

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature

****Conservation Science Balancing the Needs of People and Nature****

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. As human populations grow and expand, the natural world faces unprecedented pressures—from habitat destruction and climate change to pollution and overexploitation of resources. Yet, the future of both humanity and the planet depends on finding ways to harmonize the wellbeing of ecosystems with the needs of communities worldwide. This delicate balancing act is at the heart of modern conservation science, which seeks innovative strategies that benefit both people and nature alike.

Understanding Conservation Science Balancing the Needs of People and Nature

The concept of conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature goes beyond simply protecting wildlife or preserving wild spaces. It embodies an integrated approach that recognizes humans as part of the ecosystem rather than separate from it. Conservation efforts today prioritize sustainable resource management, community engagement, and policy frameworks that support coexistence.

In essence, conservation science is evolving to include social, economic, and ecological dimensions. This interdisciplinary approach ensures that protecting biodiversity also supports livelihoods, cultural values, and economic development—especially in regions where people depend closely on natural resources.

The Importance of Integrative Approaches in Conservation

Traditional conservation models often leaned heavily toward exclusion—creating protected areas where human activity was limited or prohibited. While this approach helped protect some habitats, it sometimes led to conflicts with local communities who relied on those lands for food, shelter, or cultural practices. Conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature, therefore, focuses on inclusivity and collaboration.

One key element is community-based conservation, where local populations actively participate in managing natural resources. This method recognizes indigenous knowledge and practices as vital assets in sustaining ecosystems. It also helps empower communities, fostering stewardship and long-term commitment to conservation goals.

How Conservation Science Balancing the Needs of People and

Nature Addresses Climate Change

Climate change is a major factor exacerbating the tension between human development and natural ecosystems. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events threaten biodiversity and human wellbeing alike. Conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature offers pathways to build resilience in both domains.

For example, restoring wetlands and mangroves not only safeguards biodiversity but also protects coastal communities from storm surges and floods. Similarly, sustainable forestry practices can sequester carbon while providing local jobs and resources. These nature-based solutions demonstrate how environmental health and human prosperity can be mutually reinforcing.

Economic Incentives and Conservation Science

One of the most effective ways to promote conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature is through economic incentives. When communities see tangible benefits from preserving ecosystems, they are more likely to support conservation initiatives.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programs are a prime example. These programs compensate landowners or communities for maintaining or enhancing natural services such as clean water, carbon storage, or biodiversity habitats. By aligning economic rewards with conservation outcomes, PES helps create win-win scenarios.

Additionally, ecotourism can generate income while fostering environmental awareness. When managed responsibly, it encourages the protection of wildlife and natural landscapes, offering sustainable alternatives to destructive land uses.

The Role of Policy and Governance in Conservation Science

Effective governance is essential for conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature. Policies must be designed to address complex social-ecological systems, incorporating scientific data, stakeholder input, and adaptive management.

Integrated land-use planning is a powerful tool in this regard. It involves coordinating development, agriculture, conservation, and infrastructure projects to minimize conflicts and maximize benefits for people and ecosystems. Transparent decision-making and equitable participation help ensure that marginalized voices are heard and that solutions are fair.

International agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, also play a crucial role by setting global conservation targets and fostering cooperation among nations.

Challenges and Opportunities in Balancing Human Needs with Environmental Protection

Balancing human needs with environmental protection is not without challenges. Rapid urbanization, poverty, and competing interests can complicate conservation efforts. Moreover, scientific uncertainties and changing conditions require flexible approaches.

However, these challenges also create opportunities for innovation. Advances in technology, such as remote sensing, GIS mapping, and data analytics, provide powerful tools for monitoring ecosystems and human impacts. Social science research helps understand human behavior and design effective interventions.

Collaborations across disciplines and sectors are increasingly common, bringing together ecologists, economists, sociologists, policymakers, and local communities. This collective knowledge base strengthens conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature.

