Organization for Tropical Studies

Tropical Forest Restoration in Costa Rica

Short Course
Las Cruces Biological Station & Wilson Botanical Garden
August 12 - 21, 2018

Course Summary

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) is offering an exciting 10-day intensive tropical forest restoration course in the spectacular setting of the highlands of southern Costa Rica. This course exposes you to cutting edge research and allows you to engage with local and international leading experts in the field. You will learn about ecological, financial, and socio-political components of forest restoration and discuss aspects of the scale of restoration projects and the challenges facing their implementation. During this course, we will explore successful restoration projects, engage quality science that guides and accompanies them, and work hands-on with local restoration research efforts.

Las Cruces Biological Station & Wilson Botanical Garden

Las Cruces Research Station, a biological station famous for research in tropical forest restoration and conservation in rural and agricultural landscapes, will be the home base for the course. Las Cruces contains the spectacular Wilson Botanical Garden, one of the leading botanical gardens in Central America and a center for local environmental education. Side trips from the station will highlight restoration projects and provide memorable experiences of other nearby ecosystems.

Instructors

Rebecca Cole, PhD - is the director of both Las Cruces and Palo Verde Biological Stations in Costa Rica (OTS) and is also research faculty at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Rebecca has family roots in Southern Costa Rica and extensive experience working in Central and South America and Hawaii where her research examines ways to restore degraded ecosystems and develop sustainable land management strategies. She earned her PhD from the University of California - Santa Cruz studying ways to restore degraded agricultural lands back to forest to near Las Cruces. As a Research Faculty member of the University of Hawaii – Manoa, she set up a large-scale research project studying ecosystem structure and function following removal of nonnative ungulates. In 2012, Rebecca received an NSF Fellowship to work at the University of Colorado at Boulder where she led projects measuring forest succession dynamics on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula. She also cofounded a nonprofit organization, the American Climber Science Program, which has carried out research on effects of climate change in high mountain ecosystems in the tropical Andes.

Amanda Wendt, PhD - is the Education and Research Liaison at OTS and is based at La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica. She earned her PhD from the University of Connecticut, where she studied tropical forest regeneration and ecology. She has extensive experience as a researcher, professor and educator, restoration project manager, conservation professional, land manager, and a mentor to students and community leaders. Prior to joining the OTS, Amanda directed a wildlife refuge in Sarapiquí, Costa Rica, where she led a large restoration program with small parcel owners, a multinational corporation, and government institutions. Amanda's interests include forest landscape restoration, integrated landscape management, plant-animal interactions (especially mammals and seed dispersal), patterns of seedling regeneration, forest disturbance, resilience, and how ecosystem health affects human well-being.

Cost

$2,500*

*Includes lodging, meals and transportation in Costa Rica. (Does not include flight to Costa Rica)

Who Should Apply

We welcome participants from all disciplines and career paths. This course is for anyone interested in tropical forest landscape restoration. No previous education experience necessary. You must be at least 18 years old.

Application Instructions

1. Complete online registration

2. Please send a deposit of $200 to:

Organization for Tropical Studies
Attn: Enrollment Management - Short Courses
PO Box 90630
Durham, NC 27708-0630

Questions: education@tropicalstudies.org or call (919) 684-5155