

## Conservation, Development and Forestry in the Brazilian Amazon

Instructors: Jose Stape and Erin Sills

Two-part course:

1 credit mini-course in spring 2012 (5 weeks in March and April)

1 credit study tour in August 2012 (12 days in Brazil)

The Brazilian Amazon is the world's largest remaining area of moist tropical forest, globally important for its biodiversity, carbon storage, and hydrological functions. This forest also represents an important natural resource for Brazilian economic development, providing timber and land for ranching, crops, and potentially bioenergy. The conflict between economic development and environmental conservation, and the various efforts to reconcile the two, has kept the Amazon in the international spotlight. This is especially true with the growing concern about global climate change, which is both a result and potential cause of forest loss in the Amazon. Students will learn about these trade-offs and opportunities, through background readings and lectures in the mini-course and by visiting field sites, hearing from scientists working in the region, and interacting with Brazilians on the study tour.

Mini-course:

- Pre-requisite for the study tour and will cover background materials through lectures, readings, and student presentations. Students and instructors of mini-course will produce a “briefing notebook” for the study tour, covering topics from language to silviculture.
- Schedule and location of mini-course is TBA, based on availability of students and instructors.

Study tour:

- Tentative dates: August 3 – 14 in Brazil (additional day required for travel to and from Brazil)
- Itinerary: international flight from Miami to Manaus, domestic flight to Santarém, river boat to Monte Dourado (on the Jari River), depart from Belém back to Miami
- Students will be required to apply and pay a program fee through the Study Abroad Office. The fee will include all travel, lodging, and most meals in country. If all students are departing from Raleigh, we will arrange group airfare and include in program cost. Cost is TBD - we are still working on the budget.

Interested? Email Sarah [sswiener@ncsu.edu](mailto:sswiener@ncsu.edu) to be added to mailing list for registration information.



## Conservation, Development and Forestry in the Brazilian Amazon

The majority of people in the Brazilian Amazon now live in cities, including the two state capitals of Belém and Manaus. These are port cities, where forest products are central to the history, culture, and economy. In Manaus, we will explore this history (visiting museums housed in buildings constructed during the rubber boom), culture (visiting local markets for traditional forest products such as medicinal plants), and economy (visiting guaraná plantations). These cities are also home to important research institutions such as the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), government agencies such as Embrapa, and many non-governmental organizations that research and advocate for sustainable forest management (e.g., Imazon, Ipam).



Santarém is a smaller river town, which does not have as many museums and research institutions, but because it is smaller and quieter, students will be able to independently explore local markets and the active riverfront. We will also meet with NGOs and government agencies to discuss management of river fisheries and visit a protected area (the Tapajós National Forest).

Monte Dourado is a small company town with a population of just 12,000 and the headquarters of Jari Celulose SA. The 1.3 million hectare Jari project was founded in the 1960s by a US entrepreneur to produce rice, beef, and wood pulp (with a pulp mill floated over from Japan). The project now belongs to a Brazilian company (Orsa), which has invested in diverse sustainable development initiatives, as well as managing 52,000 hectares of highly productive eucalyptus plantations. Jari is the only commercial scale plantation operation in the Amazon. From Monte Dourado, students will also visit more traditional communities nearby, such as the town of Laranjal do Jari and its cooperative for processing Brazil nuts.