Practical Steps for Individuals and Communities

While large-scale policies and programs are vital, individual and community actions also matter greatly. Here are some practical ways to contribute to conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature:

- Support sustainable products that minimize environmental harm.
- Participate in local conservation projects or citizen science initiatives.
- Advocate for green spaces and biodiversity-friendly urban planning.
- Educate others about the importance of ecosystems and responsible resource use.
- Engage with policymakers to promote inclusive and science-based conservation policies.

Looking Ahead: A Shared Responsibility

The future of conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature depends on our collective commitment to stewardship. It requires recognizing that healthy ecosystems underpin human health, food security, and cultural heritage. When we invest in nature, we invest in ourselves.

By fostering respectful relationships with the environment, embracing innovation, and valuing diverse voices, conservation science can chart a path toward sustainability. This journey is not only about protecting species or habitats but about nurturing a world where both nature and humanity can thrive in harmony.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is conservation science and why is balancing the needs of people and nature important?

Conservation science is an interdisciplinary field focused on protecting biodiversity and natural resources while promoting sustainable use. Balancing the needs of people and nature is crucial to ensure ecosystem health, support livelihoods, and maintain resources for future generations.

How can conservation science address conflicts between human development and environmental protection?

Conservation science uses tools like environmental impact assessments, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive management to find solutions that minimize ecological damage while accommodating human development, promoting coexistence and sustainable resource use.

What role do indigenous and local communities play in balancing conservation and human needs?

Indigenous and local communities often have traditional knowledge and a deep connection to their environment. Their involvement in conservation efforts ensures culturally appropriate strategies that respect human rights and enhance biodiversity conservation outcomes.

How does conservation science incorporate economic and social factors in its strategies?

Conservation science integrates economic incentives, such as payment for ecosystem services, and social considerations like community participation and equitable resource access to create sustainable solutions that benefit both people and nature.

What are some successful examples of conservation projects balancing human needs and nature?

Examples include community-based forest management in Nepal, where locals protect forests while benefiting economically, and marine protected areas that allow sustainable fishing alongside habitat preservation, demonstrating effective balance between conservation and human use.

Additional Resources

Conservation Science Balancing the Needs of People and Nature

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature represents one of the most critical and complex challenges in contemporary environmental management. As human populations expand and natural habitats face increasing pressures, the pursuit of sustainable coexistence between human development and ecological integrity demands innovative approaches and interdisciplinary collaboration. Conservation science, at its core, seeks to understand and mitigate the impacts of human activities on biodiversity while acknowledging the indispensable role that nature plays in supporting human well-being. This article delves into the evolving landscape of conservation science, exploring how it can effectively balance the competing demands of people and nature through adaptive strategies, policy integration, and technological advancements.

The Evolution of Conservation Science: From

Preservation to Integration

Historically, conservation efforts often prioritized the preservation of pristine wilderness areas, sometimes excluding human presence altogether. This "fortress conservation" model, while beneficial in protecting certain species and habitats, has been criticized for overlooking the livelihoods and cultural connections of indigenous and local communities. The shift in conservation science towards balancing the needs of people and nature reflects a more nuanced understanding that human societies are embedded within ecosystems, not separate from them.

Modern conservation science integrates ecological research with social sciences, economics, and ethics to devise strategies that promote biodiversity while supporting sustainable development. This interdisciplinary approach acknowledges that conservation cannot be divorced from human realities such as poverty, land tenure, and resource dependency. By emphasizing coexistence, conservation science strives to create landscapes where both biodiversity and human communities thrive.

Key Principles Guiding Balanced Conservation

Several core principles underpin the contemporary approach to conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature:

- **Inclusivity:** Engaging local and indigenous communities in decision-making processes ensures that conservation strategies respect traditional knowledge and address socio-economic needs.
- **Adaptive Management:** Conservation plans must be flexible and responsive to changing ecological and social conditions, employing continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms.
- **Landscape Connectivity:** Maintaining ecological corridors allows species movement and genetic exchange, which is vital for ecosystem resilience amidst human development.
- **Multi-use Landscapes:** Recognizing that human-modified areas can still provide critical habitat and ecosystem services encourages conservation beyond protected areas.

