

BOOK REVIEWS

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Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia

EDITED BY PAUL GREENOUGH AND ANNA LOWENHAUPT
TSING

xiii + 428 pp., 23.5 × 15.5 × 2.5 cm, ISBN 0 8223 3149 7 paperback,
GB£ 18.95, Durham NC, USA: Duke University Press, 2003

This is a stunning book, the title of which belies the wealth and nuance of its contents. That nature is a cultural construct is in itself not a new idea. However, the breadth and depth of historical and ethnographic material brought together in one collection to show how the idea of nature governs relations not only between people and environment, but also the wider field of social and political relations, is quite unique.

The environmental projects of the title are not the discrete, time- and budget-delimited activities of foreign donors that are first implied by this term. Rather, they refer to practices and rhetoric of states and other actors whose material effects and meanings construct what is a forest, or urban landscape, or proper agricultural practice; in other words, the means by which environments are materially and discursively produced as, and within, landscape.

The book is primarily about nature as a constructed entity. The individual studies tend to emphasize forests and the plants contained therein, but these are easily read as surrogates for wider constructions of nature. A chapter by Anna Tsing puts forests in their wider ambivalent place vis-à-vis tamer landscapes, using the notion of 'agrarian allegory' to show how such divisions have constructed not only contrasts between physical landscape types, nor only between tribes and peasantries, but ultimately between core citizenry and the 'other' in processes that have helped construct senses of nationhood and rural patrimony. Nancy Peluso's chapter on territoriality shows, again in the context of forest demarcation, how seeming subaltern practice at community level (counter-mapping in this case) can actually buy in to the statist discourse of modernity in simplifying, delimiting and fossilizing otherwise dynamic resource rights.

An extraordinary and brilliant device is invented and applied in the editors' introduction. We are taken into a futuristic virtual museum of human welfare; indeed, an important subtext of the book is that, like development itself, the environmental projects under question are too often carried out without reference to human well-being. This museum tour takes us into the rarefied narrative (public museum halls) and hidden minutiae (basement) of interplays between environment and human well-being through history as seen from a century hence. Taking us outside the museum, the authors then introduce 'perspectival knowledge' as a key conceptual tool binding the case studies.

In its two main parts, the book looks first at how social and natural landscapes (particularly communities and forests) have been constructed through knowledge systems, practices and interventions. Half a dozen case studies look historically and ethnographically at specific regions within countries (Rajasthan and the Aru Islands by

Ann Gold and Charles Zerner, respectively), at entire transnational regions (South-east Asia in Anna Tsing's chapter on agrarian allegory) and, in Michael Dove's case, at local and global discourses through cross-regional comparison between South and South-east Asia. Another six studies in the second part are concerned with movements and campaigns, in a sympathetic but far from eulogistic way. A fascinating comparison of smallpox eradication and tiger preservation gives Paul Greenough a window onto constructions of nature and statist approaches to human and animal welfare in India, while Amita Baviskar's chapter on tribal politics has resonance well beyond India in its revelation of tensions between urban and tribal activists.

A word is in order regarding the case studies themselves. Without exception, they achieve a balance of good up-front contextualization and nuanced high-resolution analysis, in many cases also presenting us with voices from many localities. Further, this is not just a book about locality; the chapter by Brosius on representations of Penan struggles, for example, is an ethnography of a diverse, multi-level and international environmental movement that is mainly located a long way from the forests of Sarawak. Many of the chapters also give a refreshingly frank reflexive look at the interplay between author and subject, not as an exercise in navel-gazing but rather as an open window onto the subject matter itself as inherently 'perspectival knowledge'.

The book started as an intensive 'conversation' between the editors, contributors and a number of others (including this reviewer) in Hawaii in December 1995. The discussion was framed as between humanists and social scientists, and between South Asianists and South-east Asianists. Some time in gestation, therefore, the book nevertheless has retained and improved on the energy of that interaction and there is little that feels dated.

