

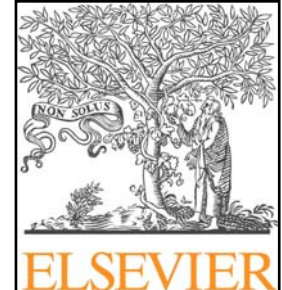
TRAINING COURSES

1) Scientific writing and communication

(Sponsored by:)

Instructors and organisers:

Rob Marrs, University of Liverpool, UK
Gábor Lovei, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Denmark



Date: Tuesday, Sept 01, 2009; 08:30 – 17:30

Price: 25 Euro (2 coffee breaks and lunch in Menza included)

Number of students: max. 40 students

This course has been run (by the same two instructors) at the ECCB 2006, in Eger (Hungary), to 40 participants. It was very well received!!!

Effective communication, by conservation biologists within and outside the discipline is rightly considered important by SCB. This course builds on the successful precedent at ECCB 2006, Eger, Hungary. Course content covers the main areas of technical communication, written and oral, and because of the instructors' professional background, uses practical examples that are relevant to conservation biology/ecology.

At the end of the course, the participants are expected:

- to understand the importance of publishing scientific-technical information
- to know the main types of publications, and how to assess their quality
- how to write a primary scientific paper, a review paper, a conference proceedings paper, a book chapter, and other types of short publications
- how to use graphical tools to analyse data and present technical evidence
- to have an overview of the manuscript handling and publication process, from the submission to final publication
- how to submit their work for publication, on paper or electronically, and how to track it through the editorial system
- how to interact with editors, how to review/revise their own and others' work
- how to prepare an oral presentation, how to effectively deliver it; how to design and prepare a poster for scientific conferences

2) The Zonation conservation prioritization framework and software - hands on

Instructors and organisers:

Atte Moilanen & Heini Kujala
Atte.moilanen@helsinki.fi

Date: Tuesday, Sept 01, 2009; 08:30 – 17:30

Price: 25 Euro (2 coffee breaks included)

Number of students: max. 25 students

Objective:

To teach participants the basic operational principles of the Zonation conservation prioritization framework and software. To give possibility to the participants to do hands-on analyses using the software with the developers of the software and documentation as teachers.

Format:

- Lecture: main features of the latest version of the Zonation (probably v3) software, 30min
- Short summaries: (i) main operational principles, file setups for (ii) producing a ranking of conservation priority, (iii) identifying the best and worst locations of the landscape, (iv) identifying expansions of conservation areas, (v) community level analyses using Zonation, (vi) connectivity and uncertainty analysis. etc., approx 1.5h.
- Hands-on practice using examples from the Zonation user manual, 3h
- Discussion and questions, 1h

For information about Zonation see

- www.helsinki.fi/bioscience/consplan

For two recent applications, see

Leathwick, J. R., Moilanen, A., Francis, M., Elith, J., Taylor, P. Julian, K. and T. Hastie. 2008. Novel methods for the design and evaluation of marine protected areas in offshore waters. *Conservation Letters* 1: 91-102.

Kremen, C., A. Cameron, A. Moilanen, S. Phillips, C. D. Thomas, et al. 2008. Aligning conservation priorities across taxa in Madagascar, a biodiversity hotspot, with high-resolution planning tools. *Science* 320: 222-226.

Timing and participants: One day pre-conference session, 6 hours. Number of participants will be limited by available computer class facilities, and no more than 25 students should be included in any case. The course will be targeted to practicing professionals, and advanced students with some understanding of the goals and methods of quantitative conservation prioritization.

3) Curriculum Design in Conservation Biology

Instructors and organisers:

Andrew Ramsey, University of Cumbria, UK
Renato Massa, University of Milan, Italy
Adrianna Vella, University of Malta, Malta
Kiki Kati, University of Ionnina, Greece.

Date: Tuesday, Sept 01, 2009; 09:00 – 17:30

Price: 25 Euro (2 coffee breaks and lunch in Menza included)

Number of students: max. 40 students

The course is designed as an introduction to the design of conservation biology courses. It is based on a course that ran at the SCB Tennessee meeting 12-13 July 2008. In Chattanooga this was a two day course, I would envisage running a one day course pre-conference, possibly offering longer or subsequent courses depending on demand and feedback. The course will be offered in English, a range of current curricula and relevant materials will be supplied including a paper currently in development by the European education committee. The leaders of the course will make themselves available to attendees at specific times during the conference to provide one-to-one support and advice on any particular topics or issues highlighted during the course.

