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Dr. Gary Machlis is University Professor of Environmental Sustainability at Clemson University. He is also Science Advisor to the Director, US National Park Service, the first scientist appointed to this position. Gary received his PhD in human ecology, and served as professor of forest resources at the University of Idaho from 1979-2013. His research focuses on sustainability, conservation policy, science during crisis, and science diplomacy. He has conducted research throughout the Americas, including the United States, Puerto Rico, and Ecuador, and has co-led scientific exchanges with Cuba. His research has been published in such journals as BioScience, Climate Science, Society and Natural Resources, and Science. He is also deputy editor of Science Advances, the online member of Science's family of journals. His newest book, *The Structure and Dynamics of Human Ecosystems*, will be published by Yale University Press in 2017. In 2010, Dr. Machlis was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.