



Alone in the Rainforest

“NEED ANYTHING ELSE? Okay then, I’ll see you in the morning. God is your body-guard.” The caretaker walked away into the night and left me alone in the Kakamega Rainforest in western Kenya.

I knew I was in for an adventure when I made a site visit to my student intern Jamie Pottern, who was working on educational programs for local residents about rainforest conservation. But I hadn’t figured that the adventure would include a night alone in a *banda* (a traditional mud hut).

Usually the four surrounding bandas were occupied by eco-tourists, but that night they were all empty.

I hadn’t discovered the magic zone in which my Kenyan cell phone would work (if there was one in this remote place). I’d seen the home of Jamie’s host family somewhere down the road, but there was no way I could find it in the dark.

I decided to relax into the adventure. I thought about the courage of young students who embark on international ex-

periences, confident that they’ll learn a lot but not quite knowing what will happen. I drifted off to sleep, listening to the murmur of forest nightlife.

The next morning, I opened my eyes to this view and the chatter of monkeys in the branches overhead.

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YOU’RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.