



ANIMA MUNDI

Adventures in Wildlife Photography

Issue 40, Year 10 - October 2020

In This Issue:

Final Destination Sri Lanka's Yala & Wilpattu National Parks

Personalized Wildlife Photography Expeditions to Unique Destinations

Namibia - Etosha
- Sossusvlei
- Brandberg

South Africa - Kgalagadi

Botswana - Okavango Delta
- Moremi
- Chobe

Tanzania - Ruaha
- Selous

phillip@wildlifephoto.co.za

www.wildlifephoto.co.za

African Wildlife Photo Safaris
by Phillip Conradie



Advertisement



TROPICAL HERPING

WWW.TROPICALHERPING.COM

*Amphibians and reptiles are awesome...
we show it!*



*An opportunity to escape from the routine
and join us on an exciting adventure to
experience tropical wildlife at its best!*

WildPoland.com

Wildlife watching and photography in unscathed Eastern Europe



Huge resources on where to watch wildlife in Eastern Poland



Large variety of nature watching trips

Extremely detailed Site Guides for visiting on your own



IF YOU ONLY SAW WHAT YOU WANTED, YOU PROBABLY MISSED A LOT - www.wildpoland.com

Discover “Wild” India with expert naturalists



ADVERTISEMENT

- ☞ Customized Jungle Safaris -
with or without an expert naturalist by your side
- ☞ Visit Historical & Cultural Places like Khajurao, Agra, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Nainital, Kolkata, Ahmedabad - and explore National Parks such as...
- ☞ Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Ranthambore, Corbett, Kaziranga, Tadoba, Bandipur, Sunderbans, Sasan Gir



Contact:
Vihang Jungle Safaris
Yuwaraj Gurjar -
ygurjar@gmail.com
Makarand Joshi -
+91 9869304053
[http://www.facebook.com/g](http://www.facebook.com/groups/128091287228796/)
[roups/128091287228796/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/128091287228796/)
www.yuwarajgurjar.com





www. **TANALAHORIZON**.com
MADAGASCAR EXPERIENCE

TANALAHORIZON, your tour operator for the "extraordinary".

Since 1995 we stand for top-class adventure travels, sustainable photo tours, nature travels and other tours on the fourth-largest island of the world "MADAGASCAR."

Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean is still a great unknown in our widely travelled world. The island has much to offer and is the Mecca of ecotourism for animal and nature lovers. As a Madagascar Tour Operator, we are specialized in traveling through the fourth largest island in the world. We give great importance to sustainable tourism, as well as traveling and photographing in harmony with nature and the environment. We also appreciate the cooperation of and contact with the locals, who in part help to give you a pleasant and sustainable holiday in Madagascar.



www.tanalahorizon.com

■ Sri Lankan elephant *Elephas maximus sub. maximus*, Yala National Park, Sri Lanka.

ANIMA MUNDI

Adventures in Wildlife Photography

Journey's End

This is *Anima Mundi – Adventures in Wildlife Photography's* final issue. In the foreseeable future our website will still be online and all issues and articles will be available to all for free online browsing or downloading, but no more issues of the magazine itself will be published.

All good things come to an end, and for us the time has come to put the lid on a career in wildlife photography which has spanned – if we include in it, as we should, our scuba diving days – the greater part of our adult life, ie more than forty years. During this great and wonderful span of our lifetime we have explored many of the planet's most remote areas - both above and under water - in our search for wildlife. Year after year we have authored scores of travel articles and several marine biology books, and of course published at our own expense our free online magazine *Anima Mundi – Adventures in Wildlife Photography*. Always moved by unending, youthful enthusiasm, we have been highly motivated and often very lucky – in the course of our countless trips worldwide we have seen, experienced and learnt much, and every moment of what we have seen and done will stay with us as long as we shall live. But in the course of these forty years we have also seen things change, as they always do - even if occasionally we would not want them to. The world is now a very different place since our adventures started. Travelling to remote destinations and wildlife photography have become mass endeavours practiced by hordes of social media activists and internet-savvy influencers, and the thrill of genuine adventure we felt back then is not there anymore, as this is the age of manipulation, ignorance and self-promoting. Fakery, competition and adulation have become rampant in what was actually born to express love and admiration for the natural world, and to share it with others. And let us be totally honest – despite our best efforts, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

really never belonged to the Ferrari's cultural milieu. One also has to add that the untold suffering of wildlife, the disappointment in most conservation efforts and the ever-increasing destruction of the environment we have witnessed worldwide in our life gives little cause for optimism in the future, adding fuel to the dark fires of despair and depression burning deep inside every conservationist. In the end, slowly and fatally, motivation fades.

But I also feel the need to add a final note. It is not only what I have described above which has distanced me from wildlife photography – and indeed from the very essence of nature itself – lately. Rather, it is something uniquely personal, much deeper and more profound, a sharp and unequivocal state of consciousness mainly borne out of long studies of philosophy, anthropology and mythology, much independent, painful thinking and a constantly - albeit slowly - growing learning curve; it is a crystal-clear view of the true reality of the wild, of nature, of the process of life itself, if you will. In hushed tones, the ancient Greeks and Romans called it "the lifting of the veil" or even more evocatively, "seeing the Great God Pan"; and in remote antiquity those true nature worshippers really understood the meaning hidden behind an obscure metaphor of what truly is an epiphany, a mind-shaking, life-changing spiritual experience. Without being too specific I'll leave it at that, for *I have indeed seen the Great God Pan*; and since that moment of revelation the mindless, self-sustaining, ever-renewing chaos of Life as we experience it does not tempt me with its ephemeral and admittedly often extraordinary wonders anymore. My travels will continue, but the paths I will follow will be different.

Thanks for the wonderful trip!
Andrea & Antonella Ferrari
www.animamundimag.com

We appreciate your feedback
- constructive criticism, useful
suggestions and interesting
contributions are welcome.

Please drop us a line at
editor@animamundimag.com

ANIMA MUNDI
Adventures in Wildlife
Photography
is a Free Quarterly
Online Magazine
www.animamundimag.com

Publishers
Andrea and Antonella Ferrari
editor@animamundimag.com

Editor-in-Chief
Andrea Ferrari
editor@animamundimag.com

Original Layout Design
Laura Genovese
Anna Bortolini

Videographer
Antonella Ferrari
anto@animamundimag.com

Technical Support
César Acuña Luzuriaga
scesarin@gmail.com

All rights reserved. Material in this
publication may not be
reproduced, modified or transferred
electronically in any form without
written permission from the copyright
owners.

