

Such interconnectedness, including the relationships between people and their environment, is at the core of this compilation. The word culture is derived from the Latin term to tend the earth, to cultivate, to nurture. However, definitions of culture, cultural values and cultural significance vary markedly between disciplines. The editors therefore take the time to explore these terms and explain their own choices of terminology. Of particular note is the use of the word nature-culture to articulate the concept that nature and culture are mutually constituted, rather than separate or linked realms.

The book is structured in three sections. Part I focuses on philosophical foundations. Part II explores how the concepts are addressed in international conventions and associated practice. Part III comprises case studies of how the cultural and spiritual significance of nature is incorporated into protected area governance and management. The primary intended audience is conservation professionals working in protected area management and policy, with academics as a key secondary target group. Hence there is a strong emphasis on conceptual frameworks and international policy processes. This can make some material feel heavy going, particularly for those more directly engaged in conservation practice.

Readers are taken on a global journey across mountains, steppes, islands and wetlands, from Yellowstone through Batwa customary lands in Uganda and the cultural landscapes of Italy and Spain, *Fengshui* forests and spiritually governed sacred sites in China, the Pacific islands, to the homestead gardens of Australia. So what's missing? Seascapes and their cultural and spiritual significance seem to be limited to a photo of a whale in the final chapter. Geographically, I found little reference to Latin America which, given its diversity of Indigenous Peoples and more recent migrants with their often contrasting relationships with nature, seems a pity. Reading with an equity lens, I was also somewhat surprised to be left with the feeling that most analysis was largely gender blind.

To be fair, no single publication is likely to be able to cover all the bases. There is definitely something here for everyone interested in these complex, dynamic and diverse issues, including explorations of what makes a place sacred, stories of meaning, even the meaning of meaning. Spiritual governance and Indigenous nature spirituality, as well as the role of mainstream religious institutions, are also discussed.

At the heart of this book is the contributors' desire to make conservation more sustainable, equitable and effective by engaging with deeply held cultural and spiritual values to inspire action to conserve cultural, geological and biological diversity. In many places their passion for this mission shines through.

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### Conservation and Development in Uganda

edited by Chris Sandbrook, Connor Joseph Cavanagh and David Mwesigye Tumusiime (2018) xix + 276 pp., Routledge, Abingdon, UK. ISBN 978-1-138710924 (hbk), GBP 80.50.

This edited volume is a fascinating, useful book as it combines a case study of conservation and development in Uganda with more theoretical and methodological perspectives. Uganda is biologically diverse and its protected areas support species such as the gorilla, chimpanzee and elephant. But at the same time its agricultural sector accounts for 25% of GDP and 70% of employment, with 75% of this production coming from small-scale or household farms. Thus, when animals such as elephants leave a park to eat a farmer's crops, there is conflict—a group of elephants can cause a great deal of damage in a short period of time. One reason this edited volume is of such interest is that Uganda has been a country where many of the different approaches to conservation and development have been tried, evaluated and contrasted, and there are many scholars who have written on conservation and development in the country. As a result, Uganda has an interesting story to tell and readers can glean many insights by reading this edited volume.

The book contains 13 chapters in five sections. The first section provides a historical perspective about the conflict between conservation and development and allows the reader to understand the context that rural people dealt with and thus why they take some of the perspectives they do. These reflections go back to 1896, during the colonial time, when the first laws relating to wildlife were passed, through the Idi Amin time with its civil war, to the present. For each time period the outcomes of the different management schemes on biodiversity and local livelihoods are presented.

The second section presents three 'celebrity sites' as case studies: Bwindi, Budongo, and Mount Elgon. These are very interesting descriptions as they provide insights into the nature of conflicts and how resolutions were attempted or achieved. It would have been nice to have chapters on some of the other important national parks, such as Kibale, Queen Elizabeth, and Murchison National Parks, as they have experienced different management approaches and resettlement programmes.

The third section takes more of a methodological perspective and examines various conservation and development tools that have been used over the years in Uganda. The first chapter of this section deals with carbon offset programmes in Uganda, which have taken on global significance. Since they were started in 1992 the efforts of the Uganda Wildlife Authority and Forests Absorbing Carbon Emissions Foundation to plant native trees have grown to the extent that Uganda's production accounts for the fourth largest market share of carbon credits globally. The next chapter deals with the tourism sector, which has also grown to be significant in Uganda, accounting for 9% (USD 2.2 billion) of the country's GDP, and that has focused on a successful gorilla ecotourism programme. The final chapter deals with the need to harmonize local cultural values with conservation and development—an issue that is often neglected and can lead to project failure.

