

Six Uon Students Set To Benefit From Three Weeks Field Study Experience

Six students from the University of Nairobi (UoN) are set to benefit from three weeks field study organized by the University of Nairobi's Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies in collaboration with the University of Michigan (UoM). The joint field study experience titled: "Conservation and Development in Cultural Landscapes" will be held from 3rd to 15th August 2013 and will be based in and around two conservation landscapes in Kenya (Maasai Mara and Laikipia).

The field study is designed to enable students from a variety of different academic backgrounds to explore the intersections between conservation and development, particularly the socio-political and ecological dimensions that strongly influence the development process and conservation outcomes. Likewise, a good portion of the course will be aimed toward making students familiar with the research process and developing their ability to carry out research effectively. Formal lessons will be drawn from both natural science and social science understandings. The field course relies on a multi-disciplinary approach to understand and evaluate some of these processes using a comparative analysis framework.

The experiential learning exercise has been organized in line with CSDES main objectives for supporting:

- Development of enhanced capacity of students and faculty to address the problems of dryland ecosystems and societies in Kenya
- Comparative, trans-disciplinary approach in addressing the development and sustainability needs of dryland communities

The six beneficiaries will be expected to write a report at the end of the field course and present it for assessment by the Centre management team.