The book's teaching value will largely be at the postgraduate or very upper end of the undergraduate level. It should find its way into curricula in a wide range of subject areas within and beyond anthropology (from which discipline most of the contributors come). Teachers of history, geography, environmental science, development studies and natural resource systems all stand to benefit from this collection; in its entirety, or through use of individual chapters.

In summary, this is a book that questions concepts to their very roots of meaning and genealogy. If it does nothing else, it encourages a permanent questioning, which is not to say nihilistic deconstruction, of assumptions about essentialist understandings of nature and environment. But it does so in a reflexive way, always self-aware of the pitfalls and consequences of throwing out baby with bathwater. Aside from its academic value, therefore, this is a book that environmental activists and the non-governmental organization community need to read to move forward from some of the impasses and increasingly tired critiques and counter-critique that shape debates on environment and development.

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Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment

BY JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH

xv + 299 pp., 21.5 × 14.5 × 3 cm, ISBN 0 300 102321 hardback, GB£ 16.95/US\$ 24.00, New Haven, USA/London, UK: Yale University Press, 2004

Environment has gone global as the most serious problems assume planet-wide scope. These problems are well known, especially climate change. It is appropriate that an American author should accord greatest attention to this front-rank problem. The USA, with less than 5% of the world's population but accounting for 25% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions (the principal source of climate change), continues fixated on a car culture based on petrol cheaper than bottled water. Its pivotal part in climate change means that its profligacy will eventually impinge upon British, Americans, Brazilians and Indians, plus penguins and polar bears. The world's winds carry no passports, and it is this supranational dimension that forms the central theme of a highly innovative book.

Certainly the environmental cause is going from bad to worse, hence the sailor's warning in the book's title. The 1992 Rio Earth Summit came up with a list of crisis issues, agreeing that they warranted the world's urgent attention for all manner of economic, social and humanitarian reasons on top of environmental imperatives. Two hundred governments acknowledged that we know what to do, we possess most of the technologies to fix most of the problems, we have plenty of success stories to hearten us on our way, and it would not cost the Earth to save the Earth (in many instances, notably energy efficiency, it would enhance our economies). Yet by the time of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 10 years after Rio, virtually all the problems were plunging downhill at accelerating pace.

Why, asks the book, don't we get on with the job? The root problem lies with lack of institutional capacity. International bodies, notably the United Nations and the World Bank system, are really intergovernmental committees, subject to the many rivalries and inertias that characterize the nation-state system. Why should politicians mobilize the vision to persuade us to gaze beyond national frontiers when there are so few votes in it? As a result, we tend to tackle problems or even symptoms of problems rather than sources of problems. Unless we tackle the sources, we shall find the problems become more numerous, intractable and costly. It is as if we shall find ourselves pushing an ever larger rock up an ever steeper hill. Speth is blunt: 'The current system of international efforts to help the environment simply isn't working, [and] the present institutional design makes sure it won't work. We need a new design, and to make that happen, civil society must take the helm.'

'Civil society' refers primarily to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Fortunately the last few decades have seen a sunburst of NGOs. At the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, all the NGOs would have fitted into a single room. Ten years later at the Rio Earth Summit, they would have filled several halls. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, they totalled tens of thousands, and they have achieved the political muscle to warrant a place at the negotiating table, undertaken as of right.

Along the way, Speth highlights 'the largely negative role of the United States', especially the grossly disruptive stance of its current government, which believes that its global supremacy entitles

it to dismiss notions of interdependence. Conversely, Speth offers strategies for moving beyond today's stalemate. For instance, pricing policy fails to incorporate the 'spillover costs' of petrol, notably grand-scale pollution, plus road congestion and traffic accidents. If these externalities were internalized, that would at least double the price of petrol (triple it in the USA). Meantime the driver's fellow citizens, including global citizens, pay the costs, which should be borne by the driver. Were we to pay the full cost of burning petrol, we would become inclined to leave the car in the garage while generating huge market-place demand for better public transportation.

