the collection lacks focus, with the four “substrate response” papers emphasizing (respectively) method, wave effects, tidal transport, and storm processes. In contrast, the first two sections of the volume provide a useful reference set of classic papers. Unfortunately, the collection as a whole is now seriously dated. It is, after all, seven years since the volume was published and the large proportion of newer papers selected at the time now becomes a weakness. Significant developments in the intervening years have included recognition of gravel-based systems as important and distinctive entities and very rapid growth in the literature on storm effects and associated deposits. I’m not sure that I would advocate a new volume (or revision of the present one) to accommodate these developments. While a collection such as this can facilitate access to some of the more important early papers, distillation of the newer literature may be better accomplished by timely and well-crafted review articles.

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This book offers itself as a guide to teaching all of us how to live in partnership with our environment. This premise is based on Bermuda being an island with finite resources, above average wealth and population density, and sophisticated institutions. The authors state rhetorical questions such as, “If we cannot do it, who can?”

Indeed, after reading this book in its entirety, one could come close to the same conclusion. Fortunately for all of us, other countries (and islands) have begun to ask this same question for themselves. Thus, we may enjoy guides from Iceland, Hawaii, etc. pointing us toward their approaches to a sustainable partnership with our global environment. Even ancient guides, (the Bible) long ignored, would prove useful.

This book contains a large collection of relevant topics, fostered, no doubt, by its thirty-six authors living on an island. Their forced proximity and respective educations and experiences allowed them to make associations between people and the environment that could be missed elsewhere. The twenty-eight chapters are divided into seven sections: People, Industry, Resources, Traffic, Wastes and Pollution, Conservation, and Values and Attitudes. I was impressed that the authors began their book with the assumption that “most environmental problems are caused by people using resources.” Since the word resource implies that people give value to nature, this statement shows their recognition that people use nature through commerce to satisfy their legitimate (to them) wants. This assumption can be overlooked by scientists.

The format of each chapter within these sections usually includes a succinct history of the topic, present known facts, important benefits, hidden costs, certain ironies, and a set of pertinent recommendations. In general, the recommendations are pragmatic and are designed to fill the gap in information, and hence knowledge, about key facets of people and the environment in Bermuda. Therefore, the book has a wide appeal to holistic scientists, educators, general citizens, and managers. This book could well be used as a handbook for those interested in working toward the balancing of people and nature elsewhere.

A review of twenty-eight separate chapters is not possible here, so I have chosen one of central interest: Tourism. Tourism is often viewed as a panacea by “third world” countries today. Tourism in Bermuda began with an effort by Bermudians to promote their island via building their own hotels and ships. While originally benefiting the island through increasing the use of electricity and constructing a railroad and water supply, it later inundated the island with an annual tourist population then times the resident population. This on an island with almost 3000 persons per square mile!

Clearly, tourism generates wealth and many would consider it a “non-polluting” industry. However, tourism brings with it conflict impacting on Bermuda, whether originating from between tourist interests, between tourists and residents, or between tourists, residents and the environment. Some of these impacts include congestion of all forms, accelerated construction and consumption impacts, loss of traditional character, change in resident aspirations, changes in family living, resident resentment, and increased prices and economic vulnerability. The authors note two ironies here: increasing tourism will decrease the desired tourist amenities, and increasingly tourism is generated from other tourist destination countries where residents escape from their tourists. Where will Bermudians escape?
Findings are based on both referenced materials and author assertions, a nice balance. For example, one option to alleviating tourism impacts is touted to be spreading the tourist season. The authors assert that the island and residents alike require respite from tourists as a “much-needed winter break.”

Recommendations emphasize enhancing the quality of life in Bermuda through raising the quality of tourists, service offered, economic diversification, and education of tourist and resident. One important recommendation is the need to enhance environmental quality for residents rather than solely for tourists, since Bermudians will not demand higher quality until their self-image is enhanced. One quibble is the lack of cross referencing between pertinent items such as the impact of riots on tourism appearing in the chapter on health. Other chapters are written in this same easy-to-read vein. As seemingly complete as this book appears, there are two important omissions: one, the book contains no chapters on Bermudian institutions and their decision-making system; two, the book’s thirty-six authors do not include business executives, worker leaders, racial leaders, and military commanders, or a spectrum of politicians. The former would have related how and why people decide as they do on Bermuda’s people and environment, while the latter would have included those responsible for implementing past decisions and the present recommendations.

The authors represent concerned elites, educated for the most part in environmental sciences. Alerting people to a problem is as insufficient to resolve it as passing a law. Thus, their book does not reflect the cross-section of Bermuda residents needed to substantiate their claim to global leadership. However, thanks to this book, I look forward to watching how well Bermuda’s delicate balance is maintained and, presumably, enhanced over time. In fact, as a global participant, my appetite has awakened for my first visit to Bermuda! The question for me is how to get there without fouling their air or water, much less the cost to me.

David W. Fischer
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Afficionados of the laid-back Floridian lifestyle will appreciate this book. The volume oozes nostalgia, recalling Jimmy Buffett, boiled peanuts, white sand and condominiums. I remember my first visit to St. Georges Island, down on the Gulf of Mexico. As an innocent European, I was appalled to see acres of bare sand, neatly sub-divided into lots, all begging for development. Eventually having traversed and criss-crossed the coast from Cape Cod to Padre Island, I decided nobody cared. But they do — this book proves it. Pilkey, Pilkey, Pilkey, and Neal (sounds like a long-established law firm) have written a super book. Only the price is wrong, at $25.00 it is too cheap — suspicious coast dwellers will not believe that for such a small outlay they can have such good advice!

What’s the book about? In a nutshell it sets out to provide a guidance manual for people living on, or intending to live on the coast. It covers marine erosion, storm hazards, weatherproofing, design standards, advise on insurance, how to evacuate when the hurricane approaches, etc. I particularly liked the set questions to ask your realtor. I can just imagine lots of apoplectic developers with unsold duneland.

The book is well-written, has plenty of pictures, diagrams, information (tables, addresses), a bibliography, glossary, and index. The text includes a number of thought-provoking examples. Altogether a really useful book. An excellent investment for beach bums, nautical wheelers, condo-owners, and everyone interested in relaxed coastal living.

R.W.G. Carter
Ulster, Northern Ireland


This multi-author book forms part of a series which ‘aims to identify environments of international ecological importance, to summarize the present knowledge of the flora and fauna, to relate this to recent environmental changes and to suggest, where possible, effective management and conservation strategies for the future’ (Treherne). The Galapagos are widely recognized as of prime importance to biologists, partly because of the historical association with Charles Darwin and partly because the peculiar flora and fauna has survived the arrival of man better than those of many other oceanic islands. The story would have been very different if the islands had had more potential for