

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

One cold December morning I woke up with a vision of this book in my head. I quickly typed an outline into my computer, convinced myself that I was not crazy, and sent a slightly more fleshed-out version to Christie Henry, who provided essential encouragement and feedback. Now that this vision has grown by megabytes, I have many people to thank. First, I want to thank the funding agencies that have supported my research on tropical forest regeneration over the past 22 years: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, AAUP Travel Awards, Blue Moon Fund, Fulbright Foundation, NASA, National Science Foundation, Organization for Tropical Studies, and University of Connecticut Research Foundation. This funding enabled me to visit tropical forest sites, colleagues, and stakeholders around the world. These funding agencies also supported the work of local paraforesters and parataxonomists who trudge out to research sites in Costa Rica day after day, rain or shine, to document the rise and fall of trees, saplings, and seedlings. Second, I thank the University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Book Support Committee and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology for providing generous funding for the color plates. Profound thanks to Jeanette Paniagua, Marcos Molina, Bernal Paniagua, Enrique Salicetti, and Juan Romero—you are the best! A special thanks for Orlando Vargas for all he has done in teaching me, my students, and my staff to identify plants in the field.

My graduate students collaborated in much of this research over the past 20 years: Pablo Arroyo, Vanessa Boukili, Catherine Cardelús, Alexander De-Francesco, Juan Dupuy, Zbigniew Grabowski, Silvia Iriarte, Susan Letcher, Rebecca Montgomery, Adrienne Nicotra, Manette Sandor, Uzay Sezen, and Amanda Wendt. I also deeply thank my collaborators and colleagues over the years, who have broadened and deepened my research on tropical forest regeneration around the world: Patricia Balvanera, Frans Bongers, Anne Chao, David Clark, Deborah Clark, Robert Colwell, Julie Denslow, Bryan Finegan, Manuel Guariguata, Deborah Lawrence, Miguel Martínez-Ramos, Rita Mesquita, Natalia Norden, Edgar Ortiz, Sassan Saatchi, Nate Swenson, Maria Uriarte, Braulio Vilchez, Bruce Williamson, Mike Willig, and Jess Zimmerman. Many of the ideas generated by our conversations are somewhere in this book.

Portions of this book were written while I was on sabbatical at the Ecosystems Research Center (CIECO) of the National University of México in Morelia and at the Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate (CMEC)

at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. CMEC provided financial support during my three-month stay. The snowiest winter in 20 years gave me ample reason to stay inside, look out the window, and write about tropical forests. Special thanks to Carsten Rahbek for his support and friendship. To paraphrase the Carlsberg beer slogan, CMEC is probably the best place in town. I especially want to thank the University of Connecticut Library and the interlibrary loan department for providing prompt and professional service from wherever I was. I couldn't have written this book without access to the Virtual Personal Network (VPN). Echo Valley Ranch provided solitude, space, and scenery, all of which helped me to complete the final manuscript and revisions.

Numerous people reviewed early drafts of chapters and text boxes, helping me to present accurate information in a clear and organized way. Many thanks to Ellen Andresen, Patricia Balvanera, Warren Brockelman, David Clark, Deborah Clark, Patrick Dugan, Giselda Durigan, Ren Hai, Rhett Harrison, Henry Howe, David Lamb, Carlos Peres, Tom Rudel, Michael Swaine, Lawrence Walker, Robert Whittaker, and Bruce Williamson. I especially thank Eduardo van den Berg, Manette Sandor, Susan Letcher, and Vanessa Boukili for constructive reviews of multiple chapters. Several colleagues provided valuable information, papers in press, and photographs. Many thanks to Mitch Aide, Doug Boucher, Mark Bush, Jeffrey Chambers, Charles Clement, David Douterlunge, James Fairhead, John Hoopes, Dennis Knight, Richard Lucas, Akane Nishimura, Stephanie Paladino, Steward Pickett, Dolores Piperno, Michael Poffenberger, Ferry Slik, Michael Swaine, Christopher Uhl, John Vandermeer, Lawrence Walker, Joe Wright, and Jianguo Wu. I am especially grateful to two astute and thorough peer reviewers who read over the entire book manuscript and made numerous valuable suggestions that greatly improved the final version.

I am deeply grateful for the support of my family in so many ways. Carol Chazdon and Bob Amend shared their home with me on many occasions while I was writing and helped me to stay focused during challenging times. My children, Rachel and Charles, were of the right age and academic background to read some chapters and provide feedback and encouragement. Discussing anthropological issues with Rachel was particularly enriching. Rob Colwell, my husband, friend, and colleague, has always been there to exchange ideas, to feed me (intellectually, emotionally, and literally), and to listen patiently to my rants, despite his own pressing deadlines. His belief in me kept me going.