

People in Nature: Wildlife Conservation in South and Central America edited by Kirsten M. Silvius, Richard E. Bodmer & José M.V. Fragoso (2004), xiii + 463 pp., Columbia University Press, New York, USA. ISBN 0 231 12782 0 (hbk), GBP 53.00; ISBN 0 231 12783 9 (pbk), GBP 26.50.

A fundamental component in the successful development of a local scientific community is the availability of reliable international capacity-building opportunities. Sporadic courses, funding programmes and conferences can be useful but impacts can be much greater if such opportunities occur regularly and often. When this is the case, people interested in acquiring skills, applying for funds or attending meetings can plan their participation in the context of larger career development goals, and choose the appropriate moment to participate in and learn from international interactions.

During the past decade, every 2 years, conservation scientists and practitioners in Latin America have met in a series of conferences aimed at addressing the major issues in wildlife management and conservation. The proceedings of these conferences have been systematically published in Spanish and Portuguese, generating a series of volumes that read like a Who's Who guide to conservation biology in Latin America. While the editors of *People in Nature: Wildlife Conservation in South and Central America* are perhaps overly optimistic when they suggest that these conferences are the principal reason why the Neotropics have escaped the present bushmeat crisis gripping the Paleotropics, there is no doubt that these meetings have been a fundamental force behind the establishment and growth of a healthy management and conservation community in the region.

People in Nature: Wildlife Conservation in South and Central America consists of a selection of past conference presentations, with the objectives of highlighting original approaches to wildlife management and making the information available to the English-speaking public. The authors included are geographically diverse, although they are dominated by scientists from Brazil (15), the United States (8) and Peru (7); the remaining 14 authors are from Colombia (3), Mexico (3), Bolivia (2), French Guiana (2), United Kingdom (2), Argentina (1) and Venezuela (1). This range reflects a thriving multinational scientific community, with active collaboration between scientists from developing and developed

countries. However, it also highlights the need for a great deal of additional strengthening and networking in this local scientific community. The absence of authors from Chile and, particularly, Central America is surprising, given the title of the volume, although it may reflect a historical Amazonian bias in the conferences. However, it may also reveal groups of conservation professionals and practitioners that need to be brought more into the picture.

People in Nature: Wildlife Conservation in South and Central America is divided into four sections: (1) Local Peoples and Community Management, (2) Economic Considerations, (3) Fragmentation and Other Non-harvest Human Impacts, and (4) Hunting Impacts – Biological Basis and Rationale for Sustainability. Twenty five chapters (including the introductory chapter) address a variety of themes that range from the design of protected areas in collaboration with local communities, to the assessment of the sustainability of small-scale fishing and hunting enterprises, the role of economic incentives and captive breeding in management and conservation, interactions between wildlife and humans, and the ecology of emblematic flagship species such as the Orinoco crocodile *Crocodylus intermedius*, jaguar *Panthera onca*, and white-lipped peccary *Tayassu pecari*.

There is no question that this book achieves its central objective of introducing Latin American management and conservation approaches to the rest of the world, and that it will certainly become a fundamental reference in this regard. What is missing is a final synthetic chapter or critical evaluation to help define the theme of future conferences, inspire young professionals, or provide a platform for funding organizations that may be willing to systematically contrast their current conservation investments with what the professionals and practitioners in the region believe are the main priorities. But such a synthesis could very well form the subject of an article or a special section in a widely distributed international conservation journal, such that the information becomes even more readily available to the global conservation community than it would in this important book in English.

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ICT Conservation Resource (CD-ROM) produced by ResourceAfrica and Fauna & Flora International (2005).

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are playing an ever increasing role in conservation projects around the world. Advances in technology have opened up new opportunities, equipment costs have come down, and more and more companies are realizing the value of offering their products and services to the conservation community. ICTs are being used in a whole range of projects and in many different ways. The technologies include radio and satellite units, the internet and phones. This CD-ROM contains details of hundreds of past and present conservation projects, and tells you what technologies they chose, why they chose them, and why they did or didn't work. Further details of this resource are available at <http://www.t4cd.org>. To obtain a copy of the CD-ROM, contact Wallace Kantai at Fauna & Flora International (wallace.kantai@fauna-flora.org).

The following publications have been received at the Editorial Office and may be of interest to readers:

Life after Logging: Reconciling Wildlife Conservation and Production Forestry in Indonesian Borneo by Erik Meijaard, Douglas Sheil, Robert Nasi, David Augeri, Barry Rosenbaum, Djoko Iskandar, Titiek Setyawati, Martjan Lammertink, Ike Rachmatika, Anna Wong, Tonny Soehartono, Scott Stanley and Timothy O'Brien (2005), xxii + 345 pp., CIFOR, Jakarta, Indonesia. ISBN 979 3361 56 5, free of charge.

The Geographic Mosaic of Coevolution by John N. Thompson (2005), xii + 443 pp., The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, USA. ISBN 0 226 79761 9 (hbk), USD 75.00; ISBN 0 226 79762 7 (pbk), USD 28.00.

Against the Grain: Trade in Musk Deer Products in Singapore and Malaysia by Debby Ng & Elizabeth A. Burgess (2004), vi + 32 pp., TRAFFIC Southeast Asia,

Selangor, Malaysia. ISBN 9 833393 01 2. Also available at http://www.traffic.org/publications/pubs_tsea.html

Open Season: An Analysis of the Pet Trade in Medan, Sumatra 1997–2001 by Chris R. Shepherd, Jeet Sukumaran & Serge A. Wich (2004), vi + 59 pp., TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Selangor, Malaysia. ISBN 9 833393 02 0. Also available at http://www.traffic.org/publications/pubs_tsea.html

In Full Swing: An Assessment of Trade in Orang-utans and Gibbons on Java and Bali, Indonesia by Vincent Nijman (2005), vii + 49 pp., TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Selangor, Malaysia. ISBN 9 833393 00 4. Also available at http://www.traffic.org/publications/pubs_tsea.html

Hotspots Revisited by Russell A. Mittermeier, Patricia Robles Gil, Michael Hoffmann, John Pilgrim, Thomas Brooks, Cristina Goettsch Mittermeier, John Lamoreux & Gustavo A.B. da Fonseca (2004), 391 pp., Conservation International, Washington, DC, USA. ISBN 9 686397 77 9 (hbk), GBP 45.95.

Monitoring Ecological Change (Second Edition) by Ian F. Spellerberg (2005), xvii + 391 pp., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. ISBN 0 521820 28 6 (hbk), GBP 70.00; ISBN 0 521527 28 7 (pbk), GBP 35.00.

The Red List of Endemic Trees & Shrubs of Ethiopia and Eritrea by Jose Luis Vivero, Ensermu Kelbessa and Sebsebe Demissew (2005), 23 pp., Fauna & Flora International, Cambridge, UK. ISBN 1 903703 19 0. Also available at <http://www.globaltrees.org>

The World's Largest Wetlands: Ecology and Conservation edited by Lauchlan H. Fraser & Paul A. Keddy (2005), x + 488 pp., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. ISBN 0 521 83404 X (hbk), GBP 75.00.

The Chimpanzees of the Budongo Forest: Ecology, Behaviour, and Conservation by Vernon Reynolds (2005), xiii + 297 pp., Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. ISBN 0 198515 45 6 (hbk), GBP 70.00; ISBN 0 198515 46 4 (pbk), GBP 32.50.