1. Record Nr. UNINA9910462432603321 Human Impacts on Amazonia: The Role of Traditional Ecological Titolo Knowledge in Conservation and Development / / Michael Balick, Darrell Posey New York, NY:,: Columbia University Press,, [2006] Pubbl/distr/stampa ©2006 **ISBN** 1-280-59932-4 9786613629166 0-231-51735-1 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (389 p.) Collana Biology and Resource Management Series Disciplina 304.209811 Soggetti Amazon River Region -- Environmental conditions Environmental degradation -- Amazon River Region Indians of South America -- Ethnobotany -- Amazon River Region Indigenous peoples -- Ecology -- Amazon River Region Nature -- Effect of human beings on -- Amazon River Region Soil degradation -- Amazon River Region Traditional ecological knowledge -- Amazon River Region Anthropology Social Sciences Anthropogeography & Human Ecology Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface / Posey, Darrell Addison --Nota di contenuto Coeditor's Note / Balick, Michael J. -- Acknowledgments -- Thoughts on the Future of Amazonia / Balick, Michael J. -- 1. Romance and Reality / Hemming, John -- 2. Constructing Tropical Nature / Stepan, Nancy Leys -- 3. Demand for Two Classes of Traditional Agroecological Knowledge in Modern Amazonia / Clement, Charles R. -- 4. Fire in Roraima, 1998-Politics and Human Impact / Allen, Elizabeth -- 5. The

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Sommario/riassunto

From the pre-Columbian era to the present, native Amazonians have shaped the land around them, emphasizing utilization, conservation, and sustainability. These priorities stand in stark contrast to colonial and contemporary exploitation of Amazonia by outside interests. With essays from environmental scientists, botanists, and anthropologists, this volume explores the various effects of human development on Amazonia. The contributors argue that by protecting and drawing on local knowledge and values, further environmental ruin can be avoided.