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978-0-521-11284-0 - Seasonally Dry Tropical Forests

Edited by Stephen H. Bullock, Harold A. Mooney and Ernesto Medina

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Prolonged seasonal drought affects most of the tropics, including vast areas presently or recently dominated by 'dry forests'. These have received scant attention although humans have used and changed them more than wet forests. This volume reviews the available information, often making contrasts with wetter forests. The world's dry forest heterogeneity of structure and function is shown regionally. In the neotropics, biogeographic patterns differ from those of wet forests, as does the spectrum of plant life forms in terms of structure, physiology, phenology and reproduction. Biomass distribution, nutrient cycling, belowground dynamics and nitrogen gas emission are reviewed. Exploitation schemes are surveyed, and examples are given of non-timber product economies. This volume aims to stimulate research leading to more conservative and productive management and will be of interest to those working in conservation, land management, forestry and wildlife-related disciplines.

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SEASONALLY DRY TROPICAL FORESTS

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This book is dedicated to the memory of a marvelous colleague and friend, Alwyn H. Gentry, who inspired and challenged us with his ideas and energy and enthusiasm. His unmatched experience in all varieties of tropical forest contributed to an extraordinarily extensive impact on conservation while greatly enriching basic science.

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