Throughout the book, Speth demonstrates that he knows his subject in depth. He was an environmental adviser to Presidents Carter and Clinton. He founded the World Resources Institute in Washington DC. He served eight years as head of the United Nations Development Programme, when he pioneered efforts to integrate environmental issues into mainstream development. He was in the forefront of international negotiations at a whole series of UN conferences. Yet he concludes that 'My generation is a generation of great talkers'. Action, please, to confront the unprecedented challenges of global governance, action that is spelled out aplenty in this unusually persuasive book.

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The Whaling Season. An Inside Account of the Struggle to Stop Commercial Whaling

BY KIERAN MULVANEY

xvii + 348 pp., 23.5 × 15.5 × 2.5 cm, ISBN 1 55963 978 4 hardback, US\$ 26.00, Washington, DC, USA: Island Press, 2003

Given the excellent communication skills of many of the people who have worked for Greenpeace, it is perhaps surprising that there are not more first-hand accounts of the work of this environmental organization. However, in *The Whaling Season*, Mulvaney gives us a compelling autobiographical account of the high-profile Greenpeace expeditions to Antarctica in search of the whaling fleets. He is one of the finest writers in the environmental sphere at this time and provides a fascinating and engaging text. Whilst the book is undoubtedly aimed at the popular market, there is much here for those who are interested in the political dynamics of the whaling issue and, indeed, for those generally interested in the environmental movement.

The greater part of the book deals with the expeditions, giving a vivid description of 'cat and mouse' games with the whalers amongst the icebergs. These chapters provide a real insight into life on board, including the nature of the Greenpeace decision-making processes. There is also consideration of the developments during the contemporaneous meetings of the International Whaling Commission. Chapter 12 and the epilogue provide some interesting political insights into the relevant debates.

The book is nicely presented with a large clear print face, a helpful series of appendices (including a further reading list) and an index. This is a 'good read' for anyone who wants to know what it was like to be out at sea and in action with Greenpeace. At the

same time, it provides some unusual insights into the whaling issue. Mulvaney concludes that 'in the best-case scenario, perhaps what we are witnessing are merely the last defiant death throes before commercial whaling breathes its last and, unmourned and unloved, finally passes away'. However, it is also apparent that he is sceptical that this goal is close to being achieved.

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Nature Across Cultures: Views of Nature and the Environment in Non-western Cultures

EDITED BY HELAINE SELIN

xxiii + 482 pp., ISBN 1402012357 hardback, GB£ 123.00, Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003

This is an impressive collection of articles written in the wake of the book by Selin (1997). Most of the contributors have published in environmental conservation, some as resource managers, others as philosophers and specialists in culture-religious traditions, both large and small. The book has five general position papers prefacing 17 case studies. Most of the cases are from East and South-east Asia, with the cultural studies from these regions placed ahead of pieces on indigenous world views, and the chapters on farther Eastern religious outlooks on nature, Buddhist, Confucian, Daoist, coming before those on Hindu, Islamic and Jewish *Weltanschauungen*.

In the position papers, Arne Kalland reminds Western readers of presumptive images of 'the Other', non-Western cultures, that can distort their appreciation of social reality, romantically turning indigenous populations (such as Borneo's Penan) into homogeneous 'forest [conserving] peoples', or misguidedly assuming that a highly sensitive appreciation of beauty in certain nations (as found in the Japanese tradition of aesthetics) is generally translated into social behaviour. Michael Dove *et al.* make valuable points about non-Western peoples creatively responding to the 'global mobilization' of environmentalism, so that impetuses largely deriving from Western ecological research, and mediated by international agencies, are restructured to fit local mindsets and needs. A tendency to equate the non-Western with the Eastern arises in this paper, a highly problematic elision nowhere properly disentangled in this collection; and I am not satisfied that anyone in the book has faced up to the typical absence of the lexical equivalent to Nature (as a 'high abstraction' like Art and Religion) in almost all non-Western vocabularies.

