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BOOK REVIEWS

Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa

EDITED BY NEIL D. BURGESS AND G. PHILIP CLARKE

xiii + 443 pp., 30.5 × 21 × 2.3 cm, ISBN 2 8317 0436 7 hardback, GB£ 35.00/US$ 52.50, Gland, Switzerland/Cambridge, UK: IUCN, 2000

As stated in this book, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Forest Conservation Programme goal is advanced through promoting protection, restoration and sustainable use of forest resources so that forests provide the full potential range of goods and services. The Programme advocates the translation of policies into effective actions and, I assume, at local, regional, national and international levels. I believe this book provides the information to help meet IUCN's goal at all levels.

The five sections and nine appendices set the framework for all levels of participation in conservation of the coastal forests of Eastern Africa. It is extremely important that the scientists who wrote the chapters, and other in-country scientists, translated the contents into non-scientific language suitable for all those that formulate policy and management decisions at all levels. This will be necessary for the development of the comprehensive conservation scheme called for by W.A. Rogers (p. 6).

With his many years of research and experience in the forests of Tanzania, I appreciated the insights of Rogers in setting the stage for readers in 'Why a book on coastal forests?.' He then teamed himself with another very experienced researcher (N.D. Burgess) in 'Taking conservation action', to tie things together for the reader. Chapters 1.2–5.4 provide, for the most part, a complete and readable compilation of what is known about coastal forests. These chapters can be used as a model by scientists new to the area, scientists wanting to write about the forests on which they work in other parts of the world, and scientists interested in translating research results into policy and management.

Let me elaborate a little more on chapters 1.1 and 5.5. I was reminded of the forests of the eastern USA when Rogers describes the transformation of forest to agriculture and thicket and how, given time, the thicket will regenerate to forest. This process happened over the last 100 years in the eastern USA, but under very different environmental, social, political and economic conditions. Under current conditions it is unlikely that this will happen around the 250 forest patches that remain where the coastal forests of Eastern Africa once occurred. It seems that time has almost run out! Willing and able participants are needed to conserve and restore forests where appropriate. Many seem willing, but often are unable; they lack the resources. There are many good suggestions presented, examples given and responsibilities identified in chapter 5.5. Leadership and resources are needed. Rogers asks the global community to invest (p.7). The fact that the coastal forests and eastern arc mountains are considered a biodiversity hotspot will help (p. 333). An Eastern Arc Conservation Endowment Trust (recently established) could serve as a 'sustainable conservation model' for the coastal forests to follow. NGOs, both local and international, must work together for the people and the natural resources with less concern for their own recognition. In chapter 5.5, local participation is called for and I support the call. The local needs must be met so that we can count on the appropriate protection and management required to meet regional and national needs. Biodiversity values must be protected in appropriate places through international support.

The authors are to be thanked for putting all of this information into one package. I hope that the likes of Rogers, Burgess and Lovett will continue to do more for this part of the world. More young scientists like Corderio (chapter 4.8) are needed to carry on.

The forestry departments (for example, Forest and Beekeeping in Tanzania, and the Forest Department in Kenya) in all the coastal forest countries need resources so they can provide technical assistance to the local people. They need adequate salaries, transportation and equipment. Forestry schools (such as Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania, and Moi University, Kenya) need support to continue to train skilled foresters and do important research, and the forestry research institutions (TAFORI, Tanzania and KEFRI, Kenya) need full support. This can only happen with investments from the global community. Action must speak louder than words if the coastal forests of East Africa are to survive.

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Conserving Living Natural Resources in the Context of a Changing World

BY BERTIE JOSEPHSON WEDDELL

xvi + 426 pp., 41 figs., 23 × 15 × 2 cm, ISBN 0 521 78812 9 paperback, GB£ 24.95/US$ 35.00, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002

Conserving Living Natural Resources addresses its timely subject from three different perspectives, which form the book's organizational structure: utilitarian approaches that focus on conservation as an anthropocentric activity intended to accommodate human needs in a sustainable way, preservationist approaches that focus on conservation as a biocentric activity intended to maintain the world's biological diversity, and sustainable ecosystem approaches that focus on conservation as an integrated ecocentric activity intended to sustain both ecological integrity and human uses. The use of the value-laden term 'resources' in the title suggests misleadingly that the book might focus primarily on utilitarian approaches. Each of the three approaches, however, is given equivalent attention, and each is discussed in the context of two different views of how the natural world operates: a 'balance of nature' paradigm and a 'flux of nature' paradigm.