Balancing Human Needs with Biodiversity Conservation

The tension between economic development and environmental protection is a central theme in conservation science. Agriculture, urbanization, and infrastructure projects often lead to habitat fragmentation, pollution, and species decline. However, human well-being is intrinsically linked to ecosystem services such as clean water, pollination, and climate regulation. Conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature seeks to reconcile these interests by developing sustainable land-use practices.

Sustainable Resource Management

Natural resource management has evolved to emphasize sustainability, ensuring that exploitation does not exceed regeneration capacities. For instance, community-based forest management programs empower local populations to manage timber and non-timber products sustainably, reducing deforestation rates while providing income. Similarly, fisheries management incorporates quotas and seasonal restrictions to prevent overfishing, preserving marine biodiversity and food security.

Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)

Economic incentives like Payments for Ecosystem Services have gained traction as tools to align conservation goals with local livelihoods. By compensating landowners for maintaining forests, wetlands, or other habitats, PES programs encourage conservation-friendly practices. This financial support can alleviate poverty and reduce pressures to convert natural areas into agriculture or development.

Technological Innovations Driving Conservation Science

Advancements in technology have transformed the capacity of conservation science to monitor ecosystems and human impacts. Remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and drone surveillance enable real-time data collection over vast and often inaccessible areas. These tools enhance understanding of habitat changes, species distributions, and the effectiveness of conservation interventions.

Data-Driven Decision Making

The integration of big data analytics and machine learning facilitates predictive modeling that can forecast biodiversity responses to climate change or land-use alterations. This predictive capacity allows policymakers to prioritize areas for protection or restoration, optimizing resource allocation. Moreover, citizen science platforms harness public participation in biodiversity monitoring, increasing data volume and fostering community engagement.

Genetic and Ecological Research

Molecular techniques, such as environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, have revolutionized species detection and monitoring, particularly for elusive or endangered organisms. Such methods contribute to more accurate assessments of biodiversity health and help inform management strategies that are sensitive to species-specific requirements.

Challenges and Ethical Considerations in Balancing Conservation and Human Needs

Despite progress, conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature faces significant challenges, including conflicting stakeholder interests, funding limitations, and governance complexities. Balancing short-term economic gains with long-term ecological sustainability is often contentious, requiring negotiation and compromise.

Conflict Resolution and Stakeholder Engagement

Engaging diverse stakeholders—including governments, NGOs, indigenous groups, and private sectors—is essential but complex. Conflicts may arise over land rights, resource access, and conservation priorities. Effective dialogue and participatory governance models help mediate disputes and foster trust.

Equity and Justice Considerations

Conservation initiatives must address social equity to avoid marginalizing vulnerable communities. Ethical conservation science prioritizes fair distribution of benefits and burdens, recognizing that environmental justice is integral to sustainable outcomes. This includes safeguarding indigenous rights, promoting gender equity, and ensuring transparency in decision-making.

Case Studies Illustrating Balanced Conservation Approaches

Several real-world examples demonstrate how conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature can be successfully implemented:

- **Namibia's Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM):** This program devolves wildlife management rights to local communities, incentivizing sustainable use and leading to increased wildlife populations alongside improved livelihoods.
- **The Great Green Wall Initiative:** A large-scale reforestation project across the Sahel region that combines combating desertification with creating economic opportunities for local populations.
- **Marine Protected Areas with Sustainable Fishing Zones:** Countries like Costa Rica have established marine reserves that protect biodiversity while allowing regulated artisanal fishing, balancing conservation and food security.

These cases highlight the importance of context-specific solutions that integrate ecological science with socio-economic realities.

The Future Trajectory of Conservation Science

Looking ahead, conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature will increasingly incorporate climate adaptation strategies, recognizing that global warming exacerbates existing environmental pressures. The integration of nature-based solutions into urban planning, agriculture, and disaster mitigation will be critical to fostering resilient ecosystems and communities.

Emerging frameworks such as the United Nations' post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework emphasize the dual goals of conserving biodiversity and improving human well-being. Success will depend on cross-sectoral collaboration, innovative financing mechanisms, and robust scientific research.

As conservation science continues to evolve, its capacity to navigate the delicate interplay between human aspirations and ecological limits will be pivotal in shaping a sustainable future where both people and nature can flourish.

