

Summer School “ManGrowth - Preservation of Ecosystems for Sustainable Development”

Sapienza - University of Rome, in collaboration with Eduardo Mondlane University, launches the new Intensive Summer School Course " ManGrowth - Preservation of Ecosystems for Sustainable Development". The course is promoted and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, as part of the Project "ManGrowth - Preservation of Ecosystems for Sustainable Development - AID 12342".

The course is focused on the importance of mangrove forests as an essential ecosystem to promote the sustainable development of coastal areas, the mitigation of the effects of climate change and the conservation of animal and plant species that are linked to them by their life cycle.

The aim of the course is to provide a broad and in-depth understanding of the mangrove ecosystem, addressing aspects of biodiversity, ecology, ecosystem services and the sustainable use of these ecosystems, as well as the effects they experience in relation to climate change and the challenge for their conservation. Students will acquire the technical skills to monitor and assess the conservation status of mangrove forests and their biodiversity. They will also develop a critical and cognitive background for the design and implementation of mangrove ecosystem management and restoration programmes.

During the intensive course, the study of the physical and biological characteristics of mangrove forests will be addressed, covering aspects of diversity, distribution, structure, conservation status and mangroves at the global level. The ecology of the mangrove forests of Mozambique, the second largest mangrove forest country in Africa after Nigeria, will be studied in greater detail. In Mozambique, these valuable ecosystems cover some 400,000 hectares along the more than 3000 kilometres of coastline washed by the Indian Ocean.

As a crucial habitat for various animal and plant species, mangroves are home to a diverse biodiversity. The biological communities that inhabit mangrove forests along the Mozambican coastline will be studied in depth, assessing the conservation status and threats to arthropods and estuarine fish, as well as terrestrial vertebrates present in the ecosystem.

The multiplicity of ecosystem services associated with mangroves will then be addressed: from climate change mitigation to coastal erosion control, to the economic and social benefits associated with mangrove forests. The ecosystem services of mangrove forests are an irreplaceable resource for the livelihoods and sustainable development of millions of people: worldwide, it is estimated that at least 120 million people live in close contact with these ecosystems, while in Mozambique, around 60 percent of the population lives in low-lying coastal areas in close contact with mangroves.

Finally, given the many threats to these ecosystems, methods of management, restoration and conservation of Mozambican mangroves will be addressed. Knowledge of modern tools for monitoring, assessment and data analysis of vegetation, reforestation procedures and the implementation of ecological restoration programmes will then be provided.

The course will consist of lectures, given by international researchers and experts, and field activities to apply the knowledge acquired and experiment with the collection of data useful for assessing the conservation status of mangroves. This part of the course will take place at the marine biology station on Inhaca Island in Maputo Bay (Mozambique). Laboratory activities for biological and soil analyses of samples collected in the field are also planned. This part of the course will take place at the Sapienza - University of Rome laboratories.

Students will receive a full grant to cover course registration, transport expenses (including airfare), visas and accommodation on the island of Inhaca, as well as accommodation costs in Rome (for Mozambican students) and in Maputo (for Italian students).

For any information, the course secretariat is available at mangrowthcourse.dba@uniroma1.it

Course programme:

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16cFHBJEg0QEVvFwtCe4Bx36YBcfKMJdD/view?usp=sharing> “Summer School Mangrowth 2023 Programme”)

Call for Applications:

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IPnB1u8Ywna8TvRMUsMv1da-kAqxzgd/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100539288888918535246&rtpof=true&sd=true>

“Call_for_application_ss_Mangrowth_2023”).

To apply, please send the completed application form (*Attached 1 of Call for Application*) to the course secretariat email address: mangrowthcourse.dba@uniroma1.it

Note: Enclose a copy of valid PASSPORT and of degree certificate.

Here the Guidelines for registration to Sapienza Infostud (https://drive.google.com/file/d/140PFb_VY52-7SQJumEedfbSVE3FrMyBl/view?usp=sharing “Instruction to register on Infostud Sapienza website”)

The deadline to apply is **03 July, 2023, 00:00 (midnight) GMT+2**