

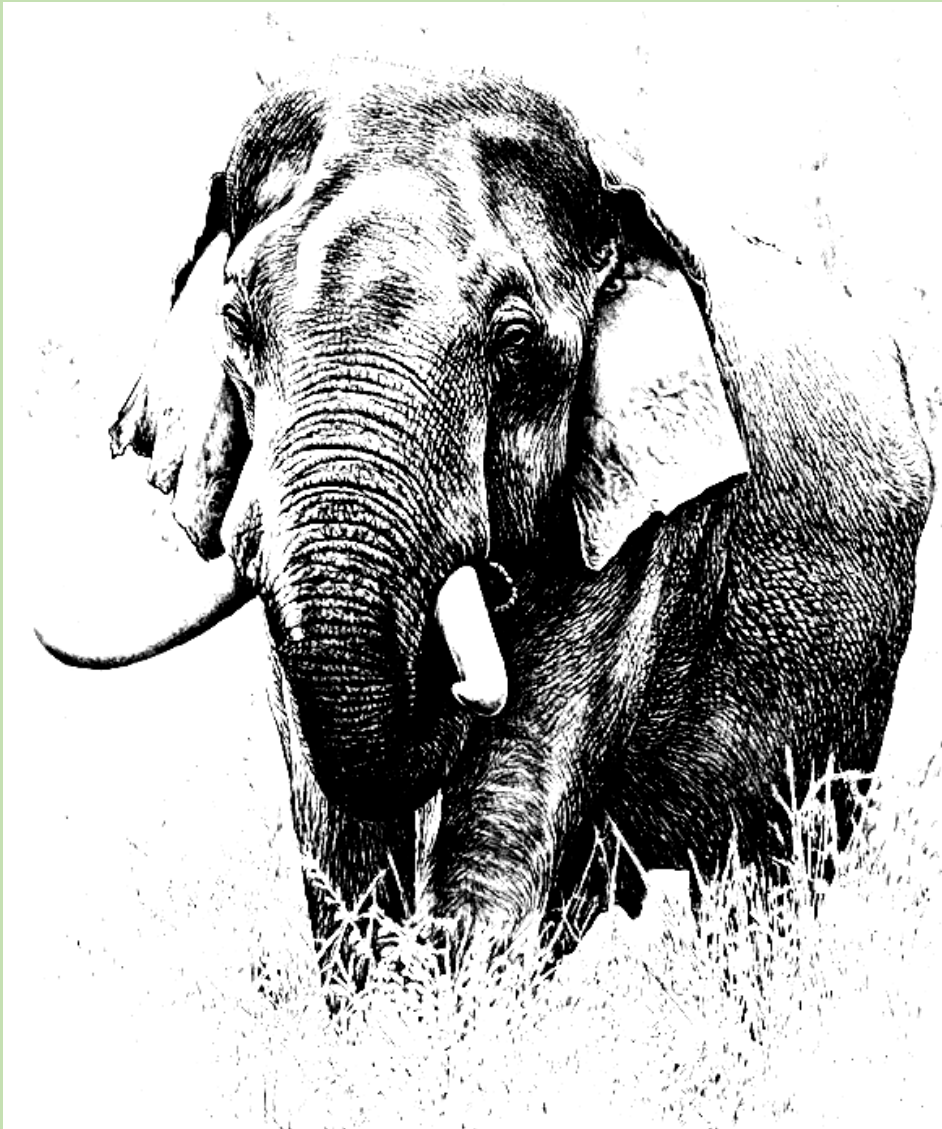


PROSPECTUS
DIPLOMA IN NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ECO TOURISM
2020/2021



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
NAWALA, NUGEGODA

**DIPLOMA IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECO
TOURISM**



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Department of Zoology
Faculty of Natural Sciences**

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PART -I

1.1 The Open University Of Sri Lanka

The open university of Sri Lanka, established in 1980 under the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and OUSL Ordinance No.1 of 1990, has the same legal and academic status as any other national university in Sri Lanka. It is the only recognized University in Sri Lanka where students are able to pursue further education through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, through distance education techniques. As such, the academic programmes of the University are well suited for employed persons and adults. Leading programmes have been designed to enable persons aged 18 and over to pursue Foundation courses leading to Certificates, Advance Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Post graduate Degrees utilizing their own time and pace at their own homes. However, all such persons are internal students of the University. The University does NOT have any external students.

The Central Campus and the Colombo Regional Centre (CRC) of the Open University is situated in Nawala and is easily accessible by road (Narahenpita Road/Nawala Road) and rail (Kirulapone Railway Station). Several other regional and study centres are distributed throughout the country. The other eight regional centres are situated at Kandy (KRC), Matara (MRC), Jaffna (JRC), Anuradhapura (ARC), Batticaloa (BRC), Badulla (BaRC), Kurunegala (KuRC) and Ratnapura (RRC).

The academic departments of the University are grouped into five faculties: Natural Sciences, Engineering Technology, Education and Humanities, Social Sciences and Health Sciences. The courses that are offered by the Faculty of Natural Sciences are described in this prospectus.



1.2 The Faculty of Natural Sciences

The administrative and academic head of the Faculty is the Dean who presides over meetings of the Faculty Board which regulates all the academic activities in the Faculty, under the direction of the Senate of the University. The Faculty presently consists of the following six departments, and namely Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics & Zoology.

1.3 Programmes of study offered by the Faculty of Natural Sciences

Foundation courses in science

Certificate Programme in Environmental Studies

Certificate programme in Applied Electronics

Advanced Certificate Programme in Laboratory Technology

Advance Certificate Programme in Wildlife Conservation and Management

Diploma in microbiology

Diploma in Laboratory technology

Diploma in Natural resources and ecotourism

Bachelor of Science (B. Sc.) Degree programme

Bachelor of Science Special (B. Sc spec) degree programme

Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.) Degree programme in Natural Sciences

Post-Graduate Degree Programmes (Post Graduate Diploma, MSc, and PhD)

Stand Alone and Continuing Education Courses

1.4 Department of Zoology and Academic staff

The Department of Zoology contributes to the programmes of study of the faculty of Natural Sciences by conducting courses related to the discipline of Zoology in an effort to provide students with a in-depth knowledge and applications in Zoology at the foundation level, Advanced certificate and Diploma level in the Laboratory Technology programmes, Degree level from levels 3 to 6 of the BSc & BSc honours programmes and contributes to courses in the interfaculty MSc in Environment Science at levels 9 and 10 offered by the CSSED, OUSL.

