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# Footprints of the Forest: Ka'Apor Ethnobotany- The Historical Ecology of Plant Utilization by an Amazonian People (Biology and Resource Management I)

*William Balee*

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**William Balee : Footprints of the Forest: Ka'Apor Ethnobotany- The Historical Ecology of Plant Utilization by an Amazonian People (Biology and Resource Management I)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Footprints of the Forest: Ka'Apor Ethnobotany- The Historical Ecology of Plant Utilization by an Amazonian People (Biology and Resource Management I):

This study provides an account of the relationship between the Amazonian people and their botanical environment. It is based on the author's 10 years of ethnological and botanical research among the Tupi-Guarani-speaking Indians (especially the Ka'apor) of eastern Amazonia, and aims to rectify much of the ignorance about the history of Amazonia and its diverse peoples, habitats and resources. With the Indians and forests of eastern Amazonia vulnerable to seemingly unstoppable advances by loggers, squatters and gold miners, it illuminates the long-term relationship of plants to the culture, speech and life of the Ka'apor people.

The complete ethnobotany has yet to be written, but *Footprints of the Forest*. . . moves one step closer to that Sisyphean goal. . . . I know of no other work as comprehensive as this one. -- *BioScience*The complete ethnobotany has yet to be written, but *Footprints of the Forest*. . . moves one step closer to that Sisyphean goal. . . . I know of no other work as comprehensive as this one. -- *BioScience*The most detailed and thorough analysis ever produced of indigenous plants and plant use in ia. . . . Bales perspective skillfully integrates historical and ethnohistorical data with his contemporary research, yielding a finely nuanced view of Kaapor ethnology and neatly meshed comparisons with a number of other ian groups. -- *American Anthropologist*This remarkably penetrating volume will repay the diligent study of botanists, ethnobotanists, linguists, and conservationists who are interested in the status of ian phytodiversity and the role of Amerindians in their environment. One can only hope that future generations of Brazilian and worldwide students of tropical ecosystems will be stimulated to initiate long-term studies comparable to this landmark undertaking. -- *National Geographic Research and Exploration*[Bale] did far more than prepare lists of plants, foods, and habits of the local people. . . . He got to know them as a distinct group of individuals who have a past, and, if permitted, a future. -- *Environmental History*About the AuthorWilliam Bale is associate professor of anthropology at Tulane University and the editor of *Advances in Historical Ecology*.