

## BOOK REVIEWS

doi:10.1017/S0376892907213803

### Ecotourism in Scandinavia: Lessons in Theory and Practice

EDITED BY STEFAN GÖSSLING AND JOHAN HULTMAN

xii + 211 pp., 27 figs, tables, 25 × 17 × 2 cm, ISBN 978 1 84593 134 3 hardback, UK£ 60/US\$ 120.00, Oxford, UK: CABI Publishing, 2006

Ecotourism is relevant to environmental conservation both as a potential source of funding or policy support, and as a source of environmental impacts. Different continents or subcontinents commonly have different types of ecotourism. This volume, from the CABI Ecotourism Series, analyses ecotourism in the Scandinavian region.

Within that region, Sweden is contrasted with Norway and to a lesser extent with Denmark and Iceland. In summary, it seems that 'In Norway . . . ecotourism is considered to be an irrelevant concept' (p.1), since Norwegians think that ecotourism is only needed in other countries (p. 40). In Sweden, there is a very active Swedish Ecotourism Association (SEA). The SEA defines ecotourism, however, as 'playful exploration, meeting locals, adventure with passion' (p. 92). This is a marketing definition, very different indeed from the official UN definition or academic concepts, which also include minimal-impact management, environmental education and a contribution to conservation. Similarly, there is a Swedish ecocertification scheme called Nature's Best, but its principles (p. 34) are very vague in comparison with other such schemes.

There are two particularly interesting themes from an environmental point of view. The first is the history of outdoor recreation in Scandinavia, and its effect on recreational use of protected areas and other natural environments. The second is the attention rightly given by these authors to the environmental costs of long-haul air travel. As they note, Nature's Best demands fuel-efficient engines for local transport by certified ecotour operators, but the SEA promotes its members internationally, and the impacts of local transport are minuscule compared to those of international travellers.

For an ecotourism researcher, this is a solid contribution to the literature, perhaps the first of a series of regional studies. From an environmental conservation perspective it provides some useful insights into Scandinavian policies, practices and psyches in regard to the recreational use of both public and private lands.

RALF BUCKLEY

International Centre for Ecotourism Research  
Griffith University  
Gold Coast, 9726  
Australia  
e-mail: r.buckley@griffith.edu.au

doi:10.1017/S037689290722380X

### Deforesting the Earth: From Prehistory to Global Crisis. An Abridgement

BY MICHAEL WILLIAMS

xviii + 543 pp., 23 × 15 × 4 cm, ISBN 0 226 89947 0 paperback, US\$ 25.00/GB£ 16.00, Chicago, USA/London, UK: The University of Chicago Press, 2006

When I received *Deforesting the Earth: From Prehistory to Global Crisis. An Abridgement* my first shallow reaction was that at 543 pages this is a big abridgement. But I soon realised the astounding breadth and depth of contained information and understood why it could not possibly be smaller. This book relays the complete story of forests the world over from the Holocene to the present, and somehow Michael Williams has managed to keep the story cogent and concise.

Williams begins the story of the world's forests by describing their distribution in the Holocene and immediately begins discussing the impacts had by the Classical and Medieval worlds. It is here that the reader is first introduced to the idea that the main driver of deforestation throughout history has been human population growth and the accompanying expansion of agriculture. The dramatic impact of a burgeoning populace is shown with a multitude of case studies set around the world throughout the history of civilization. There is a strong geographic bias in the early sections of the book towards European history, but this simply reflects the paucity of information about forests elsewhere. Williams tries to redress this balance where possible by dredging up scattered information from China and Japan that was recorded intermittently by bureaucrats, philosophers and poets who were more directly interested in recording the expansion of agriculture and economies than in the destruction of forests. It is not until we reach the 1500s and Europe began colonizing the rest of the planet that we begin to obtain a more global overview of changes in forest extent. Throughout the entire book, it is apparent that the expansion of agriculture has always been a dominant driver of deforestation. Historically, shifting agriculture was the culprit, but that was followed by the expansion of permanent agriculture and the eventual expansion of the global trade in agricultural products.

*Deforesting the Earth* is more than a description of deforestation patterns. Williams goes to some trouble to provide the reader with the all-important context within which deforestation occurred throughout time and space, including temporal changes in the social conditions surrounding deforestation. As a consequence, this book not only outlines the patterns of deforestation, it also outlines the beginnings of a conservation ethos in mid- to late-1600s Britain. Further in, the beginnings of modern sustainable forestry practices are relayed with an interesting dip into the characters of the central figures in the early American Division of Forestry. And so this grand story sweeps on into the 20th century where deforestation is broadly replaced or balanced by reforestation in the temperate world, while rates of forest clearance in the hardwoods of the tropical world began to accelerate.

It is in the modern part of the story that I felt somewhat let down. *Deforesting the Earth* was published in 2006, but it appears as though Williams stopped collecting data around a decade earlier. Consequently, the final chapters of the book are devoted to problems surrounding the quantification of current patterns of forest cover and rates of deforestation, without relaying a series of notable attempts to address these questions. For example, Williams goes on at some length about the lack of global maps of forest cover but falls short of describing the Global Land Cover Characterization map that addresses many of the problems he raised; the final deforestation figures he presents are from FAO Forest Resource Assessment (FAO 1995) which has been superseded by the much-improved FRA 2000 (FAO 2001); and a detailed narrative into deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon ends with seminal satellite data (Skole & Tucker 1993), but does not pay homage to Brazil's impressive PRODES project that has used remotely sensed images to annually map deforestation for the past decade (URL <http://www.obt.inpe.br/prodes/>).

