Treetops at Risk
Challenges of Global Canopy Ecology and Conservation
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Margaret Lowman • Soubadra Devy • T. Ganesh
Editors

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Foreword

E.O. Wilson has said that we are letting “nature slip through our fingers.” Depleting Earth’s fabric of life means we could slip through hers. In a few decades, I have personally witnessed the loss or serious decline of about half of the coral reefs, kelp forests, seagrass meadows and mangroves, elimination of 90% of many kinds of fish and other ocean wildlife, creation of hundreds of coastal dead zones, a sharp reduction in oxygen-generating carbon dioxide-absorbing phytoplankton, acidification of the ocean, acceleration of global warming, a swift reduction of polar ice, and introduction of tons of toxins and plastic into the blue heart of the planet.

The good news is that we have arrived at the “sweet spot” in our history. Never before could we so clearly grasp our dependence on – and loss of – intact, living systems that underpin everything we care about. Never again will there be a chance as good as the present time to restore and protect the natural systems that keep us alive. Now we know what no one knew when I was a child. Making peace with nature is the best hope for having an enduring future for humankind.

In this volume, international forest scientists describe the challenges, methods, and their hope for conservation of these terrestrial systems. Like the oceans, forests are critical hot spots for biodiversity, and their future health is intertwined with that of humans.

Raleigh, NC, USA

Sylvia Earle (aka “Her Deepness”)
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