The level of the material seems to be aimed at a general audience for whom this may be an introduction to the broad subject of conservation, perhaps reflecting that the author teaches general conservation to non-majors through a 'distance education' programme at Washington State University. Weddell's overview

covers a lot of ground in a superficial way, in keeping with the aim of the book. The material presented is well chosen and generally balanced (but with an obvious North American bias); the writing is clear and concise; and case studies (presented in 41 sidebars) and examples in the text are illustrative. I was surprised, however, that the book's tables and figures (which are very traditional) had not been better designed to engage the non-technical reader. Although I am not entirely convinced that her unusual organizational approach is the most effective way to introduce conservation to a general audience, the relevant principles are covered well. As is typical of books on conservation written by ecologists, there is, however, more attention paid to biological principles than social and economic principles. Nonetheless, I appreciated her discussions of the historical and social contexts within which the different approaches to conservation arose and operate. The literature cited represents an appropriate mixture of technical and semi-popular material.

Overall, I expected a greater sense of urgency in this book's presentation of conservation, and even the brief postscript, which I hoped might end the book with a strong appeal, was not very evocative. Given the importance of the subject, I wonder if the author's style will inspire the intended readers as well as it informs them.

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Aldo Leopold and the Ecological Conscience

EDITED BY RICHARD L. KNIGHT AND SUZANNE RIEDEL

xx + 190 pp., 16 photos, 21.5 × 15 × 1.3 cm, ISBN 0 19 514944 0 paperback, GB£ 14.95/US$ 19.95, Oxford, UK/New York, USA: Oxford University Press, 2002

As interest in the legacy of North America's intellectual father of conservation, Aldo Leopold, grows, so does the recognition of the depth and breadth of his impact on the various spheres of conservation and their practitioners. The range and reputation of the contributors to this anthology are enormous; they are the biggest of the big in North American conservation.

Some essays in this anthology salute Leopold's influence on the life and work of the writer. The collection's final essay, penned by former USA Forest Service chief Jack Ward Thomas, is perhaps the best of the salutatory contributions. Thomas humbly confesses how, as a young man, he was neither wise nor patient enough to understand and appreciate Leopold's more philosophic work contained in his classic *A Sand County Almanac*, but, through the course of a career, he eventually learned to. Slightly less personal, former USA Fish and Wildlife Service chief Jamie Rappaport Clark attributes the current change in USA resource management policy, away from a purely extractive utilitarian and toward a more holistic and non-anthropocentric approach, like 'ecosystem management' where the health of the ecosystem as a whole becomes the primary goal of management, to the insight of Leopold. Clark views the mandate that we ought to primarily manage for the 'integrity, stability, and beauty' (or health) of the biotic community, as a direct fulfilment of Leopold's vision. Alaskan wildlife research biologist Mary Anne Bishop delivers a brilliantly written and touching update on conservation history using a famous technique employed by Leopold himself.

Some of the essays present a more intellectually rigorous and thematic approach to Leopold's offerings. Wildlife conservation Professor Richard Knight nicely grapples with the difficulty of managing private versus public lands, a crucial conservation task given that a full two-thirds of all USA land is privately owned. Conservation biologist and Leopold biographer Curt Meine, a writer whose insight, thoughtfulness, and stylistic prowess rival Leopold's own, suggests that much of Leopold's work stemmed from and displayed a recognition of the centrality and necessity of the interdisciplinary nature of conservation. Retired fisheries biologist and saviour of the Owens pupfish Edwin 'Phil' Pister creatively echoes a similar theme by illustrating the change in resource management education that has taken place in the USA. Conservation biologist Reed Noss attributes the interdisciplinary origin of his discipline and current positive natural resource management approaches to the foresight of Aldo Leopold, although he takes a cheap shot at legitimate and important discussion about the concept of wilderness along the way. Taking current ecological thinking as his model, and fulfilling the hope of Meine, Pister, and Noss, pioneering environmental philosopher J. Baird Callicott offers a forceful and important modernization of Leopold's summary moral maxim. Callicott suggests that instead of the 'integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community' serving as the goal of resource management, that current disturbance thinking in ecology would tweak it to read, 'A thing is right when it tends to disturb the biotic community only at normal spatial and temporal scales. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.' In a similar vein, wildlife biologist James Estes argues that Leopold prophetically anticipated both the temporal dimension in ecology and the notion of ecological interdependence. Finally, National Zoological Park curator John Seidensticker delivers a necessary and thoughtful critique of the American concept of wilderness as un-peopled land.

