

**A Miami Plan Global Experience and Senior Capstone
BIODIVERSITY OF KENYA
GEO/BOT 496/596 (6 credits)**



**16-DAY KENYA STUDY-ABROAD
DEPARTS MAY 13, 2010 AND RETURNS MAY 28, 2010**

\$1110 plus INTERNATIONAL AIR and your COURSE REGISTRATION

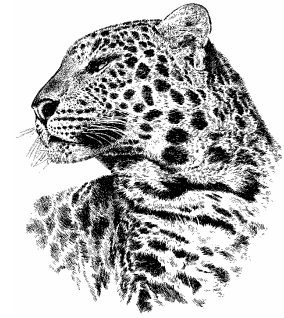
**EXPLORE PLANTS, WILDLIFE, PEOPLE, AND LIVELIHOODS
BUSHLAND NEAR TSAVO NATIONAL PARK
MT. KASIGAU IN THE EASTERN ARC
MT KENYA HIGHLAND FORESTS
LAKE NAIVASHA IN THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY
THE SAVANNA OF MASAI MARA**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, 529-5010
DR. KIM MEDLEY (medleyke@muohio.edu)**

www.users.muohio.edu/medleyke/kenya/

MIAMI UNIVERSITY 16-DAY BIODIVERSITY OF KENYA- 2010

Biodiversity is a widely recognized priority for global conservation and a focus for environmental studies. The proposed workshop is an intensive field-based course that is designed for students to learn about: 1) the natural history and ecology of tropical ecosystems in Kenya (e.g., the large mammal and predators of savanna ecosystems—**biological diversity**); 2) the indigenous cultures and human relationships with Kenyan environments (e.g., Maasai, Kikuyu, Kamba, Taita—**cultural diversity**); and 3) conservation issues from interdisciplinary perspectives (e.g. adaptive collaborative management that works for local communities and natural ecosystems—**complex issues in the conservation of biodiversity**). Students will acquire both a basic and applied understanding of biodiversity in Kenya through field observations, conversations with field experts (researchers, guides, and local people), service activities with local communities, group discussions, field research, and outside readings.



DAY 1 – THURSDAY, MAY 13, HOME/SOME PLACE IN EUROPE- Our biodiversity study program to Kenya begins with an afternoon departure from our home areas. These flights will be booked in early February when the course is confirmed. During the trans Atlantic flight, the time clock changes quickly so be sure to get some sleep.

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, MAY 14, SOME PLACE IN EUROPE / NAIROBI- We arrive this morning Europe (London, Amsterdam) with approximately two hours in the terminal before boarding our flight to East Africa. This evening we land at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, clear customs and are met by our drivers and guides who transfer us to the **Boulevard Hotel**.

★ Note the flight itinerary is tentative until we secure the booking

DAY 3 – SATURDAY, MAY 15, NAIROBI /ROCKSIDE - Following breakfast at our hotel, we gather for a short pre-safari meeting at the hotel. Afterward we drive off the highlands surrounding Nairobi to the arid bushland of south central Kenya, home of the great Tsavo Ecosystem. Our accommodations are at **Rockside**, on a rocky hill over the *Acacia-Commiphora* bushland in a corridor between Tsavo East and West National Parks and near Mt. Kasigau, one of Kenya's oldest mountains and a global biodiversity hotspot. In the evening we will climb to the top of the rock for an orientation and introduction to the landscape and its vegetation.

DAYS 4-7-SUNDAY, MAY 16 THROUGH WEDNDAY, MAY 19. MT. KASIGAU --Some Possible Activities.

Local Ethnoflora and Local Livelihoods-We join local Kasigau Taita experts for a lesson on the essential skills to obtain and utilize plant resources and gain a local livelihood in an arid bushland environment. During this session, our guides may demonstrate the traditional method of fire making, the art of game tracking through bushland, and local farming systems. Along walking transects through different vegetation types, we will compile a survey of plant resources for foods, medicines, and other timber and non-timber uses.

