



## ***Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation FALL 2010***

### ***TEACHING STYLES***

Please be advised that teaching styles differ around the world, so be prepared to be flexible and adapt to different local ways of teaching. In some local teaching styles, readings are required as background material for lectures and discussions, though they may not be covered directly in class in the way they often are in U.S. undergraduate courses. Often in other countries, students are expected to raise questions about the readings during the discussion period, rather than the lecturer reviewing them.

In Ecuador you will find that teaching styles vary greatly as you will learn from a wide variety of local contacts in addition to your Academic Directors. Professionals and academics typically are far more traditional and formal in their lecture style compared with the U.S. Campesinos, community members and local guides on the other hand often use a circular, fluid and indirect method of teaching. One of the strengths of the Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation program is indeed that students are exposed to many different people/teachers thus gaining a wide diversity of perspectives and insights.

### ***REQUIRED READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS***

The required readings are assigned by your Academic Directors and should be completed **prior** to the program. As copies are available in Ecuador, you do not need to purchase your own to bring with you. Please read the following two books:

Kricher, John C., et al. *A Neotropical Companion*. Revised ed. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999. ISBN-10: 0691009740, ISBN-13: 978-0691009742. – Excellent information, great as an introduction to the natural history of the neotropics.

Weiner, Jonathan. *The Beak of the Finch*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995. ISBN-10: 067973337X, ISBN-13: 978-0679733379. – A stimulating, readable book on research in Galapagos

Note: Additional required readings will be provided to you during the program.

## **RECOMMENDED READINGS**

This list of selected materials is intended to help you engage in independent, pre-program study relevant to the program. More than any other recommendation made by previous students, advance reading has been most strongly suggested as the best way to enhance your on-site learning experience. You are encouraged to select readings that offer general background knowledge for your program, as well as information of specific interest to you.

Some of these titles may be out of print, out of stock, or otherwise unavailable. You can try to locate them at your local library, through the inter-library loan system or through a used bookstore. There are many locations on the internet through which you can place book orders or conduct searches for titles that are not easily obtainable.

### **Recommended Readings – Some Favorites**

George, Susan. *Another World is Possible if...* New York: Verso, 2004 ISBN-10: 1844675106, ISBN-13: 978-1844675104. A must read for all concerned about global justice – explains the issues and ideas for the movement.

Nicholls, Henry. *Lonesome George*. New York: Macmillan, 2006. ISBN-10: 1403945764, ISBN-13: 978-1403945761

Royte, Elizabeth. *The Tapir's Morning Bath*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001. ISBN-10: 0395979978, ISBN-13: 978-0395979976. A pleasurable narrative about tropical rain forest research and researchers on BCI.

Wilson, E.O. *The Future of Life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002. ISBN-10: 0349115796, ISBN-13: 978-0349115795. Good for a natural history and sciences refresher.

### **Recommendations for students with limited or no experience with ecology field methods**

Ambrose, H. W & Ambrose K. P. *A Handbook of Biological Investigation*. Fifth edition Hunter Textbooks Inc. Winston-Salem. 1995. ISBN-10: 0887252168, ISBN-13: 978-0887252167.

*A Short Guide to Writing about Biology*. Third Edition. Wesley Longman Inc, New York. ISBN-10: 0673525031, ISBN-13: 978-0673525031

Brower, James E. Jerrold Zar, and Carl Von Ende. *Field and Laboratory Methods for General Ecology*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Boston : WCB McGraw-Hill, 1998. ISBN-10: 0697243583, ISBN-13: 978-0697243584. Clear, basic text on general ecology methods. Very useful for assignments and ISP.

## Other Recommended Readings

- Brysk, Alison. *From Tribal Village to Global Village: Indian Rights and International Relations in Latin America*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2000. A study of indigenous political movements in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Nicaragua, and the way in which local communities are defining the terms of their relationships with the world at the national and global levels.
- Chomsky, Noam. *Year 501: The Conquest Continues*. Boston: South End Press, 1993. This book is about how the process of subjugation of Latin American, begun in 1492 by the Spanish, and how it continues today under the auspices of the United States.
- Conaghan, Catherine M. and James M. Malloy. *Unsettling Statecraft: Democracy and Neoliberalism in the Central Andes*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994. A comparative analysis of neoliberalism in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia in the 1980s.
- Danaher, Kevin, ed. *Fifty Years Is Enough: The Case Against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund*. Boston: South End Press, 1994. This is a collection of case studies of World Bank and IMF projects throughout the world, and also studies of community-based alternatives to the current global economy.
- Darwin, Charles. *On the Origin of Species*. Various editions. Classic, useful in many aspects as a basis on which to ground further study.
- Diamond, Jared. *Collapse, how societies chose to fail or succeed*. Viking Penguin Ed., 2005-2006. ISBN-10: 0670033375, ISBN-13: 978-0670033379
- Forsyth, Adrian and Ken Miyata. *Tropical Nature: Life and Death in the Rain Forests of Central and South America*. New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1984. ISBN-10: 0684179644, ISBN-13: 978-0684179643. An entertaining introduction to the tropical ecosystem.
- Gade, Daniel W. *Nature and Culture in the Andes*. Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1999. This series of essays offers insights into the relationships through history among plants, animals, people, geography, and climate in the Andes, as well as a critique of the ways in which the Western tradition in science has proven an obstacle to understanding the complex ecological relationships between people and the land in the Andes.
- George, Susan. *A Fate Worse than Debt: The World Financial Crisis and the Poor*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990. Susan George makes clear in this work on the regional debt crisis of the 1980s, the role of multinational entities

like the International Monetary Fund and other players. George is a very funny writer who manages to make arcane economic matters perfectly clear.

