

How to turn marine wildlife conservation knowledge into real-world scenarios

By Eva Timms

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(Johnson, n.d)

About me

Hello, My name is Eva Timms and I am currently an undergraduate student in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David studying environment, sustainability and climate change. I have been studying here for almost two years now with my interest in the environment increasingly growing throughout the course. I would like to pursue a career in either environmental consultancy or wildlife conservation. I have always been interested in how we can protect our environment from climate change. Natural causes or human causes. My favourite animal is an otter and I have always wanted to try and protect these animals as they are endangered throughout the world, I am blogging today about my favourite module so far within the course, animals and conservation has always been an interest of mine and I want to pursue this interest into a sustainable job. It is



Reference List:

- Johnson, C. (n.d.). *Humpback Whales Feeding in Antarctica*. [Online Image] WWF. Available at: <https://www.whales.org/news-stories/antarctic-conservation-takes-a-backward-step> [Accessed 3 Jan. 2026].

important to understand how knowledge from content on the course can be used to find a sustainable job in the environmental sector. I have learnt hard and soft skills from this module and course. These skills can include GIS, time management relating to managing assignments and when to start them, research which is extremely important within assignments, how to create habitat management plans or how to do surveys and experiments for conservation. All skills from this module can be used to find an appropriate job in the environment sector. I have an interest in protecting and conserving animals which will further help me with sustainable employment. If you want more information I have a LinkedIn page which will involve further information about myself.

Link for LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/eva-timms-b15307258

How to turn theory into an environmental job

What I have learnt so far in my module

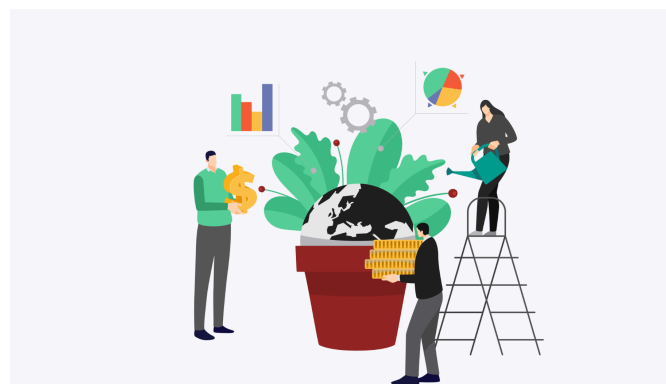
During this module so far we have learnt a variety of information that will be useful in our future employment. A few examples are the coastal zone, abiotic and biotic factors that affect marine life, overfishing, rewildling, marine habitats, wildlife conservation and many more. Everything that has been taught to us during lectures can be brought into the real world where we can use this knowledge to help in marine and coastal conservation. A lot of the time people who come into the industry may not have the same amount of knowledge as you and this can give a boost in succession rates when it comes to finding jobs that fit you and your knowledge.

Using knowledge in the real-world

It is difficult to turn knowledge into a job if you do not know how to use it correctly, you need to understand when to use certain information and how to use it effectively in job interviews or in your CV. It is important that you look for a sustainable job which focuses on you and your experience within the workplace.

What is sustainable employment?

Sustainable employment means that workers throughout their lives will be given opportunities in the form of set capabilities (van der Klink et al., 2015). A sustainable job is stable and fulfilling, the job has long-term security, fair wages and healthy working conditions (Octagon professionals, 2024). It is also incorporating environmental sustainability by implementing eco-friendly practices and making sure employers are sustainable when they can be.



(Culture Monkey, 2024)

References list:

- Culture Monkey (2024). What is a sustainable workplace culture: How it impacts your workplace engagement in 2024. [Online Image] Culture monkey. Available at: <https://www.culturemonkey.io/employee-engagement/sustainable-workplace/> [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026].
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- van der Klink, J.J., Bültmann, U., Burdorf, A., Schaufeli, W.B., Zijlstra, F.R., Abma, F.I., Brouwer, S. and van der Wilt, G.J. (2015). Sustainable employability – definition, conceptualization, and implications: A perspective based on the capability approach. *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health*, [online] 42(1), pp.71–79. doi <https://doi.org/10.5271/sjweh.3531>. [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026]

Three different topics and how they can be applied to real-world scenarios

In this section I am going to explain a few different topics that I have learnt from my module and then demonstrate how this can be used in a job or volunteering.

