

DEVELOPING A BIOLOGY CURRICULUM WITH EMPHASIS ON BIODIVERSITY: THE CASE OF DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

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Indonesia is one of the mega-biodiversity countries in the world. The education sector has a responsibility in sustainable development of these biodiversity resources. The Department of Biology at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences University of Indonesia currently offers undergraduate and post graduate programs. The Department is determined to become a center of excellence in Indonesian biodiversity conservation by developing a biology curriculum that puts an emphasis on biodiversity conservation. This curriculum has been in place since 2005 and will be revised in 2010.

One of the major features of the curriculum is that the required subjects for students include Animal Biodiversity, Plant Biodiversity, Biosystematics, Biological Evolution, Natural Resources Management and Environmental Management. The introduction of these courses intends to provide a strong core for the students to develop competencies in biodiversity conservation.

In accordance with new curriculum policies declared by the University of Indonesia, the Department is planning to develop a revised curriculum that will be in line with the university policies and stay true to the vision and mission to the Department of Biology. The new curriculum will also take into account the results of a university-wide graduate tracer study carried out in 2007. It is envisioned that the revised curriculum will have more defined biodiversity-related competencies that will give the graduates a comprehensive understanding of management and conservation of biodiversity.

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