

ILM – Camera Trapping for Wildlife Conservation & Management

Course Objective

To provide managers and volunteer leaders working in the field of wildlife conservation and management with a good functioning knowledge of the theoretical and practical uses of camera traps and to use this knowledge to lead and train their team members more effectively.

Programme

Six theoretical Modules x 1 day each

One practical Module x 2 days

8 days in total.

Modules

- » Pioneers & Early Development
- » Uses in Management & Conservation
- » Scientific Study by Camera Trap
- » How Camera Traps Work
- » Managing Health & Safety in Rural Locations
- » How to Lead Your Team
- » Practical Use of Camera Traps

Assessment

Pioneers & Early Development

1. Complete a multiple choice test on the points covered
2. Essay / presentation on the major discoveries from camera traps and their impacts

Uses in Management & Conservation

1. Briefly describe (200 words each) the differences in how camera traps can be used to understand;
 - a. Animal behaviour (e.g. activity patterns of animals, e.g., nocturnal vs. diurnal)
 - b. Ecology (e.g. annual survival probability, population growth rates, predator-prey relationships)
 - c. Conservation (e.g. species abundance, population numbers, threats from poaching, encroachment etc)
2. Mock capture/mark/recapture exercise (with picture ID test)
3. Discuss how camera trap data could impact on the management practices at your place of work and what improvements could be made (500 words).

(If this isn't applicable to a participant, an example camera trap study will be given).

Scientific Study by Camera Trap

1. Summarise a published camera trap paper in (500) words.
2. Design two basic theoretical studies using camera traps; one with a conservation/management goal and one with a scientific goal.
3. Evaluate the potential constraints of these camera trap studies:
 - a. Inventorying mammals in a grassland habitat
 - b. Studying wood mice
 - c. Limited funding and personnel

How Camera Traps Work

1. Produce a breakdown of the camera settings best suited for 3 different camera trap scenarios;
 - a) Camera trapping a fast moving animal
 - b) Camera trapping a small animal
 - c) Camera trapping a sett or burrow
2. Produce a checklist to use when setting out camera traps

Managing Health & Safety in Rural Locations

1. Design your own risk assessment form.
2. Produce 3 documents:
 - a) 'Safety in Rural Locations' checklist to provide to any/all person(s) you will lead.
 - b) 'Lone Worker Policy and Form'
 - c) 'Accident Report Form'



How to Lead Your Team

1. Produce a protocol for team members/volunteers to follow, addressing how to record camera locations, species captured, dates monitored and picture/video IDs.
2. Produce a ready-to-use spreadsheet to be used by team members/volunteers for inputting and organising camera trap data.

Practical Use of Camera Traps

1. Setting up a camera exercise;
 - a. Find a suitable location and set up a camera trap
 - b. Complete checklist
 - c. Check camera after (x) nights, remove camera
 - d. Download and review images
2. Manage your team

Draft an organisational chart for the exercise. Consider the following;

- a. The roles that will be required
 - b. The particular strengths and experience of the members of your team
 - c. The relationships and character of the team members
 - d. How best to delegate tasks to ensure the optimum results
3. Complete the feedback questionnaire on the set-up;
 - a. Why site was chosen
 - b. What the camera captured
 - c. What worked well and what didn't