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TOWARD AN ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PROJECT: CONCEPTS, ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM PROCESSES IN THE RÍO CÓNDROR PROJECT—TIERRA DEL FUEGO.

By Mary T K Arroyo, Claudio Donoso, Roberto E Murúa, Edmundo E Pisano, Roberto P Schlatter, and Italo A Serey. Santiago (Chile): Universidad de Chile. \$35.00 (paper). 253 p; ill.; no index. ISBN: 956-19-0234-6. [Available from the Missouri Botanical Garden Press. Text is in both Spanish and English.] 1996.

The island of Tierra del Fuego, bisected by the international boundary that separates Chile and Argentina, lies about as far south of the equator as Juneau, Alaska, lies to the north. It is here that a privately held company proposes to enter into sustainable forestry on roughly half of its 258,000-hectare holdings.

In 1994, the company and the Chilean Academy of Sciences created an independent Scientific Commission whose job was to conduct baseline studies (for an environmental impact statement and to guide the design of biological reserves within the property) and make recommendations on feasibility, mitigation, monitoring, and research. Six months and 104 scientists later, the result was 17 reports covering everything from archeology to zoology. This bilingual (English-Spanish) volume is comprised of an overview of the issues and the project, coupled with synopses of those 17 reports.

First, an international round of applause should be given for the decision to do baseline studies before the chainsaws are cranked. A second round of applause is deserved for the efforts of the Chilean scientists who worked under what must have been very difficult logistical conditions and under short deadlines to get the job done. The synthesis reports range in thoroughness from substantial detail on botany and vegetation to quick glimpses of soils, marine biology, and archeology. None of the scientists would claim completeness, and most signal the need for additional research. This book will not win any Pulitzer Prizes for its style (most annoyingly, strings of one-sentence paragraphs), but it does compress a lot of information into a small space.

The forests in question are floristically simple (six tree species), but they encompass all of the hot issues in conservation and sustainable use: endangered species, an underemployed local populace, alien species (beavers, trout, and dandelions), big mammals (guanacos), wetlands, and carbon storage. This project is a singular opportunity to manage a landscape properly before humans make irrevocable decisions on use of natural resources. As such, it is sure to attract international attention and yield lessons of global importance.

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