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Effectiveness of conservation education workshops on Azerbaijani students' knowledge about rare vegetation degradation within the buffer zones in Gobustan National Park, Azerbaijan

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This article presents the effectiveness of conservation education workshops on Azerbaijani students' knowledge about Trare vegetation distribution and skills on monitoring of threats to rare vegetation within the "buffer zones" (areas between industry zone and non-industrial protected area in Gobustan National Park), environmental affect and responsible environmental behavior. The evaluation process consists of the following steps: Identify purpose of evaluation, select evaluation method, design evaluation tools, collect data, analyze and report results. Donald Kirkpatrick's evaluation model has been applied for the training evaluation. Students' knowledge about and attitudes towards rare vegetation have been assessed through making use of rare vegetation knowledge test consisting of 12-15 multiple-choice items with three-four options (multiple-choice questions ask respondents to select among several possible answers). These tests assessed biodiversity conservation knowledge and will asked respondents to identify rare plant species. This part elicited students' opinions about the park and biodiversity conservation by presenting 2-3 statements (e.g. people should be allowed to let their goats graze freely in Gobustan park) and asking students how much they agreed or disagreed with each statement. In order to examine how the students demonstrate their knowledge about application of GIS and remote sensing technologies in environment protection special topic questionnaire and remote sensing exercises have been developed. Performing these exercises, students demonstrated their knowledge in the identification of the buffer zones.

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