

Ecology: media presentation CD-ROM

By Biozone

Reviewed by Sue Howarth, Institute of Education, University of Worcester, UK

Next year, I hope to take a small group of students, aged 15-18, to Iquitos in Peru, where we will board a boat to take us up the Amazon to study the rainforest. So I was particularly interested to see that Iquitos is featured in the *Introduction to Ecosystems* series of slides on *Ecology*, a media presentation CD-ROM.

The Amazonian rainforest is just one of many ecosystems featured on this comprehensive resource. There is a bias towards Australia and New Zealand – not surprising, given that the publisher, Biozone, is a New Zealand company. However, all the sets of slides are easily edited, so any extraneous material can be removed and the excellent pictures and information tailored to fit specific courses.

The set of slides with the largest amount of material is the one addressing human impact (see full contents list on page 95). This includes eutrophication, biological oxygen demand, global warming, integrated pest management and bioaccumulation.

Each set of slides consists of a colourful and informative PowerPoint® presentation. Sometimes the slides have too much text, so a judicious pruning in advance could make them more accessible to a class.

The slide sets have been “produced to complement the student resource and activity manuals” and are recom-



mended for use as overhead transparencies (although, for this purpose, I would reduce the level of detail on many slides); with a digital projector; on school computer networks (the site licence is included); and with an interactive whiteboard (although I'm not convinced of the interactivity of most of the slides).

Ecology is a key part of all biology studies and these slide shows could be modified to fit many age groups. As they are, they are probably a little more detailed than necessary for

England's A-level requirements (ages 16-18).

There are restrictions with this CD-ROM. You may not print handouts for students, even if you modify the slides to fit your own lesson. This is a real drawback, as without notes, students will want to copy the information on the slides and thus slow down the pace of a lesson.

Overall, *Ecology* is a useful source of visual information that could help teachers to provide a sound course, and help students to appreciate some

of the concepts of ecology, as long as the theory was supplemented with practical work. I recommend this CD-ROM for anyone with a generous budget who teaches a biology course with an ecological component.

Resources

For information about all the Biozone resources, including workbooks, podcasts, RSS newsfeeds, links to other selected sites, presentation files and free samples, see: www.thebiozone.com

For information about the *Ecology* CD-ROM and other presentation media, as well as details of buying CD-ROMs in bundles (which can work out cheaper if you buy more than one), see www.thebiozone.com/media.php. Note that prices are given in US\$.

For more information about the *Ecology* CD-ROM, including details of the separate PowerPoint files, the cost of the disc for European, Australian and New Zealand customers, as well as contact details, see: www.thebiozone.com/media/ec.php

Full contents

- Introduction to ecosystems (64 slides)
- The ecological niche (69 slides)
- Populations and interactions (74 slides)
- Practical ecology (62 slides)
- Communities (66 slides)
- Biodiversity and conservation (78 slides)
- Human impact (134 slides)

Details

Publishers: Biozone

Publication date: 2005 (Version 1.0)

The CD-ROM requires a Windows or Mac computer with a CD-ROM drive. Slide shows can be run using PowerPoint®, Keynote® or QuickTime® or Adobe Acrobat® PDF. Technical support is available at support@biozone.co.nz

Ordering

Distributed by Biozone International Ltd.
PO Box 13-034, Hamilton, New Zealand

For European sales, email: sales@biozone.co.uk

Price: €189.95 (individual PowerPoint presentations can be purchased separately: e.g. *Populations and Interactions* costs about €28)

