



# KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2011/2012

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR  
OF SCIENCE (CONSERVATION BIOLOGY)

**SCB 203: TROPICAL RAINFOREST ECOLOGY**

DATE: Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2012

TIME: 8.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Answer **ALL** questions in Section A and any **ONE** question in Section B. Answers in Section A should be written in the spaces provided in the question paper.

REG. NO:.....

**SECTION A:** Short answer questions (5 marks each)

1. State the main characteristics of tropical forests

2. a) Define environmental stress.

- b) List the main categories of environmental stress in a tropical rainforest.
3. Describe in brief the process of gap creation and gap regeneration in a tropical rainforest.
4. State the main soil types in tropical rainforest and their characteristics.

5. Explain briefly nutrient conserving mechanisms in tropical rainforests.

6. Compare and contrast a tropical rainforest and a temperate forest.

7. Briefly describe threats to biodiversity in tropical rainforests.

8. State and explain the functions of a forest.

**SECTION B: Essays (Marks: 30)**

Write an essay on **ANY ONE** of the following topics:

1. Phenology in tropical rainforests.
2. Herbivory and plant defense mechanisms.
3. Productivity and energy flow in tropical rainforests.