CONS7201

Hugh Possingham and friends

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May 26 -June 20, 2014

Below is a “very rough” schedule of what we hope to achieve. This will evolve depending on how fast we go and how much time it takes to do the Marxan labs and what we discuss. I will try to record every class (feel free to remind me – I am over 50).

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| **Date** | **Day** | **Place** | **Activity** |
| Week 1 |  |  |  |
| Monday | May 26th | 385 | 9:00 Introduction  9:30 Threatened species classification, what is it? how do you do it? Why do you do it?  10:30 Project Prioritisation Protocol – allocating funds to threatened species.  11:30 What is the relative value of a species? Discussion |
| Tuesday | May 27th | 385 | Valuing species; prioritising biodiversity hotspots; cost-effective management of threats [ |
| Wednesday | May 28th | 385 | Spatial Conservation Planning – the theory and examples |
| Thursday | May 29th | 385 | Marxan day 1 – labs 1 and 2 |
| Friday | May 30th | 385 | 9:00 Cost-effectiveness vs Marxan; calculating similarity; what is surrogacy?  9:50 Marxan day 2 – lab 3, plus finish lab 2 |
| Weekend | Holiday | Anywhere | Sleeping, drinking, bird-watching, normal junk |
| Week 2 |  |  |  |
| Monday | June 2nd | 385 | Formal intro to structured decision-making  11:00am: Michael Bode – conservation decisions and “game” theory |
| Tuesday | June 3rd | 385 | Marxan day 3 – “lab 4 and 5”  11:00am: Morning tea on the 5th floor, followed by a talk at 11:35 (room 385) about Conservation International |
| Wednesday | June 4th | 385 | Multi-criteria decision analysis  Dealing with risk and uncertainty  11:00am: Decision science for conserving migrants, and a little bit of network theory |
| Thursday | June 5th | 385 | Optimal Monitoring – applying decision thinking to problems of how much we should monitor.  Communication of conservation issues, lobbying, consensus statements and press releases. |
| Friday | June 6th | 385 | The fishing game – fun and learning all at the same time |
| Weekend | Holiday | Anywhere | Sleeping, drinking, bird-watching, normal junk |
| Monday | Holiday | At a desk | Panic about presentation |
| Week 3 |  |  |  |
| Tuesday | June 10th | 385 | 9:00-12:00: four 20 min talks and discussion |
| Wednesday | June 11th | 385 | 9:00-12:00: four 20 min talks and discussion |
| Thursday | June 12th | 385 | 9:00-12:00: four 20 min talks and discussion |
| Friday | June 13th | 385 | 9:00-12:00: four 20 min talks and discussion |
| Weekend | Holiday | Anywhere | Sleeping, drinking, bird-watching, normal junk – 7am Oxley Creek Common I lead a bird walk, come a long if you wish, we can discuss a very local conservation problem |
|  | Jun 16th – June 19th |  | Prepare for exam and submit Marxan report |
| Friday | June 20th | 385 | 9:30 - 11:00 – Exam  18:00 - 20:00 - Pizzas? |

**I need help with my talk in week 3**

Dr Joe Bennett and Dr Martina Di Fonzo chose the research papers you will be presenting in week 3. They are available to chat about your paper and the “problem” next week.

Specifically – Joe – [j.bennett5@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.bennett5@uq.edu.au) - is free Tuesday and Thursday 3-5 in week 2. Email him. He is in Goddard room 515. Martina will be avialble at similar times. Her email is - Martina Di Fonzo [m.difonzo@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.difonzo@uq.edu.au)

**What goes into my 20 minute talk**

For your talk you have **20 minutes of talking** – about 10 minutes should be explaining the paper, much like you would explain it if presenting at a conference. Most importantly the second 10 minutes (at least 10 minutes) is all about how you would turn the problem in the paper, or the problem you think the researcher is trying to solve, into a decision science problem.

* What is a quantifiable objective? Is there more than one? Are there different ways of forming the objective
* What are the constraints, if any, social or financial or political?
* What actions can you take – what are your control variables?
* What kind of decision-making tool would you use to solve this problem? Cost-benefit analysis, Marxan? Multi-criteria decision analysis …

***Remember – decision science is all about problem formulation – taking a situation and turning it into a well-defined problem.***

Do NOT go over time

After the talk we will open up for questions and I will explain, in a few minuts, what I would have done, or other options that could have been taken to turn this into a decision science problem.

***We will randomly pick the speakers on the day. Everyone must be prepared to speak at 9am on Tuesday morning week 3. Make sure you have your talk on a flash disk or a computer.***

**Assessment**

1 90 minute test at the end of the course – short answers 30%

2 Spatial (Marxan) prioritisation report 40%

3 Presentation of a conservation problem (week 3) 30%