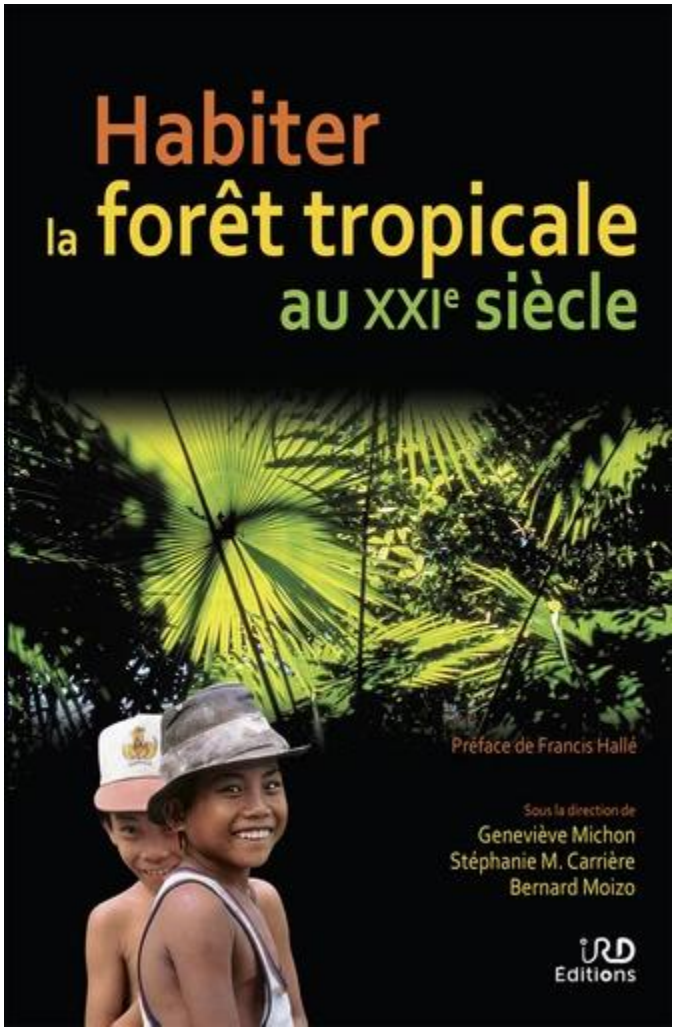
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Publication: Living in the Rainforest in the 21st Century

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INTRODUCTION

As major ecosystems in the fight against global warming and hotspots of biodiversity, tropical rainforests are home to more than 700 million people at the start of the 21st century.

Sometimes viewed as guardians of the forest, sometimes blamed for deforestation, these forest-dwelling communities are the subject of many misconceptions. But who are they really, and how do they live in the modern world?

From the last hunter-gatherer peoples to landless migrants, from farmers to rubber tappers, oil palm growers, and foresters, this book describes the reality of these communities in all their diversity. It highlights the richness of their relationships with the forest, their perceptions, their practices, and their customs. It illustrates how they are part of globalization, and how the global market and public policies affect their ways of life. Finally, it underscores the impact of global change and the resulting financial mechanisms on the management of tropical forests and the future of forest-dwelling populations.

A unique overview of the tropical forests of the Amazon, Central Africa, Southeast Asia, and Madagascar, this book brings together texts by anthropologists, ecologists, geographers, economists, and others. It is supported by rich and original imagery, capturing the communities and the terrain up close.

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