Community Service- In order to encourage cross-cultural interaction between Kenyans and ourselves, we will work with a nearby village on a designated community service project. Negotiated through discussions with village representatives and participating schools, our work activity may include planting trees, painting a school, road maintenance, digging ditches for water pipelines.... Students from Miami University have helped to build one classroom, and worked on the restoration of several others. We will work with and spend the day with the Kasigau Taita people who live at the base of the mountain and share a community-prepared lunch at the school.

Wildlife Abundance and Diversity in the Tsavo Ecosystem- We will monitor the presence of elephants and other wildlife in the bushland surrounding Mt. Kasigau, and for one day will tour Tsavo East National Park-- How do these landscapes differ? What animals are unique to bushland and how do animals adapt to this very arid region. Of special interest is the very large population of elephants, their utilization of bushland resources, and their influence on human livelihoods. After a tour of the park, we will explore the local market center at Voi with its mixture of Taita, Maasai, Kikuyu, and other ethnic groups.

Mount Kasigau Expedition-Mount Kasigau, which rises to 5393' (1641 m) above sea level, dominates the landscape as the most northeastern and isolated mountain in the very ancient Eastern Arc Mountains. These mountains are recognized as a biodiversity hot spot because of their high species diversity and the occurrence of species that only occur on the mountains. Altitudinal changes are significant in vegetation cover from the deciduous *Acacia-Commiphora* bushland at the mountain's base, through a structurally diverse montane woodland, and to evergreen rainforest.

DAY 8- THURSDAY, 20 MAY, TRANSFER TO THE LANGATA CENTRE, EDUCATIONAL BASE FOR THE GREEN BELT MOVEMENT IN KENYA- We leave Rockside in the morning and climb back up to the Kenyan highlands surrounding Nairobi (place of cold water) and to the Langata Centre. At Langata, we may have an opportunity to stop by the national headquarters of the Kenya Wildlife Service and meet some of the professionals working on conservation in the country. Afterwards we join the The Green Belt Movement (GBM), one of Kenya's most prominent women's civil society organizations. Wangari Maathai began the grassroots organization in the 1970s and in 2004 won the Nobel Peace Prize for its success. The GBM advocates human rights and supports good governance and peaceful democratic change through the protection of the environment. Its mission is to empower communities worldwide to protect the environment and to promote good governance and cultures of peace.

DAYS 9 and 10- FRIDAY, MAY 21 and SATURDAY, MAY 22, GBM COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VILLAGE HOME STAYS- The morning will begin with briefings about the Green Belt Movement and a morning departure for our host community where we will settle in homes for interaction and lessons about village life. We are tentatively scheduled to stay in Kangundo, a Kamba village in the highlands east of Nairobi. The following morning after breakfast and chores, we will meet with GBM Network members who will share their experiences and outline the essential steps in a tree planting project. All projects provide civic education and work toward better resource and food security in local communities. We will assist members on their tree planting work or projects designed to improve local incomes. In the evening, as in any rural village, we will assist with the chores, such as collecting firewood, fetching water, and preparing dinner. Social interaction and overnight accommodations will be at the hosting homes.

DAY 11- SUNDAY, MAY 23, GBM COMMUNITY TO LAKE NAIVASHA- In the morning we will again assist with the chores, join our hosting families for breakfast, and depart for Lake Naivasha. On the way we drop off the escarpment and enter the Great Rift Valley. Lake Naivasha is one of the few freshwater lakes in the East African rift valley and the home of a great diversity of birds and other wildlife. The African Fish Eagle (similar to the Bald Eagle) is common here as are many ducks, shorebirds, herons, kingfishers, and storks. Nile Hippo spend their days partially submerged in the lake but will graze the grasses near our accommodations at nights and in the morning. We may even see the beautiful Black and White Colobus monkeys in the yellow-barked acacias near the lake shore. We will spend the day compiling our notes from the first part of the trip and exploring the biodiversity of this region. Our accommodations are at **Elsamere**, the former home of Joy Adamson, and now a conservation learning center on the lake.

DAY 12- MONDAY, MAY 24, LAKE NAIVASHA TO MASAI MARA- Following an early morning bird walk and breakfast at Elsamere, we depart on a four-hour drive across the floor of the Great Rift Valley and through the town of Narok to the Masai Mara Game Reserve and our accommodations for the

next three nights at **Base Camp Masai Mara**. On the way we will stop to view the past work activities of a Miami University Peace Corps volunteer in the regional center of Narok. Our tented camp in the Mara is situated near the Telek River on a Maasai Cooperative ranch just north of the reserve. Because of its close cooperation with the Maasai, this eco-certified camp provides great opportunities for cooperative learning and service activities about wildlife conservation and human livelihoods.