The weakest spot in the collection, if there is a weak spot, are those essays that offer incomplete analyses of Leopold's work. The most egregious of these is legendary wolf biologist L. David Mech's use of Leopold to defend hunting. Mech makes a number of highly controversial and unsupported claims about the nature of both hunting and Leopold's work in this uncritical essay. Leopold's contribution to environmental education is also profound, but USA Forest Service Director of Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology and Watersheds in Alaska Winifred Kessler and environmental studies Professor Annie Booth, deliver a watered-down ('milk toast', as Leopold would say) and incomplete analysis of Leopold's philosophy of environmental education. Also unhelpful is Yale University Professor Stephen Kellert's discussion of values.

The anthology begins with a pleasurable 'Foreword' by Leopold's daughter Nina Leopold Bradley and the executive director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, Wellington 'Buddy' Huffaker, both esteemed conservationists.

Overall, this attractive book is wonderfully put together. It would serve either as a helpful introduction to those who might not be familiar with Leopold's work or as enjoyable reading for those who already know the delights of the world of Aldo Leopold.

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Trade, Environment, and the Millennium (Second Edition)

EDITED BY GARY P. SAMPSON AND W. BRADNEE CHAMBERS

xi + 450 pp., 22.5 × 15 × 2.5 cm, ISBN 92 808 1064 2 paperback, US$ 26.95, Tokyo, Japan: United Nations University Press, 2002

The second edition of essays describing the intersection of trade and environment policy collected by Sampson and Chambers offers few improvements over the first edition. Perhaps they (and their audience) would have been better served had they updated the first edition after the 2001 WTO (World Trade Organization) Ministerial in Doha, Qatar, where for the first time the environment found its way into the formal negotiating agenda of WTO members.

In this second edition, Sampson and Chambers set out to provide 'constructive input into future WTO negotiations' pursuant to the ministerial meeting that took place in Qatar in November 2001. As such, their primary audience is government policy makers, activists, and intergovernmental officials, although the book's audience will provide upper division undergraduates and graduate students with an excellent understanding of the basics of the trade and environment debate. Eleven chapters capture the debate; four are written by authors with a developing country perspective, seven by authors from northern or industrialized countries. The first four chapters characterize the debate using the often polarizing environmental NGOs and developing country perspective split as their foil. Chapter one is written by United Nations Secretary-General Rubens Ricupero, and is designed to provide the book with a visionary overview. The balance of the book discusses in detail the most pressing trade and environment subjects, including (among others) dispute settlement, governance and the role of civil society, subsidies, and food safety. At the end of the book the editors provide the readers with a very useful collection of WTO trade and environment documents, as well as a table of possible policy solutions, as proposed by one of the book chapters' authors.

The editors know the subjects, the authors and their audience well, and have selected a solid cast of writers. Magda Shahin's critique of environmental NGOs' demands for greater attention to the environment in WTO rules covers the territory well, reflecting the distance between the two camps. The detailed descriptions of the dispute settlement processes, how trade rules affect food and product standards, the use of environmental labels, and how national efforts to take precautions when allowing imports of certain products can clash with the global trading system, are all excellently developed and clearly presented.

But while the information contained in the book is quite accurate and well presented, the second edition is hardly different from the first. The chapters themselves remain largely unchanged, with the exception of 'post-Seattle' postscripts added to the end of many to provide the reader with some sense of change in the debate as a result of the failed attempt to launch a new round back in 1999. No new authors were invited to contribute, and the more than 100 page enlargement is due almost entirely to enlarging the print font to make the book easier to read.

While it may be true that the foundations of the trade and environment debate remain largely unchanged, as one of the editors is known to remark, 'we know what the problems are, we just need the political will to solve them'. In that sense, technical discussions of the tensions surrounding precaution, the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental obligations, and the elimination of environmentally damaging and trade distorting subsidies have not changed. That said, there have been a number of important changes in the debate since the 1999. Increasingly, developing countries are accepting the trade and environment linkage, and some are now trying to determine how to use the trade and environment debate to promote their own goal of achieving sustainable development. The trade and environment debate is shifting to reflect the important role that development plays. And while the many environment and trade subjects now found in the Doha ministerial declaration are directly related to the material in the book, there is no summary of this language.

