GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2024-2025

Marine Protected Areas, Design and Management (C004301)

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

Credits 6.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Cerrano, Carlo ANCONA01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources	6	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Marine conservation, natural resource management, capacity building

Position of the course

Contents

This course deals with the description of marine protected areas, considering MPAs life cycle (preliminary phase, pioneer phase, practical phase); the MPA planning; MPAs research and monitoring; national, regional and international policy on MPAs; MPAs, reserve effect; Artisanal and recreational fishing activities in MPAS; ecotourism activities associated to the MPAs to promote sustainable livelihoods; MPA revenue, raising awareness and building compliance; Stakeholders engagement; the opportunity of citizen science to support shared management plans; Protected habitat and marine species in MPAs; large MPAs and the challenge of the open sea (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction); MPAs management.

Initial competences

Graduate level in sciences. There isn't any other specific pre-requisite but basic knowledge in marine biology and ecology are recommended.

Final competences

1 The course will provide the students with the necessary information to work in environmental management and in biodiversity conservation in the frame of MPAs.

2 At the end of the course the students know:

- The main legal strategies to protect defined areas
- The general pathways to follow for the development of a MPA
- The main stakeholder categories and the strategies for their engagement
- The main activities required for MPA management
- The main activities required for MPA monitoring
- The opportunities offered by citizen science projects to MPA management and monitoring

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

Group work, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Study material

None

References

All the material presented during the course (pdf files of the PowerPoint slides and scientific articles) will be made available to students and additional reading material will be suggested in class

Course content-related study coaching

No course coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, 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

- A first written test will be performed at half course.
- A final written test will be performed at the end of the course.

Calculation of the examination mark

- 5 open questions will receive a maximum score of 2 for a total of 10.
- 20 multiple choice questions will count 1 score each for a total of 20.
- The final mark will be given out of 30.
- The exam will be considered passed when the final mark exceeds or is equal to 18.
- Students may receive up to 30 marks cum laude.