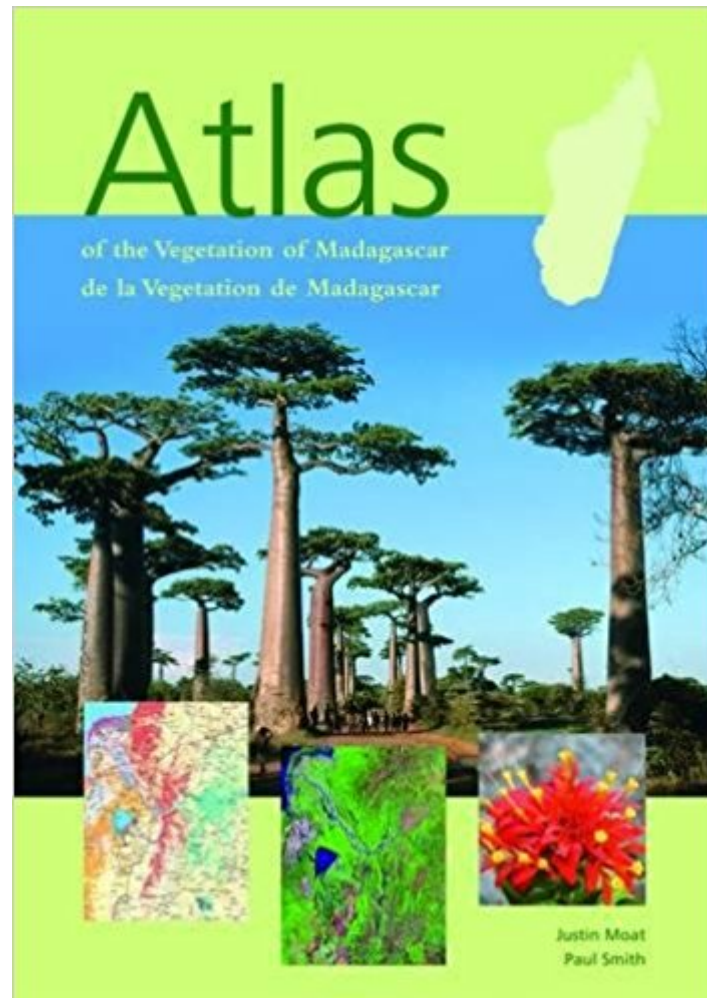




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Atlas Of The Vegetation Of Madagascar



Synopsis

Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island, and is recognized as one of the world's top ten hotspots for biodiversity. It is estimated that there are about 10,000 plant species on the island. Of these, 80 % or more occur nowhere else. Man arrived in Madagascar just 2,000 years ago and since has cleared much of the island's forest. This impact and the uniqueness of its plants have made Madagascar of paramount importance to international conservation efforts. This first vegetation atlas for Madagascar, supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, has combined vegetation data from fieldwork and satellite images into a map-based information system. The result is a conservation tool which will help Madagascar's government and people to plan a more sustainable future. This atlas is also of great use to anyone studying or visiting the island. Presented in both French and English, the atlas gives a brief history of vegetation mapping in Madagascar; the methodology used in compiling these new maps; and detailed descriptions of each vegetation type, illustrated with photographs and diagrams. Trends in deforestation, extent of occurrence and levels of protection are assessed for each vegetation type. Additional information includes roads, trails, rivers, airports, reserves and a full place name index. The atlas comprises 36 maps in A3 format, all in high resolution colour.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paul Smith is an honorary fellow in human resource management at Keele University.

I am very pleased with this Atlas. The first reviewer was disappointed that there were so many maps,

and relatively few images, but that is what I was primarily interested in, so I am happy with that. Of course, I am a cartophile, so that helps as well. I cannot speak to the accuracy of the vegetation distributions presented in the maps at this point. However, since the Atlas was produced by Kew Gardens, there is no reason to doubt that they are anything but correct. I can say that the general cartography is very good. I have some experience with bad maps of Madagascar, and I know that the only reliable printed maps are the series produced by the national cartography office. The recent move towards digital satellite-based maps has resulted in online maps that also seem to be quite accurate for that country. It appears that the creators of this Atlas drew from either, or both, of those sources, and, therefore, the cartography seems trustworthy. The maps are presented at an adequate scale, and are easy to read. One quirk is that the legend is not printed on every map page, and on some pages it is in French, and on others, English. So, sometimes a little page flipping is needed to find the legend. The introductory text is informative, but readers without much experience with botany will probably not find that section to be of great interest. The text is also in both English and French, but each page has the same text in both languages, in alternate columns. I felt that the product image gave me a somewhat distorted impression of what the dimensions of the book would be. The listed dimensions are correct (though 0.8 in thickness seems a little generous,) but the actual book seems quite a bit larger than I expected it to be, for some reason. That is not a bad thing, of course, but a tall bookshelf will be needed to hold this, or alternatively, it could be a tabletop book. I do wonder how relevant such material in a book format will be in the coming years, especially considering that it was published in 2007, given how quickly things are changing on the Island, and elsewhere, at the current time. However, I purchased it not only to be used as a reference, which I intend to do, but also because I love maps and Atlases, and for both reasons I am pleased with this volume.

mostly maps. still looking for a compendium of good photos of trees and plants from Madagascar.

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