The case studies should be of great interest to users of this journal. Susan Darlington, for instance, documents different approaches to Thailand's forest dwellers by Buddhist monks, some *bikkhu* promoting deforestation to rid local people of their fear of tree spirits, while other ('engaged') monks take up the environmentalist cause. Graham Parkes tests us to reconsider Chinese *fenshui* as an insightful response to less well studied energy principles in space-time rather than pseudo-scientific mumbo jumbo, and he, along with James Kohen on the Australian Aborigines, is defensive of age-old traditional practice as crucial for respecting and looking after the

environs. Papers on Melanesia (especially the Solomon Islands) and the central Andes (especially western Bolivia), by Edvard Hviding and David Browman, respectively, contain stress on remarkable local knowledge. Ecological researchers, let alone meteorologists, ought not to ignore long-term collective memories of El Niño patterns as found among inhabitants of the Andean high plains and Dry Puna.

Papers on orientations of large-scale religious traditions come last, and are very valuable for gauging the potential for better environmental care by large blocks of people and for assessing sociological situations, indeed politics, that can make applications of environmentalist strategies more difficult than not. These last chapters whet our appetite for the forthcoming book of Taylor (2005).

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 Taylor, B. (2005) *Encyclopaedia of Religion and Nature*. New York, USA: Continuum.

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Drafting a Conservation Blueprint. A Practitioner's Guide to Planning for Biodiversity

BY CRAIG R. GROVES

xxi + 457 pp., 75 figs, 23 × 15 × 3 cm, ISBN 1 55963 939 3 paperback, US\$ 35.00, Covelo, CA, USA: Island Press, 2003

This book discusses the major steps involved in developing a regional conservation plan for biodiversity. The first part provides necessary background information by defining biodiversity and ecological integrity and the challenges involved with conserving them. The next several chapters describe a seven-step process for conservation planning that includes selecting conservation targets, collecting information and identifying data gaps, evaluating the effectiveness of existing conservation areas, setting conservation goals, assessing the population viability or ecological integrity of the conservation targets, designing a network of conservation areas, and, finally, assessing threats and setting priorities for action. The next three chapters, written by the contributing authors, discuss the special challenges in conserving freshwater and marine biodiversity and in conservation planning under a changing climate. The last part of the book touches on ways in which conservation plans might be implemented. The book is intended for conservation practitioners, but it also would be suitable for a graduate course in conservation planning.

There are many good things about this book. The process Groves describes, using a combination of expert knowledge, existing data, and GIS to identify a network of potential conservation areas that represent the full complement of biodiversity in a region and then to formulate strategies for conserving it, is a straightforward and

sensible approach. The book is well presented, although the coloured maps are reproduced at such a large scale that they probably do not merit the cost of including them. The 41 pages of literature cited cover most that has been written on conservation planning, and the text cites dozens of informative web sites as well. The summaries at the end of each chapter are very useful not only as a review, but also as a road map for navigating the twists and turns of the process. Chapter 3 offers excellent advice on assembling an effective planning team, advice I wish I had had on more than one occasion in the past. The authors also offer enough principles, step-processes, building blocks and box-and-arrow diagrams to satisfy the most finicky planning fanatics.

However, to some extent this book is about conservation planning as it should be, not as it usually is. In many areas there is no 'low hanging fruit' left to be picked, and planners generally are left with a few scraps of land from which to assemble conservation networks. To be effective at all, such networks must rely heavily on intensive monitoring and adaptive management, but funds are rarely set aside to perform these functions. Groves suggests a triage approach that would consign such marginal efforts to the dustbin, but that tactic would leave those areas with no reserved lands at all, an unacceptable option in my opinion.

That limitation notwithstanding, this is a book that should be read by everyone in the conservation planning business. Those of us who work in the rapidly urbanizing western USA, and in other places where development pressures, short-term economics, and politics always trump biodiversity concerns, can look through it and dream, 'if only we had started this 50 years ago...'

