

Preface to the Second Edition

The First Edition of this book was well received and when a new print run was proposed we took the opportunity to revise, update, and expand the book. Our goal in the revision was to incorporate the most significant recent studies, yet retain the framework of the First Edition. Of course, the plight of tropical rainforests in response to climate change has not changed, and the political process that might have limited the effects of ongoing climate change appear to have faltered. For several decades the clarion call to save the rainforest biodiversity from the worst excesses of human exploitation has been loud. However, the threat to these systems from the synergy of climate change, logging, ranching, and other land use change appears to be cumulative. An investigation of the role that climate plays in shaping tropical rainforest biodiversity and, ultimately, how biodiversity may be lost is clearly needed. To that end we present chapters that deal with long-term climate and vegetation change, ecophysiology, and ecosystem processes in addition to considerations of how predictive models are constructed.

In this edition, we have added one entirely new chapter on fire, effectively replaced a chapter on Amazonian climate, and substantially modified most of the other chapters. We have attempted to minimize the period between author submission and printing of the book so that the most contemporary knowledge is portrayed. As part of that process of hastening the editing process we have been joined by William Gosling as an editor.

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