Contents

4
FINAL DESTINATION
Sri Lanka's Yala & Wilpattu
National Parks

78
THE PARTING SHOT

■ *Sri Lankan Muggier or Marsh
crocodile* *Crocodylus palustris sub.*
kimbula, Yala National Park, Sri Lanka.





ORYX – Worldwide Photographic Expeditions is a well-established specialist photographic safari company that explores the planet’s wildest and most scenic destinations as we focus on wildlife, nature, landscape and cultural photography.

ORYX’s handcrafted photographic tours cover prime destinations in 18 countries on 5 continents! Our highly skilled tour leaders are also award-winning photographers, and strive to ensure that you capture truly breath-taking, inspirational and evocative images.

Contact us at info@oryxphotography.com, or visit our website at www.oryxphotography.com for more information about our high quality tours.



El Séptimo paraíso

Country Hotel & Cloud Forest Reserve



You will never forget the sounds
and smells of the Cloud Forest...
they will make you believe in the
power of Mother Nature.

Experience it and feel it yourself
Visit us at El Séptimo Paraiso
MINDO
in the Middle of the World
ECUADOR

Pinnocchio Lizard



THE AMERICAS AWARDS 2017

LUXURY CLOUD FOREST HOTEL OF THE YEAR
ECUADOR

Hosteria Septimo Paraiso

ADVERTISEMENT



Septimo Paraiso Mindo

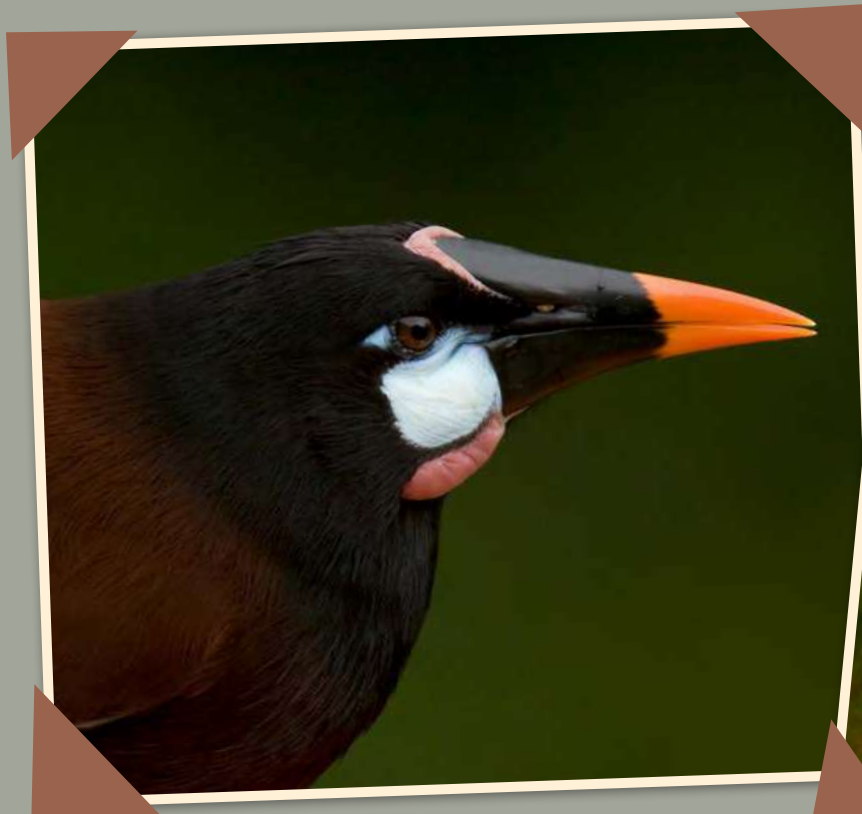
www.septimoparaiso.com

info@septimoparaiso.com

Phone: +593 993684417

Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve

Sarapiquí,
Costa Rica



Somewhere in the middle of a 500-acre tropical rainforest reserve is a place where you can get away from the world and be surrounded by it at the same time. That place is Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve.

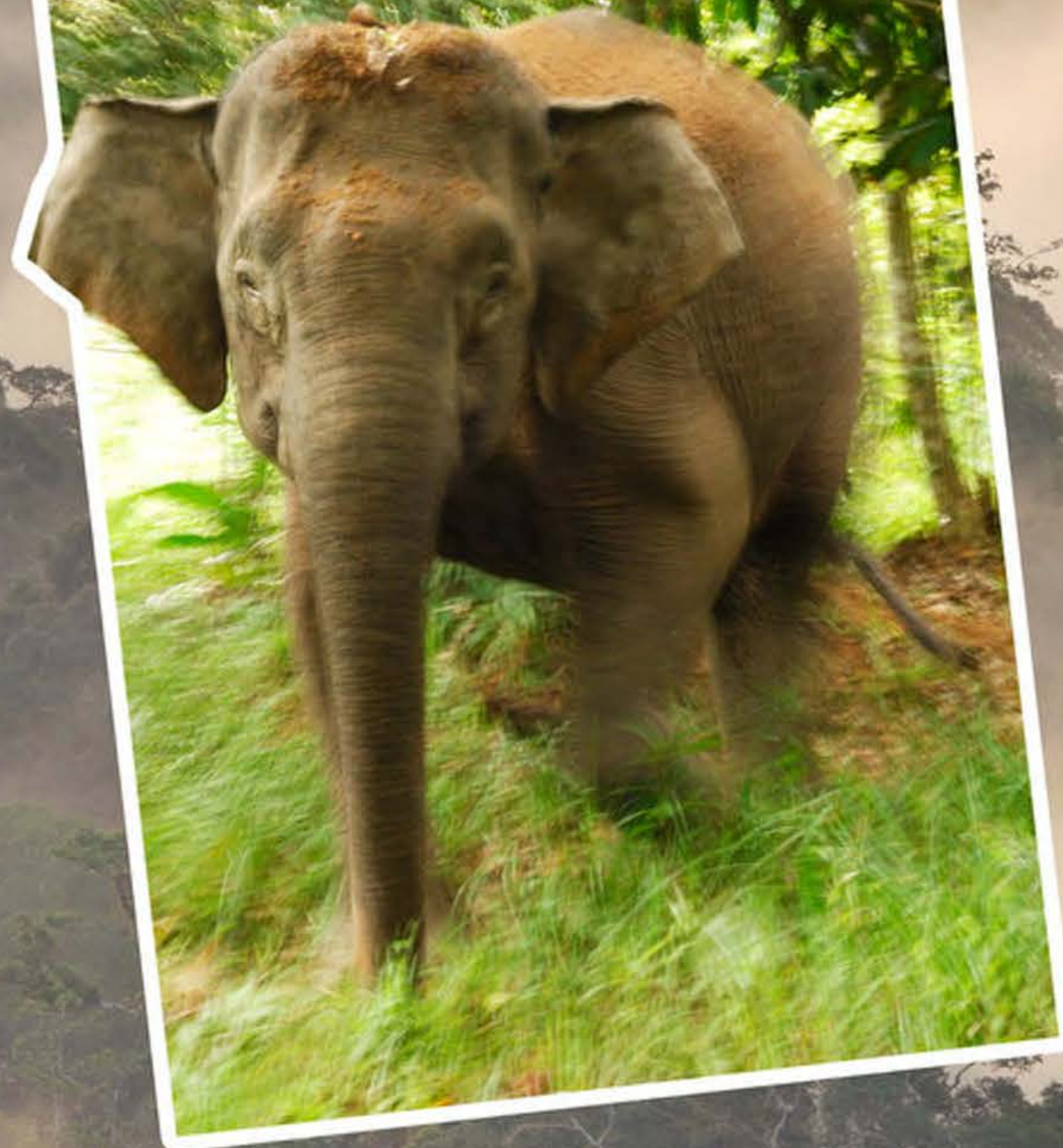
As one of Costa Rica's legendary eco lodges, we are committed to a sustainable future – not only for Selva Verde, but for the people and wildlife that call the Sarapiquí home. We proudly carry and support Costa Rica's Certification for Sustainable Tourism. We actively work with conservation partners, including the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center, to promote conservation and environmental education throughout the local community. Learn more about our efforts when you visit Selva Verde!