A unique feature is that the Department of Zoology offers to learners three programmes which are administered by the department alone and they include the Certificate in Wildlife Conservation and Management, Diploma in Natural Resources and Ecotourism and the MSc in Medical Entomology and Applied Parasitology.

They encompass comprehensive courses ranging from basic discipline courses such as Animal diversity, Ecology, Animal behavior, Animal form and function, and Animal development to specialized and applied field courses such as Conservation Biology, Parasitology, Human Biology, Entomology, Aquatic and Fisheries biology, Mammalian biology, Wildlife Management etc. The subjects are also curated in such a way so as to improve student's communication and generic skills and incorporate new subject areas in the field that increase the chances in expanding their career paths and employment opportunities. Each comprise of a theory and a practical component. The practical component varies depending on the courses and takes the form of laboratory and field

classes or specified projects. The department is the proud owner to two undergraduate laboratories and an advanced research laboratory that house all the facilities to carrying out new and innovative research in fields of molecular biology, aquatic and fisheries biology, evolution, immunology and genetics, among others.

Course teams design and develop both theory and practical components of course material in a form suitable to be delivered as distance education courses in accordance with the ODL mode of delivery. The contents are available in the form of course material and as online components. The curriculum is architected to provide new insights and future priorities in the discipline. The material is continuously updated to cover the current trends and perspectives in the relevant fields.

Academic staff of the department

Professor H. Thusitha R Jayasooriya
Senior Professor of Zoology
B.Sc (Colombo)
M.Sc (Colombo)
Ph.D (London)



Professor Gaya Ranawaka
Senior Professor in Zoology
B.Sc.(Colombo)
Ph.D.(London)
DIC.



Dr. K.H. Jayawardana
(Head of the Department)
Senior Lecturer
B.Sc. (Kelaniya)
MPhil.(Colombo);
Ph.D (Colombo)



Mrs. E.A.D. Nalana Edirisinghe
Senior Lecturer
B.Sc. (Kelaniya)
M.Phil.(OUSL)



Dr. U.K.G.K. Padmalal
Senior Lecturer
B.Sc; M.Sc. (Colombo)
Ph.D. (Tohoku, Japan)



Dr. N. Nilakarawasam

Senior Lecturer

B.Sc. (Colombo)

Ph.D. (Stirling)



Dr. Jayantha Wattevidanage

Senior Lecturer

B.Sc.(SriJayewardenapura)

M.Phil.(Sri Jayewardenapura)

Ph.D. (Colombo)



Dr. N.N. Punchihewa

Senior Lecturer

B.Sc (SriJayewardenapura)

MPhil. (OUSL)

Ph.D. (OUSL)



Dr. I.K. Rajapaksa

Senior Lecturer

B.Sc. (Colombo)

M.Sc. (Colombo)

PhD. (OUSL)



Dr. S.Wijsekera

Senior Lecturer

B.Sc. (Peradeniya)

Ph.D. (Colombo)



Mrs. K.C. Weerakoon

Senior Lecturer

B.Sc. (Peradeniya)

MPhil.(Peradeniya)



Mrs. W.A.Y. Chandrani

Senior Lecturer

B.Sc. (SriJayewardenapura)

M.Sc.(Colombo)

M.Phil (OUSL)

PG. Dip. Ed.(OUSL)



Dr. C.D. Jayasinghe
Senior Lecturer
B.Sc. (Colombo)
M.Sc. (Osaka)
Ph.D.(Colombo)



Mr. P.J. Jude
Senior Lecturer
BSc (Jaffna)
M.Phil (Jaffna)



Dr. D.D.G.L. Dahanayaka
Senior Lecturer
BSc (Kelaniya)
M.Phil. (Kelaniya)
Ph.D.(Ibaraki, Japan)



Dr. Uthpala Jayawardena
Senior Lecturer
BSc (Peradeniya)
M.Phil. (Peradeniya)
Ph.D (Colombo)



Dr. T. Saminda Fernando
Senior Lecturer
B.Sc. (Colombo)
M.Phil. (Colombo)
Ph.D (Colombo)



PART –II PROGRAMME OF STUDY

2.1 Diploma in Natural Resources and Ecotourism

The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) introduced the Diploma in Natural Resources and Ecotourism Programme in the Academic year 2016/ 2017. The aim of the programme was to create an awareness of the importance of Natural Resources and how Ecotourism Management contributes to conserving our natural resources.

2.2 Aims and Objectives of the Programme

Aims

- To create an awareness on the importance of managing natural resources and how the application of ecotourism concepts contributes to conserving natural resources in Sri Lanka and other parts of the world.
- To make available a basic course in Natural Resources and Ecotourism management to persons interested and/or engaged in Ecotourism, Natural resources and Biodiversity Conservation and Management activities.
- To provide an academic recognition to persons with skills-based knowledge in ecotourism.

Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO)

After completing 30 credits at Level 3, the qualification holder is expected to have the following characteristics/competencies.

- **PLO1: Knowledge** – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas.
- **PLO2: Practical Skills and application** – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices.
- **PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods** - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems.
- **PLO4: Information usage and management**- Competency in collecting, analysing, interpreting and managing information.
- **PLO5: Effective communication and networking** – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public.
- **PLO6: Teamwork and leadership** – Competency to work in teams to achieve common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership.
- **PLO7: Attitudes, values and life-long learning** – Capacity to value natural resources, displaying a commitment towards conserving and managing natural resources, with an understanding on the role of ecotourism in protecting natural

resources for future generations, through continuous updating of knowledge and skills.

2.3 Admission Requirements

A person seeking admission to the programme leading to the award of the Diploma in Natural resources and Ecotourism shall be required to have:

- Passed GCE A/Levels with three subjects in any number of sittings (Minimum of 3 Pass grades in three subjects at GCE A/ Level) ,or
- Passed in three subjects (equivalent to 60 credits) at Foundation Level courses offered by the Open University Sri Lanka (Minimum of 3 Pass grades in three subjects (equivalent to 60 credits) in Foundation Courses / Advance Certificate in Science offered by the University), or
- a minimum of three (03) Pass grades in combination of (a) and (b) stated above , or
- Successfully completed the Certificate or Advance certificate in Wildlife Conservation and Management or Certificate in Environmental Sciences conducted by the Open University of Sri Lanka, or
- Successfully completed an NVQ level 5 qualification in relevant field , or
- Five years Working/Research experience in the field of Environmental, Biodiversity or Wildlife Conservation and pass the selection test conducted for the purpose of admission., or
- An equivalent or a higher qualification acceptable to the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka

2.4 Programme Duration and Credit Load

Duration: Minimum duration is one year in which students will have to complete course work and project study.