DAYS 13 & 14- TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 & 26, MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE-

We awaken before dawn to the morning chorus of birds, and head out to with our expert guides to find, photograph, observe and learn about the plants and wildlife of this incredible savanna ecosystem. "The Mara" is the northern extension of the Serengeti ecosystem-- famous for its concentration of grazing and browsing animals and predators - lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena. Our objective is to gain an understanding of the conditions and adaptations that permit specific groups of wildlife to thrive in this environment. We may rise early and have breakfast on the plains, or take lunch with us and spend the day away from camp.

We will also have opportunities to learn directly about the lives of the Maasai people from our camp staff, during a visit to a traditional Maasai village and local school, and through service work with the Maasai in the region. Maasai life revolves around their herds of cattle and other livestock. Their diet consists of milk, meat and blood. Hides provide clothing, containers, and mattresses for their bedding and sandals for their feet. Cow dung is used to plaster the walls of their homes and cattle are used to pay fines, establish marriage bonds and as sacrifices to their god Enkai. A common Maasai greeting is "Supa" or "I hope your cattle are well."

DAY 15- THURSDAY, MAY 27, MASAI MARA TO NAIROBI - We will depart the Mara on a morning game drive and return to Nairobi where we check into dayrooms at the Boulevard Hotel. In the afternoon, we will walk to the University of Nairobi where Miami University has a strong educational partnership with students and scholars in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Here we share our educational backgrounds and experiences at our respective universities. Afterwards, we will synthesize our learning from the trip and prepare for the evening departure back to the U.S.

DAY 16- FRIDAY, MAY 28 SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE / HOME. You arrive in the morning somewhere in Europe where you will depart for the U.S. With the time change your arrival to the U.S. often is only an hour different from our departure time. You will probably arrive during the mid afternoon to your home in the U.S. after a very long flight.



The proposed itinerary for the course will be coordinated with Origins Safaris and Green Belt Movement Safaris in Nairobi, Kenya. We also recognize the long-term support this program has had with World Discovery Safaris.

Miami University Study-Abroad-Biodiversity of Kenya 2010

Reservation Form (one form per participant).

You must meet or talk with Dr. Kim Medley before submitting a reservation form for this trip

Please reserve one space for me on Miami University's **16-day Biodiversity of Kenya** workshop (13 May – 28 May 2010). Enclosed is my **required deposit of \$200**. **YOU MUST DECIDE SOON**.

Make checks payable to **Miami University**.

I understand that the total land cost of this program is approximately \$1110 (or \$910 + \$200 reservation fee), plus international air to Nairobi (estimated at \$1600), plus my paid enrollment in the 6-credit workshop "Biodiversity of Kenya" (GEO/BOT 496/596; 6 credits), and that I will be sharing accommodations with others. We will purchase international air tickets to Nairobi as soon as the course is approved for 2010. These fees are contingent on the approval of the study program as a 6-credit course by Lifelong Learning and the curriculum committee at Miami University.

Name: _____

Nick Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Oxford Address: _____

Oxford Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ and/or your cell: _____

Passport # _____ Nationality: _____

Date of Issue: _____ Date of Expiration: _____

Authority (where your passport was processed): _____

Write your full name exactly as it is written on your passport:

Each passenger must have a passport. If you do not have a passport, write the name that you will provide on the passport application form. If you have a passport, provide us with a xerox copy.

* Please check the following options:

I would like to share a room with _____

I desire single accommodations, when available, (add \$270 to the program cost) _____

Special Dietary considerations (food allergies, vegetarian???) _____

* I want to depart from (which city/airport): _____

* My credit registration will be: **in state** **out of state**

Make your check payable to **Miami University** and send it (or bring it by) with this form to:
Kenya Study-Abroad (attn. Dr. Kim Medley)
Department of Geography, 216 Shideler Hall, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056, 513-529-5010