www.selvaverde.com
800-451-7111
info@selvaverde.com

Wild About Sabah...

NORTH BORNEO SAFARI MALAYSIA



NORTH BORNEO SAFARI SDN. BHD

Co. No. 609750-A / KPL/LN 4890

Phone/ Fax : + 60 89 237525

Email : inquiry@northborneosafari.com

www.northborneosafari.com



Enjoy the ultimate amazon wildlife experience at



24 hours: (593 99) 2 750 088 | Mail: info@napowildlifecenter.com

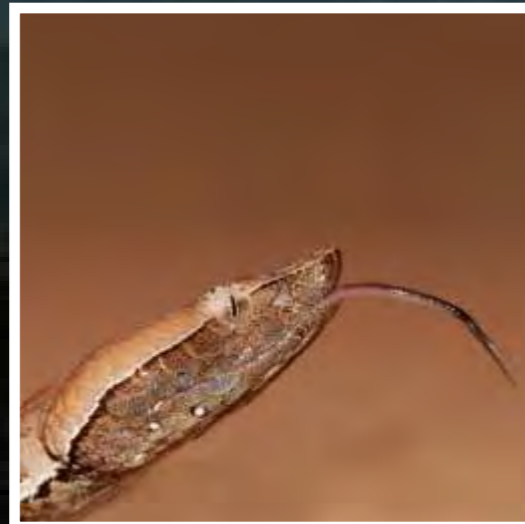
Toll Free: USA 1 8667 500 830 | UK 0800 0325 771 | CAN 1800 250 1992 | AUS 1800 176 647

www.napowildlifecenter.com



ADVERTISEMENT

Experience the wilderness in India's Western Ghats



www.canopygoa.com


ADVERTISEMENT

SRI LANKA'S YALA & WILPATTU

FINAL DESTINATION

One last trip to the places where
it all started a long time ago



A Sri Lankan elephant is the central focus, standing in a pond. The elephant is facing forward, with its trunk slightly curved. The pond is filled with numerous lotus flowers in various stages of bloom, some white and some pink. The background is a dense forest of green trees, with several dead, bleached trees scattered throughout. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

*Sri Lankan elephant *Elephas maximus sub. maximus*, Yala National Park. On the opening spread, Sri Lankan leopard *Panthera pardus sub. kotiya*, Yala NP, Sri Lanka.*



TEXT BY ANDREA FERRARI
PHOTOS BY ANDREA & ANTONELLA FERRARI

There is magic in numbers. Forty years ago, fighting a bout of depression and teen *angst*, I took my first trip alone abroad and to an exotic land – choosing Sri Lanka as my first tropical destination. Back then, the island of Ceylon seemed wonderfully interesting and adventurous, and yet somewhat safer than neighbouring India for a first-timer with no experience of the tropics, and in truth it

was. I toured the island by rented bicycle, all by myself and living on crab curries, bananas and coconut water, for a full month. Unable to visit Yala NP on that occasion, I succeeded however in getting to Wilpattu NP for a day trip from Anhuradhapura, where I had cycled from one impossibly white dagobah to the next rattling alone along brightly sunlit, wide and deserted dust avenues, the occasional

continued on page 9 >

Sri Lankan leopard ■
*Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala.*



■ *Green Imperial Pigeon Ducula aenea, feeding on berries, Yala.*



■ Malabar Pied Hornbill
Anthracoceros coronatus, with insect prey, Yala.



cobra or ratsnake crossing in front of me as my only companion. My trip to Wilpattu was a pretty pathetic three or four hour-long affair by a cheap day tour minibus with dirty, locked windows, but I saw my first wild leopards there, lying lazily in the distance on the sandy beach of a beautiful *villu*. I must still have somewhere a severely faded and scratched Ektachrome slide I took of them with the primitive mirror-lens 500mm I proudly owned then. It was a start – wildlife photography in faraway lands was to stay with me for a very long time. Thirty years later, that is ten years ago, much more experienced and after more than twenty-five years

continued on page 11 ➤

■ Sri Lankan Muggar or Marsh crocodile
Crocodylus palustris
sub. *kimbula*, Yala.



Common kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, with fish prey, Yala.

■ Sri Lankan
jackal or
Golden jackal
Canis aureus
sub. naria, Yala.

of very successful underwater photography, I finally took Antonella to Wilpattu for a two-week long wildlife photography safari – the land of lakes was still unbearably beautiful, unpopulated, little-visited and pristine. The velvety leopards stretching in the sun were still lying on the white sandy beaches ringing the *villus*, but talk of encroaching of the protected area by unscrupulous politicians had already begun, and worry was creeping in. During the same trip we also finally visited Yala NP, this time taking our own little safari tented camp with us. Again, our stay there was unforgettable, painfully beautiful and impossibly romantic. We dined under the stars on torch-lit rocky outcrops, our camp cook got stung by a scorpion and our flimsy tent was twice collapsed on our heads at nighttime by an angry tusker. Again, we saw the leopards,
continued on page 14 >





Left, Crested serpent eagle *Spilornis cheela*, Yala; right top, Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*, Yala; right bottom, Common iora *Aegithina tiphia* sub. *multicolor*, Yala.





Sri Lankan leopard ■
Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala.

