

Wildcats of Costa Rica

Course code: ENV 3060

Total contact hours: 60 hours

Pre-requisite: None

Course Overview

Costa Rica's unique geographic positioning has resulted in a rich diversity of mammals, with the country serving as a crucial biological bridge. Among the diverse mammal population, felines play a vital role as predators and regulators of energy flows in their ecosystems.

The primary objective of this course is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the six wild cat species found in Costa Rica, including their natural history and the current challenges to ensure their conservation. Students will also can learn about various research initiatives focused on feline conservation in the country.

To enhance the learning experience, the course contents will be developed in conjunction with field trips, providing a practical component that allows students to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. By the end of the course, students will have a deep appreciation for the importance of feline conservation and the role these magnificent creatures play in maintaining the balance of Costa Rica's ecosystems.

This is a theoretical-practical course and explores/responds to the following inquiry according to the professional/disciplinary profile: What is the importance of wild cats in Costa Rican ecosystems and what are the main threats they face today?

It is recommended, but not required, that students complete a basic biology course prior to entering this course.