

Sacred Natural Sites

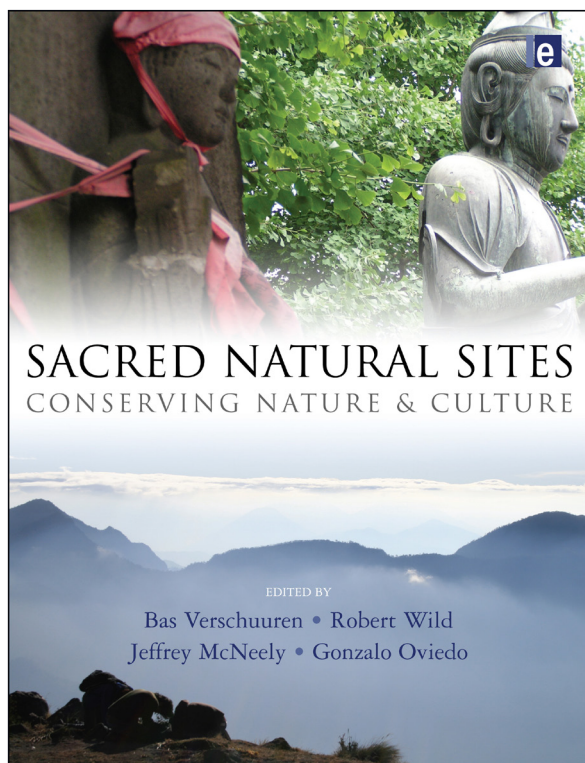
Conserving Nature and Culture

earthscan

www.earthscan.co.uk

Edited by Bas Verschuuren, Robert Wild, Jeffrey McNeely and Gonzalo Oviedo

20% off List Price



Pb • ~~£29.99~~ £23.99 • 9781849711678
Hb • ~~£90.00~~ £72.00 • 9781849711661
300 pages • September 2010

'This book is being published in the International Year of Biodiversity, which gives it special importance as an expression of the special relationship between people and the rest of nature. It offers us an opportunity to remind ourselves of the deep and meaningful relationships that many religions and faith communities have with nature, demonstrated by their devotion to sacred natural sites such as those described in these pages.'

Julia Marton-Lefèvre
International Union for Conservation of Nature

Sacred Natural Sites are the world's oldest protected places. This book focuses on a wide spread of both iconic and lesser known examples such as sacred groves of the Western Ghats (India), Sagarmatha Chomolongma (Mt Everest, Nepal, Tibet and China), the Golden Mountains of Altai (Russia), Holy Island of Lindisfarne (UK) and the sacred lakes of the Niger Delta (Nigeria).

The book illustrates that sacred natural sites, although often under threat, exist within and outside formally recognised protected areas, heritage sites. Sacred natural sites may well be some of the last strongholds for building resilient networks of connected landscapes. They also form important nodes for maintaining a dynamic socio-cultural fabric in the face of global change. The diverse authors bridge the gap between approaches to the conservation of cultural and biological diversity by taking into account cultural and spiritual values together with the socio-economic interests of the custodian communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Bas Verschuuren serves as co-chair with IUCN's Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas, and is a scientist and facilitator with EarthCollective. Bas has over 10 years of international experience integrating cultural and spiritual values in conservation management and policy.

Robert G. Wild is an ecologist and social scientist with 25 years practical experience of working with communities at protected areas in East Africa, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Europe. He is chair of the IUCN's Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas.

Jeffrey A. McNeely is Senior Science Advisor at the International Union for Conservation of Nature. He has worked in international conservation for over forty years and has written or edited dozens of books on a wide range of topics that include cultural values of nature.

Gonzalo Oviedo is an anthropologist and environmentalist and works as Senior Adviser for Social Policy at the International Union for Conservation of Nature facilitating the integration of social issues in conservation work worldwide. Gonzalo focuses on livelihood security, culture, rights and governance.

CONTENTS

Foreword Preface

1. Introduction: Sacred Natural Sites: the Foundations of Conservation

SECTION ONE: Towards the Science and Spirituality of Sacred Natural Sites

2. Conservation of Biodiversity in Sacred Natural Sites in Asia and Africa: A Review of the Scientific Literature.
3. Sacred Mountains and Global Change: Impacts and Responses
4. Falling Between the "Cracks" of Conservation and Religion: The Role of Stewardship for Sacred Trees and Groves
5. The Enchanted Earth: Numinous Sacred Sites
6. A Review of Sacred Natural Sites and Arguments for Developing Biocultural Conservation Approaches

SECTION TWO: Sacred Natural Sites: Mutual Learning, Analysis, Planning and Management

7. Nature Saint and Holy Island, Ancient Values in a Modern Economy: The Enduring Influence of St. Cuthbert and Lindisfarne, United Kingdom
8. Tourism Meets the Sacred: Khumbu Sherpa Place-Based Spiritual Values in Sagarmatha (Mount Everest) National Park and Buffer Zone, Nepal.
9. The Road to the Future? The Bio-cultural Values of the Holy Hill Forests of Yunnan Province, China
10. Uncovering the Intangible Values of Earth Care: Using Cognition to Reveal the Eco-spiritual Domains and Sacred Values of the Peoples of Eastern Kham
11. Ancestral Beliefs and Conservation: The Case of Sacred Areas in Bandjoun, West Cameroon
12. The Crocodile is our Brother: Conservation Management of the Sacred Lakes of the Niger Delta, Nigeria
13. How African-based Winti belief helps to protect forests in Suriname
14. Seeking and Securing Sacred Natural Sites among the Windward Maroons in Jamaica

SECTION THREE: Sacred Natural Sites: International Recognition, Global Governance and Field Action

15. Sacred Natural Sites, Cultural Landscapes and UNESCO's Action
16. Synergies and Challenges for Legal Protection of Sacred Natural Sites in the South Pacific
17. The Cultural and Spiritual Values of Wetlands and their Sacred Natural Sites in the Ramsar Convention
18. Sacred Natural Sites, Biodiversity and Well-being: the Role of Sacred Sites in Endogenous Development in the Compas Network
19. Delos Initiative, Experience with Sacred Natural Sites in Technologically Developed Countries
20. Developing and Testing a Methodology and Tools for the Inventory of Sacred Natural Sites of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples in Mexico
21. Culture-based Conservation and Recovery of Sacred Groves: Experiences from the North Western Ghats, Maharashtra, India

SECTION FOUR: In our Own Hands: Living Culture and Equity at Sacred Natural Sites

22. Community-Based Ecotourism at Tafi Atome Sacred Monkey Sanctuary in Ghana
23. Sacred Valley, Conservation Management and Indigenous Survival
24. Towards a Sustainable Management and Enhanced Protection of Sacred Marine Areas at Palawan's Coron Island Ancestral Domain, Philippines
25. Culture, Conservation and Co-management: Mapping Soliga Stake in Biodiversity Conservation in Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, India
26. Devi as Ecofeminist Warrior: Reclaiming the Role of Sacred Natural Sites in East-Central India
27. Conclusion: Using Sacred Natural Sites to Conserve Nature and Culture

