parts of the book and which papers belong to the learning and exam material
- student's contribution to the excursions' costs: 40 euro

Further reading

- Honnay O., Van de Meutter F., De Meester L. & Mergeay J., 2015. Conservatiebiologie - Behoud, herstel en ecosysteemdiensten van biodiversiteit. Acco, Leuven.
- Lynas M., 2011. De Mens als God. van Arkel, Utrecht, 299 pp.
- Monbiot G., 2013. Feral. Rewilding the land, sea and human life. Penguin Books 2014, 316pp.
- Pullin A.S., 2002. Conservation Biology, Cambridge University Press
- Thompson K., 2010. Do we need Pandas? The uncomfortable truth of biodiversity.

References

Course content-related study coaching

interactive communication in the lessons and through Ufora

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examination with open questions, facultative oral feedback on the given answers. Generic covid19 measures might obstruct the oral feedback.

Participation in the excursions is mandatory. Unlawful absence prevents participation in the exam.

Calculation of the examination mark

(written+oral)= (20 with point evaluation according to (facultative) oral feedback);
in case of covid 19 measures: 20+0