**QUALITY ASSESSMENT BY EU PARTNERS (PARTNER University of Catania)**

# Revised course: “(FRM-512) Forest Ecology, Biodiversity and Management”

# Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

# Master Degrees

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| **QUALITY ASSESSMENT** |
| Quality criteria 1: Number of credit units for lectures, practical sessions and self-learning are appropriate to the contents |
| * *Evaluation*   In general the number of hours for lectures (32 hours), in class practical exercises (32 hours) is correctly designed.  The 4 foreseen units give to the students a good background on agro-ecosystem and their planning and management, with a good emphasis on contemporary conservation approaches  The units contain a balanced numbers of learning objectives and outcomes sustainable to reach a good level of learning.  *• Strategies for improvement*  Some workload allocated for self-study and should be added, for example 25-30 hours for home studying.  Some basic notions of landscape ecology should be added in unit I or II. |
| Quality criteria 2: Total number of credit units in the course is correct and appropriate |
| * *Evaluation*   The indicated number of ECTS is 3, but according to the actual length and total workload, ECTS can be increased to 4-5 ECTS. This will be dependent on the total number of class hours including exercise but excluding for example field trips and other visits . |
| Quality criteria 3: Positioning of the courses in Curricula is appropriate based on the progressive level of difficulty |
| * *Evaluation*   The course does not have reference in the official website. The syllabus does not specify the basic prerequisites in terms of knowledge and skills.   * *Strategies for improvement*   Considering that the course is positioned in the II semester, it should be highlighted if some prerequisites (to be achieved in the I semester) are required. |
| Quality criteria 4: Tests are suitable and appropriate to support transferable skills |
| * *Evaluation*   Individual and group assignments are well describe and framed within the course. However, evaluation criteria are not enough detailed and exceed the 100% (5%+25%+25%+5%+45%=105%).   * *Strategies for improvement*   More details could be added to describe the type of mid-term and final examination (written test, discussion, quiz). Check and correct the weight of each criteria in terms of percentage. |

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| Quality criteria 5: TLM and assessment strategy support students in undertaking the course i.e. prerequisites are helpful and relevant, assessments help gauge students understanding |
| * *Evaluation*   Teaching and learning methods are mixed through a pretty actual approach, including taught classes and group discussions and practical visits.  The list of materials/books is probably too hefty for a 3 ECTS course; only three references are well enough recent.   * *Strategies for improvement*   Specify which part of the list of materials/books could be considered compulsory and which part recommended.  Suggested reference for open access models for Forest Ecology and management:  ETH Zurich, Open Access models, <https://ites-fe.ethz.ch/openaccess/>  Other suggested recent titles:  Artmann M. Breuste J, Cristian Ioja C, Qureshi S. eds "Making Green Cities - Concepts, Challenges and Practice", Springer "Cities and Nature" Series, ISBN 978-3-030-37715-1 |
| Quality criteria 6: Theory/Practice-oriented components are sufficient to cater the learning outcomes and skills  development |
| * *Evaluation*   Theory and practice-oriented are balanced in terms of learning hours and well connected to learning outcomes and target skills.  Very few updates are provided to units’ contents.   * *Strategies for improvement*   The description of the practical section mixes “topics” (e.g. Estimation of productivity; Methods of vegetation analysis) and course “activities” (e.g. Trip to different regions; Visit to national parks). Theory and practice-oriented components could be better specify, separately, contents and corresponding activities |

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