Field Courses in Tropical Ecology & Conservation

TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION



Why attend a TBA field course?

Field research skills are fundamental to a career in ecology and conservation, but opportunities to develop them are hard to come by. A TBA course provides that opportunity and complements your university studies by putting your academic knowledge into practice in an inspiring environment.

You will learn alongside students from across the world, sharing ideas and building friendships and professional connections that extend well beyond the course.

Our teachers are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and are an important source of inspiration and guidance. They help you discover the many paths a career in ecology and conservation can take as you consider your own next steps. Our courses also carry a recommendation for 10 ECTS credits, which may be recognised towards your university degree.

Completing a TBA course means joining a worldwide community of more than 2,600 alumni from over 90 countries. Many are now leading conservation projects, advancing research, shaping policy and inspiring the next generations. Through this network, you will have opportunities to stay connected, share experiences and develop collaborations throughout your career.

"The course has hastened my development as a scientist, and steered me in the right direction to realise my full potential." **Jamie Musgrove, UK**



"The TBA field course was a critical moment in my life. It inspired me to pursue a future in research and conservation. I have never looked back." **Caleb Ofori Boateng, Ghana**

What is a TBA field course like?

TBA's month-long courses are immersive, experiential and collaborative, and typically bring together students from at least 20 countries. You will frame questions together, test ideas in the field, and learn from the varied perspectives of a truly international cohort.

You will study in some of the world's most biodiverse habitats, exploring their fascinating flora and fauna and developing the observation skills that are fundamental to being a good ecologist. Each course is taught by a multi-disciplinary group of leading academics and practitioners from the host country and internationally.

You will develop your ability to frame ecological questions and approach problem-solving through a series of practical field exercises. These are designed by teachers around their specialist subjects, which might range from plant or animal ecology to pollination and bioacoustics. This means that every course is different, shaped by the interests and experience of the people teaching it.

A major component of the course is the opportunity to design and carry out your own independent field research. Working in pairs, you will ask a research question, devise methods, analyse the data, and present your findings in a scientific paper and seminar.

By the end of the course, you will have experienced the full ecological project cycle, developing the practical skills, critical thinking and confidence to undertake independent ecological research.





"The unique combination of hands-on learning in such an extraordinary environment, alongside participants from diverse countries, offered endless opportunities to grow and learn." **Fabian Gnadlinger, Austria**

Who are the courses for?

TBA field courses are open to early-career biologists at advanced undergraduate or early postgraduate level. Applicants should have completed at least three years of a biological sciences degree, have a strong interest in tropical ecology and conservation, and be comfortable communicating in English.

For details of upcoming courses, application deadlines and scholarship opportunities, visit tropical-biology.org

For any queries, please contact Frazer Sinclair at courses@tropical-biology.org.

"TBA shaped my career in research – it is how I learned to design a project and present the results and gave me a network that helped with my career success." **Dr Margaret Owuour, Kenya**

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