Implementation Plan and Teaching Notes

**Context for Use** (**Ecologia Forestal Course**)

Instructor: **Branko Hilje**

Department: **School of Forest Engineering,** **Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica**Audience Level: **Undergraduate**

Undergraduates: **Majors**

Instructional Setting: **Lecture, Lab and Field, all based in Costa Rica**

Number of Students: 20

Expected dates of implementation: Monday, May 15th, 2023

Original OCELOTS Module Title: Restaurando bosques tropicales ¿Plantar islas de árboles es una estrategia efectiva en términos ecológicos y económicos para restaurar bosques tropicales?

Link to Module on Gala: <https://www.learngala.com/cases/restaurando-bosques-tropicales/>

**Learning Goals of Module:**

1. Understand the most important human impacts on tropical forests.
2. Recognize the main barriers in tropical forest recovery.
3. Identify natural and/or assisted recovery processes of the forest after abandonment.

**Pedagogical techniques used:**

The class in which we used the module was a computer lab where the students read the material, watched the video, and answered the questions related to the module. I was present while they did this, to help them understand concepts or sections where they had questions. This gave me the opportunity to encourage the students and to track their advance, giving feedback and support when needed. We also had a brainstorming session before and during the module implementation. Based on my recent experience teaching, the students need supervision to achieve goals. At the end of the class, we had a wrap-up session where we all discussed the answers and finished with a take-home message.

The classroom activities with this module were integrated during a field trip to a tropical lowland wet forest and different types of surrounding land uses such as banana and pineapple plantations, urban areas, and pasturelands for cattle.

**Supplemental materials created**

I provided some background information prior to using this module, which includes concepts of forest ecology, and key updated information about forest degradation and disturbance by human activities.

**Assessments**

I evaluated the information from this module through a short test and a midterm exam.

**Changes Made (if any):**

* Because of the time we had for the module implementation, I shortened the questionnaire and did not ask my students to answer question 6.

**Teaching Notes**

1. **Overall, how did your implementation go?**

The module implementation went well.

* 1. **What went well and why?**

I believe the students engaged with the module. The fact that the information for the module was collected in Costa Rica established a known context for the students.

* 1. **What went wrong and why?**

I do not think anything went wrong; however, since I ran the whole module while I was present with my students, I found that it took longer for some students than others.

1. **What was the prep like?**

The module day preparation went well. We the instructors had enough support from the coordinators during the semester.

* 1. **How much time went into prep?**

10 hours

* 1. **Did you have to do any prep ahead of implementation?**

Yes, I did. I wrote a brief description of the module where I also provided general information about OCELOTS. I uploaded this description to an academic platform where I also graded students´ answers.

1. **What feedback (positive or negative), if any, did you get from your students about this experience?**

My students seemed engaged with the module. They commented about enjoying the module and learning in a different way

1. **What do you wish you’d known before you ran the activity?**

I had enough information and support from the coordinators before running the activity.

1. **Do you plan on continuing to use this module in your future courses?**

Yes, I do.

1. **What would you do differently if you were to implement this module again?**

I would be running it exactly as I did this time.

1. **How does this activity fit in your overall course curriculum?**

It fits it very well since it covers one of my Lecture topics about human impact on habitats, forest fragmentation, and restoration.

1. **In what ways, if any, did you modify your teaching practice with this activity?**

I did provide some information before running the module.

1. **Is there anything else you would like to make note of?**

No, I do not have anything else to add.