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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- In Memory of Dr. Luis Diego Gómez Pignataro (1944- 2009) -- Contributors -- Foreword -- Presentation -- Preface -- Chapter 1. Costa Rica's Ecosystems: Setting the Stage -- Chapter 2. Climate of Costa Rica -- Chapter 3. Geology, Tectonics, and Geomorphology of Costa Rica: A Natural History Approach -- Chapter 4. Soils of Costa Rica: An Agroecological Approach -- Chapter 5. The Pacific Coastal and Marine Ecosystems -- Chapter 6. The Gulf of Nicoya Estuarine Ecosystem -- Chapter 7. Isla del Coco: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems -- Chapter 8. Isla del Coco: Terrestrial Ecosystems -- Chapter 9. The Northern Pacific Lowland Seasonal Dry Forests of Guanacaste and the Nicoya Peninsula -- Chapter 10. Biodiversity Conservation History and Future in Costa Rica: The Case of Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) -- Chapter 11. The Central Pacific Seasonal Forests of Puntarenas and the Central Valley -- Chapter 12. The Southern Pacific Lowland Evergreen Moist Forest of the Osa Region -- Chapter 13. The Montane Cloud Forests of the Volcanic Cordilleras -- Chapter 14. The Montane Cloud Forests of the Cordillera de Talamanca -- Chapter 15. The Páramo Ecosystem of Costa Rica's Highlands -- Chapter 16. The Caribbean Lowland Evergreen Moist and Wet Forests -- Chapter 17. The Caribbean Coastal and Marine Ecosystems -- Chapter 18. Rivers of Costa Rica -- Chapter 19. Lakes of Costa Rica -- Chapter 20. Bogs, Marshes, and Swamps of Costa Rica --

Sommario/riassunto

In the more than thirty years since the publication of Daniel H. Janzen's classic Costa Rican Natural History, research in this small but astonishingly biodiverse, well-preserved, and well-studied Latin American nation has evolved from a species-level approach to the study of entire ecosystems. And from the lowland dry forests of Guanacaste to the montane cloud forests of Monteverde, from the seasonal forests of the Central Valley to the coastal species assemblages of Tortuguero, Costa Rica has proven to be as richly diverse in ecosystems as it is in species. In *Costa Rican Ecosystems*, Maarten Kappelle brings together a collection of the world's foremost experts on Costa Rican ecology-outstanding scientists such as Daniel H. Janzen, Jorge Cortés, Jorge A. Jiménez, Sally P. Horn, Robert O. Lawton, Quírico Jiménez M., Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Catherine M. Pringle, and Eduardo Carrillo J., among others-to offer the first comprehensive account of the diversity, structure, function, uses, and conservation of Costa Rica's ecosystems. Featuring a foreword and introductory remarks by two renowned leaders in biodiversity science and ecological conservation, Thomas E. Lovejoy and Rodrigo Gámez Lobo, in addition to chapters highlighting the geology, soils, and climate of Costa Rica, as well as the ecosystems of its terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats, and including previously unpublished information on Isla del Coco, this beautiful color-illustrated book will be an essential reference for academic scientists, students, natural history guides, conservationists, educators, park guards, and visitors alike.