

News from the Field

Turning literature into reality - tales from a Bangor University MSc Tropical Forestry summer school in Ghana

In the summer of 2015, 29 students (from 15 different countries) on the MSc Tropical Forestry (distance learning) programme at Bangor University embarked on a unique and shared learning experience, culminating in an intensive two week residential summer school in the forests of Ghana. Twenty-four of these students are from developing commonwealth countries and are grateful recipients of scholarships from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission.

Ghana was chosen as the focus for this tropical forestry summer school for a number of reasons: English speaking; democratic and politically stable; with a relatively long history of forest research; a wide range of tropical forest habitats; a reputation for progressive forest management and community

The second week of the summer school gave students the opportunity to implement the research proposals they had planned previously. Working closely with researchers and field staff from the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), students conducted five different research projects, with topics ranging from forest regeneration and ecology, to herbicide use in agroforestry systems, the bamboo supply chain, silvicultural standards in the Bobiri forest reserve, and forest inventory/growth modelling. Students had the opportunity to base themselves either at the beautiful Bobiri forest reserve and butterfly sanctuary, or within the FORIG compound in Kumasi where they could access facilities and other research organisations. The students presented the results of these studies on the final day of the summer school at the FORIG headquarters in Kumasi, in the company of a number of FORIG research staff (Figure 4).

Reflecting on the contrast between the literature and the reality, perhaps the greatest surprise related to bamboo. Some literature suggested that there was a notabs.nou The 9 TwTJT6.00920563.0286 Twhe bao hycnotits oforestry

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