

Module code: MOD004088	Version: 6 Date Amended: 22/Apr/2022
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1. Module Title
Tropical Ecology and Management

2a. Module Leader
Alvin Helden

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour (extended degree) BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour (with sandwich year) BSc (Hons) Marine and Terrestrial Conservation BSc (Hons) Marine and Terrestrial Conservation (extended degree) BSc (Hons) Marine and Terrestrial Conservation (with sandwich year) BSc (Hons) Zoology BSc (Hons) Zoology (extended degree) BSc (Hons) Zoology (with sandwich year)		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
<p>The tropical regions of our world have always held a fascination for biologists due the amazing and varied biodiversity that can be found there. You will be able to experience some of this firsthand on the tropical ecology field course, which forms the core of this module. You will also have a series of classroom-based learning sessions with a mixture of lectures and interactive learning. On the field course you will work in groups to undertake fieldwork on a range of aspects of tropical ecology and you will visit one or more locations to observe, record and interpret various aspects of tropical fauna, flora and habitats. Through your experience of the country where the field course takes place and the classroom-based sessions, you will be made aware of a range of anthropogenic influences and pressures on tropical habitats (e.g. effects of population growth, tourism, economic development etc.) and how these relate to conservation. The field course normally takes place in the time of between levels 5 and 6 (years 2 and 3) and is self-funded. The field trip can be challenging physically, and you will find yourself living in more basic conditions than you may be used to. If you are interested in researching in the tropics or in conservation-based careers more generally, this module provides very valuable practical experience. You will gain a greater understanding of complex ecosystems and conservation issues as well as the very different cultural contexts that can be found in the tropics. The fieldwork you will practise in this module are valued in ecological consultancy and research-based jobs. You will also gain further practice in transferable skills such as teamwork, data analysis and written communication skills that are useful in a wide range of employment.</p>
6b. Outline Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tropical climate and biogeography - The main tropical biomes, such as tropical forest or savanna - Biodiversity of fauna and flora - A range of fieldwork skills appropriate to the field course location - Human impacts on tropical habitats - Conservation approaches and problems - The geography and biodiversity of field course locations - The human context of the field course country

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Field trip to a tropical country Relevant field equipment

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate how human influences, biological and abiotic factors affect habitats and biodiversity and their conservation within tropical environments.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Synthesise data and other sources of information in order to critically evaluate and draw conclusions regarding the biotic and abiotic factors that influence habitats and their biodiversity in tropical environments.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Work within a group to carry out fieldwork techniques.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and evaluate collected data and present a synthesis of the results.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers

Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	24	1-4	11 x 2 hrs lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	70	1-4	Field course
Student managed learning	56	1-4	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1,2,4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Field course report 1500 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Examination Cambridge	1,2,3	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Open book exam 1.5 hours					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]