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05 Tectonic history of the Andes and sub-Andean zones: implications for the development of the Amazon drainage basin06 The Nazca Ridge and uplift of the Fitzcarrald Arch: implications for regional geology in northern South America; PART II Cenozoic depositional systems in Amazonia; 07 The Amazonian Craton and its infl uence on past fl uvial systems (Mesozoic-Cenozoic, Amazonia); 08 The development of the Amazonian mega-wetland (Miocene; Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia); 09 Marine infl uence in Amazonia: evidence from the geological record 10 Megafan environments in northern South America and their impact on Amazon Neogene aquatic ecosystems11 Long-term landscape development processes in Amazonia; PART III Amazonian climate, past and present; 12 Climate variation in Amazonia during the Neogene and the Quaternary; 13 Modelling the response of Amazonian climate to the uplift of the Andean mountain range; 14 Modern Andean rainfall variation during ENSO cycles and its impact on the Amazon drainage basin; PART IV Cenozoic development of terrestrial and aquatic biota: insights from the fossil record

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26 On the origin of Amazonian landscapes and biodiversity: a synthesis

Sommario/riassunto

The book focuses on geological history as the critical factor in determining the present biodiversity and landscapes of Amazonia. The different driving mechanisms for landscape evolution are explored by reviewing the history of the Amazonian Craton, the associated sedimentary basins, and the role of mountain uplift and climate change. This book provdes an insight into the Meso- and Cenozoic record of Amazonia that was characterized by fluvial and long-lived lake systems and a highly diverse flora and fauna. This fauna includes giants such as the ca. 12 m long caiman Purussaurus, but also a v