



Tropical Cloud Forest On-line Course for K-12 Teachers November 3-30, 2003

More information and registration at:
www.coexploration.org/biodiversity

Tropical cloud forests include some of the most captivating, mysterious and still unexplored regions of our planet. Though rare on a global scale, a large fraction of Earth's biodiversity can be found in these habitats. Their beauty and intrigue draw ecotourists and researchers to cloud forest sites. To local people, they are sacred mountains, places of retreat, and critical sources of water during dry seasons.

This course is geared towards K-12 educators and interested adults. It will introduce the geographic and climatic conditions that produce cloud forests, present current scientific views on their biodiversity, and discuss their conservation. While the first three weeks will use cloud forests as a learning tool to understand the fundamentals of ecology and evolution, the last week will discuss the relationships among economics, natural resources, population and the environment. The main content will be presented as PowerPoint slides synchronized with audio and notes. Questions and discussions will take place in an easy to use on-line environment.

The course has been developed by a research scientist with over 10 years of experience in tropical cloud forests around the world. While the technology used will be highly graphical, and integrate voice and text, it will still be accessible to those with slow internet connections. All interested teachers are welcome. The presentations will introduce concepts so that those with little science background can participate, and will also include many novel ideas so that experienced highschool teachers will benefit too.