Credits load: A total of 30 credits at Level 03, including 6 credit project study should be completed for the award of the diploma.

The programme should be completed within 3 years from the initial registration to the programme of study.

2.5 Courses

Courses offered in this Diploma Programme and their particulars are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Courses offered in Diploma Programme in Natural Resources and Ecotourism and their credit limits.

| Course Code | Credits | Course Title |
|-------------|---------|---|
| ZYD3380 | 3 | Diversity of Living Organisms |
| ZYD3381 | 3 | Ecological Assessment of Habitats |
| ZYD3382 | 3 | Environment, Society and Culture in Sri Lanka |

| | | |
|---------|----|--|
| ZYD3383 | 3 | Natural Resources, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka |
| ZYD3384 | 3 | Environmental Communication and Interpretation |
| ZYD3685 | 6 | Concepts and Practices in Eco-tourism |
| ZYD3386 | 3 | Environmental Policies of Sri Lanka |
| ZYD3688 | 6 | Project Study |
| | 30 | |

2.6 Medium of Instructions

The courses will be conducted either in Sinhala or English medium.

2.7 Course Fees

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Registration Fee | - Rs. 350.00 |
| Tuition Fee | - Rs. 35,000.00 |

2.8 Award of the Diploma in Natural Resources and Ecotourism

A candidate shall be awarded Diploma in Natural Resources and Ecotourism with either: Pass, Merit Pass or Distinction pass

- A candidate shall be awarded Pass, if she/he has obtained a minimum of C grades in courses adding up to a total of thirty (30) course credits at Level 3, and, obtained a minimum GPA of 2.00.
- A candidate shall be awarded Pass with Merit, if she/he has obtained a minimum of C grades in courses adding up to a total of thirty (30) course credits at Level 3, and, obtained a minimum GPA of 3.30.
- A candidate shall be awarded Pass with Distinction, if she/he has obtained a minimum of C grades in courses adding up to a total of thirty (30) course credits at Level 3, and, obtained a minimum GPA of 3.70.

2.9 Courses and their Synopsis

2.9.1 ZYD3380 Diversity of Living Organisms

The origin of life, The organization of life, Characteristics of life, Classification and naming living organisms, Diversity of life, An introduction to world of animals, Life of vertebrates, Adaptations to diet, The origin of species, Adaptive radiation, Defense mechanisms of animals, Introduction to the world of plants, Bacteria and fungi, Algae, Bryophytes, Ferns and fern allies, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms, Morphological features of Angiosperms –Roots, Stems, Flowers and Fruits



| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------|
| Course Code | ZYD3380 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Diversity of Living Organisms | | | | | |
| Credit value | 3 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | | | | |
| Hourly breakdown | Theory | | Practical | Independent Learning | Assessment | Total |
| | 38 hrs 2hrs x 19 sessions | 12 hrs (3 hrs X 4D S) | 20 hrs 5 hrs x 4-day lab practical | 77.5 Hrs 77.6 3hrs x 19 Sessions = 57 hrs Practical 20 x 0.5 hrs= 10 hrs Recommended reading 10.5 hrs | 2.5 hrs 2 NBTs x 1hr Practical test 0.5 hrs | 150 hrs |
| Course Aim/s. | Apply the basic principles of biology, diversity and adaptations of living organisms to their habitats, for the conservation of species in Sri Lanka. | | | | | |
| PLOs addressed by course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical Skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analyzing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public. • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. | | | | | |
| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | <p>At the completion of this course the student will be able to:</p> <p>CLO1: Explain the concepts and principles related to the morphological organization of plant and animal phyla and their diversity. (PLO1)</p> <p>CLO2: Identify animals and animal components using morphological features, anatomy, quantitative data, taxonomic keys and checklists. (PLO1, PLO2, PLO 4)</p> <p>CLO3: Identify the key characteristics of major plants using morphological features, structure, quantitative data, taxonomic keys and</p> | | | | | |

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| | <p>checklists (PLO1, PLO2, PLO4)</p> <p>CLO4: Interpret adaptations of plants and animal forms and their functions in different habitats using theory and practical knowledge. (PLO1, PLO2, PLO4, PLO6)</p> <p>CLO5: Demonstrate the competency in collecting, preserving, storing and recording reference collections of specimens. (PLO2, PLO3, PLO5, PLO6)</p> <p>CLO6: Interpret the floral and faunal data obtained through surveys and communicate the findings effectively and efficiently to the scientific community as well as to the wider society. (PLO 3, PLO 4, PLO 5, PLO6)</p> <p>CLO7: Comprehend and solve problems related to the conservation of floral and faunal species through application of biological knowledge and skills. (PLO1, PLO3, PLO4, PLO6)</p> | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | <p>The origin of life, the organization of life, Characteristics of life, Classification and naming living organisms, five or seven kingdoms of living organisms, principles of adaptive radations and Diversity of life, Organization of Animals - Invertebrate & vertebrates, Adaptive radiation of groups Comparative physiology and related Adaptations, behaviour and Defence mechanisms of animals,</p> <p>Organization of plants (Kingdom Plantae), Algae, Bryophytes, Ferns and fern allies, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms, Morphological features of Angiosperms –Roots, Stems, Flowers and Fruits – comparative biology and physiology of all plant forms</p> <p>Bacteria and fungi – virulent and non- virulent forms – biology with respect virulent and non- virulent forms</p> <p>Viruses – virulent and non-virulent forms – biology with respect virulent and non-virulent forms</p> | |
| Teaching Learning methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- learning: Course material, Recommended reading, Lab manual and field manual • Contact sessions: Day school, Laboratory session (compulsory), Seminars (compulsory) • Continuous assessments: 2 NBTs + Practical test | |
| Assessment strategy | Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40% | Final Assessment: 60% |
| | OCAM Computation: 50% from best NBT +20% from other NBT + PT 30% Minimum 30 %marks compulsory for PT | Theory: 1 paper (MCQ, SEQ) – 2 hrs |
| Recommended Readings: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raven and Johnson (2004) Biology, Mc Graw Hill 2. Yapa, A. And Ratnaweera, G. (2015). Mammals of Sri Lanka. Field Ornithology group of Sri Lanka. | |

2.9.2 ZYD3381 Ecological Assessment of Habitats

Introduction to living environment, Ecosystems and their structure and function, Key features of major biomes of the world, Major climatic zones and the distribution of fauna and flora in Sri Lanka, Communities and populations, Population estimates, Human impacts on the natural ecosystems, Water consumption and pollution, Global environmental issues



