

Acknowledgments

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I researched and wrote this manuscript during the coronavirus pandemic of 2020–2022. The isolation from interactions with other people may have accelerated the work on *Reforesting the Earth*, but it weighed on us all. My wife, Susan, and our son, Dan, endured the isolation like me, but I made it worse for them by retreating to my computer. I hope this book will provide some recompense for the lost hours with family and friends.

Finally, let me add a few words about the person to whom this book is dedicated. Maria Delores Quesada worked on and managed several research projects with me in the Ecuadorian Amazon between 1995 and 2015. On innumerable occasions, her observations about changing tropical landscapes had a clarifying effect for the rest of us. The mother of five children, she had a lifelong knack for organizing the women in the villages where we did research on landscape changes. She figured out ways to make research funds meet the goals of the grant at the same time that the funds delivered benefits to the communities. For example, to reward respondents for participating in one study, she came up with idea of giving refrigerators to the daycare centers in the villages where we did the research. The refrigerators were much needed and much appreciated in this tropical setting, in which milk spoils easily. Unfortunately, Ms. Quesada died in a motorcycle accident in 2020. The dedication is meant to honor her memory.