



Tanzania

Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology

Credits 16

Program Base Arusha

Language Study Swahili

Homestay Arusha, 3 weeks

Rural Homestay Maasai village, 1 week

Educational Excursions Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire National Park, Lake Manyara National Park, Mazumbai Forest Reserve, Ndarakwai Ranch, Eastern Arc mountains

Environmental Components Savannah and tropical rainforest ecology; protected-area management and human wildlife interface; wildlife conservation and development

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Previous college-level coursework and/or other significant preparation in environmental studies, ecology, biology, sociology, anthropology, international relations, or related fields, as assessed by SIT.

Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology Seminar

ENVI 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English, with required readings, examining the relationships between socioeconomic objectives, ecological parameters, and cultural transitions from multi-scale/actor perspectives in various Tanzanian landscapes. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, and various nongovernmental organizations. Lectures and discussions for this course generally include the following topics:

Tanzanian Cultures and Society

Precolonial and colonial history; contemporary political and economic issues; the development discourse; cultural anthropology; human and physical geography.

Wildlife and Conservation

Ecological zones of Tanzania; patterns of wildlife abundance and diversity; deforestation, soil erosion, and water catchment issues; management of national parks, reserves, and game-controlled areas; animal behavior and ecology; impact of economic development and tourism on anthropogenic landscapes; conservation education; poaching and hunting; environmental law and policymaking; natural resource management.

Educational Excursions

The program includes excursions to national parks and conservation areas such as Serengeti, Tarangire, and Lake Manyara National Parks; Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area; Mazumbai Forest Reserve; Ndarakwai Ranch; Loliondo Game Controlled Area; and Enashiva Nature Reserve.

Rural Visit

To afford direct knowledge of Tanzanian rural life, participants live for one week in a rural Maasai setting. Village conditions are basic, with no

electricity or running water, and provide an invaluable opportunity to learn about the transitional culture of the Maasai.

Intensive Language Study: Swahili

SWAH 1000-2000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive beginning classes, with further language practice during homestays, lectures, and excursions.

Environmental Field Study Seminar

ENVI 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

A course in research methods in both the social and natural sciences. The main focus is on learning how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data to critically understand and evaluate program-related environmental issues. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Specific social field study methods include designing research projects; writing a research proposal; interviewing; surveys; participatory rural appraisal techniques; maintaining a field study journal; and statistical analysis of data sets. Specific ecological field study methods include micro- and macrohabitat analysis; wildlife population sampling and analysis; fauna and flora identification; animal behavior; Geographic Information Systems and statistical analysis of data sets.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Arusha, Moshi, or surrounding areas or, with program approval, in other parts of Tanzania. Sample topic areas: impact of tourism on the natural environment or cultures; management options in designated wildlife areas; environmental education; soil conservation in Mayo Village; wildlife-livestock disease interactions in the Kwakuchinja corridor; behavior of *Colobus*

guereza in Sagara Forest; canopy and habitat use in sympatric primate species; modernized farming methods in Mgambo; Kibosho youths' views on population and the environment; vegetation analysis of elephant damage at Ndarakwai Ranch. *Note: Because of restrictions on fieldwork in Tanzania, participants should expect to spend all or most of the Independent Study Project outside the boundaries of Tanzania's national parks.*

Homestay

Three weeks in a peri-urban area near Arusha and one week in a Maasai village. Other accommodations during the program include hostels, private homes, small hotels, and 33 nights of camping.

Location and Scale

“Scale” and “location” serve as dual focal points that link assignments and experiences in this program. The semester challenges students to see how changes in these two parameters affect the answers to thought-provoking questions, including: “What is poorness?” and “How are organisms distributed in space and time?” Student learning encompasses diverse spaces, develops multi-scale analysis, and increases sensitivity to social and power relationships. Students explore a series of landscapes designed to illustrate a variety of locations and scale—from small tropical forests (Mazumbai) to Tarangire National Park to the 25,000-square-kilometer Serengeti-Ngorongoro Ecological Unit. Students identify and locate resources, examine methodologies in the acquisition of knowledge, question if and how to incorporate these new forms of knowledge, and make ethical decisions in the gathering and dissemination of information.