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Sustainability seems to become a very popular not only among environmentalists, but also scientists, economists and politicians. This term is often misused in order to add some importance and consistency to the topic that is only vaguely related to the survival of human societies on this planet. Fortunately, this is not the case of this reviewed book. As stated in the Introduction by V. Alaric Sample, President of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, *“What is new, is the broader recognition of the urgent need to protect the remaining biological diversity in high conservation value forests – and, at the same time, meet more of humanity’s material needs from renewable natural resources such as wood”*.

The contributions of this book really deal with precise assessment of both forests values and managed tree plantations. It could be of general interest, that the world’s annual wood harvest (about 1.6 billion cubic meters) requires only one fifth of the world forest area. Although the wood consumption is expected to further rise, considerable supply could be gained from tree plantations. The benefits as well as problems of the intensively managed industrial plantations are discussed in much detail in the individual contributions. As the volume contains only 8 papers, their titles could be listed in this review in order to illustrate the potential impact of plantations and protected areas on sustainable forestry.

This book starts with some basic information about the editors. The Introduction explains the main reasons for paying so much attention to changes in forest management. The very content deals with “The Environmental Benefits of Tree Plantations”, “Integrating Protected Areas, Plantations, and Certification”,

“Industrial Plantation Forestry: Do Local Communities Benefit?”, “Environmental Aspects of the Intensive Plantations/Reserve Debate”, “Mitigating Environmental and Social Impacts of Intensive Plantation Forestry”, “Investing in Forestry: Opportunities and Pitfalls of Intensive Plantations and Other Alternatives”, “A vision for World Forests: Results from the Council on Foreign Relations Study”, and “Sustainable Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation: Toward a New Consensus”. The book terminates with a detailed Index.

I very much appreciate that the contributions are not overwhelmed with vague sentences on sustainability and its importance. Any reader would find here a lot of valuable data as well as qualified analyses of the role of forests in the world economy and local communities. The book clearly indicates, that sustainability need not be an irrational idea but a noble ambition for researchers and managers, economists and politicians. As I started with a quotation, I would like to terminate with another one from the last contribution written again by V.A. Sample: *“We have an obligation to protect our remaining “hot spots” of biological diversity – and bear our share of the local, short-term economic effects of doing so – and, at the same time, meet our share of the demand for renewable wood and fiber that we ourselves generate, without shifting un undue burden on biologically rich forests in other regions of the world.”*

It is a pleasure for me to recommend this book by far not only to specialists in forests and tree plantations, but to anybody who is deeply concerned about the future fate of the world ecosystems.

L. NÁTR (*Praha*)