| QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY<br>Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology | |
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| **Course title** | Geography and ecology of tropical forests in Central Africa |
| **Course Number** | |
| **Instructor (s)** | Dr. Adrien Djomo (**djomoa@queensu.ca**) and Dr. Neal Scott (**neal.scott@queensu.ca**)<br>Department of Geography, Mackintosh Corry Hall, 68 University Avenue<br>Queen's University Kingston, ON, Canada K7L 3N6<br>Tel : 613 533-6000 ext. 78810 or 75915<br>Dr. Stephen Lougheed (**steve.lougheed@queensu.ca**)<br>Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6,<br>Phone: 613-533-6128 |
| **Dates** | 10 April – 23 August 2014. Exact dates may vary slightly, depending on flight availability. |
| **Location** | Cameroon, Central Africa. Cameroon is the world's 53rd largest country located in Central Africa which contains the second largest tropical forest in the world after Amazonia. Cameroon is sometimes described as "Africa in miniature" because it exhibits all the major climates and vegetation of the continent: mountains, desert, rain forest, savanna grassland, and ocean coastland. |
| **Cost** | Estimated $3950. Covers airfare from Toronto to Yaoundé Cameroon and costs in Cameroon including all land transportation, accommodation, food, and entrance fees to zoos and parks. Deposit of $250 required in your home institution. |
| **Prerequisites:** | One semester course in introductory field biology, ecology, or biogeography. |
| **Enrolment:** | 20 students |
| **Description:** | Cameroon is a stable English – French speaking country with a culture of management of various ecosystems. Cameroon is the host country of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and the UN project REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest degradation) for Central Africa. This field course will allow students to meet with the UN REDD+ authorities in Yaoundé, understand how the project REDD+ is implemented in Central Africa, and explore how REDD+ projects help mitigate global climate change.<br>Field work will involve measurements of forest ecosystem properties, including plant biomass, plant and animal biodiversity, and soil properties (physical, chemical, and biological) that influence forest ecosystem function. Students will then explore how these data are used as part of a REDD initiative, with some emphasis on the necessity of future measurements required as part of REDD initiatives. Students will also meet with local communities to see how they are linked with forest resources. The final days of the course will be spent exploring some of the diversity of ecosystems in this region, including grassland, woodland, steppe and semi-desert. Students will make observations during the trip about the role of disturbance on the biogeography of these ecosystems. |
| **Evaluation:** | Students are expected to read a recommended book on tropical forest ecology (to be determined) before the course. Graded word includes:<br>1. Pre-trip quiz (15%)<br>2. Field research presentation (25%)<br>3. Final project paper (40%) (due four weeks after trip)<br>4. Field books and participation (20%). |