

SEMESTER II
LSM4262 TROPICAL CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Prerequisite: LSM3272 or ENV2101

Preclusion: ULS2204

Workload: 26 lecture hours + 24 tutorial hours

Course description:

Conservation and the loss of biodiversity and natural ecosystems are currently regarded as one of the most pressing problems facing mankind. The course will highlight the impact of habitat loss on biodiversity and the basis for formulation of effective conservation management strategies. The course will also introduce students to the theory of current conservation biology as illustrated by applications in tropical areas, species conservation issues, ecological challenges, role of zoological gardens, legal challenges etc. Conservation of tropical biota, management of local and regional environmental problems, appreciation and consideration of the socio-economic issues will also be treated. Conservation priorities and developmental needs at the national level will also be discussed, with emphasis on Singapore and SE Asia. The course will have guest lecturers from overseas as well as managers and conservation-players from the local environment. It will also involve a special round-table discussion on specific conservation issues.

S/N	Topics	Lecture hours
1.	Introduction to conservation biology Ecological concepts and background	4
2.	Threats to biodiversity State and conservation of Southeast Asian biodiversity	4
3.	Priority-setting and interventions at the species, ecosystem and landscape-level	4
4.	Social aspects of conservation; conflicts and trade-offs (Possible invited lectures from policy-makers)	6
6.	Conservation in practice: challenges and opportunities (Possible invited lectures from local and international NGOs)	8
		Total Lectures: 26h
		Tutorials/Discussions: 24h
		Total hours: 50h

REFERENCE BOOKS:

- Sodhi, N.S., B.W. Brook & C.J.A. Bradshaw, 2007. Tropical Conservation Biology. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Sodhi, N.S. & P.R. Ehrlich, 2010. Conservation Biology for All. Oxford University Press.
- General conservation biology textbooks; Literature from journals, academic reviews, current science magazines etc.

TUTORIALS: Tutorial sessions will be activities or in-depth discussions of issues or case studies spanning scientific, social and policy aspects of conservation. These can take the form of student-led discussions where readings will be given before the class meets and all students must come prepared to lead discussions. Other tutorial sessions may be activities led by the lecturer or integrated into guest lectures. Participation will be part of the CA component of final marks.

MODES OF ASSESSMENT: 60% CA (participation, quizzes, group work & report); 40% Final Exam

MODULE CO-ORDINATOR:

Dr Chong Kwek Yan

(Tel: 6601-6351; Email: dbscky@nus.edu.sg)