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Animal Behavior and Wildlife Conservation

EDITED BY MARCO FESTA-BIANCHET AND MARCO APOLLONIO
 ix + 380 pp., 35 figs, 19 tables, 23 × 15 × 2.5 cm, ISBN 1 55963
 959 8 paperback, US\$ 35.50, Washington, DC, USA: Island Press,
 2003

As wildlife conservationists work to maintain native animal species and their habitats, they might be overlooking a very significant issue, the actual behaviour of these species. *Animal Behavior and Wildlife Conservation* is a collection of work inspired by a workshop that addressed how an understanding of species' behaviour can be instrumental in developing successful conservation strategies. Contributors to this volume collectively represent a nationally diverse group of conservation biologists, behavioural ecologists, statisticians and wildlife managers, whose research interests extend into wildlife conservation.

Organized into five parts, the first section of the book gives a general explanation of why knowledge of species' behaviour, and how it evolves, can be crucial for wildlife conservation. Subsequent sections cover specific empirical and theoretical aspects of animal behaviour and describe how they can benefit conservation. Several authors provide examples of the incorporation of animal behaviour

into conservation programmes. However, most of the chapters discuss theoretical applications, emphasizing the view that present conservation strategies typically exclude behaviour as an integral component of their protocols.

Theories of animal behaviour are often based on selection acting at the level of the individual. Individual selection is relevant for conservation plans because in some cases increasing individual fitness may in turn affect population growth and/or genetic diversity. These issues are especially important for species existing in small or isolated populations, which often result from habitat loss and fragmentation. Furthermore, human alteration of habitat can disrupt the distribution of the resources that species require to persist. In the second section, the authors argue that without proper behavioural studies of resource use in space and time, conservation efforts may fail. Knowledge of movement, foraging, and reproductive behaviour can indicate specific habitat requirements necessary for species' persistence.

A salient point throughout the book is that recognizing the variation in individual behaviour can be important for wildlife conservation. The third section provides a thorough review of how variation in life history traits can affect population dynamics of exploited mammal species. Several authors expose methods often used to census populations and estimate growth rates over time as being unreliable. This limitation of traditional techniques is especially relevant for wildlife managers because it can inadvertently result in over-exploitation of species. Instead, the authors suggest measuring individual condition and life history traits, which, as long-term studies demonstrate, more accurately predict population dynamics over time.

Several chapters in the fourth section further illustrate methods for the incorporation of individual variation into models of population dynamics and indicate why these new techniques can increase accuracy. These models may require a large number of measurements, but authors explain a methodology for how to correctly use repeated measurements of individuals. In fact, since rare or threatened species may only consist of a small number of individuals, repeated measurement would be necessary.

Unfortunately, the practicality of the models outlined in this book for conservation purposes may depend on the extent of behavioural data available for a species. Collecting behavioural data often requires intensive and/or long-term studies, which may not be feasible for species that are difficult to access or time-sensitive in their survival. However, it may be possible to infer consequences of human disturbances from behavioural studies of a related or ecologically similar species.

This book is not the first to discuss the role of animal behaviour in conservation (see Clemmons & Buchholz 1997; Caro 1998), nor does it exhaust all the possible contributions animal behaviour can bring to conservation (for example an understanding of how developmental processes influence conservation-relevant aspects of individual behaviour). However, *Animal Behavior and Wildlife Conservation* is a useful additional reference. The material is well presented and the literature cited is alone a valuable resource. The authors mainly describe work done with birds and mammals, but the general concepts can be applicable to most animal taxa.