Changeable hawk-eagle ■
or Crested hawk-eagle
Nisaetus cirrhatus, feeding
on Land monitor *Varanus*
bengalensis, Yala.



even more beautiful there than in Wilpattu, watching us in cold disdain from their lofty granite perches, their green eyes burning with a remote haughtiness. As it always happens everywhere, with the passing of time things have changed for the worst. Nowadays one is not allowed to camp and spend the night within the protected area anymore, and scores of visitors-laden jeeps queue up at five o'clock in the morning at the Park gates, to furiously roar and speed in the dust inside in frantic search of Yala's leopards the moment they open. It still is a uniquely splendid place with its deserted ocean beaches, beautiful lotus-dotted ponds and rocky granite outcrops, but once inside there's no way to avoid the busloads of noisy, vulgar Chinese day tourists, all draped in ridiculous plastic raincoats, banging noisily and testily on the vehicle's walls to attract the attention of wild animals, urging loudly the poor driver to drive on after a few seconds. The daily onslaught of cheap, loud, working-class Chinese day visitors has sadly transformed Yala, and yet the Park is still one of the world's best and most scenic places to admire leopards in the wild. Ten years ago, at roughly the same time, *Anima Mundi – Adventures in Wildlife Photography* was born.

continued on page 25 >

Sri Lankan leopard
Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, with Spotted
deer *Axis axis fawn*
prey, Yala.



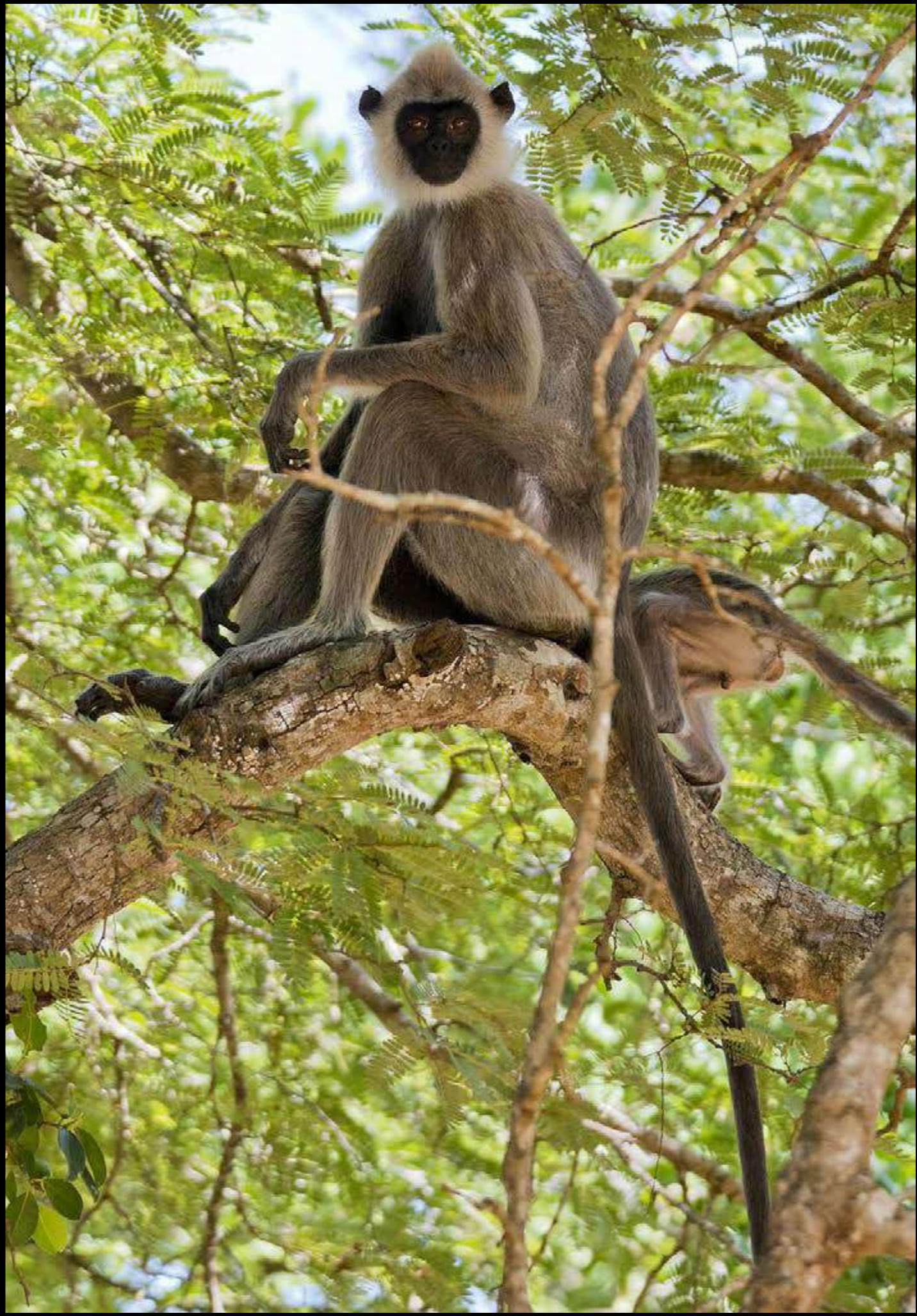


Left, Oriental garden lizard, Eastern garden lizard or Changeable lizard *Calotes versicolor*, Yala. Right, Changeable hawk-eagle or Crested hawk-eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*, Yala.



■ Sloth bear *Melursus ursinus*, Yala.





Far left, Lesser adjutant stork *Leptoptilos javanicus*, Yala; left, Tufted gray langur *Semnopithecus priam sub. thersites*, Yala.



■ Sri Lankan Mugger or Marsh crocodile
Crocodylus palustris sub. kimbula, Yala.



■ Top left, Pheasant-tailed jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, Yala; top right, Yellow-wattled lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus*, Yala. Bottom left, Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*, Yala; bottom right, White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus sub. leggei*, Yala.



■ Spot-billed pelican or Grey pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*, Yala.



■ Sri Lankan leopard
*Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala.*



■ Top left, Brahminy kite *Haliastur indus*, Yala; top right, Gull-billed tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Yala. Bottom left, Indian peacock or Blue peafowl *Pavo cristatus*, Yala; bottom right, Rose-ringed parakeet *Psittacula krameri*, Yala.



■ Eurasian spoonbill or
Common spoonbill
Platalea leucorodia, in
breeding livery, Yala.