Like its predecessor, *Trade, Environment, and the Millennium* will provide the reader with an excellent background to the substantive issues that have plagued progress in the global trading system for more than ten years. Whether or not it further contributes to the efforts now underway to resolve these tensions as they are now defined is another matter.

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Democracy in Practice: Public Participation in Environmental Decisions

BY THOMAS C. BEIRLE AND JERRY CAYFORD

viii + 147 pp., 27 figs., 11 tables, 23 × 15 × 1 cm, ISBN 1 891853 54 6 paperback, ISBN 1 891853 53 8 hardback, US$ 50.00 hardback/US$ 18.95 paperback, Washington DC, USA: Resources For the Future Press, 2002

This book analyses 239 existing published case studies of public participation in environmental decision making in the United States. Each example was coded in terms of its context, process and results. Following coding a statistical analysis was used to test a number of hypotheses about the practice of public participation. The success or failure of a particular participation exercise was measured in terms of five broad social goals and a combined aggregate. The relative importance of context (type of environmental issue being discussed, pre-existing relationship among the parties, institutions involved) and process (public hearings, advisory committees, citizens juries, character of participants' motivation, quality of deliberations) was also tested. This book will be of interest to all those with an interest in public participation in environmental decision making, whether as analysts or practitioners. Though all the examples come from the USA, the general claims that are made have a far wider remit.

The two aims of this book are (1) to understand why some public participation processes are successful and others are not, and (2) to set out a method for the evaluation of public participation. Success was defined in relation to the incorporation of public values into decision-making, improving the substantive quality of decisions, resolving conflict among competing interests, building trust in institutions and education and informing the public. The authors take us through their analysis in a clear and easily understood way in the first five chapters and provide more detail on the coding process, the statistical analysis and issues around bias within the dataset in a series of appendices.

The study concludes that the impact of public participation is generally positive in relation to achieving the specified social goals;

61% of the 166 case studies for which it is possible to calculate an aggregate received 'high' scores (p. 32). The statistics suggest that the process of participation has more impact on the results than context (p. 54). The analysis maintains a strong separation between policy making and policy implementation throughout, and is largely concerned with the former. However, it also concludes that there is less evidence to suggest that public participation leads to more effective implementation. Implementation, it is observed, depends on many factors (funding, regulatory authority involved) other than public participation. The book ends with a proposed recipe for the successful design of public participation exercises.

Though the book does not set out to defend public participation, the authors are clearly sympathetic. However, their analysis also provides interesting information for critics. For example, 'in nearly 60% of the 63 case studies that were coded for socioeconomic representativeness, participants were not at all representative of the wider public' (p. 24). Not only do most published case studies give little attention to the question of how well the actual participants represent the wider public, but when they do, it appears that there is a gulf between the values of participants and the values of the public for whom they claim to stand. Given that the title of the book is 'Democracy in Practice', it is a shame that so little attention is given to the classic lines of critique in relation to public participation: accountability, transparency and representation.

Whilst this is a necessary and interesting book, the method it proposes for evaluating public participation is distinctly reductive. It is a useful evisceration of a large dataset which takes apart what we mean by 'success', 'context' and 'process' in public participation, and we can only admire the labour invested. But it is a dataset that has been produced by systematically stripping detail away from an archive of published studies. Such a method will only ever give a sketch because it is seeking to make broad generalizations. Take, for example, the category 'preexisting relationships' in the section on the context of participation. Is it really very meaningful to attach labels like high, medium or low levels of pre-existing conflict to a wide range of case studies and then assume they can all be compared and aggregated? Is it any wonder that the authors finally conclude that despite their statistical results to the contrary 'it is highly unlikely that contextual issues are irrelevant' (p. 76)? To understand why a single project succeeds or fails (by whatever criteria, and the authors freely admit there is little consensus over which ones are best) may require a far more nuanced study that takes into account a historical analysis of the play of power and politics in a particular place, in other words a study which elaborates on ideas like 'preexisting relationships' rather than simplifies them. Whilst such a strategy is unlikely to lead to hypothesis testing, it may lead to greater understanding of key issues, as the authors themselves point out in the closing paragraphs of the book. This is not of course to say that there is no place for studies like this one. Far from it, they provide a crucial map of ideas and a provocative set of future research questions. However, the danger would be to treat these results as anything more than a propaedeutic.