Ultimately, successful conservation of wildlife requires not only an understanding of animal behaviour, but also, as *Animal Behavior and Wildlife Conservation* clearly demonstrates, collaboration among several academic disciplines and conservation workers, as well as the cooperation of countries where the species occurs. Conservation workers and students who are unfamiliar with the theories of animal

behaviour will find clear explanations of concepts, terminology, and how an understanding of animal behaviour can improve their conservation strategies. In turn, this book can also provide researchers and students of animal behaviour, ecology, and statistics with information on how their studies can be more explicitly incorporated into conservation plans.

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Environmental Ethics, Ecological Theology, and Natural Selection

BY LISA H. SIDERIS

viii + 311 pp., 23 × 15 × 1.8 cm, ISBN 0 231 12661 1 paperback, US\$ 24.50/GB£ 18.00, New York, USA: Columbia University Press, 2003

As a relative upstart sub-discipline within the larger and ancient field of philosophy, environmental ethics, both sacred and secular, has explicitly attempted to appeal to science as a source of information about the human and non-human world. For better or for worse, this exciting fusion of science and ethics has been the cornerstone of all reasonable approaches to environmental ethics.

In this monograph, Lisa Sideris assesses the relative successes and failures of some of the most recognized of these approaches. While she is particularly interested in a series of ecotheologians, along the way she appraises some of the more recognized animal welfare ethics as well as more holistic 'land ethic' approaches. Pointing out that 'ecotheologians . . . claim that they have grounded their ethics in religious teaching *as well as* scientific knowledge about the natural world (p. 3)', Sideris undertakes an extremely thorough and critical analysis of this claim. She dismisses nearly all such approaches (apart from those of James Gustafson and Holmes Rolston, III) as inadequately fulfilling their mission. Even though all of the ecotheologians that she examines profess to have 'taken natural science seriously in constructing theological ethics that pertain to nature (p. 4)', in the end Sideris persuasively argues that they fall far short when it comes to considering the current scientific theories of evolution and ecology. In fact, at the end of the book Sideris even goes so far as to suggest that 'from the perspective of science, ecotheologians, as well as some secular ethicists [referring to the animal welfare ethics of Peter Singer and Tom Regan], borrow selectively from scientific data in order to bolster particular ethical claims (p. 264)'.

The book is quite accurate. The introduction, the set-up of environmental ethics, the review and critique of various ethical positions, and the summary of the main tenets of the scientific theories

she addresses are all first-rate. Moreover, in addition to being critical of various types of approaches it is also constructive. The end of the book contains the seeds of an important and potentially adequate environmental ethic. This is an ethic rooted in the most current readings of scientific theory, a thorough understanding of current environmental problems, and the ethical tradition of the seminal environmental ethic of Aldo Leopold, North America's father of conservation.

Readers of this journal should pay special attention to a book such as this. It is as clear a demonstration as exists of the import of scientific theorizing and the fusion between the culture of the sciences and that of the humanities. In general, if environmental ethics is attempting to help humans decide how they ought to treat the non-human world, then a description of what sort of thing the non-human world is becomes of paramount importance. As Sideris so cogently demonstrates, it is not enough to simply describe the world in scientific terms, just as it is not enough to simply suggest that humans ought to treat the non-human well, or lovingly, or with respect, or whatever. Unless humans can come to some sort of an understanding about the nature of the non-human world, prescriptions for action premised on love and respect are vacuous and unhelpful. Sideris demonstrates this confusion exceptionally well.

This attractive book is put together splendidly. While it is most certainly a piece of rigorous analytic philosophy, it is written in such a manner as to be accessible to those not thoroughly versed in technical philosophy and environmental ethics. It makes a good introduction to environmental ethics, the relationships between science and philosophy, and the current problems with eco-theological approaches to environmental ethics. Moreover, it is also a wonderful book for a group read and discussion, or for a graduate or upper-level undergraduate course in a variety of disciplines.