With our visit to Wilpattu and Yala we had finally said farewell to our scuba diving years and had returned to our first love – topside wildlife photography, which is so much more demanding and often frustrating. *Anima Mundi* never had the pretense of being anything more than a strictly personal atonement for the extremely well-paid career in useless journalism I had enjoyed for thirty years of my life, of course – for once, I just wanted to offer at no cost something hopefully useful to young wildlife enthusiasts worldwide, and we never made a penny out of it. It was the kind of quarterly I would have loved to see back then when I was much younger, a bone-thin idealistic kid dreaming of exotic adventures, wildlife encounters and faraway tropical lands. But several thousands readers worldwide appreciated it apparently, and in the course of a decade we have had the privilege of having had our pages graced by the contributions of many highly respected authors, photographers and researchers from the four corners of the globe – of that I am understandably proud, and for that I am deeply grateful. I want to thank them all for having shared our vision. Now, forty years after my first naive attempt at wildlife photography, and ten years after the birth of our online magazine, with *Anima Mundi's* 40th and final issue the circle finally closes, as we return to our beloved Yala and Wilpattu for one last time. ●



Sri Lankan leopard ■
 Panthera pardus sub.
 kotiya, Yala.

■ Sri Lankan elephant
Elephas maximus sub.
maximus, on Indian
Ocean beach, Yala.

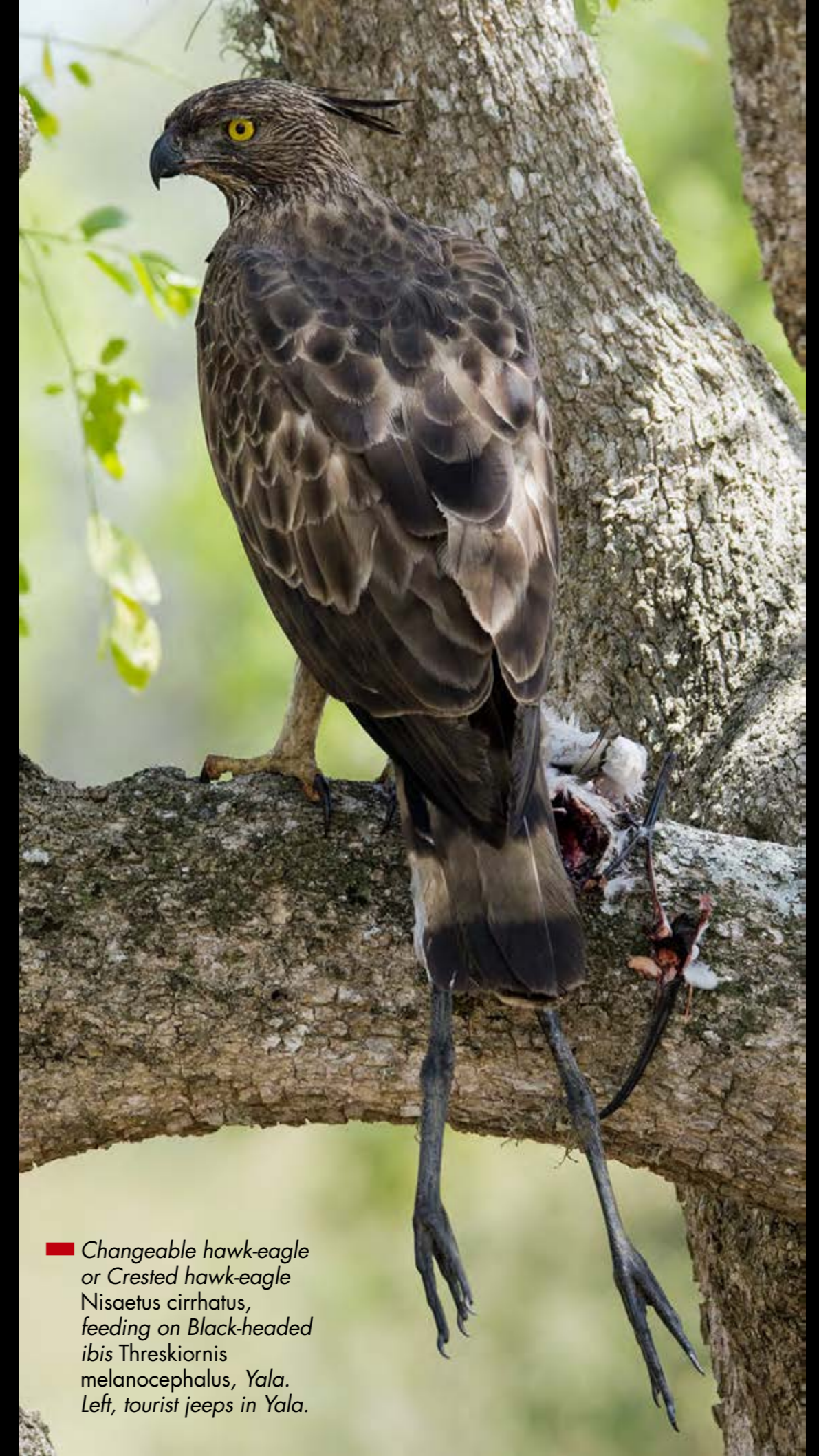


■ Left, Bark gecko
Hemidactylus
leschenaultii, Yala;
right, Asian
Paradise
Flycatcher
Terpsiphone
paradisi, Yala.






■ Sri Lankan leopard
*Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala.*



■ *Changeable hawk-eagle*
or *Crested hawk-eagle*
Nisaetus cirrhatus,
feeding on *Black-headed*
ibis Threskiornis
melanocephalus, Yala.
Left, tourist jeeps in Yala.

Sri Lankan leopard 
Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala.





