

## Biodiversity, Sustainability and Human Communities

Biodiversity is the key indicator of a healthy planet and healthy society. Losses of biodiversity have now become widespread and current rates are potentially catastrophic for species and habitat integrity. *Biodiversity, Sustainability and Human Communities* advocates both the preservation of the best remaining habitats and the enhancement of new biodiverse habitats to ensure that they cope with human impact, climate change and alien species invasion. The authors argue that these aims can be achieved by a mix of strict protection, by inclusive involvement of people inside and adjacent to reserves, and by combining livelihoods and social wellbeing in all future biodiversity management. Case studies from regions around the world, including Europe, the United States, Latin America, Asia and Africa, are examined and discussed, and the contributors include political scientists, economists and ecologists.

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# Biodiversity, Sustainability and Human Communities

Protecting beyond the Protected

Edited by

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Cambridge University Press
0521813654 - Biodiversity, Sustainability and Human Communities: Protecting beyond
the Protected
Edited by Tim O'Riordan and Susanne Stoll-Kleemann
Frontmatter

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

© Cambridge University Press 2002

http://www.cambridge.org

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First published 2002

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Plantin 10/12 pt System  $\LaTeX$  2 $_{\mathcal{E}}$  [TB]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Biodiversity, sustainability and human communities: Protecting beyond the protected/edited by Tim O'Riordan.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p. ).

ISBN 0 521 81365 4 - ISBN 0 521 89052 7 (pbk)

1. Biological diversity conservation. 2. Sustainable development. I. O'Riordan, Timothy.

QH75.P798 2002 333.95'16'0973-dc21 2002023866

ISBN 0 521 81365 4 hardback ISBN 0 521 89052 7 paperback



To Fay, who has made me love the future *Tim O'Riordan* 



Cambridge University Press 0521813654 - Biodiversity, Sustainability and Human Communities: Protecting beyond the Protected Edited by Tim O'Riordan and Susanne Stoll-Kleemann Frontmatter

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## Preface

The common theme for this text is that a resilient biodiversity is an indicator of a healthy planet and a sensitive human family that cares for its neighbours and its offspring. For this human family to be at peace with itself, it must also be at peace with biodiversity. Species mix is less important for future biodiversity than the connections between species, habitats and social, economic and political outlooks that care, anticipate and adapt. The diversity of species will be maintained only by a diversity of management styles and cultural outlooks that both protect the protected, and recreate biodiversity for a changing society and economy. To monitor, assess and evaluate the great variety of biodiversity management 'styles' will enable local action to become global trusteeship. In this spirit of enquiry and hope, the editors and authors will address four objectives.

- 1 To assess the current and future threat to biodiversity in terms of recorded losses, current dangers, and possible prognoses based on fore-seeable developments in landuse change, alterations in climate futures, alien invasions of plants, animals and pathogens, pollution and toxification, all connected to global and regional agreements, and likely shifts in property rights and management regimes.
- 2 To develop the scope for combining ecological and social resilience by coupling the established management approaches of placing 'ecology' and 'people' first in the design and operation of safeguarding protected areas and recreating new biodiversity corridors and patches linked to such protected areas.
- 3 To examine, by means of illustrative case studies from across the globe, why it is proving so difficult to achieve this synthesis. In so doing, the authors will explore why the 'inclusionary' approach is so often avoided, or ignored, or introduced with too little attention to the feelings and outlooks of those whose co-operation is being sought.
- 4 To extend current theories within the social and ecological sciences to explain how it may become possible to combine ecological and social



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adaptation in the cause of safeguarding and extending biodiversity. This task will be undertaken through lessons learnt from the case studies. The emphasis will lie on practical measures for widening the scope for effective and inclusive management rather than shaping theory for its own sake.