Rewilding

What is it?

Rewilding is the large-scale restoration of ecosystems (Plant Life, 2019) by recreating an ecosystems natural state and allowing natural processes to occur and it ensures that the area is working by itself with little management.

This is another type of conservation which can be used in a marine setting, it is a more natural way of conserving ecosystems and it takes up less time and management. It is important to know the different varieties of conservation as there can be different ones that work better than others. It all depends on the type of ecosystem.



(Gibbons, 2024)

How can you apply rewilding into real-world applications?

Rewilding is becoming more commonly used in conservation as it is easy and can usually bring a better result for an ecosystem. It is important that you understand how rewilding works and the different aspects around rewilding. There are many projects that are taking place today that involve rewilding that you can get involved with. Rewilding Britain is a fantastic website to take a look at if you want more information, they provide a map full of

different rewilding projects where you can find information about the projects near you. The link for rewilding Britain is below.

Rewilding Britain Link: <https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/rewilding-network/projects>

Reference list:

- Gibbons, B. (2024). *A Sea Otter off the Coast of Central California with a Purple Sea Urchin*. [Online Image] *The Guardian*. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jun/06/how-to-save-oceans-rewilding-conservation-fisheries-pollution-forever-chemicals-deep-sea-mining> [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026].
- Plant Life (2019). *Position statement Rewilding*. [online] *Plant Life*, pp.1–5. Available at: https://thesovereign.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Position-Statement-8_71.pdf [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026]

Abiotic factors and biotic components for the ocean

What is it?

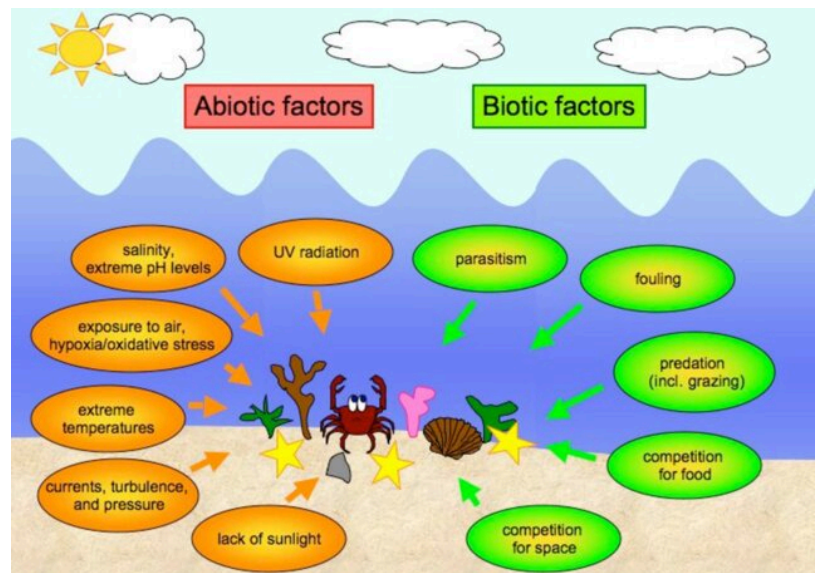
Abiotic is chemical and physical components within a marine environment and biotic is biological components living within the ecosystem (Kumar, 2021).

There are also factors that can affect marine biology such as pH, salinity, density, temperature, penetration of light, tides, currents and nutrients.

It is good to understand how a marine ecosystem can change due to abiotic factors, and it is important to know how to measure these. Certain factors can affect what is able to live in these ecosystems for example if the pH is too high then this might kill off different species as they may need a certain pH to survive.

How can you apply abiotic factors and biotic components into real-world applications?

If you want to understand how to conserve a marine environment you must know the different abiotic factors as it is crucial when knowing what animals can survive in those ecosystems. You need to be able to figure out how an ecosystem can be changed, climate change has a huge effect on abiotic factors as it can change sea temperature and tides due to strong winds. You need to be able to figure out how animals living in that ecosystem will survive these changes and if you need to try and alter that ecosystem manually to protect those species from the inevitable changes.



