

must be on the utilization of tropical ecosystems in the most ecologically sensitive way possible; a number of authors in the present volume—notably Budowski, Alvim, and Goodland and Irwin—stress this point of view.

Several of the papers in the book—especially those by Steyermark on Venezuela and by Prance and Pires on Amazonia—are valuable contributions to the biogeography and population ecology of their respective areas. Others are useful summaries of the status of the conservation of plants in the various parts of the Americas, including the temperate regions of North and South America. All in all the volume is a rich and diverse sampling of points of view on a problem that is of direct interest to all ecologists and systematists, the ecological stability of Latin America.

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