

Parks and People: Conservation of Nature and Community

Udzungwa Mountains National Park: Mang'ula, Tanzania 18 May-27 June 2020

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(in collaboration with the Hamer Center for Community Design)



"My time in Tanzania has been one of the more worthwhile [times] of my life. Seeing different ways people live enhanced my understanding of the way the world works." (2016 participant)

Interdisciplinary Study Program: Context and Goals

Udzungwa Mountains National Park lies in south-central Tanzania, about 200 miles west of the coastal city of Dar es Salaam. Containing some of the highest biological diversity in Africa, Udzungwa also borders human settlements where villagers struggle every day to meet their basic needs for food, fuel, and clean water. One of the greatest challenges faced by the park is conserving nature amid growing local populations and their needs.

This interdisciplinary program focuses on those local communities, aiming to create designs and development strategies to accommodate village needs for food, fuel, and water on lands outside the park, thus reducing the pressure to use park resources. Reducing pressure on park resources is, over the long term, essential for biodiversity conservation. Led by faculty conducting research at the park, the program also involves partners from Tanzanian universities and government agencies, international non-government organizations, and researchers, exposing students to a wealth of inter-disciplinary and inter-organizational expertise.

The program welcomes students from all backgrounds to gain hands-on experience in the principles of environmental design, land use planning, and ecotourism development through an applied project and visits to Udzungwa and other parks, towns, and villages to observe and document land use and biodiversity.

Dates and Credit:

6 weeks, 18 May-27 June 2020. Students will take a 3-credit seminar, a 1-credit colloquium, and a 5-credit project-based workshop structured to match individual student skills/interests. **Students receive 9 credits, some of which may satisfy GN or GS requirements. Grades count toward Penn State cumulative GPA.**

Program Costs:

Penn State in-state tuition, a program fee, plus airfare to Dar es Salaam, the final two partially subsidized by the Program. Students can use most components of their existing financial aid packages to help pay Program costs. The University Office of Global Programs (UOGP) administers several grants and scholarships, including the **Whole World Scholarship**.

Further Information: For more details, you may contact a *Program Ambassador*, program returnee, Erica Nikolaisen at UOGP (eln9@psu.edu), Prof. Gorenflo (ljg11@psu.edu), or Prof. Hunt (cah59@psu.edu).

Application: This **Summer 2020 program** will accept rolling applications up to our **1 February 2020 deadline**. Notice of acceptance will be no later than 1 March 2020. For more information, please see the following website: http://gpglobalea.gp.psu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10262.

"I rounded the corner of the house to find a group of women, consisting of three generations of the family, sitting in a circle. They saw me, then noticed the rest of my group, and immediately greeted all seven of us with warm smiles and a friendly "Jambo" or "Karibu." (2012 participant)

Itinerary, May-June 2020

(in-Tanzania dates may vary slightly; departure and return are firm)

- Monday 18 May: Depart Dulles, Monday morning. Arrive Dar es Salaam Tuesday afternoon, 19 May
- 19-21 May: Accommodation at Passionist Fathers House (hostel—search Internet for description of all destinations)
- 20-21 May: Orientation, University of Dar es Salaam—history, biodiversity, human-wildlife conflict, etc. Afternoons—logistics generally enable students to acclimatize to jet-lag, new surroundings
- 22 May: Travel to Oasis Hotel, Morogoro, in morning; relax and get a sense of the town
- 23 May: Lecture, Sokoine University of Agriculture; trip to SEGA Girls School, near Morogoro
- 24 May: Visit water development project near Morogoro, morning
- 25 May: Depart early for Udzungwa Mountains National Park, passing through Mikumi National Park; afternoon—settle-in at Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre hostel
- 26-30 May: Orientation to Udzungwa Mountains (short hikes); Mang'ula B (walking tours); Udzungwa region beginning fieldwork; Afternoons/Evenings—seminar reading and discussions
- 31 May: Hike to Sanje Falls (optional for students)
- 1–9 June: Village observation/data collection in mornings; afternoon studio work; evening seminars
- 10-12 June: Safari in Mikumi National Park
- 13-14 June: Free
- 15-19 June: Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre; prepare final presentations, etc.
- 20 June: Deliver final presentations; final celebration/barbecue, Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre
- 21 June: Depart for Dar es Salaam and Passionist Fathers House
- 22-24 June: Depart for Kilwa and Kilwa Dreams Beach Resort (three nights)
- 25 June: Return to Dar es Salaam and Passionist Fathers House; souvenir shopping
- Friday, 26 June: Drive to airport and depart Friday afternoon. Arrive Dulles Saturday morning, 27 June

“The time we had here and everything we learned will prepare us to be open to new understandings and listen well to the thoughts of others. And someday in the future when we make those decisions, we will use that [experience] to make the world a better place.” (2016 participant)

“In our time at the monitoring center we were all able to immerse ourselves pretty fully into the atmosphere of Udzungwa. Getting to travel, camp, and work to map in the villages like Kisegele was a really valuable experience because it got us to see village life first-hand...[it] was good because it got students to see the village structure and gain a greater understanding of the daily lives of villagers as well as a greater appreciation of how little some people live off of.” (2016 participant)