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|--|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------|
| Course Code | ZYD3381 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Ecological Assessment of Habitats | | | | | |
| Credit value | 3 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | | | | |
| Hourly Breakdown | Theory | Practical hours | Independent Learning | | Assessments | Total hrs |
| | 24 hrs 2 hrs X sessions 12 | 12 hrs 3 hrs X 4DS | 24 hrs 8 hrs x 3-day Field Practical | 87.5 hrs Sessions 12 x 3 = 36 hrs Practical 24 x 0.5hrs= 12 hrs Recommended reading = 39.5 hrs | 2.5 hrs 2 NBTs x 1 hr Practical test 0.5 hrs | 150 hrs |
| Course Aim/s | Apply the basic principles of ecology in managing plant and animal populations in their natural habitats. | | | | | |
| Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO) addressed by the course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical Skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analysing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the | | | | | |

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| | <p>stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. | |
| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | <p>At the completion of this course the student will be able to:</p> <p>CLO1: Apply principles of ecology in explaining the distribution and abundance of plant and animal populations. (PLO1, PLO2)</p> <p>CLO2: Assess distribution and abundance of plant and animal populations in terrestrial and aquatic environments through the application of appropriate methods (PLO1, PLO2, PLO3)</p> <p>CLO3: Demonstrate competency in collecting, analyzing, interpreting and managing data using traditional and modern tools while ensuring, and confidentiality through ethical practices. (PLO3, PLO4, PLO5, PLO6).</p> | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | <p>Introduction to living environment, Ecosystems and their structure and function, Communities and populations, Community and population characteristics Theory for practical methods in plant / animal population estimation Concept related natural habitat and niche of organisms and parameters that determines an organism's niche Major climatic zones and major biomes of the world and threats to them – videos Types of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in Sri Lanka – visits Human impacts on the natural ecosystems - Water consumption and pollution, Global environmental issues & Biodiversity loss</p> | |
| Teaching-Learning methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- learning: Course material, Recommended reading, Field manual • Contact sessions: Day school, Field visits (compulsory), Seminars (compulsory) • Continuous assessments: 2 NBTs + Practical test | |
| Assessment Strategy | Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40% | Final Assessment: 60 % |
| | OCAM Computation: 50% from best NBT +20% from other NBT + PT 30% Minimum 30 %marks compulsory for PT | 1 paper (MCQ, SEQ) – 2 hrs |
| Recommended Reading | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begon M., C. R. Townsend & J. L. Harper (2005). Ecology; from individuals to ecosystems. 4th Edition, Wiley-Blackwell. 2. Day, J. W., W. M. Kemp, Alejandro Yanez-Arancibia & B. C. Crump (2012). Estuarine Ecology, 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell. 3. Dobson, M. & C. Frid (2008). Ecology of Aquatic Systems. 2nd edition, Oxford University Press. | |

2.9.3 ZYD3382 Environment, Society and Culture in Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan natural environment, Sri Lankan cultural environment, Ancient irrigation practices in Sri Lanka, Sustainable agriculture, Pre historic human settlements in Sri Lanka, Tank associated village system in Sri Lanka, Energy and sustainable development in Sri Lanka, Eco friendly ancient architectural designs in Sri Lanka, Plant and man, Ethno botany

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------|
| Course Code | ZYD3382 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Environment, Society and Culture in Sri Lanka | | | | | |
| Credit value | 3 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | | | | |
| Hourly Breakdown | Theory | | Practical hours | Independent Learning | Assessments | Total hrs |
| | 20 hrs 2 hrs X sessions 10 | 12 hrs 3 hrs X 4DS | 24 hrs 8 hrs x 3-day Field Practical | 91.5 hrs Sessions 10 x 3 = 30 hrs Practical 24 x 0.5hrs= 12 hrs Recommended reading = 49.5 hrs | 2.5 hrs 2 NBTs x 1 hr Practical test 0.5 hrs | 150 hrs |
| Course Aim/s | Apply cultural and traditional knowledge for the sustainable utilization of natural resources | | | | | |
| Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO) addressed by the course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical Skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analysing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public. • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. | | | | | |

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| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | At the completion of this course the student will be able to CLO1: Describe how traditional societies have involved in conservation of biodiversity (PLO1,2) CLO2: Discuss the relationship between culture and nature conservation (PLO1,2) CLO3: Explain traditional Sri Lankan Protected Area system, and indigenous system that promote biodiversity conservation (PLO1,5) CLO4: Identify the present-day context of traditional communities (PLO1,2,3,4) CLO5: Elaborate on cultural biodiversity and the need to protect traditional knowledge and use them in biodiversity conservation (PLO1,4,5,6) | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | Sri Lankan natural environment, Sri Lankan cultural environment, Ancient irrigation practices in Sri Lanka, Sustainable agriculture, Pre historic human settlements in Sri Lanka, Tank associated village system in Sri Lanka, Energy and sustainable development in Sri Lanka, Eco friendly ancient architectural designs in Sri Lanka, Plant and man, Ethnos botany | |
| Teaching-Learning methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- learning: Course material, Recommended reading, Field manual • Contact sessions: Day school, Field visits (compulsory), Seminars (compulsory) • Continuous assessments: 2 NBTs + Practical test | |
| Assessment Strategy | Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40% | Final Assessment: 60 % |
| | OCAM Computation: 50% from best NBT +20% from other NBT + PT 30% Minimum 30% marks compulsory for PT | 1 paper (MCQ, SEQ) – 2 hrs |
| Recommended Reading | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark B. Orams (1996) Using Interpretation to Manage Nature-based Tourism, Journal of Sustainable Tourism, 4:2, 81-94, DOI: 10.1080/09669589608667260 2. Robert B. Powell & S. H. Ham (2008) Can Ecotourism Interpretation Really Lead to Pro-Conservation Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour? Evidence from the Galapagos Islands, Journal of Sustainable Tourism, 16:4, 467-489, | |

2.9.4 ZYD3383 Natural Resources, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka

Introduction to Natural Resources, Natural Resources: Physical, Natural Resources-Biotic, Introduction to Biological Diversity,. The value of biodiversity, .Resource use of biodiversity - Part I,. Resource use of biodiversity - Part II, .Biodiversity of Sri Lanka Conservation of biodiversity, In-situ and Ex-situ conservation: Protected area concept,. Protected area planning and Management, Community involvement and Buffer zone Management ,.Wildlife Conservation and Management,. Species Management Elephant Conservation, Field tours on Wildlife-Field Techniques. and Field tour