(Diederich, 2009)

Reference list:

- Diederich, M. (2009). *The biotic and abiotic factors governing the marine ecosystem*. [Online Image] *Research Gate*. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-biotic-and-abiotic-factors-governing-the-marine-ecosystem_fig1_255729021 [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026]
- Kumar, P.S. (2021). Introduction to marine biology. *Modern Treatment Strategies for Marine Pollution*, [online] pp.1–10. Available at: doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-822279-9.00008-7>. [Accessed 3. Jan. 2026]

Ecosystem impacts

What is it?

This is the effect of human or natural actions that alter an ecosystem (Sustainability Directory, 2025) including its physical environment and the animals that live in that ecosystem.

A few examples of marine ecosystem impacts involve:

- Wildfires which result in ash clouds settling into the ocean
- Overfishing
- Pollution from heavy metals

How can you apply ecosystem impacts into real-world applications?

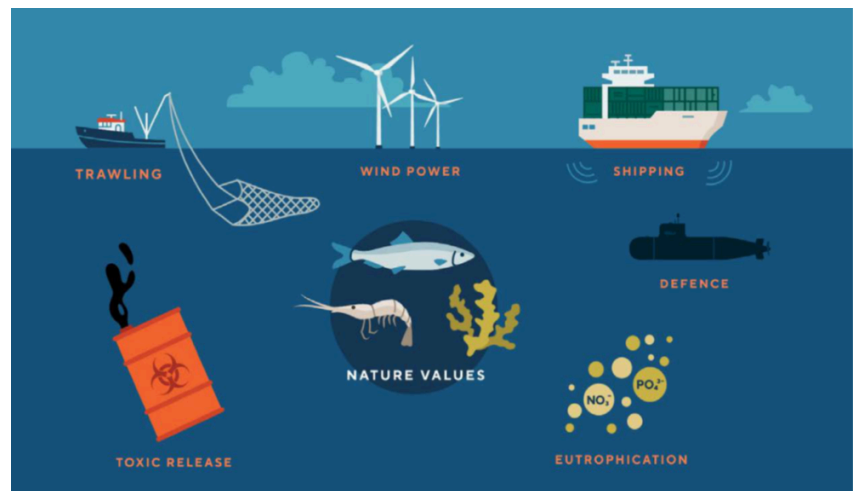
Coastal, marine and wildlife conservation can be about looking at different ecosystems, it is helpful to understand what stresses these ecosystems can face and what you can do to help. To protect ecosystems from human impacts, Marine Protected Areas or also known as MPA's need to be put into place. It is difficult to suppress natural ecosystem impacts however, human impacts can be suppressed using protected areas.

MPA'S are commonly used to help with conservation of marine ecosystems as

they allow them to grow and thrive without humans influencing them in any way.

However, MPA'S are being suppressed by well-funded development projects

(Pinheiro et al., 2019) that focus on oil and gas exploration in the ocean. The failure to protect these marine areas will result in ecosystem loss which can become detrimental.



(Gårdmark, 2023)

So, this is why it is important to understand how your knowledge can be turned into real-world applications because it can be extremely useful. You need to learn how the information you get taught or find yourself can help change the way marine conservation is done. There are so many different topics that you can learn to help boost you in a job interview, you just have to find it.

Reference list:

- Gårdmark, W. (2023). [Online Image] Swedish Agency Marine and Water Management. Available at: <<https://www.havochvatten.se/en/eu-and-international/international-cooperation/news/news/2023-05-09-new-too-l-on-ocean-impact-launched.html>> [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026].
- Pinheiro, H.T., Teixeira, J.B., Francini-Filho, R.B., Soares-Gomes, A., Ferreira, C.E.L. and Rocha, L.A. (2019). Hope and doubt for the world's marine ecosystems. *Perspectives in Ecology and Conservation*, [online] 17(1), pp.19–25. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pecon.2018.11.001>. [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026]
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What skills do you have that can boost you to the top?

Knowledge and skills

What information have you learnt about and how do you think this can help you in future sustainable employment? This is a question that you always need to ask yourself, how do you have an advantage over other candidates, what do you know that they do not? Knowledge is very important when it comes to employability however, volunteering, skills and experiences can help boost that employability.

Skills that I have gained from my course

Below is a list of a few skills that I have gained from my module and course, if you set your mind to it you can also learn these skills.

