



COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: 'Ecosystem diversity and function: Analysis and simulation'

Host institution: College of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Location: Centre for Continuing Education, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Dates: 30 August – 3 September 2010

Application deadline: 2 August 2010

Course description

A five-day, intensive course, with lots of practical exercises. The skills to be gained are expected to be of use during study planning, proposal and thesis writing and generally in the scientific career. The course will teach the use of three different tools: *R* (for biodiversity analysis), *Universal Simulator* (for ecological simulation) and novel graphical methods for data analysis in general. Students will have one day of project work, during which they can go into depth with any of the tools under the supervision of the teachers.

R is an open-source statistical package and programming environment (www.r-project.org). It is a powerful computing tool that combines the usefulness of a statistical analysis package with that of a high quality graphics package and a matrix-based programming language. The most useful *R* packages to analyse diversity are introduced and demonstrated by elementary and field examples.

Universal Simulator is an open-source software package for collaborative ecological modelling (www.ecolmod.org). It is modular and open for re-use and extension. Models of plant and insect growth, development and population dynamics will be presented and used for exercises.

Teachers

Prof. Bela Tothmeresz (University of Debrecen, Hungary), Dr. Niels Holst and Dr. Gabor Lövei

(both Aarhus University, Denmark).

Organizer

Dr. Flora Ismail (ismaif@udsm.ac.tz).

Payment

Registration for BiosafeTrain students is free.

Registration costs for non-Biosafetrain students is 50USD, to be paid at the beginning of the course. This covers only the workshop and does not include travel expenses to the meeting, accommodation, or visa.