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| Course Code | ZYD3383 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Natural Resources, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka | | | | | |
| Credit value | 03 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | | | | |
| Hourly breakdown | Theory | | Practical | Independent Learning | Assessment | Total |
| | 24 hrs 2hrs x 12 sessions | 12 hrs (3 hrs X 4DS) | 40 hrs 8 hrs x 5 Day Field Practical | 183.5 Hrs 3hrs x 12 Sessions = 36 hrs Practical 40 hrs x 0.5hrs = 20 hrs Recommended reading = 15.5 hrs | 2.5 hrs 2 NBTs x 1 hr Practical test 0.5 hrs | 150 hrs |
| Course Aim/s. | Apply the principles and practices of protecting and managing natural resources to enhance ecotourism practices. | | | | | |
| PLOs addressed by course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical Skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analysing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public. • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. | | | | | |
| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | <p>At the completion of this course the students will be able to:</p> <p>CLO1: Explain current status, distribution, prevalence and threats to natural resources of Sri Lanka (PLO1)</p> <p>CLO2: Apply standard methodologies to determine the status of natural resources and develop strategies for their protection and management (PLO 2 PLO6)</p> <p>CLO3: Explain the use of concepts and principles related to ecology, economy and sociology involved in River flow management, coast conservation, biodiversity conservation and wildlife conservation practices (PLO1, PLO3)</p> <p>CLO4: Identify the protected area network and the forestry sector of Sri Lanka and assess their importance in Biodiversity conservation (PLO1, PLO3, PLO4)</p> <p>CLO5: Develop effective methods to communicate and promote the significance for protection and management of natural resources for ecotourism to stakeholders</p> | | | | | |

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| | including the general public (PLO1, PLO5) | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | <p>Definition of natural resources, related concepts, natural resource classification. Types of natural resources in Sri Lanka</p> <p>Abiotic – Water falls, rivers, villus their distribution, human influence on quality and availability of water Sustainable use and management of river water as a resource for irrigation and sport fishery etc , Maintaining water quality standards, coast conservation efforts. Coastal beach environments, their value for recreation.</p> <p>Biotic – Biodiversity- concepts in terms of ecosystem diversity, species diversity genetic diversity Status of biodiversity Value of biodiversity, endemism, threats to biodiversity in SL In-situ and Ex-situ conservation practices Community involvement in biodiversity conservations and Buffer zone Management in forest reserves Wildlife – concept related wildlife and its protection – practices adopted in SL Protected area planning and Management, Management of species eg. Elephant Conservation, Threats to biodiversity, protected forests and wildlife reserves Community involvement in conservation of forests and wildlife</p> <p>Related practical session GIS mapping for natural resource distribution, Field techniques in assessing species field tours to observe protected areas, conservation practices water quality assessment methods</p> | |
| Teaching Learning methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- learning: Course material, Recommended reading, Field manual • Contact sessions: Day school, Field visits (compulsory), Seminars (compulsory) • Continuous assessments: 2 NBTs + Practical test | |
| Assessment strategy | Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40% | Final Assessment: 60% |
| | OCAM Computation: 50% from best NBT +20% from other NBT + PT 30% Minimum 30 %marks compulsory for PT | Theory: 1 paper (MCQ, SEQ) – 2hrs |
| Recommended Readings: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MOE 2012, The National Red list 21012 of Sri Lanka; Conservation status of the Fauna and Flora. Ministry of Environment < Colombo, Sri Lanka. 2. An ordinance to provide for the protection of the fauna and flora of Sri Lanka. Nos. 2 of 1937 Acts. Nos. 38 of 1949. 44 of 1964. 1 of 1970. SRI LANKA. 3. Protected area Net -Work of Sri Lanka, Global Biodiversity Assessment, Cambridge Press, UNEP, ISBN 052156481 | |

2.9.5 ZYD3384 Environmental Communication and Interpretation

Environmental communication and Interpretation, Nature communication: Possible interventions and opportunities, Environnemental Interprétation (.Environmental interpretation -part 1), Steps for environmental interpretation (Environmental interpretation -part 2), Interprétation planning, Establishing a visitor centre and interpretation facilities, Preparing interpretive material, Nature trails and educational field trips, Brochures, Environmental Education in Eco-tourism, Ecotourism and environmental communication, education and interpretation for managing protected areas

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|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|---|--|--------------|
| Course Code | ZYD3384 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Environmental Communication and Interpretation | | | | | |
| Credit value | 03 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | | | | |
| Hourly breakdown | Theory | Practical | | Independent Learning | Assessment | Total |
| | 20 hrs 2hrs x 10 sessions | 12 hrs (3 hrs X 4DS) | 40 hrs 8 hrs x 5 Day Field Practical | 75.5 hrs 3hrs x 10 Sessions = 30 hrs Practical 40 hrs x 0.5hrs = 20 hrs Recommended reading = 25.5 hrs | 2.5 hrs 2 NBTs x 1 hr Practical test 0.5 hrs | 150 hrs |
| Course Aim/s. | Apply modern communication skills and methods to deliver the facts on environment, natural resources and biodiversity conservation | | | | | |
| POs addressed by course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical Skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analysing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in | | | | | |

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| | <p>communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. | |
| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | <p>At the completion of this course the students will be able to:</p> <p>CLO1: Comprehend the terms of environmental communication and interpretation (PLO1,2)</p> <p>CLO2: Prepare attractive/innovative environmental communication materials (PLO3,4,5)</p> <p>CLO3: Design materials for environmental education centers (PLO6)</p> | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | <p>Environmental communication and Interpretation, Nature communication: Possible interventions and opportunities, Environnemental Interprétation (Environmental interpretation-part 1), Steps for environmental interpretation (Environmental interpretation-part 2), Interprétation planning, Establishing a visitor centre and interpretation facilities, Preparing interpretive material, Nature trails and educational field trips, Brochures, Environmental Education in Eco-tourism, Ecotourism and environmental communication, education and interpretation for managing protected areas</p> | |
| Teaching Learning methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- learning: Course material, Recommended reading, Field manual • Contact sessions: Day school, Field visits (compulsory), Seminars (compulsory) • Continuous assessments: 2 NBTs + Practical test | |
| Assessment strategy | <p>Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40%</p> | <p>Final Assessment: 60%</p> |
| | <p>OCAM Computation: 50% from best NBT +20% from other NBT + PT 30% Minimum 30% marks compulsory for PT</p> | <p>Theory: 1 paper (MCQ, SEQ) – 2hrs</p> |
| Recommended Readings: | <p>4. Bill Bramwell & Bernard Lane (1993) Interpretation and Sustainable Tourism: The Potential and the Pitfalls, Journal of Sustainable Tourism, 1:2, 71-80, DOI: 10.1080/09669589309450706</p> | |

