# Final Deliverables and Presentation

## Title

Research and Reflection on University Biodiversity Plans

## Project Information

a. ***What is the project scope? Include background information if necessary to understand the task.***
    i. Our task was to conduct research on biodiversity plans designed by other universities. We gathered and recorded information that could inform the structure and content of a biodiversity plan for the C-U community.
b. ***What did you accomplish?***
    i. We learned about the topic of biodiversity, compiled a list of exemplary biodiversity efforts by other universities, summarized our findings, and reflected on our research.
c. ***Who did you collaborate with? (Organization titles rather than people's names.)***
    i. We worked in collaboration with iSEE.
d. ***What was the result of your project work and how will it be used in the future?***
    i. Our final project deliverable is a document which can be referred to by the Resilience Task Force under iSEE as they begin to draft a biodiversity masterplan.

## Timeline Reflection

| Task | Hours Spent on Task | Reflection of Task Work |
|---|---|---|
| Research: What is biodiversity, and why is it important?<br><br>Task: Take notes | 8 | We discovered through our research how wide the topic biodiversity is. The answer to the question "why is biodiversity important?" is complex and can be answered from a range of perspectives and scales, from the survival of species to anthropogenic issues such as economics and environmental justice. |
| Research: What universities have biodiversity plans?<br><br>Task: Compile a list of resources | 2 | It was not hard to find or gain access to exemplary plans. They were available to view online. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Research: Content of existing biodiversity plans<br><br>Task: Take notes | 10 | This aspect of the project was the most time consuming. We each researched 1-2 plans, and tried to summarize their content in the most helpful way, based on the plan. |
| Research: Current community efforts<br><br>Task: Review memorandum | 2 | This was a document shared with us by Kimmy Chuang, who is the head of the iSEE Resilience team. It is a memorandum compiling current community biodiversity efforts, and gave us a reference for what a biodiversity plan would be building upon. |
| Reflection: What are the key takeaways?<br><br>Task: Write summary | 4 | In our reflections, we wrote our takeaways from each plan and what features could be adopted in our local biodiversity plan. |

## Final Takeaways

***What is your biggest takeaway from being a part of this project in collaboration with iSEE?***

My biggest takeaway from this project was learning how to compile research. The majority of this project involved doing research on biodiversity and biodiversity plans, which was not exceedingly difficult. I have had experience with research in the past, but I have less experience compiling research into a final product and creating my own analysis of what I have found. In synthesizing our research into a final product, we had to decide what information was important and what wasn't. Doing this proved challenging, and it helped me to understand the research material and come to my own opinions of the topic better. I really appreciated this project, and getting experience in doing projects and research of this manner.

- Leila

I learned that collaborative projects are malleable processes. We started our project with a broad goal of designing a biodiversity masterplan. As we began conducting research and learned about developments made regarding the biodiversity plan initiative through our communication with Morgan, our focus narrowed. We were able to define a form for our final deliverable. It was not a completely linear process and our project tasks shifted over time, but we were able to accomplish a final product that I hope will be helpful to the resilience committee!

- Sarah

## Explanation of Deliverables

We are submitting two documents as our deliverables.

1. *Exemplary University Biodiversity Plans: A Compilation With Notes* - this is our final product to be shared with iSEE that compiles our research on three biodiversity plans and our reflections on them.

2. *Research: what is biodiversity, and why is it important?* - this document is not intended as a deliverable to be shared with iSEE, but summarizes our research on biodiversity.

**Presentation (50 points):**

1. **Explain what you created as a final result/deliverable for your project. (10 points)**
    - We created two documents, one including a list of summaries and analysis of exemplary biodiversity plans, and the other with our research on biodiversity.
2. **What lessons did you learn as a consultant? (10 points)**
    - Project goals and tasks can change over time.
    - Time management and scheduling are important, but flexibility is equally important.
3. **What did you learn about the importance and implementation of sustainability in engineering projects? (10 points)**
    - Sustainability is incredibly important, because without it no lasting changes can be made.
    - In biodiversity especially, progress needs to be monitored, and plans need to be continually updated in order to ensure that any progress made towards increasing biodiversity won't be lost.
4. **How has your view of sustainability changed with your project experience? (10 points)**
    - Didn't realize the importance of sustainability, now realize that it is one of the most important aspects of an engineering project.
    - If a project isn't sustainable, there is little point in enacting it because any progress would quickly disappear.
5. ***Answer individually:*** **What will this experience do for you moving forward/where do you see yourself going? (10 points)**
    - Moving forward, I will know to always consider the sustainability of any project I pursue. I see myself entering industry, and so I will hopefully be involved in many engineering projects. When working on such projects, I plan to consider the environmental impact and the sustainability of what I am doing.
        - Leila
    - I would be interested in working with the resilience task force in the future on the development of the biodiversity plan.
        - Sarah