Conservation Science Balancing The Needs Of People And Nature

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: *Conservation Science: Balancing the Needs of People and Nature* Peter Kareiva, Michelle Marvier, 2024-07-25 Focused on protecting nature and the planet, *Conservation Science: Balancing the Needs of People and Nature* contains a heavy emphasis on highlighting strategies to better connect the practice of conservation with the needs and priorities of a growing human population to give you an overview of this important area of science.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: Conservation Helen Kopnina, Haydn Washington, 2019-08-05 This book provides keys to decrypt current political debates on the environment in light of the theories that support them, and provides tools to better understand and manage environmental conflicts and promote environmentally friendly behaviour. As we work towards global sustainability at a time when efforts to conserve biodiversity and combat climate change correspond with land grabs by large corporations, food insecurity, and human displacement. While we seek to reconcile more-than-human relations and responsibilities in the Anthropocene, we also struggle to accommodate social justice and the increasingly global desire for economic development. These and other challenges fundamentally alter the way social scientists relate to communities and the environment. This book takes as its point of departure today's pressing environmental challenges, particularly the loss of biodiversity, and the role of communities in protected areas conservation. In its chapters, the authors discuss areas of tension between local livelihoods and international conservation efforts, between local communities and wildlife, and finally between traditional ways of living and 'modernity'. The central premise of this book is while these tensions cannot be easily resolved they can be better understood by considering both social and ecological effects, in equal measure. While environmental problems cannot be seen as purely ecological because they always involve people, who bring to the environmental table their different

assumptions about nature and culture, so are social problems connected to environmental constraints. While nonhumans cannot verbally bring anything to this negotiating table, aside from vast material benefits that society relies on, the distinct perspective of this book is that there is a need to consider the role of nonhumans as equally important stakeholders – albeit without a voice. This book develops an argument that human-environmental relationships are set within ecological reality and ecological ethics and rather than being mutually constitutive processes, humans have obligate dependence on nature, not vice versa. This would enable an ethical position encompassing the needs of other species and giving simultaneous (without one being subordinated to another) consideration to justice for humans and non-humans alike. The book is accessible to both social scientists and conservation specialists, and intends to contribute to strengthening interdisciplinary collaborations in the field of conservation.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: Grassroots Courtney White, 2017-05-12 In the mid-1990s, news headlines featured political gridlock, anti-government fanaticism, political assaults on environmental regulations, local demands to turn over federal land to the states, ‘patriotic’ armed militia groups, courtroom brawls between activists and rural residents over endangered species, finger-pointing and trash-talking generally. Sound familiar? It’s said that history doesn’t repeat itself, but rhymes instead. Fortunately, if problems are cyclical so are solutions. I’d like to share one that we came up with back then. It’s called the radical center. This is the story of its rise. I’m a former Sierra Club activist who dropped out of the ‘conflict industry’ in 1997 to cofound The Quivira Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering common ground between ranchers, conservationists, public land managers, and scientists. Our effort focused on resolving the long-standing feud between ranchers and environmentalists, a hopeless fight that had imperiled the wide open spaces of our beloved West. Our idea was to find a ‘third way’ beyond the polarization in order to implement practical, on-the-ground goals through collaboration, not confrontation. We called it the radical center and defined its mission as “a grassroots coming-together of diverse people to discuss their common interests rather than argue their differences and who agree to work cooperatively on a pragmatic program of action that improves the well-being of all living things.” Included in this book are three columns that I wrote over a period of nearly twenty years: The Uneasy Chair (1995-1997) which was published in the newsletter of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, The Far Horizon (1997-2006) for the newsletter of the Quivira Coalition, and The Next West (2009-2011), which I wrote for my web site. Taken together, I believe they offer a unique look at the times from the perspective of someone on the front lines. ~ Courtney White

