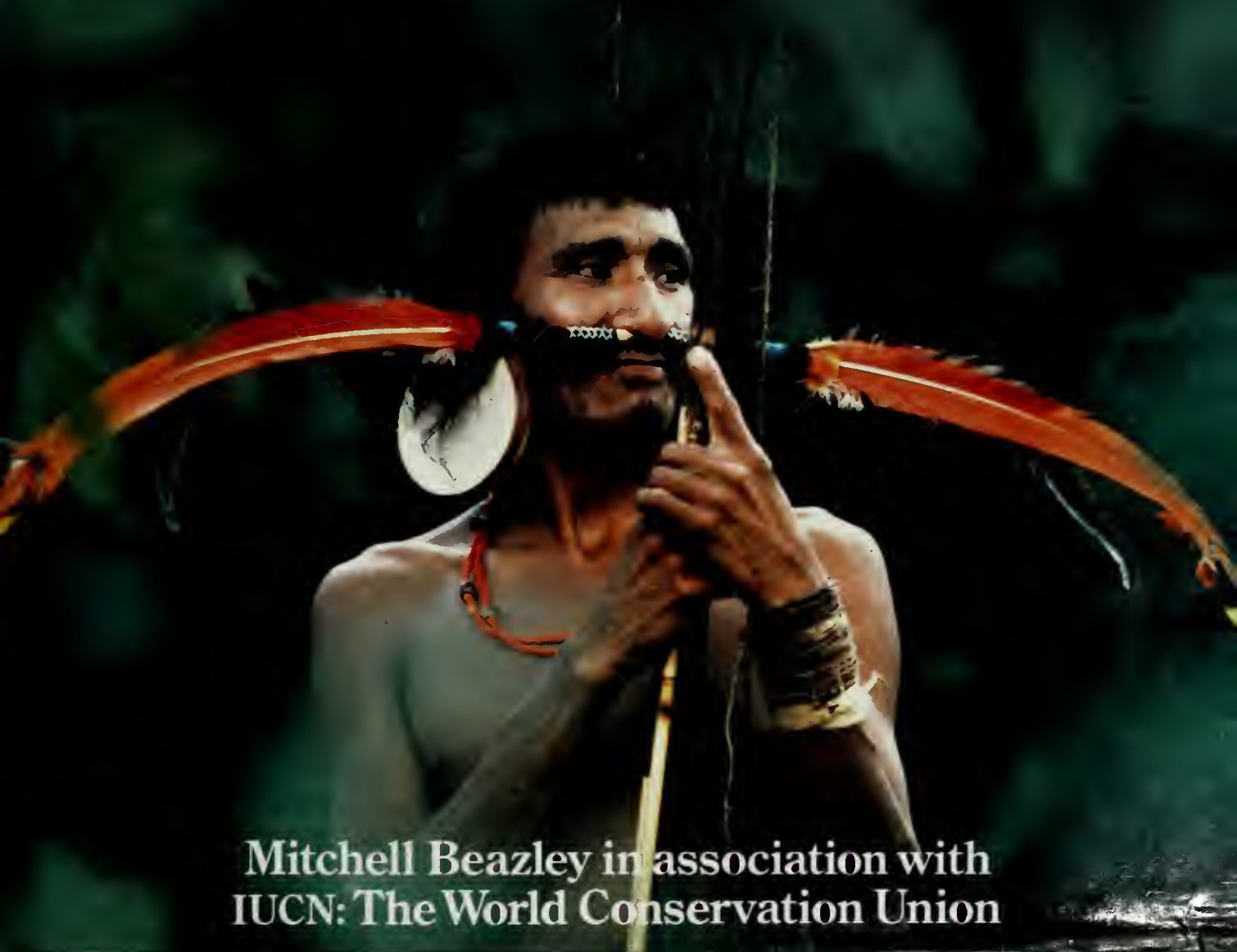


THE LAST RAIN FORESTS

A Mitchell Beazley
World Conservation Atlas

Introduced by David Attenborough



Mitchell Beazley in association with
IUCN: The World Conservation Union

THE LAST RAIN FORESTS

The future of the rain forests is now recognized as one of the major global environmental issues for the 1990s. Their future and the future of the planet are inextricably linked, and if an alternative to their accelerating destruction is not found within this decade then we may well have lost the opportunity forever. At the root of the problem is the burgeoning population of tropical forest countries – it is estimated that by the middle of the next century eight out of ten people will be living in these regions. Public awareness of the problem has recently increased, but awareness alone will not save the rain forests – practical action is needed.

