

# COURSE DETAIL

## TROPICAL ECOLOGY

**Country**

Netherlands

**Host Institution**

Maastricht University - Center for European Studies

**Program(s)**

Biological and Life Sciences, Maastricht

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Biological Sciences

**UCEAP Course Number**

123

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

TROPICAL ECOLOGY

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

TROPICAL ECOLOGY

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## Course Description

Tropical forests are amongst the most species-rich biomes in the world. Yet, our understanding of their evolution, functioning, and development is far from complete. There are three main tropical rainforest areas, the Neotropics (Central and South America), Africa, and Asia, but this course mainly focuses on the Neotropics. The course examines what defines the tropical region, the differences, and similarities between the three large blocks of rainforest, and investigates the structure and biodiversity of tropical rainforests. The development of tropical forests, how biodiversity changes over time (ecologically and evolutionarily), and how trophic levels work within these forests are also reviewed. Furthermore, the role of tropical forests in relation to climate change and global carbon cycling is investigated, and a link between tropical savannas and dry tropical forests is made. Finally, the IUCN red list is investigated as well as the different dimensions (e.g., biological, cultural, and political) of nature conservation in tropical areas.

### Language(s) of Instruction

English

### Host Institution Course Number

BIO3007

### Host Institution Course Title

TROPICAL ECOLOGY

### Host Institution Campus

Maastricht University

### Host Institution Faculty

### Host Institution Degree

### Host Institution Department

Maastricht Science Programme

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