2.9.6 ZYD3685 Concepts and Practices in Eco-tourism

Introduction to tourism and eco-tourism, Eco-tourism – concepts and practices, Resources, Community Benefits, Eco-tourism contribution towards conservation, Interpretation in eco-tourism, Eco-lodge facility, Consumer satisfaction, Ethical marketing, Social responsibility in eco-tourism, Introduction to construction of

eco-lodges, Landscaping technology, Environmental landscaping designs, Different types of landscaping and designing

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| Course Code | ZYD3685 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Concepts and Practices in Eco-tourism | | | | | |
| Credit value | 6 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | | | | |
| Hourly breakdown | Theory | Practical | | Independent Learning | Assessment | Total |
| | 28 hrs 2hrs x 14 sessions | 12 hrs (3 hrs X 4DS) | 40 hrs 8 hrs x 5-day Field practical | 217.5 hrs 3hrs x 14 Sessions = 42 hrs Practical 40 x 0.5hrs= 20 hrs Recommended reading 155.5 hrs | 2.5 hrs 2 NBTs x 1 hr Practical test 0.5 hrs | 300 hrs |
| Course Aim/s. | Provide an understanding of the basic principles of ecotourism and their application. | | | | | |
| POs addressed by course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical Skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analyzing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public. • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. | | | | | |
| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | <p>At the completion of this course the student will be able to;</p> <p>CLO1: Define and explain tourism and eco-tourism concepts and principles (PLO 1,2)</p> <p>CLO2: Apply concepts in ecotourism to conserve natural resources (PLO 3)</p> <p>CLO3: Understand the tourism consumer needs and satisfactions (PLO</p> | | | | | |

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| | 1,2) CLO4: Design and develop an eco-tourism facility depending on the environment (PLO 3,4,5,6) | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | Tourism vs Eco-tourism, Eco-tourism – concepts and practices, Resources, Community Benefits, Eco-tourism contribution towards conservation, Interpretation in eco-tourism, Eco-lodge facility, Consumer satisfaction, Ethical marketing, Social responsibility in eco-tourism, Introduction to construction of eco-lodges, Landscaping technology, Environmental landscaping designs, Different types of landscaping and designing. | |
| Teaching Learning methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- learning: Course material, Recommended reading • Contact sessions: Day school, field practical (compulsory), Seminars (compulsory) • Continuous assessments: 2 NBTs + Practical test | |
| Assessment strategy | Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40% | Final Assessment: 60% |
| | OCAM Computation: 50% from best NBT +20% from other NBT + PT 30% Minimum 30% marks compulsory for PT | Theory: 1 paper (MCQ, SEQ) – 2 hrs |
| Recommended Readings: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Shannon C. Brophy (2015) Ecotourism: Practices, Benefits and Environmental Impacts Shannon C. Brophy (Editor) Series: Tourism and Hospitality ISBN: 978-1-63482-027-1 Categories: Tourism and Hospitality, Industries, Business and Economics, Social Sciences 4. Benjamin Geffroy, Daniel T. Blumstein, Eduardo Bessa, Diogo S.M. Samia (2017) Ecotourism: Biological Benefit or Bane? As nature-based tourism becomes more popular, considering the ecological effects of the practice becomes paramount. Biological evaluation 5. Ecotourism and Sustainable Development, Second Edition: Who Owns Paradise? Second Edition by Honey PhD, Dr. Martha (Author) Island Press; Second edition (August 4, 2008) ISBN-10: 1597261262 6. Global Tourism, Third Edition 3rd Edition by William F. Theobald (Editor) Butterworth-Heinemann; 3 edition (August 9, 2004) ISBN-10: 075067789 | |

2.9.7 ZYD3386 Environmental Policies of Sri Lanka

An Introduction to policy development, Evolution of environment policies in the international arena, Environmental issues in Sri Lanka, Evolution of environmental policies in Sri Lanka, Institutional and legal framework for environmental policy implementation, Moving towards environmental friendly tourism, Policy tools for environmentally sound tourism



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| Course Code | ZYD3386 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Environmental Policies of Sri Lanka | | | | | |
| Credit value | 3 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | | | | |
| Hourly breakdown | Theory | Practical | | Independent Learning | Assessment | Total |
| | 36 hrs 2hrs x 18 sessions | 12 hrs (3 hrs X 4DS) | | 100 hrs 3hrs x 18 Sessions = 54 hrs Recommended reading 46 hrs | 2 hrs 2 NBTs x 1 hr | 150 hrs |
| Course Aim/s. | Provide basic understanding of the environmental issues and policy development and apply them in the ecotourism /nature tourism industry | | | | | |
| PLOs addressed by course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical Skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analyzing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public. • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. | | | | | |
| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | <p>At the completion of this course the student will be able to</p> <p>CLO1: Comprehend environmental issues of Sri Lanka and globally (PLO 1,2)</p> <p>CLO2: Explain environment policies and conventions prevailing in Sri Lanka (PLO 1,2,3)</p> <p>CLO3: Apply relevant policies in developing Eco tourism facilities (PLO 4,5,6)</p> | | | | | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | An Introduction to policy development, Evolution of environment policies in the international arena, Environmental issues in Sri Lanka, Evolution of environmental policies in Sri Lanka, Institutional and legal framework for environmental policy implementation, Moving towards sustainable tourism, Policy tools for environmentally sound tourism | | | | | |
| Teaching Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- learning: Course material, Recommended reading • Contact sessions: Day school, Seminars (compulsory) | | | | | |

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| methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous assessments: 2 NBTs | |
| Assessment strategy | Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40% | Final Assessment: 60% |
| | OCAM Computation: 70% from best NBT +30% from other NBT | Theory: 1 paper (MCQ, SEQ) – 2 hrs |
| Recommended Readings: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 1978 and amendments. National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 of Sri Lanka and amendments. Divan S. & A. Rosencranz (2002). Environmental Law and Policy in India, Cases, Materials and statutes. 2nd Edition. Oxford University press, UK. CEA Report: Handbook on strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). | |

2.9.8 ZYD3688 Project Study

This research deals with the process during which information is collected about a problem or a issue to make important conclusions. This research project is considered very important because it helps the students to make useful work regarding an area of their interest in the course. Hypothesis are developed on the problem under consideration and then through different methods they collect information/data. The data about the problem under consideration is taken from the secondary and primary data sources. Qualitative and quantitative, Dependent and independent variables are selected to evaluate the relationships between the variables if necessary. A research project really helps the students to do the in-depth analysis of the problem. Dissertation will be an outcome . 600 hours will have to be spent on the project.



