Module code	SB-4302		
Module Title	Tropical Forest Ecology		
Degree/Diploma	Bachelor of Science (Biology)		
Type of Module	Major Option		
Modular Credits	4	**Total student Workload**	8 hours/week
		Contact hours	7 hours/week
Prerequisite	SB-1202 Organisms and Environment		
Anti-requisite	None		

Aims

Students will be able to analyse and examine current concepts and advances in the ecology of tropical rainforests assess and evaluate key issues on tropical conservation, design a research proposal in a chosen topic on tropical forest ecology and execute an experiment based on this proposal during a 5-day residential field course.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, a student will be expected to be able to:

Lower order :	10%	- Describe the fundamental concepts and current advances in tropical forest ecology
Middle order :	10%	- Design a research project in a chosen topic on tropical forest ecology
Higher order:	80%	- Competently prepare practical reports from the field-based practicals - Conduct oral presentations and group discussions topics and problems in tropical forest ecology - Execute a research project during the residential field course and interpret the results of this project - Work independently in appraising journal articles - Work effectively and collaboratively in groups during practicals and during the field course

Module Contents

- Tropical rainforest formations and forest types
- Theories of species coexistence in tropical rainforests
- Tropical trees (growth strategies, mechanical design)
- Nutrient cycling, hydrological processes and forest productivity
- Reproductive ecology and plant-animal interactions
- Biodiversity and the tropical extinction crisis
- The role of anthropogenic disturbance as drivers of deforestation and forest fragmentation
- Restoration of degraded tropical rainforests

During the 7-day residential field course, students will work in small groups on field ecology research projects under the supervision of lecturers specialising in either animal- or plant-based systems. Students will learn to design, plan and execute their chosen research project, and ultimately produce individual field course reports of publishable quality. The field course experience will also enable students to interact and communicate with their peers and lecturers in a field research setting.

Assessment	Formative assessment	Tutorial assignments and feedback
	Summative assessment	Examination: 0%
		Coursework: 100% - 3 practical reports (45%) - 1 oral presentation (15%) - 3 assessments from the residential field course (40%): 1 project proposal (10%), 1 oral presentation (10%) and 1 written report (20%)