

The general appearance of the book is satisfactory. The layout is a bit crude with unattractive chapter headings, and the photographs are a bit bland with unclear credits. However, the drawings, graphs and tables read well and are clear. The legibility of the typeface is good, and I found very few typographical errors indeed. The section 'further reading' is sufficient for an introductory text, and the index is quite useful. There are 28 boxes (more than five per chapter); these break the text up sufficiently well to maintain the reader's attention span.

The author should be congratulated first with writing such a reasonable well-balanced and integrative text. I think the next edition of the book should pay more attention to policy development and social sciences without reducing the amount of ecology. I think the author has underestimated the importance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and especially what it has achieved. Together with many others, I have had the honour and pleasure to help develop the principles for the Ecosystem Approach and those for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. I think these CBD texts are immensely important for the development of national policies that will shape the future of conservation to a much larger extent than the author gives credit for. I also think that the author has a blind spot for the enormous importance of the development of policies and rulings by the European Commission. The Commission's Habitats directive, Bird directive and Natura 2000 all shape conservation in Europe and many of the students that form a part of the target audience of the book will remain quite ignorant of this because the author did not treat it. A next edition of this important book should also pay more attention to the economics of conservation. The discussion about Campfire in Zimbabwe is, to my taste, too negative, and there are many more examples that if governments are only weakly upholding their own protection legislation, the practice of consumptive use can assist conservation.

If the author and his publisher are contemplating a third edition (which I recommend), I recommend they should take a more positive attitude towards the role of the media, especially TV. I found Box 1 ('The nature of television') unnecessarily negative, while I missed mention of the internet, yet I was happy to see in the bibliography sections on 'Natural history filmmaking' and 'Websites'.

Of course it is much easier to criticize a book than to write one. Here the material is generally well-selected and well-organized. The statements of fact that I could check are, I think accurate. However, some statements are curious and should either be left out or fleshed out. For example, where Jeffries (p. 27) writes that Steven Jay 'Gould's chancy, contingent, accident-prone vision can be interpreted as a Marxist analysis of the history of life', I think he is wrong; Gould provided us with an excellent and very modern analysis of the history of life that may have been inspired by Marxism but it is not a Marxist analysis. And his vision was definitely not 'accident-prone'. Jeffries (p. 19) suggests also that the concept of 'functional groups' is very new but, in reality, it is decades old. He seems to believe (p. 128) too much that on continents also there was something of a 'Pleistocene overkill' by primitive man. Yes, there is sufficient evidence that our ancestors could wipe out local faunas on islands, but the lack of evidence from Africa, Europe and Asia, and the very recent debate about the evidence from Australia, necessitates a rewriting of that section, I think.

Another theme in the book that can be strengthened is on the 'biodiversity crisis'. Jeffries introduces the concept well, but I am convinced that he should have given more data on which students and lecturers could rely for the exact number of species that went extinct either on continents or on islands. At present, much concern about

the biodiversity crisis is based on a small number of experiments (like the [in]famous 30 million species of arthropod of Terry Ewin, well-explained in Box 12) and Bob May's 'crude extrapolation'. However, when students are asked 'How many species of vertebrate have been driven to extinction in your country?' (Discussion question 1, p. 165), then the present text gives insufficient data or evidence for students to be able to answer the question. This theme is of great importance; it lies at the heart of conservation.

Do I like the book? The answer is a straightforward 'yes'. Is it a good book? Again, the answer is a forthright 'yes'. The book can be further improved upon, and, as stated before, this second edition is an excellent introductory text on biodiversity, its conservation, and the interdisciplinary knowledge that a student should acquire if she or he is going to make a useful contribution to one of the major societal challenges we are facing, namely, 'How are we going to stop further extinction of taxa?'

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doi:10.1017/S0376892907283808

Globalization and New Geographies of Conservation

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x + 357 pp., 23 × 15.5 × 2 cm, ISBN 0 226 98344 7 paperback,
US\$ 35.00, Chicago, USA/London, UK: The University of
Chicago Press, 2006

Globalization and New Geographies of Conservation (hereafter *Globalization*) brings together 13 essays from a 2002 conference in Madison (Wisconsin) entitled 'Spaces of Hope?: Conservation, Environment, and Development amid Global Change'. The essays focus on the recent expansion of conservation practices and institutions in disparate settings throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America. An introductory essay by Zimmerer outlines the changing substantive emphases of the worldwide conservation movement during the past 30 years, with particular attention to a 'third wave' of conservation activities that has focused on the sustainable use of natural resources. A number of the essays provide detailed studies of changing conservation practices in particular places, including certification and coffee cultivation in southern Mexico (Mutersbaugh), beekeeping in the Brazilian Amazon (Brown), gardening and agrobiodiversity in Santarem, Brazil (WinklerPrins), and seed exchange in the Peruvian Andes (Zimmerer). Two essays address methodological issues. Read provides a useful review of changing remote sensing instruments and their possible uses. Turner discusses the use of remote sensing to chart changes in the Sahel and the impact of the technologies on conservation efforts in the region. A cluster of essays looks at transnational and national conservation efforts in the Mekong River basin (Sneddon), the tropical Andes (Sierra) and Peru (Young & Rodriguez). A final set of essays examines the impact of devolution on conservation efforts in Burkina Faso (Gray), Guatemala (Sundberg) and Inner Mongolia (Jiang). The quality of the essays is quite high. Almost uniformly, the authors characterize the people and places under study in sharp

and colourful ways. Clearly, the authors know the regions about which they write, and they convey their knowledge in effective ways.

The book's only shortcoming involves the selection of cases under study. For a book entitled *Globalization*, it is surprising that large-scale, sometimes multi-national, resource exploitation enterprises like mining companies, logging companies, oil companies and soybean/palm oil cultivators barely rate a mention in the essays. Only the Sneddon essay on conservation in the Mekong River basin addresses how it interfaces with the large-scale economic development efforts that drive economic globalization. It is hard to believe that environmental globalization does not track and attempt to counter at least in some settings economic globalization. One could, however, make the case that this kind of complaint about

Globalization is in some senses illegitimate because it focuses on what the authors have not done rather than evaluating what they have done. By this last measure, the authors of *Globalization* have given us a finely wrought set of essays that teach us a lot about contemporary conservation practices in the Global South. Because the essays are so well written, they would make for useful supplementary readings in graduate and undergraduate courses on sustainable development, the environment and geography.

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