

Protected areas have emerged as major arenas of dispute concerning both indigenous people and environmental protection. In the Malay Archipelago, which contains 2 of the 34 biodiversity hotspots identified globally, rampant commercial exploitation is jeopardizing species and livelihoods. While protected areas remain the only hope for the imperilled biota of the Malay Archipelago, this protection requires consideration of the sustenance needs and economic aspirations of the local people. Putting forward the views of all the stakeholders of protected areas – conservation practitioners and planners, local community members, NGO activists, government administrators, biologists, lawyers, policy and management analysts and anthropologists – this book fills a unique niche in the area of biodiversity conservation, and is a highly valuable and original reference book for graduate students, scientists and managers, as well as government officials and transnational NGOs.

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Cover illustration (clockwise): a local fisherman setting up a fishing net (photograph courtesy of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research); small-scale wood harvest by local people (photograph courtesy of Tien Ming Lee); an example of threatened biodiversity of the Malay Archipelago (white-banded gibbon, *Hylobates lar*) (photograph courtesy of Lian Pin Koh); extraction of fish for food by local people (photograph courtesy of Tommy Tan); an example of fishery bycatch – a threatened soft-shelled turtle (Family: Trionychidae) (photograph courtesy of Tien Ming Lee).

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