

# Preface

In 1998, Dawkins and Philip published their important book *Tropical Moist Forest Silviculture and Management. A History of Success and Failure*. In that book they stated: “The main message from the past is that natural forest management can be done; conservation and production are not incompatible; in fact, in some of the circumstances the only way to conservation will be through the management of the production of goods and services from the forest.”

Convinced of the trueness of this statement silviculturists working in all tropical areas of the world have contributed to this book. It reflects the efforts of 46 authors to specify the state of the art in tropical silviculture. The book aims at combining two complementary aspects of tropical silviculture: first we would like to emphasize its role as integrative scientific discipline linking ecological and socioeconomic dimensions, and second we call attention to its role as an instrument to satisfy the manifold demands of the multiple forest users, from livelihood over timber production to provision of environmental services. Therefore, this book contains contributions from scientists, as well as from representatives of international institutions. While the first parts of the book focus on forest users and new aspects in silviculture, the latter parts are structured according to forest types. For maintenance of high scientific standards, all articles are peer reviewed. All ten parts of the book (with the exception of introduction and conclusions) are subdivided into one review chapter giving an overview and introduction into the topic, followed by case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America highlighting special aspects.

We hope this book will be useful to scientists, practitioners, and students working in tropical forestry, especially to those managing tropical forests for the provision of goods and environmental services in supporting them to do this in a wise, adaptive, and sustainable manner and under concern of human needs and social requirements.

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