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| Course Code | ZYD3688 | | | | | |
| Course Title | Project Study | | | | | |
| Credit value | 6 credits | | | | | |
| Core/Optional | Core | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | none | | | | | |
| Hourly breakdown | Theory | | Practical | Independent Learning | Assessment | Total |
| | | 3 hrs 3 hrs X 1DS | | 596.5 hrs Project activities = 440 hrs Recommended reading = 56.5 hrs Supervisor meetings= 100hrs | 0.5 hrs Proposal presentation 0.25 hrs Progress Presentation 0.25 hrs) | 600 hrs |
| Course Aim/s. | Investigate a practical problem related to wildlife, eco-tourism, natural resources, biodiversity or environment within a given timeframe, and disseminate the findings with recommendations. | | | | | |
| PLOs addressed by course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLO1: Knowledge – Apply scientific knowledge with respect to the understanding of natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and ideas. • PLO2: Practical skills and application – Competency in assessing natural resources management and ecotourism concepts and practices. • PLO3: Creativity and problem solving through scientific methods - Ability to use scientific methods in solving natural resource management problems. • PLO4: Information usage and management- Competency in collecting, analysing, interpreting and managing information. • PLO5: Effective communication and networking – Competency in communicating and networking efficiently and effectively with all the stakeholders of Environmental Conservation, ecotourism and Natural Resources management including the general public. • PLO6: Teamwork and leadership –Competency in working in teams in achieving common missions in the natural resources management through collaborative work while exhibiting leadership. • PLO7: Attitudes, values and life-long learning – Capacity to value natural resources, displaying a commitment towards conserving and managing natural resources, with an understanding on the role of ecotourism in protecting natural resources for future generations, through continuous updating of knowledge and skills. | | | | | |
| Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) | <p>At the completion of this course, the student will be able to</p> <p>CLO 1: Investigate an identified research problem using appropriate scientific methodology (PLO 1, PLO 2)</p> <p>CLO 2: Collect, analyze and interpret data to address the research problem using appropriate research methods and tools (PLO 3, PLO 4)</p> <p>CLO 3: Propose solution to the identified problems (PLO 7)</p> <p>CLO 4: Write a project report based on findings and recommendations</p> | | | | | |

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| | (PLO1,3,4,5,6) CLO 5: Disseminate the findings of the research study to the scientific community/public (PLO 1,3,7) | |
| Content (Main topics, sub topics) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose investigation/s to address issues in an identified research problem Design an investigation/s to address the issues & Write a project proposal Implement project activities Analyze the data collected and interpret findings. Submit a written report and make a presentation on the findings and recommendations on future work | |
| Teaching Learning methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self- learning: Field/ lab based experimental work Contact sessions with supervisor Report writing Presentations Compulsory contact sessions: Discussion class for project design and report writing | |
| Assessment strategy | Overall CA Mark (OCAM): 40% | Final Assessment: 60% |
| | OCAM Computation: Proposal presentation 20%+ progress presentation 80% | Final Report 50% Final presentation 50% |
| Recommended Readings: | Kerbs, C.J. Ecological Methodology (2014),3 rd edition, Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc. | |

PART –III PROGRAMME DELIVERY AND LEARNER SUPPORT SYSTEMS

The system of study adopted by the Open University of Sri Lanka is based on a multimedia system approach, with a strong emphasis on distance study (incorporating self-study and independent learning) using printed material and audio-visual aids. These are supported by discussions, day schools, consultancy sessions, tutor clinics and laboratory work etc. Home Assignments (HA) and Continuous Assignment/Assessment Tests (CAT) also form an integral part of the teaching system.

3.1 Programme Delivery

The following teaching and learning methods will be used in the programme of study.

Self-study Instructional Material:

Self-instructional material in print form and /or core text books, study guides and audio-visual material (DVD/ CD) will provide theoretical concepts in the independent learning of courses in the programme. They also provide a series of carefully designed in-text and self assessment questions (SAQ) interspersed through the text. These will also help the student to develop analytical skills and independent thought. Such material replace formal lectures of the conventional university system and enable Open University courses to be followed by employed and /or otherwise occupied students.

Audio -Visual aids

Audio-Visual aids are designed to supplement the printed material and are particularly important for the self-learner. Students can use these resources at any regional centre and at some of the study centres. Students should make prior arrangements with the Librarian/Regional Officer at these centres if they wish to make use of these resources. A list of audio-video cassettes is available at the Audio Visual Resources Centre in the Central Campus.

The Audio Visual Resources Centre (AVRC) is open 7 days a week (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on week-days and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends) with viewing facilities for individual students or groups. In the case of large groups of students, video projection facility could be made available on request from the Centre for Education Technology and Media (CETME) division located within the Media House at the Central Campus.

Day Schools:

A limited number of face to face interactive sessions will be held on pre-assigned dates, where learners can clarify problems in the self -instructional material. It is important to note that day schools are not meant for the conduct of lectures.

Practical Sessions in lab:

The practical sessions include compulsory laboratory sessions. Laboratory facilities are made available at selected Regional Centres where students have the opportunity to engage in practical work. **Laboratory work is an integral part of many courses and is compulsory.** The laboratory classes are conducted over a continuous number of days.

Practical Sessions in the field:

The practical sessions include compulsory sessions at National Zoological gardens, forest reserves, sanctuaries and National Wildlife Parks.

Project study:

A compulsory project study of 6 credits is included within the courses of the programme with the aim of providing experience in generating new knowledge by planning, designing and conducting project study.

Workshops and seminars:

Some of the courses in the programme contain workshops and seminars, especially on subjects that discuss most recent wildlife topics, using internal or external subject experts.

Assessments and Feedback:

Assessment will include formative continuous assessments during the course for both the theory and the practical components. This will include oral presentations, poster presentations, group activities, spot tests, written reports and written tests.

3.2 Learner Support

The following learner support systems will be used in the programme of study

- **Orientation to ODL:** Awareness on Open and Distance Learning (ODL) is incorporated in the Pre-registration Orientation Sessions provided to new students before registration to the programme.
- **Learner Progression:** MyOUSL provides information on learner performance annually. In addition it keeps the student informed of course notices, payments, and general notices on facilities within the university.
- **Academic Counselling:** Academics in the Department of Zoology will provide advice to students throughout their studies, especially at registration time, at the first Day School of a course and at the end of the programme.
- **Library Facilities:** Recommended reading texts for all courses and access to internet are made possible for reference in the Central Library and in the regional centre libraries.