The Last Rain Forests guides the reader to a deeper level of understanding on which to base opinions and take action. It is both a unique atlas of the conservation status of all the world's rain forests, and a blueprint for positive action to safeguard their future.

The book shows readers what rain forests are and why we need them, using imaginative illustrations to explain their remarkable biology. A section entitled "How Rain Forests Work" examines in detail the interrelationships between plants, animals and the environment in the most complex ecosystem on Earth, an ecosystem that contains more than half of all living species.

The extensive atlas section of **The Last Rain Forests** is based on data provided by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) through its data gathering arm, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). The maps cover more than 50 rain forest countries worldwide and show the types and current extent of their forests, highlighting the major protected areas. This section discusses conservation issues of specific interest to the individual countries, from tribal matters and politics to endangered species and environmental problems. Case studies of conservation in action show the way forward.

The Last Rain Forests draws firm conclusions from the mass of data it presents and recommends strategies that need to be followed if the rain forests are to be saved. Its philosophy is that the future for rain forests lies in intelligent exploitation of rain forest lands and sustainable use of rain forest resources. We have to understand the needs of the people of rain forest regions, and find ways to meet those needs without losing the forests, the riches they contain and the vital role they play in the health of planet Earth.



THE LAST RAIN FORESTS



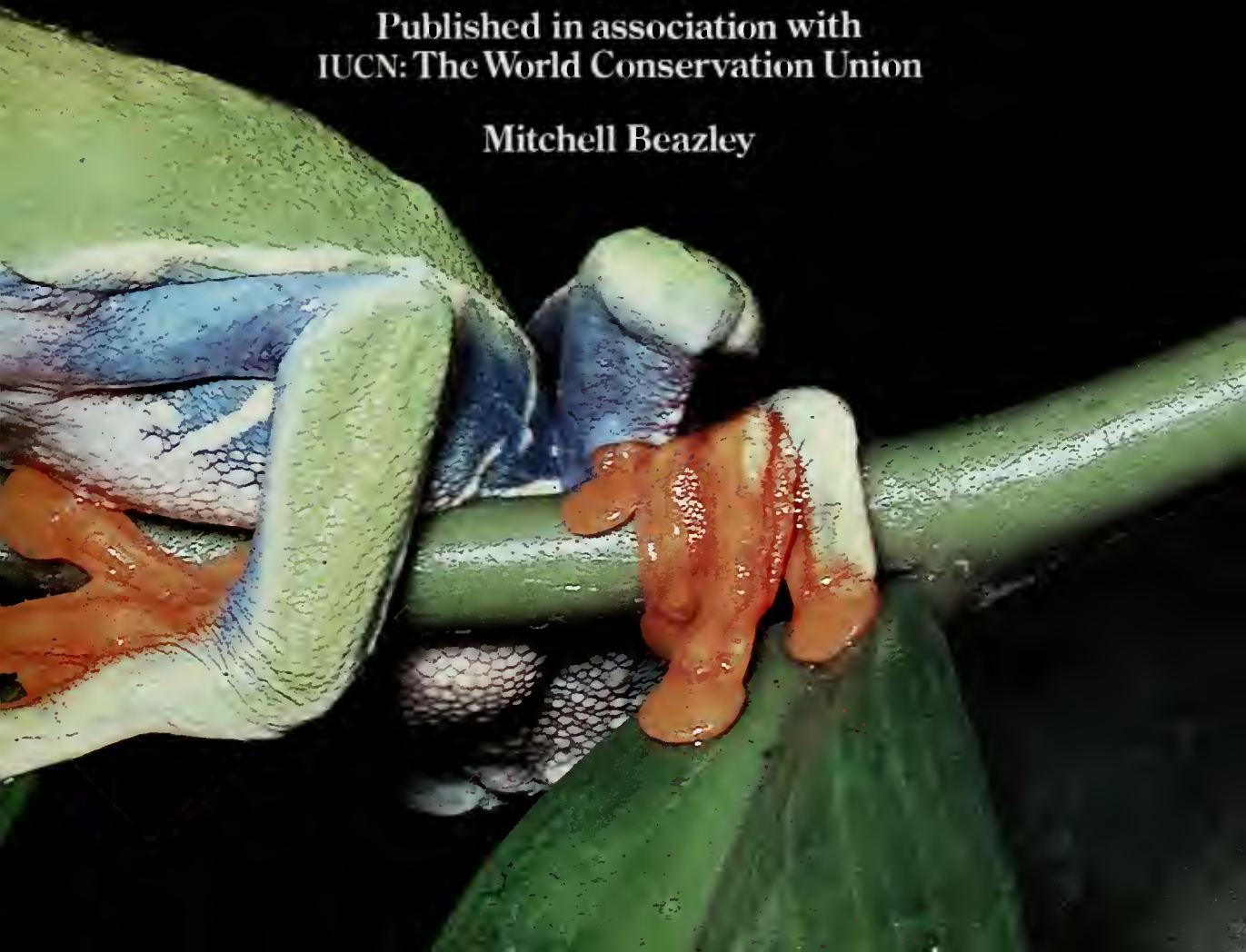
THE LAST RAIN FORESTS

General Editor: Mark Collins

Introduced by David Attenborough

Published in association with
IUCN: The World Conservation Union

Mitchell Beazley



Preface

"Delight ... is a weak term to express the feelings of a naturalist, who for the first time, has wandered by himself in a Brazilian forest." Charles Darwin wrote these words in February 1832. More than 90 percent of the luxuriant coastal forest that he explored has gone. Recent estimates suggest, moreover, that nearly two percent of the world's remaining rain forest is lost every year. Unless this trend is halted there will be little left in 50 years' time.

