

**Collier, Paul. *The plundered planet: why we must--and how we can--manage nature for global prosperity.* Oxford, 2010. 271p bibl index afp ISBN 9780195395259, \$24.95**

Following his book *The Bottom Billion* (CH, Jan'08, 45-2714), which focused on political corruption in poor nations and interventions the industrialized world should consider, economist Collier (Oxford Univ.) in this new work tackles complementary problems facing these countries: natural resources and climate change. He skillfully manages to remain in the center of the rich nation/poor nation, or environmentalism versus prosperity (aka colonialism and capitalism), fray. As he notes, "the romantics and the ostriches are each half right ... and half wrong." His heart is with the world's poorest peoples and is certainly not misplaced. However, as to his contention that "nature matters and we are making a mess of it," there is a large body of evidence to suggest that the lack of human resources (i.e., education) rather than raw materials is responsible for much of the disease, malnutrition, and sanitary condition in Africa. Skimpy references also detract from the author's case and turn *Plundered Planet* into a normative volume to be enjoyed at the beach rather than in the library. But just as it takes two slices of bread to make a good sandwich, coupled with his 2007 volume, this 2010 contribution makes a satisfying meal. Summing Up: Recommended. General readers; all levels of undergraduate students; professionals. -- A. R. Sanderson, University of Chicago