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: Production, Growth, and the Environment William L. Weber, 2014-09-02 Written in a way that facilitates understanding of complex concepts, laws, and policy, *Production, Growth, and the Environment: An Economic Approach* explores how economic growth usually makes people better off, but also asks at what environmental cost? These costs are not often realized until after the fact, when their remediation is more expensive, and sometimes not reversible. Very few books on environmental economics model the joint production of desirable and undesirable outcomes in any depth. This book fills that void. It discusses the demographic transition and the escape from the Malthusian trap. It also covers the environmental Kuznets curve hypothesis that examines the relation between polluting outputs and economic welfare. The book integrates environmental valuation methods with the production possibility frontier (PPF) approach. It presents both types of outcomes in a PPF framework that accounts for scarcity and allows the concepts of technical and allocative efficiencies to be introduced and measured. The PPF can then measure technological progress/regress and can be used to measure whether resource use is sustainable over time. It can also be used to determine shadow prices for non-market desirable outputs such as ecological services and non-market undesirable by-products such as SO₂, NO_x, and CO₂ that arise from fossil fuel combustion. The beauty of the PPF framework is that it can be depicted in simple two-dimensional diagrams that make the concepts easy to understand. The author uses this framework to introduce concepts such as

technical efficiency, allocative efficiency, technological progress/regress, shadow pricing, externalities, public goods, pollution taxes, and permits. In addition, each chapter has numerous problems and discussion questions that provide examples and practice in using the introduced theories. The book also includes a chapter that shows how the solver routine in Excel can be used to measure technical and allocative efficiency. This gives you the tools to examine all outcomes and therefore make a decision that takes into account the environmental challenges along with any economic benefits.

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conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: Agroecology Stephen R. Gliessman, V. Ernesto Méndez, Victor M. Izzo, Eric W. Engles, 2022-09-30 Agroecology is at the forefront of transforming our food systems. This bestselling textbook provides the essential foundation for understanding this transformation in all its components: agricultural, ecological, economic, social, cultural, and political. It presents a case for food system change, explains the principles and practices underlying the ecological approach to food production, and lays out a vision for a food system based on equity and greater compatibility with the planet's life support systems. New to the fourth edition: A chapter on Alternatives to Industrial Agriculture, covering the similarities and distinctions among different approaches to sustainable agriculture A chapter on Ecological Pest, Weed, and Disease Management A chapter on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture A chapter on Agriculture and the Climate Crisis A revised analysis and critique of the food system's embeddedness in the extractive capitalist world economy that reflects ideas in the emerging field of political agroecology Streamlined treatment of agroecology's foundations in ecological science, making the text more compatible with typical course curricula A Companion Website at <https://routledge-textbooks.com/textbooks/9781032187105/> incorporates the entire contents of the updated practical manual Field and Laboratory Investigations in Agroecology, split into student and lecturer resources. These 24 sample investigations facilitate hands-on learning that involves close observation, creative interpretation, and constant questioning of findings. Groundbreaking in its first edition and established as the definitive text in its second and third, the fourth edition of Agroecology captures recent developments in the field and forcefully applies the idea that agroecology is a science, a movement, and a practice. Written by a team of experts, this book will encourage students and practitioners to consider the critical importance of transitioning to a new paradigm for food and agriculture.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity*, 2013-02-05 The 7-volume *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity*, Second Edition maintains the reputation of the highly regarded original, presenting the most current information available in this globally crucial area of research and study. It brings together the dimensions of biodiversity and examines both the services it provides and the measures to protect it. Major themes of the work include the evolution of biodiversity, systems for classifying and defining biodiversity, ecological patterns and theories of biodiversity, and an assessment of contemporary patterns and trends in biodiversity. The science of biodiversity has become the science of our future. It is an interdisciplinary field spanning areas of both physical and life sciences. Our awareness of the loss of biodiversity has brought a long overdue appreciation of the magnitude of this loss and a determination to develop the tools to protect our future. Second edition includes over 100 new articles and 226 updated articles covering this multidisciplinary field— from evolution to habits to economics, in 7 volumes The editors of this edition are all well respected, instantly recognizable academics operating at the top of their respective fields in biodiversity research; readers can be assured that they are reading material that has been meticulously checked and reviewed by experts Approximately 1,800 figures and 350 tables complement the text, and more than 3,000 glossary entries explain key terms

