DISCOVERING THE CANOPY

2do International Course in Canopy Access
for the Investigation and Conservation of Neotropical Forests
August 8 al 14 de 2021
Neotropical forests are among the most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems on the planet, yet their conservation has been hindered by the need to train and equip more biologists from tropical countries.

In response to this need, Fundación Alianza Natural ("FAN") Colombia in association with Canopy Watch developed in August 2021 the “2nd International Course in Canopy Access for the Investigation and Conservation of Neotropical Forests framed in the program DISCOVERING THE CANOPY."
OBJECTIVES

Provide the necessary technical knowledges that allows researchers to make the selection of the appropriate equipment for access to the canopy.

Promote awareness and interest in the ecology, research and conservation of the canopy of Neotropical Forest through the design and implementation of a communication campaign that makes visible the importance of this biological stratum and its biodiversity.

Train researchers and scientist from central and south America in efficient, safe and innovative techniques of tree climbing for the development of scientific research in the canopy of the Neotropical Forest.

Manage the approach between canopy researchers by forming networks at national and international level and providing technical and scientific support in the short, medium and long term for the development of canopy science in the Neotropics.
PREPARATORY

phase
selection of INSTRUCTORS
Ph.D. in Biology from Louisiana State University. Researcher of Neotropical forest canopy ecology for more than 20 years with multiple publications in scientific journals. Teaches tree climbing in the US and Latin America, publishes educational blogs on canopy ecology and access.
Arborist since graduating from high school in 1996.

Over the past 10 years, Kevin has developed specific tools for rope climbing, such as rope wrench, rope runner, Quickie and Rigging wrench.
EMMETT LAWRENCE

Studied Forestry with an emphasis in Arboriculture from the University of Washington

He’s a professional arborist in the city of Bellingham, Washington, with experience in landscape restoration. He has a keen interest in the conservation of natural spaces and biodiversity.
B.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Brigham Young University and the University of Rochester. Professional Arborist and owner of Piedmont Tree Climbing

Has taught more than 1,500 people to climb safely in the canopy including researchers, arborists, and recreational climbers

Has facilitated promotions for National Geographic, the North Carolina State Park System and the University of North Carolina.
Professional arborist since 2004 in the state of Washington.

Professional competitor in tree climbing and champion in several regional divisions (Seattle and California states), national (Mexican champion), and international (Latin American champion) tree climbing.
National and international organization for the planning, structuring, and execution of DISCOVERING THE CANOPY allowed coordination among 15 organizations from 5 countries, which offered support of varying types for the development of the event.

Organizers

USA
Canopy Watch

Colombia
Fundación Alianza Natural

Conventions
- management
- Logistics
- Equipment
- Advertising
- Training
- Budget
## Donors

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<td>Fondation Petzl</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>The Rufford Foundation</td>
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<td>Raptor Aid (scholarships)</td>
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<td>USA</td>
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<td>Canadá</td>
<td>NuGreen</td>
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evaluation and selection of ESTUDENTS
STATISTICS

Registration
- Colombia: 76
- Ecuador: 11
- Peru: 11
- Honduras: 9
- Argentina: 40
- Mexico: 3
- Costa Rica: 4
- Guatemala: 4
- Salvador: 5
- Bolivia: 1

Estudnets
- Colombia: 20
- Ecuador: 10
- Peru: 10
- Honduras: 5
- Argentina: 3
- Mexico: 3
- Costa Rica: 2
- Guatemala: 2
- Salvador: 1
- Bolivia: 1

