Course Overview
Habitat destruction threatens wildlife existence worldwide. While preserving tropical forests is a necessity for biological conservation, this must be coupled with other conservation strategies to provide a sustainable solution for wildlife conservation. Coffee agroforestry, the intentional management of shade trees within coffee farms, has shown promise as a conservation strategy to support wildlife diversity. This course explores the relationship of coffee agroforestry and wildlife conservation. We will examine coffee farms as habitat through case studies, learn about socio-economics and environmental issues associated with coffee, and assess coffee certifications such as shade grown, organic, Rainforest Alliance, and Smithsonian Bird Friendly®.

Student assessment
This will be based on the following:
- Attendance, knowledge of course readings, and class discussion participation
- Weekly assignments
- Final presentation or paper (for distance learning students)

Useful resources about coffee
Websites
Coffee and Conservation, Are your beans for the birds? www.coffeehabitat.com
International Coffee Organization www.ico.org
Daily Coffee News by Roast Magazine www.dailycoffeenews.com
Specialty Coffee Association of America www.scaa.org

Books


Schedule

Week 1 - October 9: Introduction to Coffee Agroforestry

Required readings:

Recommended but optional:

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Week 2 - October 16: Agroforestry as a Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Required readings:


Recommended but optional:

Assignment:
Summary of readings and class discussion questions

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Week 3 - October 23: Case Studies of Coffee Farms as Habitat for Wildlife

Required readings:


Recommended but optional:


Assignment:
Summary of readings and class discussion questions.
Submit selected paper or presentation topic.

Week 4 - October 30: Socio-economics and Environmental Issues Associated with Coffee
Required readings:


Recommended but optional:

Assignment:
Summary of readings and class discussion questions.

Week 5 - November 6: Coffee Certifications and Class Presentations

Required readings:


Recommended but optional:


Assignment:
Summary of readings and class discussion questions.
Final presentation or paper due.
Dr. Amanda Caudill is currently a postdoctoral research scientist at the Smithsonian Institute and is an alumni of the CERC certificate program. She is interested in sustainable agriculture as a means to provide wildlife habitat, foster ecosystem services, and conserve biodiversity, while simultaneously providing for human livelihoods. Her current research focuses on enhancing habitat value of coffee agroforestry for mammals. She has conducted field work in coffee farms of India, Costa Rica, and Mexico.