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Gender and sustainability; lessons from Asia and Latin America.

Ed. by María Luz Cruz-Torres and Pamela McElwee.

U. of Arizona Press, ©2012 253 p. \$50.00 HQ1460

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Cruz-Torres (transborder studies, Arizona State U.) and McElwee (human ecology, Rutgers U.) and other contributors to this collection open a window into the lives of poor women working to preserve local ecologies in places where only the ready availability of natural resources assures the survival of their families. Women are often more seriously affected than men by the depletion of such resources — for example, by bearing the daily burden of hauling water and firewood to their homes — yet traditional societies have often excluded women from direct participation in decision-making within the organized resistance to resource degradation. Several of the studies included here portray women who are overcoming such obstacles in the process of negotiating resource conservation to protect their families' livelihoods. Three sections deal broadly with issues of forests, water and fisheries. Authors reflect on the importance of gender in a variety of specific locales, including organized resistance to copper mining in Ecuador; community protection of forests in India; the illegal wildlife market in Vietnam; shrimp farming in Vietnam; water scarcity in Bolivia; climate change in Mexico; and efforts to limit fishing in the Philippines, among others. Gender and sustainability also receive discussion in the context of neoliberalism, international aid programs, dam-building, and other controversies of international development. (Annotation ©2013 Book News Inc. Portland, OR)