Details:

This course is intended as an introduction for those who are designing or intending to design conservation biology programmes for the first time. It will provide opportunities to discuss issues surrounding conservation curriculum design and an opportunity to share good practice. Led by experienced curriculum designers, the course will examine the use and management of stakeholders, curriculum design and student needs assessment. There will be opportunities for some small group work to discuss issues pertinent to individual course attendees; these topics will be decided on the basis of need and interest.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of the course are to

- Provide guidance for conservation biologists wishing to design a new courses
- Provide a discussion point for pedagogical issues surrounding conservation biology design
- Provide a discussion arena for sharing good practice in conservation biology curriculum design
- Provide a starting point for wider discussions about curriculum design and possible collaborations.

Introduction Welcome and Introduction (9.00 – 9.30)

Quick introduction and getting to know you session

Session 1: Stakeholders (9.30 – 10.30)

This session will get attendees to think about who are the appropriate internal and external stakeholders that will influence the development of their programme and will include a practical element on completing a stakeholder analysis table.

Session 2: Elements of Academic Programme Design (11.00 – 12.30)

This session will include the elements of a course, discussion on what should be in a conservation biology degree, and discuss a range of syllabi donated from a number of European institutions (and possibly a US one for comparison). In addition a number of experience curriculum designers and managers will briefly discuss strategies that worked for them.

Session 3: Needs Assessment (1.30 – 3.00)

This session will examine whether the course fits the needs of students. The issues discussed will range from the availability of resources to teaching styles, evaluation and sources of help.

Session 4: Small group support and discussion (3.30 – 5.00)

Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss issues around curriculum design with an experienced curriculum designer/manager. Small groups will be assigned on the basis of need / and interest.

Feedback Session and evaluation (5.00 – 5.30)

Small groups will feed back on their sessions and what they have got out of it. An evaluation of the short course will also take place.

4) An introduction to field monitoring techniques for large carnivores

Instructors and organisers:

Owen Nevin, University of Cumbria, UK
Nuria Selva, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
Emre Can, Doga Dernegi, Turkey

Date: Tuesday, Sept 01, 2009; 08:30 – 17:30

Price: 18 Euro (2 coffee breaks and lunch in Menza included)

Number of persons: max. 30 persons

The course is designed as an introduction to a variety of techniques used to monitor large carnivores and other elusive species in the field. It is aimed at students considering, designing or conducting research projects with any large, elusive terrestrial mammals but the case studies and examples used will be drawn from the course team's experiences working with large carnivores. The course will combine taught sessions, hands-on practicals and opportunities for collaborative learning; we will not dwell on mathematical tools for data analysis but rather will focus on the practical skills which the student will need to gather the data in the field. The course team is all experienced field biologists and members of the European Board of the Society for Conservation Biology. This short course builds on a two day field training session on rapid habitat assessment, tracks and field sign, and the use of remote cameras for large carnivore monitoring delivered by Drs Nevin and Can in cooperation with Kafkas University and the Kars Biodiversity Project, Turkey.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of the course are to

- Provide an introduction to current techniques for carnivore monitoring
- Provide a discussion of the pros and cons of various approaches and the equipment used
- Provide hands-on experience of a range of equipment and techniques
- Provide a starting point for wider discussions of study design, implementation and pitfalls

Introduction Welcome and Introduction (09:00 – 09:30)

Quick introduction and getting to know you session

Session 1: Tracks and signs (09:30 – 10:30)

Recognition and identification of tracks and trails of carnivore species

Field data collection

Understanding the trails

Recognition of other signs: kills, latrines, scats, scent marking, dens etc.

Diet analysis: procedures for collecting and preserving scats, prey identification, scat analysis

Brief introduction to other diet techniques (e.g. stable isotope analysis)

Session 2: Trapping (10:45 – 11:45)

Physical trapping: darting, traps, snares and baits

Genetic “trapping”: hair traps and tubes, hair identification, DNA from scat

Photo and video trapping: tools, techniques and interpretation

Session 3: Telemetry (12:00 – 13:00)

VHF, GPS-GSM, GPS via satellite: striking a balance between budget, precision and data richness

Telemetry in challenging terrain

Lunch (13:00 – 14:00)

Session 4: Practical Sessions (14:00 – 16:00)

Participants will have the opportunity to take part in several practical exercises. These may include (but are not limited to) photo trapping, VHF telemetry and diet analysis.