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: *Central American Biodiversity* Falk Huettmann, 2015-08-04 This book highlights key results and lessons learnt from two field sites, La Suerte in Costa Rica and Ometepe Nicaragua. It provides long term data on species abundance and distribution. Primates receive specific attention in this book, as they are flagship species and good indicators for the “health” of an ecosystem, but as well a money maker. Many primate species are sensitive to habitat alteration, and are often hunted out first. But they play an important role as seed dispersal agents for the regeneration of the forest. The book then compares results from the two field sites with regional trends, and explores potential solutions such as REDD+. This book strongly calls for new approaches in conservation, it makes the case for looking beyond the pure species biology and classic conservation angle and to take into account the economic and political realities.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: *Integrating Biological Control into Conservation Practice* Roy van Driesche, Daniel Simberloff, Bernd Blossey, Charlotte Causton, Mark Hoddle, Christian O. Marks, Kevin M. Heinz, David L. Wagner, Keith D. Warner, 2016-08-01 Invasive species have a critical and growing effect upon natural areas. They can modify, degrade, or destroy wildland ecosystem structure and function, and reduce native biodiversity. Landscape-level solutions are needed to address these problems. Conservation biologists seek to limit such damage and restore ecosystems using a variety of approaches. One such approach is biological control: the deliberate importation and establishment of specialized natural enemies, which can address invasive species problems and which should be considered as a possible component of restoration. Biological control can be an effective tool against many invasive insects and plants but it has rarely been successfully employed against other groups. Safety is of paramount concern and requires that the natural enemies used be specialized and that targeted pests be drivers of ecological degradation. While modern approaches allow species to be selected with a high level of security, some risks do remain. However, as in all species introductions, these should be viewed in the context of the risk of failing to reduce the impact of the invasive species. This unique book identifies the balance among these factors to show how biological control can be integrated into ecosystem restoration as practiced by conservation biologists. Jointly developed by conservation biologists and biological control scientists, it contains chapters on matching tools to management goals; tools in action; measuring and evaluating ecological outcomes of biological control introductions; managing conflict over biological control; and includes case studies as well as an ethical framework for integrating biological control and conservation practice. *Integrating Biological Control into Conservation Practice* is suitable for graduate courses in invasive species management and biological control, as well as for research scientists in government and non-profit conservation

organizations.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: *Ignoring Nature No More* Marc Bekoff, 2013-06-01 For far too long humans have been ignoring nature. As the most dominant, overproducing, overconsuming, big-brained, big-footed, arrogant, and invasive species ever known, we are wrecking the planet at an unprecedented rate. And while science is important to our understanding of the impact we have on our environment, it alone does not hold the answers to the current crisis, nor does it get people to act. In *Ignoring Nature No More*, Marc Bekoff and a host of renowned contributors argue that we need a new mind-set about nature, one that centers on empathy, compassion, and being proactive. This collection of diverse essays is the first book devoted to compassionate conservation, a growing global movement that translates discussions and concerns about the well-being of individuals, species, populations, and ecosystems into action. Written by leading scholars in a host of disciplines, including biology, psychology, sociology, social work, economics, political science, and philosophy, as well as by locals doing fieldwork in their own countries, the essays combine the most creative aspects of the current science of animal conservation with analyses of important psychological and sociocultural issues that encourage or vex stewardship. The contributors tackle topics including the costs and benefits of conservation, behavioral biology, media coverage of animal welfare, conservation psychology, and scales of conservation from the local to the global. Taken together, the essays make a strong case for why we must replace our habits of domination and exploitation with compassionate conservation if we are to make the world a better place for nonhuman and human animals alike.

