***environmental SCIENTIST* journal: learning resource notes**

The purpose of these educational resource notes is to provide a format for informal, seminar-style discussions of the topics explored in the latest edition of the journal of the Institution of Environmental Sciences.

Through discussion of the ideas and issues presented within the journal, they aim to supplement and enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of a broad range of environmental science issues and provide insights into the professional concerns of practising environmental scientists.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Learning outcomes** | * Understand the main ideas discussed in the publication.
* Describe the main conclusions and their relevance to the environmental science sector.
* Critically reflect on the main concepts discussed.
 |
| **Format** | * Small group discussions of articles that closely relate to programme content to supplement learning.
* Articles of particular interest are to be selected and shared with the group to read ahead of the discussion. Suggestions for articles to focus discussions on are provided in this document.
* Discussions can be led by participants or the tutor, using the ‘Articles in focus’ resource to prompt debate and aid the conversation.
* The suggested discussion points and questions provided in this pack can be used as a starting point to guide the discussion.
* Students can be encouraged to choose to discuss any of the other articles within the issue.
 |

Journal edition

e*nvironmental SCIENTIST* **Animal migration**Vol 30, Issue 3

<https://www.the-ies.org/resources/animal-migration>

Articles in focus

The following articles have been selected as particularly relevant for in-depth discussion, allowing for wider debate of the key elements of the article topic. Some specific questions/points you may wish to consider when reading and discussing these articles are provided.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic overview**  | Animal migrations are spectacular phenomena that have fascinated humanity for millennia. They also play vital roles in ecosystem processes, transferring nutrients, carbon, energy and genes, and supporting cultural resources and traditions. However, migratory populations are in an alarming decline due to the manifold threats they face in our rapidly changing world. Articles explore the complexities of animal migration and the actions needed to reverse declines in the numbers of terrestrial, marine and avian travellers making these impressive journeys.  |
| **Articles in focus** |
| **The saiga story:****how international****cooperation has****been a key factor for conservation success****Aline Kühl-Stenzel (p.16)** | **Article overview:** This article explores the recovery of the saiga antelope. |
| * What factors do you think have been particularly important in the saiga antelope’s recovery since 1950?
* Do you agree with the sustainable use of saiga antelope? Why/why not? What do you think are the biggest considerations when thinking about legalising sustainable use of saiga antelope?
* What do you think future priorities should be for saiga antelope conservation?
 |
| **Eels in the river Thames****Anna Forbes, Oli Back, Mia Ridler, Jess Mead, Joe Pecorelli and Wanda Bodnar (p.42)** | **Article overview:** This article outlines a project to improve the future of the European eel across the Thames catchment. |
| * Why are barriers to eel migration such a problem and what are the challenges in addressing this issue in the Thames Catchment?
* How do you think the European eel’s complex life cycle affects the species’ numbers?
* If you were leading the Thames Catchment Community Eels Project, what would be your next steps for European eel conservation following the collection and analysis of barrier data, as outlined in the article?
* In addition to the removal of barriers, what other measures do you think will be important for the conservation of the European eel in the Thames catchment and throughout its range?
 |