alone textbook, but it is a good introductory treatment of most of the issues that ecological economists are wrestling with. It is therefore a useful addition to the burgeoning literature in ecological economics. This book will also be of interest to conservation biologists, especially those with no formal background in economics. The introductory nature of the book makes it accessible to a broad audience.

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A Model of Personal Involvement

After becoming embroiled in a village dispute with a local logging company, the author tirelessly engaged the support of fellow scientists, conservationists, philanthropists, and sympathetic politicians to protect the only remaining lowland rain forest in western Samoa. In the face of nearly insurmountable political odds, he was instrumental in ensuring that the endangered Samoan flying fox (Pteropus samoensis) and six other Pacific Island flying foxes were placed on the list of the Committee on International Trade in Endangered Species—an act that has dramatically reduced the illegal export of these bats to food markets in Guam as a local delicacy, and thus helped protect the declining bat populations. When a logging company blackmailed the local community by threatening to withhold support for the construction of a new elementary school from projected income derived from the proposed logging of the Fagalolo Rain Forest, Cox raised over $65,000 to cover the mortgage payments for the school’s construction—thus averting the destruction of this forest. For these efforts, Cox was honored by local western Samoan tribal chiefs, and named “Nafanua,” after the legendary Samoan goddess of war who in ancient times freed people from oppression and taught them to protect the rain forest—an honor that Cox truly deserved but accepted reluctantly. Cox also played a key role in the establishment of the first U.S. National Park in American Samoa. This effort helped protect important populations of endangered flying foxes.

Nafanua is not only about rain forest conservation but also about compassion, courage, and the resiliency of the human spirit. It is a compelling personal account of the challenges, personal relationships, tragedies, elation, and frustration experienced by a distinguished scientist in search for the truth in his effort to protect a rain forest under siege. The author first visited western Samoa as a 19-year-old Mormon missionary, subsequently as a doctoral student at Harvard University studying ethnobotany and pollination biology, and later as a recipient of a 5-year Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation to investigate medicinal properties of native plants. In this book, Paul Alan Cox, Professor of Botany at Brigham Young University, elegantly portrays his passion for ethnobotanical research, his respect and compassion for an indigenous culture, his courage and tenacity in the wake of bureaucratic mistrust and indignities, his spirituality and faith in family values, and his unbridled energy and enthusiasm for the protection of the Samoan rain forest and its inhabitants. As a young graduate student, Paul Cox was driven by a passion to discover a new treatment for breast cancer—the insidious disease that took his mother’s life—by documenting the native plants that he envisioned might someday offer cures for cancer and other human maladies. His passion for research and his compassion for people are indelible parts of this book. His passion transcends local involvement and offers a model of personal involvement for other scientists and conservationists to emulate.

Ironically, 1 year after the establishment of the Fagalolo Rain Forest Preserve as a U.S. National Park, Samoa experienced one of its most destructive hurricanes in a century. Although loss of human life was minimal, most of the villages were destroyed and over half of the citizens were displaced from their homes. The resiliency of the human spirit is embodied in this book, especially in the native Samoans who have long respected a bond with their natural environment, but also by the author and his family. Although the destruction of the Fagalolo Rain Forest Preserve from the hurricane was severe, the populations of the local flying foxes, which are important pollinators of Samoan forest trees, have now begun to recover under local, national, and international protection, and one can only be encouraged by the resiliency of this mutual dependency.

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Science Provides Meaning

“All human cultures have cosmic stories that impart meaning,” writes Connie Barlow in her excellent new