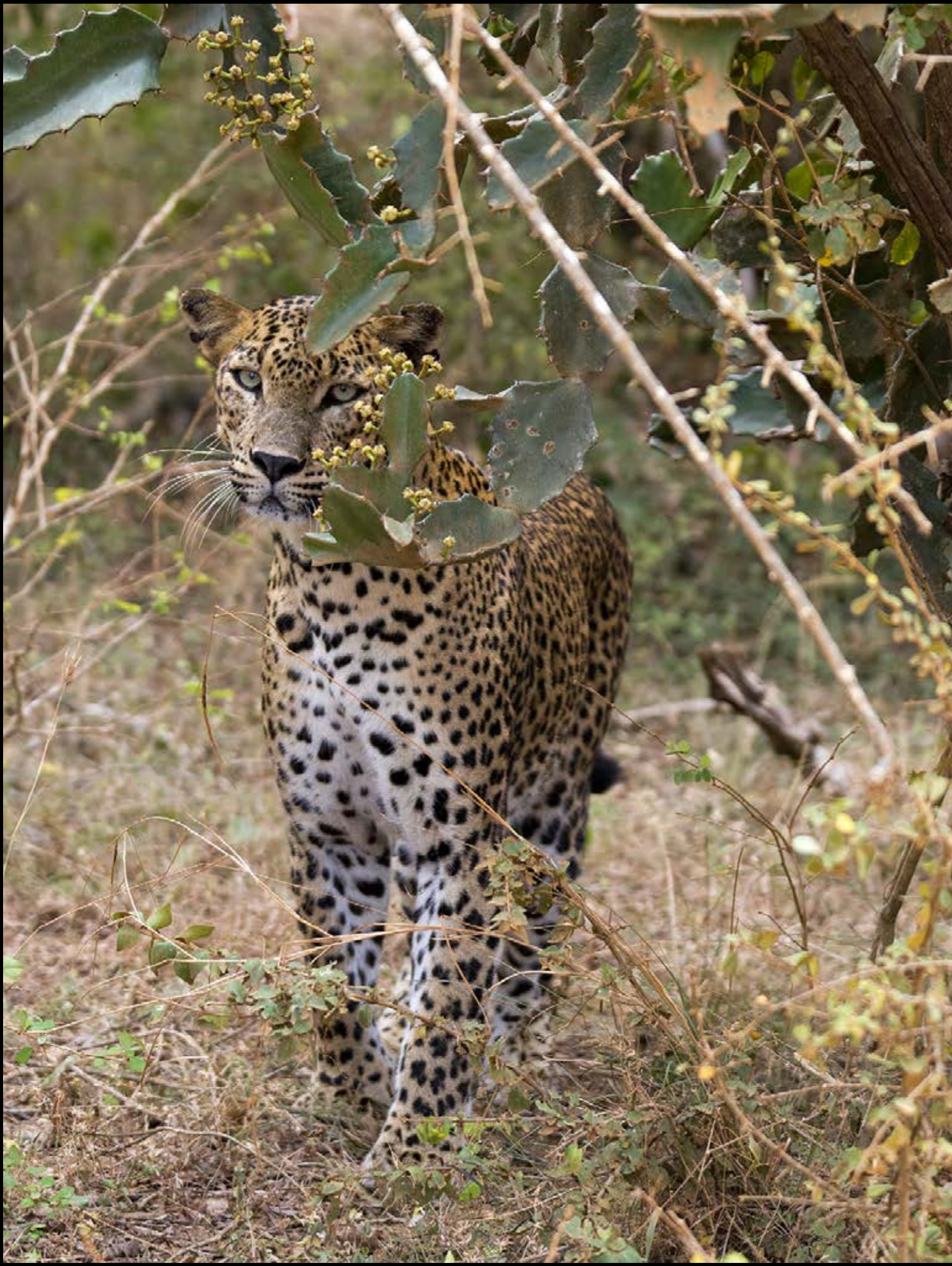
Typical Yala National Park landscapes.

■ Coastal
landscape, Yala
National Park.





■ Sri Lankan leopard
*Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala NP.*



Left, Sri ■
Lankan leopard
Panthera pardus
sub. kotiya, Yala;
right, Oriental
garden lizard,
Eastern garden
lizard or
Changeable lizard
Calotes versicolor,
Yala.

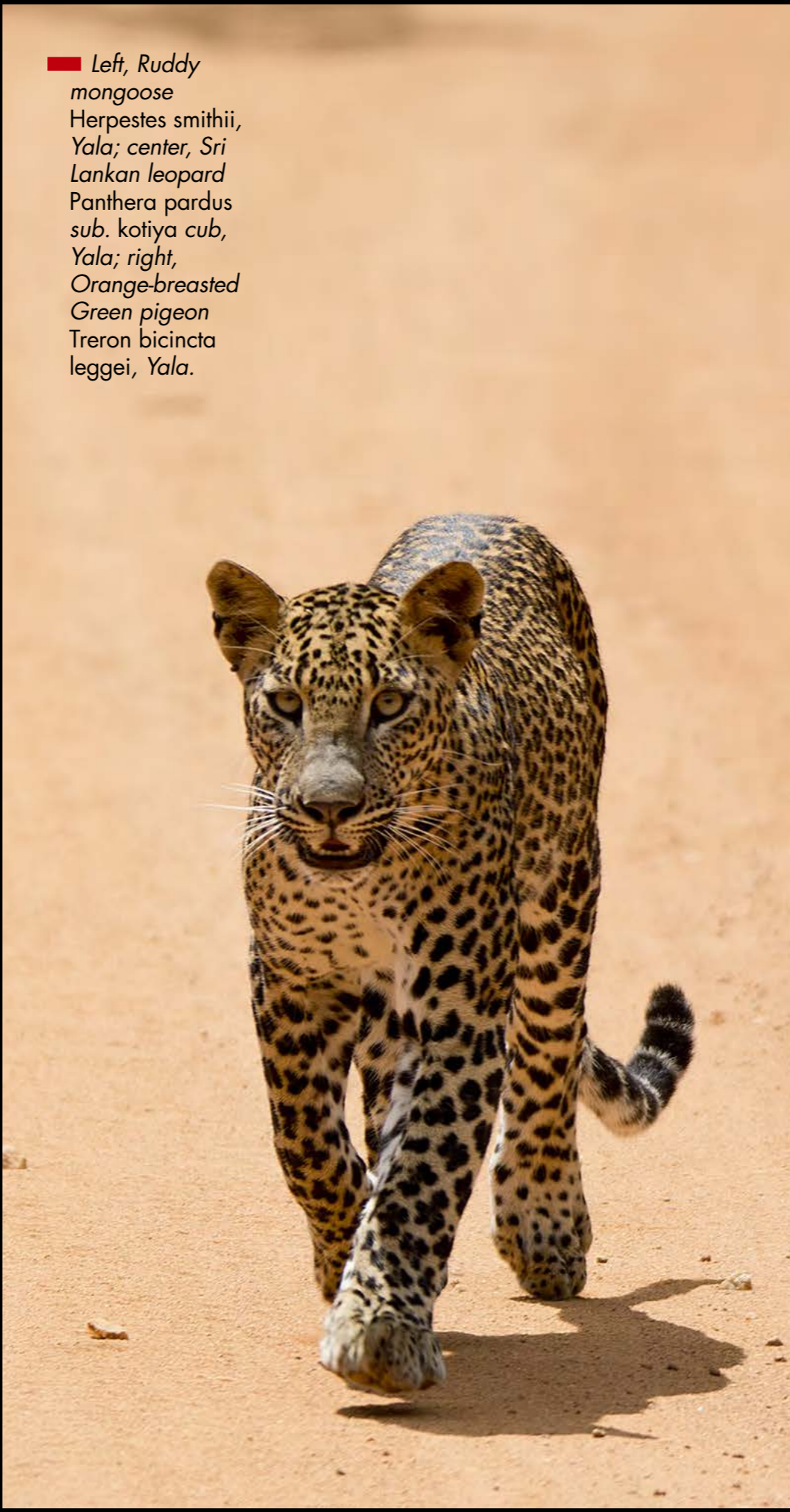




Coastal landscape, Yala National Park, Sri Lanka.

