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RESERVE, CHINA -- 13. BALANCING PANDA AND HUMAN NEEDS FOR BAMBOO SHOOTS IN MABIAN NATURE RESERVE, CHINA: PREDICTIONS FROM A LOGISTIC-LIKE MODEL -- PANEL REPORT 13.1 -- 14. A NEW PARADIGM FOR PANDA RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION: INTEGRATING ECOLOGY WITH HUMAN DEMOGRAPHICS, BEHAVIOR, AND SOCIOECONOMICS -- PANEL REPORT 14.1 -- 15. BIOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATING FUTURE EFFORTS IN GIANT PANDA CONSERVATION -- PANEL REPORT 15.1 -- THE LEGACY OF EXTINCTION RISK: LESSONS FROM GIANT PANDAS AND OTHER THREATENED CARNIVORES -- PANEL REPORT 16.1 -- 17. BIOMEDICAL SURVEY OF CAPTIVE GIANT PANDAS: -- BRIEF REPORT 17.1 -- WORKSHOP REPORT 17.1 -- Conclusion -- APPENDIX A. Keynote Address -- APPENDIX B. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MARSHALL JON ES -- APPENDIX C. MEMORANDUM OF CONSENSUS -- CONTRIBUTORS -- INDEX

Sommario/riassunto

The much-loved giant panda, a secretive denizen of the dense bamboo forests of western China, has become an icon worldwide of progress in conservation and research. This volume, written by an international team of scientists and conservationists including Chinese researchers whose work has not been available in English, tells the promising story of how the giant panda returned from the brink of extinction. The most important sourcebook on giant pandas to date, it is the first book since 1985 to present current panda research and the first to place the species in its biological, ecological, and political contexts. More than a progress report on a highly endangered species, *Giant Pandas: Biology and Conservation* details the combination of scientific understanding, local commitment, and government involvement that has been brought into play and asks what more needs to be done to ensure the panda's survival. The book is divided into four parts-Evolutionary History of the Giant Panda, Studies of Giant Panda Biology, Pandas and Their Habitats, and Giant Panda Conservation. It combines the latest findings from the field and the laboratory together with panel and workshop summaries from a recent international conference. Taken together, the chapters highlight how international cooperation has led to better management in the wild and in captivity. The volume also shows how concepts such as buffer zones, links between forest fragments, multiple-use areas, and cooperation with local people who have a stake in the resources-highly relevant concepts for conservation problems around the world-have been key to the panda's survival.