Session 4: Small group support and discussion (16:00 – 17:30)

Our projects, your projects, questions, innovations, designs and implementation; participants will have the opportunity to discuss issues which have arisen over the course of the day or in their own research efforts and draw on the experiences of the group to formulate innovative solutions. Field equipment suppliers who are exhibitors at the ECCB will be invited to take part in these discussions.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

1) Conservation and management of spruce dominated mountain forest in Central Europe affected by large scale disturbance

Instructors and organisers:

Miroslav Svoboda
Faculty of Forestry and Wood Processing, CULS
Email: svobodam@fld.czu.cz

Date: Sunday Sept 06 (departure 07:00, arrival in Prague 20:00)
Discussion slot can be accommodated on Saturday in the afternoon according to interest of participants.

Price: 45 Euro (bus transport, box lunch and snack included)

Number of students: max. 45 persons

Introduction

In recent years large areas of spruce forests in Central Europe was affected by large scale disturbances as windstorms or bark beetles. While in managed forests the management approach is clear, in areas, where nature protection is priority, these events represents serious problem for the nature protection managers.

In the spruce production forests, the areas affected by disturbances as windthrow or bark beetle are most of the time salvaged as soon as possible using heavy machinery. During the salvage operations the wood damaged by windthrow or bark beetle is removed and after that the site is prepared for the planting of the new stand. There are several reasons for that. The first is economical, when foresters are trying to get revenue from the damaged area. The second reason for the salvage operation is the threat of spreading of bark beetle out of disturbed stand into surrounding managed stands.

Disturbances are natural part of the forest dynamics. Disturbances have important role in maintaining forest ecosystem structure and function. They create different type of habitats, which are important for biodiversity. In spruce mountain forests the windthrow and bark beetle were always part of the forest dynamics cycle. However because of the scarcity of the spruce old-growth forests in Central Europe their exact role in forest dynamics is relatively unknown. In the past the role of the disturbances in the spruce forests in nature reserves and national park was view more as a threat to forest ecosystem stability. Therefore even in these protected areas the disturbances were mostly salvaged. The recent studies proved the negative effects of these salvage logging operations on the forest ecosystem function and biodiversity. Based on these findings, the management of forests affected by these disturbances started to slowly change. However there are still many controversies regarding management of spruce forests between different groups of stakeholders. The aim of the proposed workshop is therefore allow discussion on this controversial issue.

Aim of the workshop

The aim of the workshop is to discuss following questions and try to find proper answers and solutions.

1. What should be the proper management of the spruce mountain forests affected by large scale disturbances as a windthrow and bark beetle events?
2. Is the traditional approach including salvage logging the right solution for the nature reserve and national parks?
3. What is the effect of the salvage logging on the biodiversity of these ecosystems?
4. How to protect forests surrounding the nature reserves and national parks from effects of disturbances?
5. What is the proper management of the Natura 2000 habitats in spruce mountain forests? Should we aim at conserving the recent status? It is possible?

Organization of the workshop

The workshop will include whole day excursion to Šumava NP to area of Trojmezna old-growth forest.

Excursion

The excursion will start morning close to Tristolicnik Mt. in the Germany. From the parking the excursion will continue from Tristolicnik Mts. towards Plechy Mt. on the ridge, which makes border between Germany, Austria and Czech. Three different kind of management of spruce forests are carried out in the area. In Czech the forest, which in part of the national park is left without management and in last several year the tree layer was killed by bark beetle. In Austria, where forest belong to private owner salvaging logging is taking place. In Germany where forests belong to Natura 2000 habitat partial salvaging operations are taking place. When the excursion reach Plechy Mt., it will continue around glacier lake called Plešné jezero through Trojmezna old-growth forests. There one will see forest stands regenerating after bark beetle disturbance about 10 – 15 years ago. From the lake the excursion will continue towards Nova Pec, where the bus will be waiting.