Estudies
- Undergraduate: 13
- Specialization: 5
- Master's degree: 1
- PhD: 1

Biodiversity groups
- Mammals: 2
- Birds: 4
- Herpetos: 5
- Fauna: 5
- Flora: 4

Gender
- Male: 29%
- Female: 71%

Level Education
- General flora: 1
- Epiphites: 1

Careers
- Biology: 2
- Forest eng.: 3
- Social communicator: 2
- Environmental eng.: 1
- Ecotourism: 1
| Colombia       | Ecorquídeas Seedbed of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali  
|               | University of Antioquia  
|               | CES University  
|               | EAFIT University  
|               | Project Large Birds of Prey Colombia  
|               | Ecology and Plant Diversity Research Group of the Universidad del Valle  
|               | ECOCLIMA research seedbed of the Tecnológico de Antioquia.  
|               | El Globo Nature Reserve  
| Ecuador       | Charles Darwin Foundation  
|               | PUCE  
|               | Third Millennium Alliance Foundation  
|               | Mindo Cloudforest Foundation  
| Perú          | Cesar Vallejo University  
|               | Rio Abiseo National Park  
|               | Continental University of Huancayo  
| Honduras      | National Autonomous University of Honduras  
|               | LINKED ORGANIZATIONS |
INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

Donanors
USA
UK
Canadá
Francia

Instructors
USA
México

Estudents
Colombia
Ecuador
Perú
Honduras

Registrations
México
Honduras
Costa Rica
Guatemala
El Salvador

Colombia
Ecuador
Perú
Bolivia
Argentina
EXECUTION phase
Course Opening
Introduction to the tree climbing
Lateral Movements

Module 3

Lateral Movements
Module 4

Advanced Movements
Air Rescue & Closure
DISCLOSURE

phase
A promotional video was made which was published on the YouTube channel of the Alianza Natural Colombia Foundation and Canopy Watch International.

Video en **Spanish**

[Watch the Spanish video](www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_4PbpVJIDg)

Video en **English**

[Watch the English video](www.youtube.com/watch?v=0545TZQnXrQ)

Scan the QR code to watch the videos
Webinars

Webinars were also held on access to the canopy for biological research processes, in which the course DISCOVERING THE DOSEL 2021 was announced.

Between all the productions there are more than 3000 reproductions.
IMPACTS

Construction of cooperation agreements between Fundacion Alianza Natural Colombia and Universities and researches for the development of activities to strengthen rising capacities and canopy research.

Creation of new research groups and chairs of canopy ecology in universities.

Generation and construction of academic spaces on the canopy and its ecology with academic and university community.
Direct support to the Grandes Rapaces Colombia Project which implements Access to the canopy for the monitoring of harpy Eagle nests and 6 more species of large raptors.

Design and implementation of research and monitoring stations of canopy biodiversity in the high Andean forest of the western mountain range and the tropical humid forest of the Colombian choco.

Strengthening of the Canopy Colombia network

Support to film documentation activities in conservation projects and transfer of epiphytes.
Learn how Discovering the Canopy 2021 continues to contribute to the personal and professional growth of students.
“It allowed me to learn techniques to be able to access my objectives in the canopy in the safest and most practical way”.

Juan Pablo Sanda, Colombia

“One of the most incredible experiences of my life I had in the course Discovering the Canopy in its 2nd. edition. In the Río Claro Nature Reserve”.

Camilo Chica, Colombia

“Being part of Discovering the Canopy allowed me to dream higher, to acquire technical knowledge to ascend safely”.

Viviana Yanez, Ecuador

“Thanks to the highly qualified instructors, their humility inspired me much more than I thought when I arrived at that place called “Reserva Río Claro”.

Andy Salazar, Ecuador
"What I felt the most at the end of the course was gratitude, since I learned everything I aspired to and much more".

Moises tenorio, Ecuador

"I will never forget the feeling of starting to climb, advance little by little, look at the goal from above until reaching the glass and Boom the magic happens!"

Gaby Inga, Perú

"The people I met there, both students and instructors, now friends, have left me several lessons."

David Auz, Ecuador
“Thank you very much Fundación Alianza Natural, Canopy watch, instructors and colleagues for this incredible experience”.

Yudy Gallego, Colombia

“The course motivated me even more to continue protecting and recovering the forests”.

Nicanor Mejia, Ecuador

“Having participated in this great course has great meaning for me, as a biologist and as a person.”

Gabriela Torres, Colombia
CONTACT

South America  
(Espanish)

Luis Felipe Barrera  
lfbarrera@alianzanatural.org  
+(57) 320-800-1319

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North America  
(Espanish/English)

David L. Anderson  
canopywatchglobal@gmail.com  
+(1) 208-392-2979
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