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**Book Review: Zimmerer, K. S. (Ed.). (2006). Globalization & New Geographies of Conservation. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 357 pp., US\$35.00 (paper) (ISBN 0-226-98344-7)**  
CentREAD Working Group  
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*Globalization and the New Geographies of Conservation* emerged from a symposium in 2002 focused on issues and tensions related to the globalization of conservation efforts and their expanded interactions with livelihoods, agriculture, and resource use. The editor states that the book is intended to address geographical aspects of the recent intensification of the interconnections between global conservation and livelihoods. The general discussion and case studies that it presents analyze unfolding issues that combine the global conservation of nature and landscapes, the sustainability of global environments, and worldwide development initiatives for a broad audience including students, researchers, and teachers as well as practitioners, activists, and policy makers.

The book is organized loosely into four sections. The first section describes the new spatial arrangements resulting from a globalized world and the dynamics of conservation territories (spaces dedicated to nature preservation and sustainable use of natural resources). These chapters focus on natural systems and present a variety of approaches to conservation of biodiversity combined with elements of sustainable use, such as certification of natural goods and productive conservation. The second section analyzes the lack of correspondence between scales at which livelihoods of conservation territories take place and the new scales of environmental management created by globalization. It includes examples of how inter- and intracommunity relationships are formed around economic development and resource use. The third section focuses on the political and regulatory difficulties associated with transboundary issues. The last section includes case studies of the role of decentralization of natural resource management and argues that environmental governance at the local level is a key but often problematic element of successful conservation.

Zimmerer and colleagues' book provides a useful conceptual map of the emerging nexus between globalization and conservation in the global South. Perhaps its greatest strength in mapping out this nexus is the methodological, theoretical, and geographic diversity of its case studies. Methodologically, the book draws from various techniques employed in the field of geography including satellite remote sensing, participatory mapping, archival research, and discourse analysis. The book also makes a valuable contribution in linking diverse theoretical frameworks, including issues of scale, spatial relationships, and decentralization in environmental governance, to understand the globalization of conservation practice.

The book's themes are developed with case studies that represent a broad geographic scope of conservation in the global South, including Asia, Africa, and Latin America,

although the majority of case studies are found in the latter. As an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students who work in various regions, we found that certain case studies provided well-grounded and rigorous analyses, were accessible to a broad audience, and linked well to the themes of the book. In particular, these include Chris Sneddon's chapter on competing conservation scales and goals in the Mekong River Basin, Leslie Gray's analysis of decentralization of land use governance in Burkina Faso, Hong Jiang's work on privatization of pastureland in Inner Mongolia, and J. Christopher Brown's analysis of beekeeping in the Amazon as a productive conservation strategy.

Although this book has several strengths, it promises more than it delivers. The editor's stated goal of providing an opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds to enter into the conversation is laudable; however, few of the chapters provide sufficient background information to make the material accessible to the broad audience for which it is intended. Many chapters were not appropriate for introductory students, policy makers, and activists; instead they cater to a rather narrow academic audience.

Compiling disparate conference papers into a single volume poses challenges. Nonetheless, the editing was a particular weakness in this volume. The chapters, with only a couple of exceptions, did not provide a direct linkage to the overall purpose of the book nor connect with other chapters. In addition, some key terms, such as *conservation*, are not clearly defined or used similarly across chapters. Another aspect of the volume that is problematic is that it attempts to thread chapters together under a theoretical umbrella using the four sections described earlier, but the placement of chapters in sections often seems haphazard, and unrelated chapters are grouped in sections 1 and 2. The editor attempts to link the chapters together in the introduction, conclusion, and short pieces introducing each section, but the connections seemed to be contrived.

Overall, this volume ambitiously attempts to thread diverse stories together into a cohesive statement contextualizing new conservation debates. Given that the volume falls short, however, of weaving together these stories into a unified vision, we find it difficult to specify a single audience for whom the entire book is appropriate. Certainly, though, a number of individual chapters are informative for students and could provide insights to policy makers concerned with new geographies of conservation.

The CenTREAD Working Group<sup>1</sup>

## NOTE

1. The CenTREAD Working Group (part of the Center for Tropical Research in Ecology, Agriculture, and Development at the University of California Santa Cruz; for more information, go to <http://centread.ucsc.edu>) is a diverse group of scholars from the natural sciences, the social sciences, and interdisciplinary studies. Participants in developing this review included Barbara Ayala-Orozco, Rafael Aizprua, Nick Babin, Martha Bonilla-Moheno, Jeffrey Bury, Sarah Carvill, Brian M. Dowd, Margaret Fitzsimmons, Sean Gillon, Kathleen Hilimire, Karen D. Holl, Chris Krohn, Brian C. Petersen, Daniella Schweizer, and Ana Spalding.