■ Sri Lankan leopard *Panthera pardus sub. kotiya*, male feeding on Wild boar *Sus scrofa*, Yala.





■ Left, Ruddy mongoose *Herpestes smithii*, Yala; center, Sri Lankan leopard *Panthera pardus sub. kotiya cub*, Yala; right, Orange-breasted Green pigeon *Treron bicincta leggei*, Yala.



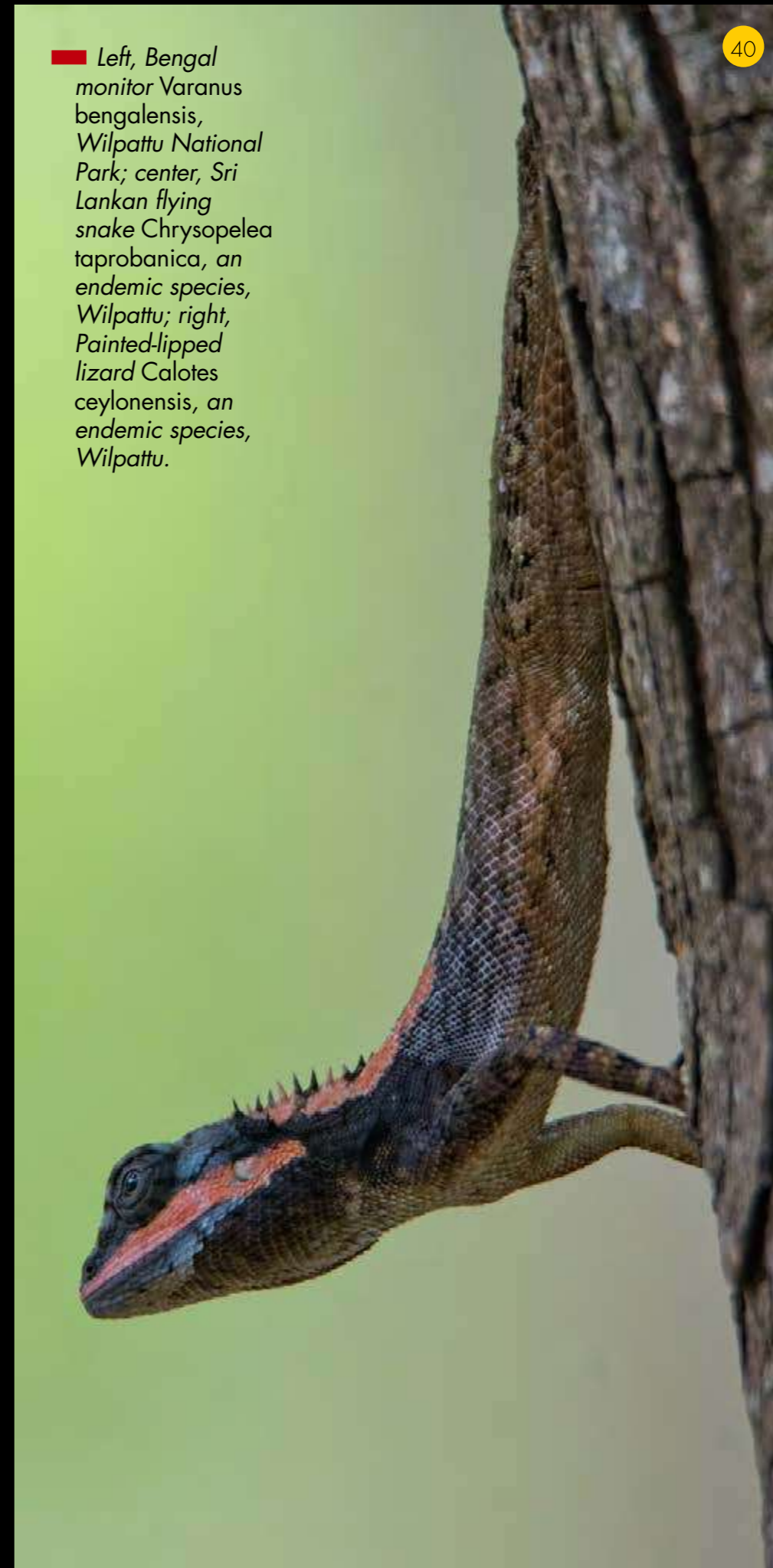
■ Sri Lankan
Mugger or Marsh
crocodile
Crocodylus
palustris sub.
kimbula, Yala.





■ Eurasian spoonbill or
Common spoonbill
Platalea leucorodia, in
breeding livery, Yala.

■ Left, Bengal monitor *Varanus bengalensis*, Wilpattu National Park; center, Sri Lankan flying snake *Chrysopelea taprobanica*, an endemic species, Wilpattu; right, Painted-lipped lizard *Calotes ceylonensis*, an endemic species, Wilpattu.





■ Sri Lankan
Mugger or Marsh
crocodile
Crocodylus
palustris sub.
kimbula, Yala.



■ Sri Lankan leopard *Panthera pardus sub. kotiya*, Yala.



Painted stork Mycteria leucocephala, Yala.



Sri Lankan elephant
Elephas maximus sub.
maximus, Yala.



Left, Toque macaque *Macaca sinica*, an endemic species, Wilpattu; right, Wild boar *Sus scrofa*, taking mud bath, Wilpattu.





Left, Changeable hawk-eagle or Crested hawk-eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*, Wilpattu; right, Tufted gray langur *Semnopithecus priam*, an endemic species, Wilpattu.





Typical willu (lake) panorama, Wilpattu.



■ Left, Painted-lipped lizard *Calotes ceylonensis*, an endemic species, Wilpattu; right, Green bee-eater *Merops orientalis*, with dragonfly prey, Wilpattu.





Malabar pied hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus*, mating pair, Wilpattu.



■ Top left, Sri Lankan Muger or Marsh crocodile *Crocodylus palustris sub. kimbula*, Yala; top right, White-browed fantail *Rhipidura aureola*, on nest feeding chicks, Yala. Bottom left, Oriental darter *Anhinga melanogaster*, Yala; bottom right, Common kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, Yala.



Typical Yala
landscape.






Left, Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Yala; right, Sri Lankan elephant *Elephas maximus sub. maximus*, on Indian Ocean beach, Yala.