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The Trade in Wildlife. Regulation for Conservation

EDITED BY SARA OLDFIELD

xxii + 210 pp., 23.5 × 15 × 1.5 cm, ISBN 1 85383 954 X paperback, US\$ 29.95/GB£ 17.95, Stirling, VA, USA/London, UK: Earthscan Publications Limited, 2003

Conservationists have laboured under many assumptions about wildlife trade, namely that (1) it is detrimental to conservation; (2) it stimulates illegal trade; (3) regulation and enforcement are appropriate responses; and (4) that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is the best mechanism to reverse these effects. *The Trade in Wildlife* presents the results of a seminar conducted at Cambridge University in 2001 that effectively challenged and, in some cases, refuted these contentions.

The volume, comprising an introduction, 18 presented papers and a summary, provides a detailed discussion by a wide variety of knowledgeable commentators who present some unusual and occasionally startling views on the topic. The volume is organized into

four main parts that provide a conceptual background, descriptions of existing regulatory structures, a series of useful case studies and information from other illicit trade issues.

In her introduction, Oldfield draws attention to the changing perceptions regarding biodiversity loss and the role of international trade in that process, and suggests that conservation policy has not fully integrated these changes. The key question posed is 'is the goal of trade control to reduce trade or to enhance conservation and are these the same?' She sets the stage for an answer in several following papers about the goal and nature of regulation, the effectiveness of enforcement and the need to consider wider issues of economics, livelihood and global disparities in resources and wealth. In the first chapter, Broad *et al.* detail the diverse nature of trade in natural resources and its huge scale. They estimate that in addition to 'wildlife' with an estimated annual value of US\$ 15 billion, timber (US\$ 100+ billion), fisheries products (US\$ 40 billion) and non-timber forest products bring the estimated total value close to US\$ 160 billion per year. The following four chapters by Barney Dickson, Nick Sinclair-Brown, Brendan Moyle and Marshall Murphree present a philosophical perspective based on their diverse disciplinary and geographic experiences that fundamentally challenges the 'trade bad-regulation good' mentality. This is the intellectual core of this book's contribution to conservation thought and future policy. These four authors carefully tease apart the nature of the debate about trade regulation, examining the goals of regulation in general, and CITES in particular, from perspectives of international policy and development theory. This is dense stuff, the concepts are complex, the approach cross-cutting biology, economics, sociology and international law, and the language is occasionally daunting. Some keywords and section headings give a flavour of the content of these carefully reasoned papers: 'complexity', 'cohesion of international policy', 'incentives and scale'; these are big thoughts presented in support of a new view of how international communities might function to maintain biodiversity. This section provides a viewpoint that rewarded my repeated readings with flashes of new insights. In my view, these four papers would support a book on their own, be the basis of a terrific graduate discussion seminar and are enhanced by the following practical sections.

In part two, Juan Carlos Vasquez, David Morgan and Manoj Misra describe wildlife trade regulation in CITES, the European Union and India, respectively, and bring the discussion firmly back to current realities and restraints. Part three, the seven case studies, are carefully chosen, and each provides a cautionary tale in support of the conceptual framework. The examples of rhinos and elephants suggest that international trade bans have not been effective in preventing declines of charismatic megafauna, while local enforcement and incentive programmes are effective. The example of crocodiles suggests that legal trade does not encourage illegal trade but displaces it. The editor contributes a chapter on the international timber trade, wryly noting that 'the trade has not traditionally embraced regulation' and drawing attention to other international instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), that provide additional vehicles for managing trade. The chapter on bushmeat concludes that bans are ineffective for such a widespread activity that is so closely linked to the welfare of individuals and communities. However a framework for community self-regulation and cooperation with timber logging concessions (who underwrite bushmeat trading with their infrastructure and transport) is offered as a plausible alternative to bring this huge trade to sustainable

levels. Analyses of the actual effect of threatened CITES restrictions on trade in Indonesian parrots and Devil's claw *Harpagophytum* sp. (a medicinal plant) provide cautions about inadvertent effects with counter-conservation consequences. These examples all draw attention to the importance of monitoring, biological and political results of imposed regulations to determine the actual effect, as opposed to that hoped for or imagined. The theme of integrating wildlife trade control with local livelihood and incentive systems emerges again and again in these concrete examples.

