

Semester:	06		
Course Code:	ZOOL 32752		
Course Name:	Conservation Biology		
Credit Value:	02		
Status:	Optional for the BSc degree. Compulsory for the BSc Honours in Zoology degree.		
Pre-requisite:	ZOOL 12703		
Co-requisites:	None		
Hourly Breakdown:	Theory	Practical	Independent Learning
	25	15	60
Intended Learning Outcomes:			
After completion of this course unit, the student will be able to:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. explain the principles and goals of conservation biology, 2. discuss the issues associated with biodiversity loss and degradation, 3. evaluate the biodiversity values with special reference to Sri Lankan context, 4. apply appropriate conservation tools and techniques to manage biodiversity, and 5. prioritize biodiversity conservation efforts using qualitative and quantitative techniques. 			
Course Content:			
Introduction to conservation biology: Principles, goals and historical aspects, Patterns of biodiversity resources of the world with special reference to Sri Lanka, Units of biodiversity and biodiversity assessment, valuing biodiversity: Direct, indirect and ethical values.			
Major threats to biological diversity, Vulnerability and extinction of species, Conservation at species and population level, Problems of small populations, Establishing new populations, Methods of study and monitoring population, IUCN conservation categories, Biodiversity, Conservation planning, National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, Ex-situ and in situ conservation strategies, Conservation in human modified areas: Agricultural areas, Urban areas, Legal aspects related to conservation biology, Special topics in conservation: Conservation of pollinators, conservation of invertebrates, multiple use of habitats, conservation of plant animal mutualism, ecotourism, species recovery plans, political and social influence on conservation of biodiversity.			
Teaching /Learning Methods:			
A combination of lectures, field practical sessions, field studies, computer based learning, self-studies, field based assignments and small group discussions.			
Assessment Strategy:			
Continuous assessment and end of semester examination. Percentage given for each sub-component indicates the percent contribution to the final marks.			
Continuous Assessment 40 %		Final Assessment 60 %	
Details:		Theory 60 %	Practical - Other -
Tutorial	10 %		
Case study report	10 %		
Field Practical reports	10 %		
Group presentations	10%		

Recommended Readings:

1. Primack, R. B. (2014). *Essentials of Conservation Biology*, 6th edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Publishers Sunderland, Massachusetts U.S.A.
2. Van Dyke, F. (2020). *Conservation Biology: foundations, concepts, applications*. 3th edition, Springer Science & Business Media.
3. Navjot, S. S. & E. R. Paul (2011). *Conservation Biology for All*. Oxford University Press, New York.
4. Groom, M. J., G. K. Meffe, C. R. Carroll & S. J. Andelman (2006). *Principles of Conservation Biology* (No. Sirsi) i9780878935185). Sunderland: Sinauer Associates.
5. International Union for Conservation of Nature. (www.iucn.org) protected area categories and RED listing documents.
6. Selected articles from the reputed journals related to conservation biology.
7. Policy and legal documents related to conservation and management of fauna and flora, natural resources of Sri Lanka.