IUCN recognizes the urgency of development and the need to use nature's renewable resource systems to satisfy human requirements and eliminate the appalling poverty that afflicts so many people today. But such development must be *sustainable*, using the income from nature without eroding its capital of soil, water and fertility.

To many tropical countries, forests are an important constituent of national wealth. They protect soil fertility, regulate and purify water flow, and yield valuable timber and other products; used sustainably they are an economic and environmental asset for tomorrow as well as today. Used destructively, for short-term gain, they are all too likely to be replaced by degraded land and impoverished people. Developing countries cannot afford such waste.

Development must be based on a sound understanding of environmental systems. This atlas sets out our knowledge of the forests that remain. It also explains the complex issues that must be considered when making decisions about development in rain forest areas. Neither this book nor IUCN argues that rain forest should be sacrosanct everywhere: in some areas, conversion to intensive agriculture or agro-forestry may be the best course to pursue. But in much of the forested region, a balance between protection and skilful sustainable use is needed.

If this balance is to be achieved, the industrialized countries that buy tropical forest products must support and cooperate with producer countries. They must look again at how the burden of debt forces tropical countries to clear their forests in order to secure immediate income. They must help developing tropical countries to implement sustainable management and appropriate pricing systems, so that rain forests remain to enrich the lives of future generations. And those making plans for the future must be sensitive to the possible global impact—climate change and rise in sea level—that could render current conservation plans inapplicable in the future.

The attention paid to rain forests by the world's media is an encouraging sign of the growing general concern for environmental conservation. But some campaigns have failed to see the issues from the point of view of the people who inhabit the developing countries of the tropics. Saving rain forests requires a full understanding of their complex ecology, but depends even more on finding solutions to human social problems—alleviating poverty, easing debt, and above all creating conditions under which human population growth will slow, and people achieve an enduring harmony with nature. This book provides an insight into these vital issues.

by Martin W. Holdgate,
Director General of IUCN

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_13009