Hilty, Steven. *Birds of Tropical America: A Watcher's Introduction to Behavior, Breeding, and Diversity*. Shelburne, Vermont: Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994. ISBN-10: 1881527565, ISBN-13: 978-1881527565. An excellent and very readable introduction to the birds of the tropics.

Holldobler, Bert and Edward O. Wilson. *Journey to the Ants: A Story of Scientific Exploration*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995. ISBN-10: 0674485262, ISBN-13: 978-0674485266. Myrmecology and scientific lore.

Karliner, Joshua. *The Corporate Planet: Ecology and Politics in the Age of Globalization*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1997. The author details the effects of transnational corporate activity on the natural world and on communities, especially those in the Third World. Very good, detailed studies of some of the world's largest corporations.

Kimerling, Judith. *Amazon Crude*. Natural Resources Defense Council, 1991. ISBN-10: 0960935851, ISBN-13: 978-0960935857. Best resource on environmental consequences of Ecuador's petroleum industry.

Naomi Klein *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. Picador: June 2008. ISBN-10: 0312427999 ISBN-13: 9780312427993 Required reading for anyone trying to pierce the complexities of globalization.

Leigh, Egbert Giles. *Tropical Forest Ecology: A view from Barro Colorado Island*. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN-10: 0195096037, ISBN-13: 978-0195096033. A long-term perspective on the ecology of a well known forest

Macarthur, R.H. and E.O. Wilson. *The Theory of Island Biogeography*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1967. ISBN-10: 0691088365, ISBN-13: 978-0691088365. Technical scientific work.

Mann, Charles C. *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*. Vintage: 2006 ISBN-13: 9781400032051 Compelling read that re-examines the ancient history of the Americas and how we live with the environmental consequences of colonization.

Margoluis, Richard and Nick Salafsky. *Measures of Success: Designing, Managing, and Monitoring Conservation and Development Projects*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1998. ISBN-10: 1559636122, ISBN-13: 978-1559636124. A "how to" methods guide for project design, implementation and evaluation.

- Martinez-Alier, Juan and Klaus Schlupman. *Ecological Economics: Energy, Environment, and Society*. Barcelona, Spain: Icaria. 1994. ISBN-10: 0631171460, ISBN-13: 978-0631171461. Great analysis of ecological economy, social and political ecology issues. [out of print, try inter-library loan]
- Quammen, David. *The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997. ISBN-10: 0684827123, ISBN-13: 978-0684827124. A good read on evolution and natural history.
- Reaka-Kudla, MJ, Wilson, Don E. Wilson. *Biodiversity II: Understanding and Protecting Our Biological Resources*. Washington, DC: Joseph Henry Press, 1996. ISBN-10: 0309055849, ISBN-13: 978-0309055840. And update to Wilson's Biodiversity 1989 with greater focus on certain taxa.
- Redford, Kent & J. Mansour. *Traditional Peoples and Biodiversity Conservation in Large Tropical Landscapes*. The Nature Conservancy; America Verde Publ., 1996. ISBN-10: 1886765022, ISBN-13: 978-1886765023
- Roberts, Paul. *The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous New World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 2005. ISBN-0-618-56211-7 A balanced examination of the economics and politics of oil and alternatives.
- Rudel, Thomas K. and Bruce Horowitz. *Tropical Deforestation: Small Farmers and Land Clearing in the Ecuadorian Amazon*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1993. ISBN-10: 023108045X, ISBN-13: 978-0231080453. Examines the perspectives and actions of local actors in clearing forests in Ecuador.
- Sims Feldstein, Hilary and Janice Jiggins eds. *Tools for the Field. Methodologies Handbook for Gender Analysis in Agriculture*. West Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press, 1994. ISBN-10: 1565490282. Great review on gender analysis methods that could also be applied in understanding how humans approach and use natural resources and environment.
- Ubidia, Abdón. *Wolves' Dream*. Pittsburgh: Latin American Literary Review Press, 1996. ISBN-10: 093548079X, ISBN-13: 978-0935480795. An entertaining fictional novel set in modern Quito. Prestigious book in Ecuador.
- Vogel, Joseph Henry. *Genes For Sale: Privatization as a Conservation Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN-10: 0195089103, ISBN-13: 978-0195089103. An interesting and thought provoking solution to the loss of biodiversity.
- Vogel, Joseph Henry, ed. *The Biodiversity Cartel*. Newest solution oriented work by one of our program lecturers. Available on the web: <http://www.thebiodiversitycartel.com>

Wilson, E.O. *The Diversity of Life*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999. ISBN-10: 0393319407, ISBN-13: 978-0393319408. Clear, concise overview of biodiversity. A “must read” book.