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In the Dust of Kilimanjaro

BY DAVID WESTERN

xv + 309 pp., 22.5 × 15 × 2 cm, ISBN 1 55963 534 7 paperback, Washington DC, USA: Island Press, 2002

In the Dust of Kilimanjaro is a captivating and insightful account of one man's efforts to protect Kenya's wildlife. This is a thought-provoking story which tracks the numerous frustrations and few victories for those working in conservation in this part of the world. David Western takes us on a journey spanning more than four decades of changing views towards wildlife, increasing urbanization and political upheaval within Africa. This very personal story demonstrates how an integrated approach to community-based conservation, which focuses on efforts to preserve species and protect habitats, without alienating the local Maasai people of Amboseli, can be a triumph for conservation against the odds.

Western's autobiographical account of growing up in Tanzania takes us from his childhood hunting forays with his father, through his own metamorphosis from hunter to conservationist. This is an extremely modest account of dogged determination to live and work in Africa with the wildlife and people that the author cares so passionately about. As a means of achieving his ambition, Western takes the opportunity to study for a degree, whilst living and working for a number of years in Britain. On his return to Africa he adopts an approach that is both pragmatic and scientific, and above all shows empathy to the Maasai and their livestock. As a result of resilience and tireless effort, David Western manages, eventually, to achieve a very satisfactory outcome for both wildlife and people.

An immensely enjoyable read, which is entertaining, inspirational and highly informative, *In the Dust of Kilimanjaro* would appeal equally to a popular audience and the scholars of conservation biology. This account provides the reader not only with an insight into the difficulties of implementing conservation policy in places where wildlife and people coexist, but also offers a great deal of optimism for the future preservation of Africa's wilderness.

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Peatlands and Environmental Change

BY DAN CHARMAN

x + 301 pp., 24.5 × 19 × 1.5 cm, ISBN 0 470 84410 8 paperback, GB£ 24.95, Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2002

A textbook covering the topic of peatlands is long overdue. The distinctive range of ecosystems encompassed by the term 'peatlands' has been the subject of extensive research in recent years and a text that aims to bring this body of knowledge together is extremely welcome. The 'environmental change' aspect of the title is also an appropriate appendage, since the peat-forming ecosystems of the world are threatened both by increasing human exploitation and by climatic and other environmental changes. This emphasis makes the book both unique and topical.

Peatlands come in many different forms, varying in morphology, hydrology, chemistry and vegetation. The book opens with a

consideration of the classification of mires and their geographical distribution, mainly determined by climate and landform. Hydrology, naturally, is a definitive feature of these wetlands and receives a chapter of its own. Oxygen availability and nutrient supply are determined to some extent by hydrology, so Charman combines his account of this topic with an examination of the individual ecological demands of various peatland plants. This works well and provides a sound basis for understanding some of the complex niche parameters of mire plants.

The accumulation of peat is the most distinctive feature of mires, which are defined as peat-producing ecosystems, and a large proportion of the book is given over to this process. The complex of environmental factors that lead to the initiation of peat development is an important topic, not only because it helps us to understand why peatlands develop where and when they do, but also because it may assist in predicting the impact of global climate change. Some of the more controversial issues, such as the role of prehistoric human impact and even the impact of beavers, are treated in a balanced and objective manner, being well integrated into the many other factors that influence peat formation. It is also pleasing to note the global view taken by the author, citing examples from both temperate and tropical regions.

Peat accumulation is a consequence of organic productivity exceeding ecosystem respiration (the combined respiration of plants, grazers, detritivores and microbes). Impeded microbial respiration because of waterlogging is the critical factor here. While peat accumulates a mire acts as a carbon sink in relation to the atmosphere. This aspect is perhaps not given as much emphasis as it warrants here, but it is picked up in a later section on feedbacks.

