The Savegre: Completing the Case Study

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Introductions
History of the Case Study

Summer 2014: Tropical Ecology Course
• San Gerardo de Dota – from dairy to thriving eco-tourist location

ONU College of Arts and Sciences research grant

Summer 2015: Traveled to Costa Rica to document the story of a transition to sustainability – as told originally by the Finkenbinder and Chacon families.
San Gerardo de Dota
The Writing Process

Upon return from Costa Rica –

• We had many resources at our fingertips, including our field notes, video interviews with the families and trail videos filmed with a GoPro.

Created characters and a storyline: 5 students planning the “most spectacular spring break ever”

Created an instructional PowerPoint, teaching notes & answer key
Summary of the Story

*Part I:* 5 students plan the “most spectacular spring break ever”

*Part II:* An article, “The Chainsaw and the White Oak”, leads them to San Gerardo de Dota

*Part III:* The students meet Marino, the eldest son of Efrain and Caridad Chacon, and learn firsthand the story of a transition to sustainability.

*Part IV:* A “Tail” to Remember!
The Case

How will the case study work in the classroom?
• 2 days, in-class activities and homework

Day One: Read Part I
• Interactive reading of The Savegre: A Model of Sustainability

Homework: Read Parts II, III, IV & “The Chainsaw and the White Oak”

Day Two: PowerPoint presentation, in-class questions, “exit slip”
• PowerPoint & exit slip examples
SUNY Buffalo, National Center for Case Studies in Science
Repository for field tested cases in all areas of science

The case was sent in to be reviewed for publishing...
Revisions and Resubmission

We received word back from SUNY Buffalo, with requests for revision:
• Restructured teaching notes, revised PowerPoint and added content

Teaching Notes
  Introduction
  Classroom Management
  Slide Descriptions
  Blocks of Analysis

Answer Key
Current Status

Beginning of 2018 – revisions were submitted!

Awaiting committee approval
Publication following approval
Lessons Learned

• Easier to use them than to write them!
• We covered a lot of history and content with respect to biology, ecology, weather, flora and fauna... but not all have to be so content laden.
LINKS:

QERC: http://qerc.snu.edu/

The Chainsaw & the White Oak: http://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=biol_facp

Center For Case Study Teaching in Science: http://sciencecases.lib.buffalo.edu/cs/

Dr. Leo Finkenbinder: https://finkenbinder.wordpress.com/#jp-carousel-119
References


Borsari, Bruno. The Ecological Footprint Dilemma, Biology Department Winona State University, 2009


Interviews with Chacons, Summer 2015, San Gerardo de Dota, Costa Rica

Interviews with Finkenbinders, Summer 2015, San Gerardo de Dota, Costa Rica

http://www.canopyintheclouds.com/learn/ May 4, 2017

http://www.konacloudforest.com/tropical-cloud-forest/ May 9, 2017

www.costarica-embassy.org/?q=node/12/ May 10, 2017
