Karr (Chapter 12) further elaborates on landscape ecology, mentioned earlier by Naveh, recognizing four central components: scale, dynamics, patches, and interpatch linkages. Through case studies of aquatic, wetland, and forest ecosystems, Karr illustrates human dependence on biodiversity, the role of landscape ecological studies in ecosystem management, and the importance of studies of spatiotemporal heterogeneity of ecological systems in theory and practice.

Part 5, with three chapters, deals with socioeconomics of biodiversity. Robert Weaver (Chapter 13) explains the need, concept, and methodology for economic valuation of biological diversity, viewing biodiversity as a public good and limited resource. He maintains that economic valuation of biodiversity is useful although its nonutilitarian values do exist. In Chapter 14, Alan Randall argues that only recognizing economic values of biodiversity is not adequate. To avoid what he calls the “slick terrain” problem, he encourages a search for fail-safe approaches to biodiversity conservation. Chapter 15 by Christopher Uhl et al. reviews the land use history and discusses the problem of sustainable development in the municipality of Paragominas in the eastern Amazonia.

Six chapters in Part 6 discuss strategies for conserving biodiversity and resolving the humanity–biodiversity paradox. Robert Weaver (Chapter 16) believes that the relationship between economic activities–development and biodiversity–environmental management can be mutually beneficial, although the contrary has been evidenced for the past three decades. While I agree with the author that greater international cooperation is clearly needed in the future, his conclusion that “substantive means” are available for “erasing” the impacts of human activities on biodiversity is undoubtedly an overstatement. In Chapter 17, John Cairns, Jr. argues that the conflicting relationship between technology and biodiversity conservation is getting worse. He insightfully points out the problem of fragmentation that exists in human societies (lack of a holistic view), the educational system (isolation of disciplines), the political system (special interest groups), and the regulatory community (lack of interagency efforts). Several recommendations are made accordingly. Chapter 18 by Howard Odum introduces the concepts of “energy” and “transformity,” which, as he claims, provide a common measure for evaluating human ecosystem performance that involves both nature and economy. Although this approach has shown interesting results in some ecological socioeconomic studies, its usage in biodiversity conservation remains to be seen. Harold Tukey (Chapter 19) briefly argues that plants and gardens should be considered as part of biodiversity. This is the only chapter without any references, although some of the literature on urban landscape ecology would be relevant. Chapter 20 by M. Rupert Cutler emphasizes the role of nongovernmental environmental organizations, whereas Chapter 21 by Michael Bean concludes Part 6 by giving a succinct survey of legislative and public agency initiatives in biodiversity conservation.

In the concluding chapter of book (Part 7), Weaver and Kim attempt to give a comprehensive synthesis on the biodiversity–humanity paradox and to outline a new paradigm for the problem of sustainable development in the municipality of Paragominas in the eastern Amazonia.

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