3.3 Evaluation

A student's progress is assessed continuously throughout the course by means of ASSIGNMENTS and at the end of the course by means of FINAL EXAMINATIONS held at the end of the Programme.

Students are expected to complete at least a specified number of assignments for each course. These will be commented on, marked and graded before they are returned to the student. These assignments form an integral part of the study system of the Open University and may include home assignments, tests, laboratory work, field work, etc. depending on the course. The scheme of continuous assessment for each course will be given to the students at the commencement of the academic year.

3.4 Eligibility

The eligibility to sit the end of course final examination will be based on obtaining a specified minimum Continuous Assessment Mark (CAM). The CAM should be $\geq 35\%$ for subjects in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. This will be valid only for **two years**.

3.5 Repeat Students

Students whom were unable to obtain eligibility to sit the final examination for any particular course will have to re-register for that course in a subsequent year, and they will then be considered as repeat students for that course. Such repeat students will not be eligible for a grade higher than a mere pass (PD).

3.6 Re-sit Candidates

Students who are unsuccessful at the final examination will be considered as re-sit candidates. **They need not register and obtain eligibility for the particular course again.** However like repeat students, they will not be eligible for a grade higher than a mere pass (PD).

3.7 Postponing Sitting the Final Examination

Students are given the opportunity, if they wish so, due to ill-health and other unavoidable reasons to postpone sitting the final examination to a subsequent occasion without being considered as Re-sit candidates. **However, students are strongly advised not to postpone sitting for examinations unnecessarily since students' performance is often affected adversely when they appear for the final examination long after the end of the course.**

3.8 Programme Assessment

The assessment of students shall consist of Continuous Assessment Mark (CAM) and Final Examination Mark (FEM). The structure, content, nature and weightage of each of the above components shall be determined by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

A student may appear for the Final Examination of any course, provided she/ he has obtained the minimum Overall Continuous Assessment Mark (OCAM)/ eligibility specified by the Faculty of Natural Sciences for such course. Carry forwarded the OCAM of that course to two academic years.

The Overall Mark (Z%) of a student in respect of any course, shall be based on the Overall Continuous Assessment Mark (X%) and the mark obtained at the Final Examination (Y%) and shall be computed as follows:

If,

$Y \geq 40$, then $Z = 0.4 X + 0.6 Y$

$30 < Y < 40$, then $Z = 0.4 X + 0.6 Y$, subject to a maximum of 40

$Y < 30$ %, then $Z = Y$

Each student who sits for the Final Examination of a course shall be awarded a grade and a Grade Point Value, as follows, in respect of such course based on the Overall Assessment Mark (Z%), as given below:

| Grade | Grade Point Value |
|-------|-------------------|
| A+ | 4.00 |
| A | 4.00 |
| A- | 3.70 |
| B+ | 3.30 |
| B | 3.00 |
| B- | 2.70 |
| C+ | 2.30 |
| C | 2.00 |
| C- | 1.70 |
| D+ | 1.30 |
| D | 1.00 |
| E | 0.00 |

Calculation of Grade point Average (GPA)

The Grade Point Average (GPA) of a student shall be computed by considering the courses specified in Schedule 1 at Level 2 of a student who has satisfied the conditions for the award of the Advanced Certificate in Wildlife Conservation and Management.

The Grade Point Average shall be the course credit weighted mean of all the individual Grade Point Values (GPV) obtained by a candidate for thirty (30) course credits she/he has offered at Level 2.

The Grade Point Average shall be computed as follows;

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\text{GPV}_i)(\text{CR}_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\text{CR}_i)}$$

where GPV_i = Grade Point Value of course i

CR_i = Course credit rating of course i

GPA shall be calculated to the second decimal place subject to a maximum of 4.00.

3.9 Award of the Diploma in Natural Resources and Ecotourism:

A candidate shall be awarded Diploma in Natural Resources and Ecotourism with either: Pass, Merit Pass or Distinction pass

A candidate shall be awarded Pass, if she/he has obtained a minimum of C grades in courses adding up to a total of thirty (30) course credits at Level 2, and, obtained a minimum GPA of 2.00.

A candidate shall be awarded Pass with Merit, if she/he has obtained a minimum of C grades in courses adding up to a total of thirty (30) course credits at Level 2, and, obtained a minimum GPA of 3.30.

A candidate shall be awarded Pass with Distinction, if she/he has obtained a minimum of C grades in courses adding up to a total of thirty (30) course credits at Level 2, and, obtained a minimum GPA of 3.70.

3.10 Regional educational services division

The university has a network of Regional/Study Centres distributed throughout Sri Lanka. These Centres provide facilities for distribution of course materials, limited reference libraries and examination centres. The Regional Centres are based in Colombo, Kandy, Matara, Anuradapura, Batticola, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Badulla, and Ratnapura. All academic activities will be conducted in the Colombo Regional Centre but CA tests and Final examinations can be held at other regional Centres if you request in writing.

3.11 Finance

Fees are due on demand and must be paid promptly. The University reserves the right to revise fees and all other charges at any time without prior notice. Fees paid, will not be refunded or carried over for the next academic year.

3.12 Student Affairs Division

The Student Affairs Division maintains the personal and academic records of Open University students. All matters pertaining to registration of students including changes of address, study centre, civil status etc. should be immediately informed in writing to the Senior Assistant Registrar/Student Affairs Division, Open University, Box 21, Nawala, Nugegoda (Phone 2853777 Ext. 205).

The University copy of the bank-receipt voucher should be forwarded by the student to the AR/Student Affairs. Any queries relating to examinations and finance should also be directed to AR/Student Affairs who will attend to students' queries in consultation with the Senior Assistant Registrar/Examinations and Bursar respectively.

3.13 Canteens

Food can be purchased from the University canteens at reasonable prices. Canteens are available at Nawala both in the Central Campus (near the student hostels) and the Colombo

Regional Centre (near the Chemistry laboratory, Block 15). Canteens are also available at the Kandy and Matara Regional Centres. The canteens provide service on both week-days and week-ends

3.14 Temporary Residential Facilities

Facilities are available for overnight study (during practical sessions and examinations) at the Temporary Residential Facilities in the Central Campus, Nawala for those who reside out of Colombo. You will need to apply on the prescribed application form for such facilities. A refundable deposit of Rs. 1000/= and a small fee is charged for overnight stay.

