Culture and Conservation

Beyond Anthropocentrism

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and Helen Kopnina, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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“The authors’ stands are moderate and reasonable, and above all well-considered, and as such make very important contributions to the literature—especially within anthropology, where emotion and reaction have substituted for thought in most of the controversial and critical literature. The world needs this book.” – Eugene N. Anderson, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of California Riverside, USA

Today, there is growing human interest in conservation and anthropologists have an important role to play in helping conservation succeed for the sake of humanity and for the sake of other species. Equally important, however, is the fact that we, as the species that causes extinctions, have a moral responsibility to those whose evolutionary unfolding and very future we threaten.

This volume is an examination of the relationship between conservation and the social sciences, particularly anthropology. It calls for increased collaboration between anthropologists, conservationists and environmental scientists, and advocates for a shift towards an environmentally focused perspective that embraces not only cultural values and human rights, but also the intrinsic value and rights to life of nonhuman species. This book demonstrates that cultural and biological diversity are intimately interlinked, and equally threatened by the industrialism that endangers the planet’s life-giving processes. The consideration of ecological data, as well as an expansion of ethics that embraces more than one species, is essential to a well-rounded understanding of the connections between human behavior and environmental wellbeing.

This book gives students and researchers in anthropology, conservation, environmental ethics and across the social sciences an invaluable insight into how innovative and intensive new interdisciplinary approaches, questions, ethics and subject pools can close the gap between culture and conservation.

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