Nature Conservation in Practise

Programme course

15 credits

Praktisk naturvård

NBIC19

Valid from: 2017 Spring semester

Determined by
Board of Studies for Chemistry, Biology
and Biotechnology

Date determined
2017-01-25

Main field of study

Biology

Course level

First cycle

Advancement level

G2X

Course offered for

- Biology

Entry requirements

Note: Admission requirements for non-programme students usually also include admission requirements for the programme and threshold requirements for progression within the programme, or corresponding.

Prerequisites

Ecology and Faunistics & Floristics or equivalent courses

Intended learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to give the student knowledge in evaluation of nature areas from a conservation point of view. The aim of the course is also to give knowledge in documentation and follow-up of conservation measures and management of different biotopes. The main focus will be on using the knowledge in the field.

After the course you should be able to:

- Identify and interpret distribution patterns of vascular plants with a focus on indicator plants for valuable semi-natural grasslands, common species and species favoured by high nitrogen levels in the soil. The student should be able to identify both flowering and non-flowering plants.
- Identify and interpret distribution patterns of lichens, fungi, mosses and vascular plants with a focus on indicator species for old-growth forests, common species and mix-up species with regard to the indicator species.
- Assess patches of semi-natural grasslands with regard to their biological structures and species
- Recommend and design management measures to develop the biological values in the long term in semi-natural grasslands
- Assess patches of forest with regard to the Woodland Key Habitat methodology (Skogsstyrelsen)
- Recommend and design management measures to develop the biological values in the long term in forest patches
- Write descriptions of single sites with regard to conservation values and analyse consequences of development actions
- Analyse effects on favourable conservation status according to Natura 2000 of on the landscape level
- Produce and present a report of environmental impact of a quality high enough to qualify pass the inspection from the responsible authorities in the society

Course content

Assessment of conservation values in different environments, through inventories and evaluations of the species composition. Management of different types of nature, particularly semi-natural grasslands and forests. Inventory methodology. History of land-use. EU grants in agriculture. Certification of forestry. Documentation and follow-up studies of conservation measures. Interpretation of aerial photographs. Writing the biological part of an environmental impact assessment paper. Conservation work is discussed with biologists working in districts, county administrations, forestry administrations and as consultants.

Teaching and working methods

The course consists of lectures, field excursions and group projects. The focus is on group projects in the field, with both oral exams in the field and written exams. The group projects consist of shorter field works in different natural ecosystems, and a wider project with assessment of conservation values of a larger area. The group projects are based on real life scenarios. Full attendance is required, due to the predominance of practical exercises in the course.

Examination

UPG3	Exercise	3 credits	U, G
UPG5	Project work	8 credits	U, G
UPG4	Group assignment	4 credits	U, G

Grades are given as 'Fail' or Pass'

Grades

Two-grade scale, U, G

Department

Institutionen för fysik, kemi och biologi

Director of Studies or equivalent

Agneta Johansson

Examiner

Karl-Olof Bergman

Education components

Preliminary scheduled hours: 144 h
Recommended self-study hours: 256 h

Course literature

Additional literature

Books

Articles

Some course literature will be accessible in the lab and some will be found in different databases. The seraching in databases will be done by the students during the course.

Common rules

Regulations (apply to LiU in its entirety)

The university is a government agency whose operations are regulated by legislation and ordinances, which include the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance. In addition to legislation and ordinances, operations are subject to several policy documents. The Linköping University rule book collects currently valid decisions of a regulatory nature taken by the university board, the vice-chancellor and faculty/department boards.

LiU's rule book for education at first-cycle and second-cycle levels is available at http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/Innehall/Utbildning_pa_grund-_och_avancerad_niva.