The final section gives a rather quick and superficial overview of lessons learned from regulation of other activities and substances including illegal logging, illegal fishing and trade in ozone-depleting substances, drugs and antiquities. These add little to the argument except to generalize the proposition that regulation alone is inadequate and control requires a multifaceted consideration of supply, demand, capacity and the brute realities of international commerce.

The closing summary chapter by Rosie Cooney nicely brings together the main themes and offers a series of constructive directions for further consideration. The topic is clearly a work in progress, but this volume provides the primer and foundation from which further progress can be made. The soft cover edition is nicely presented, illustrations adequate and a short index provides access to key sections. This is a valuable and timely contribution to an important international discussion and will provide lots of thought-provoking material as the discussion proceeds.

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Transboundary Protected Areas. The Viability of Regional Conservation Strategies

EDITED BY UROMI MANAGE GOODALE, MARC J. STEIN,
CHERYL MARGOLUIS, ASHLEY G. LANFER AND MATTHEW
FLANDELAND

xx + 271 pp., 21×15×2 cm, ISBN 1 56022 095 3 paperback,
US\$ 49.95 paperback, Binghamton, NY, USA: The Haworth
Press, 2003

The theme of the Fifth World Parks Congress in Durban was 'Beyond Boundaries', a specific acknowledgement that many protected areas on their own may be too small to be viable. Accordingly conservationists are looking towards landscape approaches to conservation; transboundary protected areas are one management tool to meet this challenge. According to Dorothy Zbicz (this volume) there are now 169 transboundary complex areas worldwide, containing 666 individual protected areas and covering approximately 1% of the Earth's land areas. Given the extent of such areas and the new emphasis on landscape conservation, this volume is a timely review of the challenges and complexities of transboundary cooperation for conservation.

The book is the product of a conference at Yale, organized by the Yale University Chapter of the International Society of Tropical Foresters (Yale ISTF) and the editors, all postgraduates from the Yale Forestry Program, are to be congratulated on drawing together

a wide range of presenters on a highly topical and relevant topic. The papers are an interesting mix of lessons learned and individual case studies, based on field conservation projects. Few of these transboundary-protected areas have gone beyond minimal levels of contact and collaboration with their neighbours. Some are specific to transboundary experiences; others emphasize some of the key protected area and natural resource management issues that are inherent to any projects that seek to meaningfully engage local communities. The book will be useful to a broad audience of managers and conservation practitioners, including those working with individual protected areas as well as transboundary projects. The various chapters attempt to demonstrate how top-down regional planning for international cooperation and collaboration can be reconciled with bottom-up planning and management by communities on the ground.

The editors have drawn together an experienced group of conservation practitioners with useful lessons to relate. Mike Wells provides an overview of key experiences from integrated conservation and development projects (ICDP) in and around protected areas in Africa and Asia, emphasizing that many of the lessons can be useful to the new generation of transboundary protected areas where such models are likely to be tested over much wider landscapes. John Hanks and Trevor Sandwith provide interesting summaries of

transboundary initiatives in southern Africa, detailing some of the political, legal and institutional challenges to establishing collaborative management structures across international boundaries, especially when capacity is very different in neighbouring countries. Anthropologists Peter Brosius and Diane Russell present a social perspective on natural resource management, while Nancy Kingsbury compares two different similar forests in different countries and the impact that development and access to markets have had on agricultural practices and the sustainability of swidden agriculture. Khagda Basnet provides an overview of ongoing and potential transboundary initiatives in Nepal, while Rainer *et al.* relate some of the regional achievements of the International Gorilla Conservation Programme which has been able to promote capacity building and maintain conservation activities even during years of civil strife. All together, this an interesting collection, although given its substantial price tag (US\$ 49.95 for a paperback) it is more likely to be borrowed from libraries rather than purchased by individuals.

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