1. Horizon scanning

This is where organisations or groups of people explore emerging trends (UNDP, 2025) , look at opportunities and risks which can then help in the future.

2. Communication skills
3. Teamwork
4. Research skills
5. Problem solving skills

The skills that you need to get into the marine conservation field are mostly soft skills which are non technical and usually easy to learn however there are a few hard skills such as technology skills which are harder to learn and may need more time and effort. Almost all the time in a marine conservation job they need at least one scientific skill and 5 non-scientific skills (Parsons and MacPherson, 2015) which usually include:

1. Project management
2. Program leadership
3. Interpersonal skills
4. Written communication
5. The ability to network



(Mcfall, 2011)

Reference list:

- Mcfall, G. (2011). *A Fish Survey at Maro Reef in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. [Online Image] Conservation Careers. Available at: <<https://www.conservation-careers.com/marine-conservation-jobs/>> [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026].
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Upskilling, what is it and a few examples

You can use a method called upskilling which is finding gaps in your skills and then finding ways of filling those gaps by using a range of different resources that can be found online to learn these skills. A few of those resources are:

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)

These are courses that are available online and are usually free, they usually provide certificates once you finish the course which can then be used on your CV when applying for a job. They are easy to do during employment as they are online and accessible. However, you can do them without being in employment as most of them do not require any current knowledge on the topic you are learning. You can find a few of these on LinkedIn learning or Open university where they provide a range of different courses to help you with upskilling.

Volunteering

It is not only knowledge and theory that is needed to find a marine conservation job, employers love when you have volunteering skills especially when it is in the sector that you are applying for. If you are able to do some sort of conservation or marine volunteering this can greatly help advance your application and give you a higher chance of getting the job.



(Wylie, 2023)

Create your own blog!

If you really want to stand out, creating your own blog can help show your knowledge and skills. If you are able to create an effective blog which draws readers in, this can show your written communication and can help you network with people. If you create a blog that stands out there is a high chance that people of the same interest may want to talk to you, this could lead to a job and allow you to create networks with people.

Networking

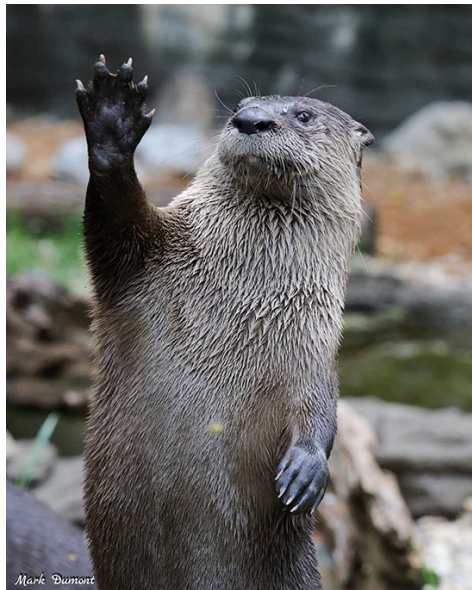
Networking is creating relationships with people who may have the same interests as you or are in an industry that you are interested in. It involves exchanging ideas and information (Perry, 2023) . You can create a network with people who can help give you skills, they can give you feedback on assignments or projects and you can exchange ideas and learn new information within your network.

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- Wylie, N. (2023). *Upskill*. [Online Image] ispring. Available at: <https://www.ispringsolutions.com/blog/upskilling> [Accessed 4 Jan. 2026].
- Perry, E. (2023). *What is networking and why is it so important?* [online] www.betterup.com. Available at: <https://www.betterup.com/blog/networking> [Accessed 5 Jan. 2026].

Now it's over to you

Now that you understand how to turn your theory into real-world scenarios and what skills are needed to find that marine conservation job, it's up to you to use this knowledge as you like and figure out what is right for you in the real-world. There are always resources available online that can help you pursue your dream career, there are blogs that talk about other subjects which may interest you. These are available on environmental blog websites as well as on University websites such as UWTSD blogs. It can be scary not knowing what to do once you receive information from lectures or conferences because there is so much to learn about; however, if you can use this blog to understand how to implement that information into a job then my work here is done. If you have any questions or want to comment about this subject, the comment section below will be available for any extra information or any feedback for me. I hope to see you again in my next blog!



(Dumont, 2018)

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