But this complaint should not detract from the fact that Michael Williams has done a tremendous job of relaying a complex story. *Deforesting the Earth* is well illustrated with both plates and maps, although I found the lack of insets showing the geographical context of the maps to be frustrating, and it is well written and eminently readable. The sheer breadth of information in this book makes it a valuable addition to any bookshelf belonging to people that want to understand why the world's forests look the way they do.

## References

- FAO (1995) Forest Resources Assessment 1990. Global Synthesis. FAO Forestry Paper 124, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.
- FAO (2001) Forest Resource Assessment 2000. FAO Forestry Paper 140, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.
- Skole, D. & Tucker, C.J. (1993) Tropical deforestation and habitat fragmentation in the Amazon: satellite data from 1978 to 1988. *Science* **260**: 1905–1910.

ROBERT M. EWERS  
*Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London*  
 London NW1 4RY, UK  
 and *Department of Zoology*  
*University of Cambridge*  
 Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, UK  
 e-mail: robert.emers@ioz.ac.uk

doi:10.1017/S0376892907233806

## Conservation and the Genetics of Populations

BY FRED W. ALLENDORF AND GORDON LUIKART

xix + 642 pp., 34.5 × 17 × 3 cm, ISBN 1 4051 2145 9 paperback, GB£ 34.99/US\$ 69.95, Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing, 2006

This textbook provides a comprehensive overview of conservation genetics, designed for advanced undergraduates and graduate students of conservation genetics, natural resources management and conservation biology, as well as professional conservation biologists.

The book contains 20 chapters in three sections. Part I introduces the field of conservation genetics and then goes on to describe variation in natural populations for phenotypes, chromosomes, proteins and DNA. Part II is on mechanisms of evolutionary change and covers basic population genetics, while Part III is on genetics and conservation and addresses the more applied topics. Coverage of topics is careful and considered, as would be expected from the distinguished scientific reputations of the authors. Chapters contain examples, discussion problems and problems to aid understanding, quotes from prominent scientists at the beginning of each chapter, as well as guest boxes from distinguished scientists in the field. The book has an appendix on probability and statistics, a glossary and an index. Problem answers are on the book web site. The textbook is carefully compiled and referenced and contains very few typographical errors.

There are two other textbooks on conservation genetics, namely *Introduction to Conservation Genetics* and *A Primer of Conservation Genetics*, and I am senior author of both. The present book covers similar material to the former (apart from guest boxes, an addition chapter on invasive species, an appendix on probability and statistics

and a list of symbols), is of a similar length and is intended for a similar audience. The messages from the two textbooks are similar. However, the two textbooks differ substantially in style and presentation. Allendorf and Luikart's textbook has a more historical approach to presentation and referencing, has fewer aids for students in terms of summaries, main point boxes, lists of new terms, further reading at the end of chapters, take home messages, problem answers in the book and many fewer pen-and-ink drawings of organisms to help motivate students. The present book has a stronger emphasis on phylogenetics, but less emphasis on studies with laboratory species and much less use of meta-analyses to resolve contentious issues where statistical power is a critical issue. Both textbooks use examples from a broad taxonomic and geographical range, but this book has a higher proportion of fish and North American examples, as is expected from the interests of the senior author and his primary abode. In the earlier chapters, I found this book often went very quickly from very simple to complex material within a chapter, rather than building across chapters from simple to complex, a form of presentation that is likely to worry the beginning student. Therefore the presentation of this textbook is more likely to appeal to professional scientists and advanced graduate students than to undergraduates.

Overall, this is an excellent, authoritative and scholarly book.

RICHARD FRANKHAM  
*Department of Biological Sciences*  
*Macquarie University, NSW 2109*  
 Australia  
 e-mail: rfrankha@els.mq.edu.au

doi:10.1017/S0376892907243802

## Sustainability: A Philosophy of Adaptive Ecosystem Management

BY BRYAN G. NORTON

xviii + 607 pp., 22.5 × 15 × 3.5 cm, ISBN 0 226 59521 8 paperback, US\$ 37.50/GB £ 24.00, Chicago, USA: The University of Chicago Press, 2005

As a sub-discipline of philosophy, environmental ethics is roughly three decades old. Bryan Norton is one of the most influential first-generation environmental philosophers. Norton is especially well known for his work to fuse environmental philosophy with environmental policy and for his admirable attempt to take anthropocentrism (sometimes now referred to as 'environmental pragmatism') seriously, and make others take it seriously as well. Norton is, and has always been, at his best when he is forcing us to enrich and expand the values that we assign to the work, even if those values are ultimately human-centred. Measured in terms of direct impact on environmental thinking and policy, Norton is arguably one of the top two or three environmental philosophers in the world. His reputation and import are demonstrated perfectly in this book.

In *Sustainability* Norton covers miles of ground. The title alone indicates that the book sets out to say something definitive on three of the biggest concepts currently bandied about in environmental circles: sustainability, adaptive management and ecosystem management (though Norton combines these last two into 'adaptive ecosystem management'). Norton kindly provides a helpful 'note to the busy reader' that allows for various courses of navigation through his massive effort. Overall, the book is written in a lucid