Expected duration of the excursion – full day

The excursion will include about 15 km hike in mountain terrain with steep slopes in some parts. Therefore field gear (outdoor boots, rain coat and warm clothes in case of bad weather) will be necessary. The excursion requires certain level of physical endurance because of the length of the hike and the terrain.

2) Wetlands conservation and management in Třeboň Basin (South Bohemia)

Instructors and organisers:

Jan Vymazal
Faculty of Environmental Sciences, CULS
Email: vymazal@knc.czu.cz

Date: Monday, Aug 31 (departure 08:30) – Tuesday, Sept 01 (arrival 17:00)

Price: 205 Euro (bus transport, lunches, dinner and accommodation included)

Number of persons: max. 45 persons

Programme:

Monday

11:00 Arrival in Třeboň city

11:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 15:00 Introduction, Functions and significance of wetlands, Management of fishponds,
Functions and significance of river flood-plains

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 Artificial wetlands for sewage disposal, Wetlands and the water in the landscape,
Moorlands

from 17:00 Free entertainment, Dinner

Tuesday

08:00 – 13:00 Field trip

- river flood-plains, moorlands, artificial wetland and fishponds of Třeboň basin

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

17:00 – Arrival in Prague

3) Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria to assess the extinction risk of species

Instructors and organisers:

Caroline Pollock, IUCN Species Programme, Cambridge (UK)

E-mail: caroline.pollock@iucn.org

Date: Tuesday, Sept 01, 2009; 08:30 – 17:30

Number of persons: max. 25 participants

Purpose:

To improve understanding of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and how to apply these criteria to produce good-quality Red List assessments suitable for inclusion in Red Lists at regional (e.g., at Europe, national) or global (i.e., the IUCN Red List) levels.

Justification:

The *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*TM is generally considered the most authoritative and objective system for classifying species' extinction risk at the global level. The IUCN Red List is integral to meeting CBD commitments (e.g. Article 7; Annex 1), particularly for reducing the rate of global biodiversity loss. In addition, biodiversity conservation policies are most often implemented at national (e.g. state, province) and regional (e.g. European Union) levels, and accurate extinction risk assessment at national and regional level is a vital part of this process.

Current approaches to developing national Red Lists vary widely. This hinders comparison between Red Lists and development of robust indicators for measuring progress towards CBD's biodiversity target (e.g., the Red List Index (RLI) requires at least two comparable and well-documented Red List assessments to give a reliable measure of trends in biodiversity status). Discussions are also underway to adopt the RLI as a biodiversity indicator under the United Nations Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG7); implementation of this indicator will require more rigorous and standardized national Red Lists than are currently available.

Through an extensive process of workshops, testing and open debate, IUCN has already developed a set of criteria as the foundation for the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (IUCN 2001), and guidelines for applying the criteria at regional and national levels (IUCN 2003). The IUCN Red List Unit has over 10 years experience of facilitating Red List training courses around the world; demand for Red List training is increasing as more countries begin to tackle the problem of effectively monitoring and addressing the status of their biodiversity.

By providing this training opportunity at the European Congress of Conservation Biology, we openly invite participants from all countries represented at this meeting to learn how to apply the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria to assess the extinction risk of species in their country and region.

References:

IUCN. 2001. *The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

IUCN. 2003. *Guidelines for Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional Levels*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Organizational Structure:

Presentation (30 mins): Brief history of IUCN and the Red List and the role of the IUCN Red List Unit.

Presentation (1-2 hrs): The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (Categories, definitions of terms used, Criteria)

Working Groups (1.5 hrs): Practical session to practice using the criteria for global assessments; uses a set of case studies provided by IUCN.

Presentation (30 mins): Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional and National levels.

Working Groups (1.5 hrs): Practical session to practice using the criteria for regional assessments; based on species information brought to the workshop by the participants.

The presentations are informal and participants are encouraged to ask questions throughout these. As such, the timings of these sessions will depend on how interactive the participants are.

For the purpose of the second working group session, participants are requested to bring along data for at least one species they know and would like to assess at the regional or national level; data are required on distribution, population size, generation time, population trends, threats, conservation measures, etc. Further details on types of data to bring along will be provided nearer the workshop, however it is important to emphasize that there is no need for participants to do extensive research for these data; whatever information that is readily available is enough for this exercise. Also, **it is not necessary have information on ALL of these topics**; an assessment can be done even if only some of this information is available.