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conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: *A Field on Fire* Mark D. Hersey, Ted Steinberg, 2019-01-29 A frank and engaging exploration of the burgeoning academic field of environmental history Inspired by the pioneering work of preeminent environmental historian Donald Worster, the contributors to *A Field on Fire: The Future of Environmental History* reflect on the past and future of this discipline. Featuring wide-ranging essays by leading environmental historians from the United States, Europe, and China, the collection challenges scholars to rethink some of their orthodoxies, inviting them to approach familiar stories from new angles, to integrate new methodologies, and to think creatively about the questions this field is well positioned to answer. Worster's groundbreaking research serves as the organizational framework for the collection. Editors Mark D. Hersey and Ted Steinberg have arranged the book into three sections corresponding to the primary concerns of Worster's influential scholarship: the problem of natural limits, the transnational nature of environmental issues, and the question of method. Under

the heading "Facing Limits," five essays explore the inherent tensions between democracy, technology, capitalism, and the environment. The "Crossing Borders" section underscores the ways in which environmental history moves easily across national and disciplinary boundaries. Finally, "Doing Environmental History" invokes Worster's work as an essayist by offering self-conscious reflections about the practice and purpose of environmental history. The essays aim to provoke a discussion on the future of the field, pointing to untapped and underdeveloped avenues ripe for further exploration. A forward thinker like Worster presents bold challenges to a new generation of environmental historians on everything from capitalism and the Anthropocene to war and wilderness. This engaging volume includes a very special afterword by one of Worster's oldest friends, the eminent intellectual historian Daniel Rodgers, who has known Worster for close to fifty years.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: Forestry Applications of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) 2019 Alessandro Matese, 2020-11-23 Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are new platforms that have been increasingly used in the last few years for forestry applications that benefit from the added value of flexibility, low cost, reliability, autonomy, and capability of timely provision of high-resolution data. The main adopted image-based technologies are RGB, multispectral, and thermal infrared. LiDAR sensors are becoming commonly used to improve the estimation of relevant plant traits. In comparison with other permanent ecosystems, forests are particularly affected by climatic changes due to the longevity of the trees, and the primary objective is the conservation and protection of forests. Nevertheless, forestry and agriculture involve the cultivation of renewable raw materials, with the difference that forestry is less tied to economic aspects and this is reflected by the delay in using new monitoring technologies. The main forestry applications are aimed toward inventory of resources, map diseases, species classification, fire monitoring, and spatial gap estimation. This Special Issue focuses on new technologies (UAV and sensors) and innovative data elaboration methodologies (object recognition and machine vision) for applications in forestry.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: Invasive Species Julie Lockwood, Dustin J. Welbourne, 2023-05-23 Today there is no place on Earth that does not harbour invasive exotic species. Invasive plants and animals can be found on every continent, including Antarctica, and within all waterbodies, including all oceans. In our increasingly connected world, with speedy commercial and recreational travel and the global movement of biological matter for food, invasive species are showing up at such a fast rate that there is no way to accurately count how many currently exist or how many are likely to emerge in the coming decades. Monitoring these species and controlling their spread is essential, as we increasingly understand the negative impacts they pose: their threat to our health; the toll they take on our commercial production; and the threat they pose to native ecosystems. This Very Short Introduction provides a clear definition of an invasive species, and considers the myriad ways they are moved around the globe, and the ecological, social, and economic impacts they often impose. Exploring the way Earth's biodiversity is being affected by global change, Julie Lockwood also discusses policy and management approaches to combating the ill-effects of invasive species, and how invasive species fit within the broader context of environmental change. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

conservation science balancing the needs of people and nature: Dodging Extinction Anthony D. Barnosky, 2016-08-16 Paleobiologist Anthony D. Barnosky weaves together evidence from the deep past and the present to alert us to the looming Sixth Mass Extinction and to offer a practical, hopeful plan for avoiding it. Writing from the front lines of extinction research, Barnosky tells the overarching story of geologic and evolutionary history and how it informs the way humans inhabit, exploit, and impact Earth today. He presents compelling evidence that unless we rethink

how we generate the power we use to run our global ecosystem, where we get our food, and how we make our money, we will trigger what would be the sixth great extinction on Earth, with dire consequences. Optimistic that we can change this ominous forecast if we act now, Barnosky provides clear-cut strategies to guide the planet away from global catastrophe. In many instances the necessary technology and know-how already exist and are being applied to crucial issues around human-caused climate change, feeding the world's growing population, and exploiting natural resources. Deeply informed yet accessibly written, *Dodging Extinction* is nothing short of a guidebook for saving the planet.

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