

Conservation and Culture in East Africa
Colorado College, Summer Session
Block B, June 29 to July 21, 2001

**Instructors: Dr. Bruce Byers, Visiting Professor,
& Dr. Marc Snyder, Assistant Professor, Biology**

Course Description

The savannas of eastern Africa are known throughout the world for their spectacular wildlife. The heart of this ecoregion is the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Tanzania, which protect the last major migratory herd of wildebeest in Africa, along with associated predators such as lion, cheetah, leopard, and wild hunting dogs. These conservation areas are a magnet for nature tourism from throughout the world, and thus a major economic resource for Tanzania. They were established during the colonial era within the traditional territory of the Maasai, an ethnic group of cattle-herding pastoralists. It has often been noted that one of the reasons that wildlife survived in such spectacular numbers in Maasai country is because their pastoral lifestyle is compatible with wildlife.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which encompasses the Ngorongoro Crater highlands on the southeastern edge of the Serengeti Plain, is a multiple-use conservation area, set aside to protect both the wildlife that attract tourists and the pastoral lifestyle of the Maasai who live there. This multiple-use conservation concept is seen by some people as a model for conservation in Africa, but making it work well has proven to be very difficult. Because of its complexity, Ngorongoro is an ideal place to learn about the key issues and challenges of conservation in Africa.

We will depart from the US on an evening flight on Friday, 29 June, and fly to Nairobi, Kenya, via London. After arriving in Nairobi on the morning of 1 July, we will travel directly to the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka, in northern Tanzania, just south of Mt. Kilimanjaro. At Mweka we will have two days of orientation and introduction to East African conservation issues by faculty from both Mweka College and the Colorado College before we begin our field-study safari.

The outdoor classroom and learning laboratory for this course will include the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and nearby Serengeti, Lake Manyara, and Tarangire National Parks in northern Tanzania, and Amboseli National Reserve and neighboring Maasai lands in Kenya just north of Mt. Kilimanjaro. We will investigate some of the fundamental ecological and social issues involved in protecting and sustainably managing the natural resources of this region. We will meet park and conservation area managers, local Maasai herders, foreign tourists, representatives of international conservation organizations, and tour operators to learn about their views. We will experience firsthand the wonder and beauty of this unique place as we learn about it.

Itinerary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place/Activity</u>	<u>Overnight Lodging</u>
29 June	Depart Denver on evening flight	On plane
30 June	Arrive London AM, depart London PM	On plane
1 July	Arrive Nairobi AM, drive to Mweka College	Mweka College
2 July	Mweka, Classroom Orientation	Mweka College
3 July	Mweka, Classroom Orientation	Mweka College
4 July	Drive to Kwakuchinja, Field Orientation	Kwakuchinja - camp
5 July	Kwakuchinja Field Work	Kwakuchinja - camp
6 July	Kwakuchinja Field Work	Kwakuchinja - camp
7 July	Tarangire NP, game viewing drives	Tarangire Safari Lodge
8 July	Tarangire, Mto Wa Mbu, to Karatu	Kudu Camp - camp
9 July	Ngorongoro Crater, game viewing drive	Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge
10 July	Ngorongoro, speak to people	Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge
11 July	Ngorongoro, Nainokanoka, to Empakai	Empakai - camp
12 July	Empakai, hike into crater	Empakai - camp
13 July	To Serengeti NP, afternoon game viewing drive	Seronera Wildlife Lodge
14 July	Serengeti NP, game viewing drives	Seronera Wildlife Lodge
15 July	To Arusha, stop at Olduvai Gorge	Arusha - camp
16 July	To Amboseli, game viewing drives	Serena Lodge
17 July	Amboseli, game viewing, Maasai visits	Serena Lodge
18 July	To Nairobi, dinner at Carnivore Restaurant	Landmark Hotel
19 July	Nairobi NGO visits, Nairobi NP	Landmark Hotel
20 July	Vacate rooms, classroom for day, evening flight	On plane
21 July	Arrive Denver via London	

Reading

Required:

In the Dust of Kilimanjaro. David Western. 1997. Island Press/Shearwater Books: Washington, D.C. (paperback, approx. \$19.95)

The Worlds of a Maasai Warrior: An Autobiography. Tepilit Ole Saitoti. 1986. Random House: New York. (paperback, approx. \$15.95)

Plus selected chapters from *Serengeti II* (see full citation below), in a photocopied reading packet.

Recommended/Additional Background:

Into Africa. Craig Packer. 1994. University of Chicago Press: Chicago & London.

Out of Africa and Shadows on the Grass. Isak Dinesen. 1985. Vintage Books: New York.

Serengeti II: Dynamics, Management, and Conservation of an Ecosystem. A.R.E. Sinclair & Peter Arcese (editors). 1995. University of Chicago Press: Chicago & London. (selected articles will be copied in a required reading packet).

The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals. Richard D. Estes. 1993. Chelsea Green Publishing Company: White River Junction, Vermont.

Biographical Sketch
Dr. Bruce Byers, Visiting Professor

Bruce Byers is a consultant in conservation and natural resources management based in Washington, D.C. He splits his time between domestic and international consulting, and his clients have included conservation organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund and The Nature Conservancy, and government agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Agency for International Development. Since 1996, Bruce has taught eight blocks at Colorado College as a Visiting Professor of Environmental Science or Biology. In the summer of 1999 he co-taught a 2-block field course in Zimbabwe with Professor Walt Hecox of CC's Economics Department. The course dealt with issues of wildlife conservation, ecotourism, and sustainable development.

Bruce received an undergraduate degree from Stanford University, and a Master's and Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Colorado. He was on the faculty of the University of Colorado for 12 years before moving to Washington, D.C. From 1992 to 1994 he was an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow in the US Agency for International Development in Washington. In 1997 he was a senior Fulbright Scholar at the Centre for Applied Social Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe, where he carried out research on community-based conservation. He has worked professionally in more than 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America. He is the author of many articles, reports and books dealing with ecology, conservation, and the human and social dimensions of natural resources management.

Travel and Health Information for Kenya and Tanzania

Kenya and Tanzania are relatively poor, developing countries, and in all such countries travellers must be informed and prepared in order to travel safely and stay healthy. With the proper preparation, however, you will be able to fully enjoy this unique and spectacular part of the world. The economies of both Kenya and Tanzania depend heavily on wildlife tourism, and their governments go out of their way to maintain safe conditions for foreign tourists.

The U.S. State Department monitors the political, economic, and health situation in these (and all) countries, and issues tips and advisories for U.S. travellers planning to visit them. You can find this information on the World Wide Web at:

Tips for Travellers to Sub-Saharan Africa

<http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/ERC/travel/travelinfo/9409travelinfo.html>

Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets

http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html

Kenya Consular Information Sheet

<http://travel.state.gov/kenya.html>

Tanzania Consular Information Sheet

<http://travel.state.gov/tanzania.html>

The Centers for Disease Control provide medical and health information for travellers at:

Health Information for Travellers to East Africa

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eafrica.html>