Wunder, Sven. *The Economics of Deforestation: The Example of Ecuador*. New York: St. Martin's Press, Inc. 2000. ISBN-10: 0312234465, ISBN-13: 9780312234461. Ecuador specific book focusing on deforestation and forest degradation –rich in detail and well organized.

## Field Guides

Some of the below field guides are available in Ecuador in our program library. A few Spanish field guides for specific groups such as lizards of Ecuadorian Amazon and paramo plants are available, but they are few and of variable quality. Depending on the strength of your interest, goals and background, you are recommended to bring with you any of the following:

DeVries, Philip. *The Butterflies of Costa Rica and Their Natural History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997. ISBN-10: 0691028893, ISBN-13: 978-0691028897. Many species also occur in Ecuador.

Emmons, Louise H. *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals: A Field Guide*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1997. ISBN-10: 0226207218, ISBN-13: 978-0226207216. Best available mammal guide.

Fjeldså, Jon. *Birds of the High Andes*. Svendborg, Denmark: Apollo Books, 1990. ISBN-10: 8788757161. Excellent field guide to Andean birds only..

Gentry, Alwyn H. *A Field Guide to the Families and Genera of Woody Plants of Northwest South America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. ISBN-10: 0226289443, ISBN-13: 978-0226289441. The best botany book available and very useful.

Humann, Paul and Ned Deloach. *Reef Fish Identification: Galápagos*. Jacksonville, FL: New World Publications, Inc., 2003. ISBN-1-878348-35-3. Excellent field guide to identify the fish and reef life of Galápagos in photos.

Jackson, M.H. *Galápagos: A Natural History*. Calgary, Alberta, Canada: University of Calgary Press, 1993. ISBN-10: 1895176409, ISBN-13: 978-1895176407. Very useful on Galápagos excursion; covers all aspects of the Island's natural history.

Penny, Norman D. and Arias, Jorge R. *Insects of an Amazon Forest*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1982. ISBN-10: 0231052669, ISBN-13: 978-0231052665. Of major interest to entomologists and entomology students.

Ridgely, Robert S. and Paul J. Greenfield. *The Birds of Ecuador Field Guide*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2001. ISBN-10: 0801487218, ISBN-13: 978-0801487217. Best bird field guide – new excellent resource. Serious birders should also get the companion volume on status, distribution and taxonomy.

## ***INTERNET RESOURCES***

### **News and Current Events**

Expreso en línea: <http://www.diario-expreso.com>  
One of Ecuador's daily newspapers, with full-text available on line.

El Comercio: <http://www.elcomercio.com>  
Another daily newspaper with well-organized archives of past stories.

Gestion Economía y Sociedad: <http://www.gestion.dinediciones.com>  
Periodical on economy and society

Intag Newspaper: <http://www.intagnewspaper.org>  
Independent paper serving the Intag region

### **General Country Information**

Library of Congress Ecuador Country Study:  
<http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/ectoc/html>  
Text from the Library of Congress' country-specific study.

Lonely Planet—Destination Ecuador: [www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/sam/ecu.htm](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/sam/ecu.htm)  
From one of the more thorough travel guides to the country, this site offers highlights from the information found in the hard copy of their guide.

Ecuador CIA Factbook: <http://www.odci.gov/publications/factbook/geos/ec.html>  
Published by the CIA, this is a compendium of statistics and commentary on the country along with a basic map of the territory.

## Sites on Specific Topics

Amazon Interactive: [www.eduweb.com/amazon.html](http://www.eduweb.com/amazon.html)

This site allows visitors to explore the Ecuadorian Amazon through online activities, aimed at high school students, but still informative.

Amazon Alliance for Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of the Amazon Basin: [www.aazoncoalition.org](http://www.aazoncoalition.org) - Provides information about communities in the Amazon.

DECOIN: <http://www.decoin.org>  
Defensa y Conservacion Ecologica de Intag

Envirolink: <http://www.envirolink.org>  
Web portal with up-to-date environmental news, links to environmental organizations, government resources, environmental activism and related issues.  
International Rivers Network: [www.irn.org](http://www.irn.org)  
Support for local communities working to protect their rivers and watersheds.

Rainforest Action Network: [www.ran.org](http://www.ran.org)  
General information about rainforest conservation and activist campaigns.

Sustainable International Travel: <http://www.sustainableinternationaltravel.org>  
Helping travelers and travel providers protect the cultures and environments they visit.

## Search Engines and Website Compilations

Excellent and comprehensive -Ecuador LANIC:  
<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/ecuador/>  
A list of country-specific links compiled by the University of Texas' Latin American Network Information Center, organized by theme.

IGC Development Internet Resource Collection: [www.igc.org/igc/gateway](http://www.igc.org/igc/gateway)  
Links to development organizations around the world.  
Latin America on the Net— Ecuador: [www.latinworld.com/sur/ecuador](http://www.latinworld.com/sur/ecuador)  
A compilation of business, cultural, and news resources for Ecuador