



BIOL8870

Regional and Global Conservation

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Natural Sciences

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Jessica Boomer

jessica.boomer@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

by appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(BIOL8750 or ENVS6364 or ENVS2364) or (Admission to GradCertResFSE or GradDipResFSE)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit deals with the problem of conserving biodiversity as a whole rather than concentrating on individual species or populations. The unit is applied and multidisciplinary, drawing on such areas as ecology, evolutionary biology, biogeography, and informatics. We will explore the concept of biodiversity in both the scientific and legislative arenas. The problem of measuring biodiversity is considered in detail, including the conceptual and practical impediments to measurement. Current and emerging threats to biodiversity are reviewed on a global scale, along with the practical and ethical arguments for conservation. Workshops and assessments are focused on biodiversity and threat assessment, working with a range of natural resource managers, as a means of informing conservation decisions.

Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UNSDGs](#)) Climate Action, Life Below Water; Life on Land

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Explain the principles and methods used in conservation biology to quantify and value biodiversity at local to global scales.

ULO2: Elucidate the patterns, mechanisms and consequences of biodiversity and biodiversity loss.

ULO3: Integrate observed spatial patterns of biodiversity with other sources of spatial information in order to identify and prioritise areas requiring biodiversity monitoring and/or conservation action.

ULO4: Compile, analyze and interpret biodiversity patterns in a conservation context.

ULO5: Communicate Conservation Biology issues to diverse audiences in written and oral form.

ULO6: Critically evaluate and synthesize scientific literature on topics of interest in Conservation Biology and make recommendations on conservation actions based on sound scientific evidence.

General Assessment Information

Detailed information about assessment tasks is available on the unit's iLearn site.

To pass this unit you need to achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50% across all assessments,

We strongly encourage all students to actively participate in all learning activities. Regular engagement is crucial for your success in this unit, as these activities provide opportunities to deepen your understanding of the material, collaborate with peers, and receive valuable feedback from instructors, to assist in completing the unit assessments. Your active participation not only enhances your own learning experience but also contributes to a vibrant and dynamic learning environment for everyone.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark of the task) will be applied for each day a written report or presentation assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. The submission time for all uploaded assessments is 11:55 pm. A 1-hour grace period will be provided to students who experience a technical concern. For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, please apply for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

In this unit, late submissions will accepted as follows:

- Conservation Report – YES, Standard Late Penalty applies, to avoid these please apply for a Short Extension or Special Consideration

- Conservation Plan - YES, Standard Late Penalty applies, to avoid these please apply for a Short Extension or Special Consideration
- Final Exam - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted

Special Consideration

The [Special Consideration Policy](#) aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through ask.mq.edu.au.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Conservation report	30%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Conservation plan	30%	No	23/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Final Exam	40%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed

Conservation report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will prepare a report on a workshop activity.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the principles and methods used in conservation biology to quantify and value biodiversity at local to global scales.
- Elucidate the patterns, mechanisms and consequences of biodiversity and biodiversity loss.
- Integrate observed spatial patterns of biodiversity with other sources of spatial information in order to identify and prioritise areas requiring biodiversity monitoring and/or conservation action.

- Communicate Conservation Biology issues to diverse audiences in written and oral form.
- Critically evaluate and synthesize scientific literature on topics of interest in Conservation Biology and make recommendations on conservation actions based on sound scientific evidence.

Conservation plan

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **23/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

This written report will assess your understanding of local and regional conservation issues, your ability to research and develop solutions, and to account for uncertainty and knowledge gaps.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the principles and methods used in conservation biology to quantify and value biodiversity at local to global scales.
- Elucidate the patterns, mechanisms and consequences of biodiversity and biodiversity loss.
- Integrate observed spatial patterns of biodiversity with other sources of spatial information in order to identify and prioritise areas requiring biodiversity monitoring and/or conservation action.
- Compile, analyze and interpret biodiversity patterns in a conservation context.
- Communicate Conservation Biology issues to diverse audiences in written and oral form.

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will undertake a final examination during the formal examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the principles and methods used in conservation biology to quantify and value biodiversity at local to global scales.
 - Elucidate the patterns, mechanisms and consequences of biodiversity and biodiversity loss.
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Lecture content will be available online and is released weekly.

Weekly workshops are held face to face and are not recorded. There will be some site visits that will be scheduled during the workshops in some weeks - details available on iLearn site.

We will communicate with you via your university email and through announcements on iLearn. Queries to convenors can either be placed on the iLearn discussion board or sent to the unit convenor via the contact email on iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

We value student feedback to be able to continually improve the way we offer our units. As such we encourage students to provide constructive feedback via student surveys, to the teaching staff directly, or via the FSE Student Experience & Feedback link in the iLearn page.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)