The dynamic nature of peatlands is attested by the record of their development left in their stratified peat deposits. Charman provides a wide-ranging examination of the various sources of evidence, stepping beyond the well known data from pollen grains and plant macrofossils and presenting in addition the evidence of testate amoebae, heavy metals and oxygen isotopes. The link with environmental change is strong here, and the global scope of the book is also prominent. Mires are, in many respects, ideal for the study of succession since they record their own histories. Chapters on autogenic and allogenic changes bring together much of the evidence from such studies and illustrate the complexity of the process of vegetation development. Terrestrialization and lateral expansion are well covered, but closer attention could have been given to the critical process of change from rheotrophic to ombrotrophic conditions; is this autogenic or allogenic?

A novel and informative element in the book is a consideration of how peatlands affect their environment. Carbon balance has already been mentioned, but hydrology and water storage in the landscape are also important here. The reverse process, concerned with the way human modification of the environment affects mires is the subject of the final chapters, which examine the current threats to peatlands, their conservation, management, and the opportunities for the rehabilitation of damaged sites.

Overall, the book is logically structured and well presented and illustrated. Diagrams are clear and informative, although photographs are often poorly reproduced. The material used is drawn from a very wide range of sources and the international coverage is excellent. It is based upon current research and presents a correct impression of a rapidly developing field. Its specialist nature will limit its usefulness as an undergraduate text, but it is certainly a book that should be on the shelves of all peatland researchers. Dan Charman deserves congratulations for having assembled so much information and for setting out such an attractive and panoramic view of this fascinating and unique ecosystem.

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Environmental Policy and Developing Nations

EDITED BY STUART S. NAGEL

viii + 335 pp., 20 tables, 8 figs., 23 × 15 × 2 cm, ISBN 0 7864 0958 4 paperback, GB£ 42.75, Jefferson, USA/London, UK: McFarland & Co., Inc., 2002

Ten years after the landmark United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in August/September 2002, once again moved the challenge of sustainable development in developing countries to the top of the international agenda. The United Kingdom is leading developed country efforts to combat poverty; the World Health Organization issued a study in December 2001 on the economic consequences of poor public health conditions in the developing world. World leaders meeting in March 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico, pledged to reinvigorate their official development assistance. The WSSD preparations were full of talk not only about 'Type 1' formal government initiatives for sustainable developments but also a wide variety of 'Type 2' partnership efforts with private industry and the non-governmental sector. This would seem to be a propitious time for a scholarly contribution to this re-activated international dialogue. *Environmental Policy and Developing Nations* gives us twelve non-technical papers in all, three of general scope and the other nine dealing specifically with environmental issues and policy challenges in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, that are accessible to students and practitioners of policy development.

Unfortunately, this book disappoints expectations. It is not just that the 12 contributions are uneven in quality and disparate in methodology and topical focus; that is to be expected in an edited volume with such a wide topical scope. No, what disappoints about this book is that such a large proportion of the chapters were clearly written around the time of the Rio conference, and thus have little to tell us about the circumstances and challenges of developing countries on the eve of Johannesburg. The two papers on Eastern Europe are especially glaring examples of this anachronistic character, each focusing on the environmental policy challenges confronting Czechoslovakia, a nation that ceased to exist as such more than a few years ago. Is it too much to ask that a book published in 2002 should have a paper or two on some of the environmental successes (and failures) of the economic reforms of the last decade in Eastern Europe rather than dusting off stale policy prescriptions for the new governments of the early 1990s? Another paper, this one on ecotourism with a focus on Latin America, is also woefully out-of-date and therefore less than helpful to current policy makers or analysts of present day challenges.

Several of the chapters are broad enough in theme to avoid the ravages of age. There is an excellent study of the political sociology of environmental policy in Brazil that has insights of enduring value. A study of natural resources management policy in Africa also covers important issues that are fundamental to the region and thus of continuing relevance for policy. And a paper on the perceptions of policy makers in southern Africa and the USA about 'environmental security' in those regions, based on 1997 interviews, reveals contrasting attitudes within and between countries that help us understand how environmental policy has unfolded and what devices and strategies might facilitate further environmental improvement there.

Whether fresh or stale, whether analytically rigorous or slack (and there is some of each here), the papers are at least supported by reasonably complete bibliographies, though few have entries later than 1992. A full bibliography at the end of the book is, alas, a waste of paper, simply compiling the bibliographies of the separate chapters. Another frustration for the book's presumed audience of academic students and active policy makers is that there is absolutely no information about the authors, not even Mr Nagel. This makes it difficult to find out whether any of the contributors have new things to say about today's environmental policy choices for developing countries.

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