

# International Issues in Natural Resource Management

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences  
Distance Learning  
FOWS 3015

## Instructors of Record

Dr. Wayde Morse  
Assistant Professor  
School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences  
Auburn University

Deanna Mathewson M.Sc.  
Education Director  
International Student Volunteers (ISV)

## Course Format/credit hours

3 credit hours will be given for successful completion of FOWS 3015. The class will include six 1½ -2 hour discussions/lectures on site *and* ten 8-hour days of service/educational contact with conservation and management organizations. All discussions/lectures and service/educational contact will occur in the host country.

## Course Description

Awareness of the importance of sustainable management of natural resources has increased significantly in the last several decades as a result of scientific research, media attention, and greater accountability and transparency of exploitative practices at global and regional scales. Local communities, governments, and international organizations have come to recognize that the Earth's natural resources are not inexhaustible and need to be protected and conserved in a proactive manner to ensure fundamental ecosystem functioning, as well as their persistence for generations to come. In support of these objectives, this two-week course examines contemporary natural and cultural resource management practices and conservation programs through national and international program placements. Students assist local organizations in attaining their specific conservation goals within ethnic heritage sites, protected areas, or managed lands during the two-week period. This course provides students with the opportunity to: 1) gain hands-on experience volunteering in support of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources; and 2) explore and learn about the host country, its people, cultures, and ecosystems. Through lectures, participatory discussions, exploration, and direct involvement in local conservation and natural resource management projects, this program introduces students to issues including sustainable community development, conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems, habitat restoration, threatened and endangered species recovery, and species inventories.

## Course Requirements/Evaluation

Students are expected to actively participate in all volunteer tasks activities undertaken by their host organization during the volunteer component of the program. Students will be evaluated based on satisfactory completion of all of the following criteria:

- A. Daily journal entries in a field notebook describing the student's activities, observations of environmental conditions and environmental management practices, and contacts with local resource persons (25% of grade).
- B. Participation in all regular group discussion/lecture classes during the two-week project, and leadership of one group discussion as directed by the ISV Instructor (25% of grade).

Participation involves actively participating in discussions by providing input and asking and answering questions in discussion class and during volunteer field activities.

- C. Documentation and evaluation by the ISV on-site Instructor of project results and student performance during the natural resource conservation volunteer project (10% of grade).
- D. A quality term paper describing the student's specific project and overall cultural and environmental lessons that also draws relevant information from assigned readings and additional published sources (40% of grade).

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>% of grade</u>
Daily Journal	25%
Group discussion/lectures	25%
On-Site student performance	10%
Term paper	40%
Total	100%

The standard grading scale will be used (i.e., 90-100% = A; 80-90% = B; 70-80% = C; 60-70% = D; <60% = F).