



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Environmental Science

Syllabus

Protection of biodiversity: from the local to the global

Course Code: MVG402

Course Title: Protection of biodiversity: from the local to the global
Skydd av biologisk mångfald: från det lokala till det globala

Credits: 7.5

Degree Level: Undergraduate level

Progressive Specialisation: First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G2F)

Major Field of Study:

MXA (Environmental Science)

RIM (Risk and Environmental Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2024-09-10, and is valid from the Spring semester 2025 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

60 ECTS credits, including at least 30 ECTS credits in the main field of Environmental Science, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. explain the need for protecting species and ecosystems through applying knowledge of ecology,
2. give an account of various forms of nature conservation as well as legislation, governance, and responsibility at local, national, and international levels,
3. discuss the importance of preserving biodiversity from different perspectives,

4. discuss the challenges of protecting biodiversity for professionals in the field,
5. discuss the need for and forms of collaboration between actors from the public sector, business, non-profit organisations, and others,
6. independently describe and assess protection needs, apply relevant legislation, and discuss protection methods and conflicts between objectives based on a protected area or biotope, and
7. discuss biodiversity and nature conservation using relevant environmental science theory as a starting point.

Content

The purpose of the course is for students to develop knowledge about biodiversity and societal systems for protecting species and ecosystems. The course starts out from water, forest, and cultural landscapes, and the protected environments and species associated with these.

A special emphasis is placed on conflicts between objectives and collaboration as a way to manage these. Protecting biodiversity requires both natural science knowledge about species and ecosystems, and social science knowledge about legislation, responsibility, and governance. Therefore, the course is interdisciplinary.

The course includes the following components:

- Conservation biology; populations, diversity, and landscapes,
- Legislation regulating the protection of biodiversity at national and international levels,
- Forms of protection for species and ecosystems applied by various actors,
- Assessments of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and conflicts between objectives, and
- Forms of and needs for collaboration.

Forms of instruction include lectures, seminars, excursions, and study visits. A group project is also completed and presented both orally and in writing.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-7 are assessed based on a written individual take-home exam discussed in a seminar.

Learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 6 are assessed based on a group project,
Learning outcomes 2, 3, 4, and 5 are assessed based on active participation in mandatory seminars.

Learning outcomes 1-5 are assessed based on active participation in mandatory excursions and study visits.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with

current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Students are responsible for their own food and accommodation costs, and, if applicable, travel expenses in connection with excursions held off-campus.