The last section of the book deals with the interplay between the productive sectors of Uganda's economy and conservation and development, and begins with the agricultural sector, which experiences significant conflict with wildlife. The forestry sector is considered next. There has been a historically troublesome institutional arrangement leading to inefficiency in conservation and development programmes and poor management of nature reserves. There have been a number of international players over the years, including the USA, UK, Germany, and Norway, and the lack of coordination has caused disharmony. The last chapter deals with the relatively new oil industry, primarily in Murchison Falls National Park, and outlines conflicts among conservation groups, the state and the oil industry. It is estimated that Uganda has 6.5 billion barrels of oil in place and between 1.4 and 1.7 billion more barrels that could be recovered. With these sorts of reserves there are bound to be conflicts between the oil industry and conservation.

The book ends with a discussion of future research that should be a priority and future policy that would be useful to adopt. The topics in this section range from neglected communities, landscapes, and protected areas, interdisciplinarity and epistemological reflections, to hybrid knowledges and forms of science. These topics would be good for researchers, managers, and policy makers alike to evaluate in detail.

So who should read this book? Anyone who is engaged in conservation and development or interested in the varied tools this field uses will find the book to be of value. African scholars will find the book useful for understanding contemporary issues. The book would also be useful for classroom debate, as

the case studies provide sufficient context to understand the setting and to delve into the issues involved.

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**Large Carnivore Conservation and Management—Human Dimensions** edited by Tasos Hovardas (2018), Routledge, Abingdon, UK. ISBN 978-1-138039995 (hbk), GBP 115.00.

Dealing with large carnivore conservation issues means dealing with people and their interests. Easy to read, this informative book focuses on the nature and quality of human interactions integral to carnivore conservation. *Human Dimensions* convincingly demonstrates that these are amongst the most important elements in addressing coexistence challenges. This excellent volume condenses decades of high-quality research into who the relevant stakeholders are, how they interact and negotiate with each other, and how their value systems, mandates and actions influence the legitimacy and outcomes of carnivore management policies.

*Human Dimensions* consists of three main sections, with 16 chapters. The authors represent a wide range of professional disciplines and research backgrounds, facilitating a truly comprehensive analysis of this difficult subject. By studying the human actors at play,

they examine the controversial debate about large carnivores in a conservation psychology context. Much more than about carnivores or conflict, this book is about the importance of mutual respect and democratic consultation, key prerequisites for identifying common ground for collaboration and reaching broad societal consensus.

Part I (Chapters 1–5) provides a useful synopsis of the theoretical and methodological perspectives of stakeholder interactions in carnivore conservation. This part sets out important definitions and outlines the complex arenas in which societal discourse takes place. The authors carefully examine the roles, functions, and responsibilities of various actors and antagonists. They also explore the social, cultural and political dimensions of stakeholder participation and suggest different mechanisms to coordinate dialogue through consensus-seeking processes. Tasos Hovardas, the editor, concludes this section with a pragmatic framework for stakeholder engagement and analysis.

Part II (Chapters 6–11) portrays the diversity of stakeholder perceptions and the resulting social and environmental behaviours. These chapters illustrate how social identity and policy frameworks can shape attitudes towards large carnivores and other stakeholders through complicated reciprocal relationships. Although a common topic throughout the volume, the authors focus in particular on stakeholder polarization, such as between urban and rural interest groups. They also outline avenues to resolve governance issues and disparities in decision-making power.

Part III (Chapters 12–16) reviews decision- and policy-making at the broadest societal dimensions, covering topics such as ethics and the law. The chapters highlight the importance of trans-national collaborations, which appropriately reflect the far-reaching activities

and impacts of large carnivores. The authors examine strategic partnership opportunities with key sectors of society, such as business and politics. Advocating for fairer societal discourse and participation, they also consider the implications of decentralization in decision-making, which, ultimately, could improve public acceptance of carnivore management policies.

This book is neither dogmatic nor does it contain unnecessary technical jargon, making it an accessible resource that provides generous practical guidance. For instance, various chapters contain useful, mixed quantitative and qualitative research methods from environmental social science. The chosen case studies vividly illustrate the different dimensions of societal discourse, the power relations between stakeholders, as well as their complicated interrelations. That most examples are drawn from Europe does not diminish their universal relevance.

Hovardas and colleagues critically appraise different carnivore management frameworks, including successful and less successful approaches, always emphasizing the context-specific nature of social challenges. They skillfully review community settings in light of constantly changing societies with dynamic norms and values. The need for more democratic reconciliation of stakeholder positions reverberates throughout the text. Coexistence with carnivores requires broad societal compromise and this volume expertly disentangles the social and political implications of such an agreement. The book covers a lot of ground and it provides a valuable resource for those involved in, or unfamiliar with, the human dimensions of large carnivore conservation and management.

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