Animal behavior in conservation biology

3-hour weekly lecture; 3 credits.1-2-3089

Recommended prerequisite course: Conservation Ecology

<u>Syllabus</u>

Animal behavior serves as a mediator between the environment (and anthropogenic disturbances) and individual fitness. This makes behavioral ecology a powerful tool that can assist conservation biologists in protecting species and habitats. In this course students will learn the theoretical foundations of conservation behavior and explore in depth the three main areas in which animal behavior can assist conservation biologists and wildlife managers: understanding behavioral responses to anthropogenic disturbances, behavioral-based management, and behavioral indicators.

Specific topics:

I. Applying behavioral ecology to wildlife conservation and management
   1. Introduction to conservation behavior
   2. Evolution and conservation behavior
   3. Learning and conservation behavior
II. Behavioral responses to anthropogenic disturbances
   4. Behavioral rigidity
   5. Behavioral plasticity
III. Behavioral-based management
   6. The role of sensory ecology in behavioral interventions
   7. Reserve design and management
   8. Conservation translocations
   9. Modeling wildlife population dynamics
   10. Manipulating animal behavior to ensure reintroduction success
IV. Behavioral indicators
   11. Direct behavioral indicators
   12. Indirect behavioral indicators

<u>Course requirements</u>:

Attendance in at least 80% of the classes
Final written exam

<u>Recommended reading</u>:

Berger-Tal, O. & Saltz, D. (eds.) 2016. *Conservation behavior: applying behavioral ecology to wildlife conservation and managemen*t. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.