Left, Grizzled  giant squirrel *Ratufa macroura*, Yala; right, Malabar Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus*, Yala.



Typical coastal landscape, Yala.



■ Top, Sri Lankan leopard *Panthera pardus sub. kotiya*, Yala; bottom, Sri Lankan Mugger or Marsh crocodile *Crocodylus palustris sub. kimbula*, Yala.





Sri Lankan elephant
Elephas maximus sub. maximus, Yala.

Sri Lankan leopard
*Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala.*



■ Painted stork *Mycteria leucocephala* with fish prey and Muger crocodile *Crocodylus palustris* at dawn, Yala.



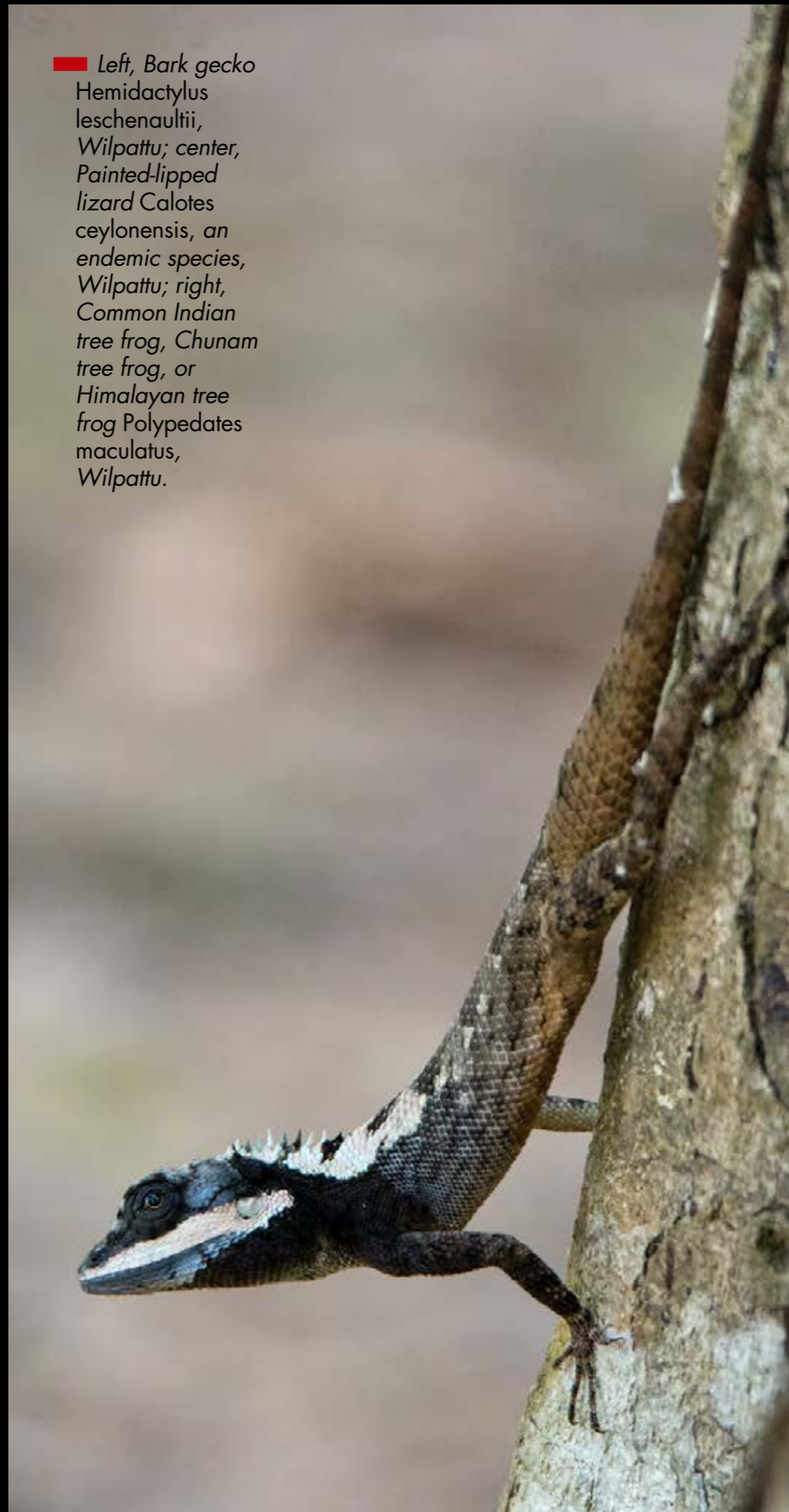


■ Sri Lankan leopard
*Panthera pardus sub.
kotiya, Yala.*



■ Eurasian spoonbill or
Common spoonbill
Platalea leucorodia, in
breeding livery, Yala.

■ Left, Bark gecko
Hemidactylus
leschenaultii,
Wilpattu; center,
Painted-lipped
lizard *Calotes*
ceylonensis, an
endemic species,
Wilpattu; right,
Common Indian
tree frog, Chunam
tree frog, or
Himalayan tree
frog *Polypedates*
maculatus,
Wilpattu.





Top, a rare sighting of mating Sri Lankan Mugger or Marsh crocodile *Crocodylus palustris sub. kimbula*, Yala National Park; bottom, territorial dispute among the same species.



Sri Lankan leopard *Panthera pardus kotiya*, an endemic subspecies and the island's apex predator, Wilpattu NP.





■ Left, Toque macaque *Macaca sinica*, an endemic species, Wilpattu; center, Indian peafowl or blue peafowl *Pavo cristatus*, Wilpattu; right, Bengal monitor *Varanus bengalensis*, Wilpattu.



■ Malabar pied
hornbill
*Anthracoceros
coronatus*, mating
pair, Wilpattu.





■ Emerald dove
Chalcophaps
indica, Wilpattu.



Sri Lankan
leopard *Panthera pardus*
kotiya, Wilpattu NP.



Indian nightjar
Caprimulgus asiaticus,
Wilpattu.



Red-wattled
lapwing *Vanellus
indicus*, Wilpattu;
right, Changeable
hawk-eagle or
Crested hawk-eagle
Nisaetus cirrhatus,
Wilpattu.






Malabar pied hornbill
Anthracoceros coronatus,
Wilpattu.



■ Left, Lesser
adjutant stork
Leptoptilos
javanicus,
Wilpattu; right,
Egret among
Horsefly's eye
Dopatrium
junceum in
bloom, Wilpattu.





Sri Lankan leopard 
Panthera pardus
kotiya, Wilpattu NP.

■ Sri Lankan leopard
Panthera pardus
kotiya, mating pair,
Wilpattu NP.





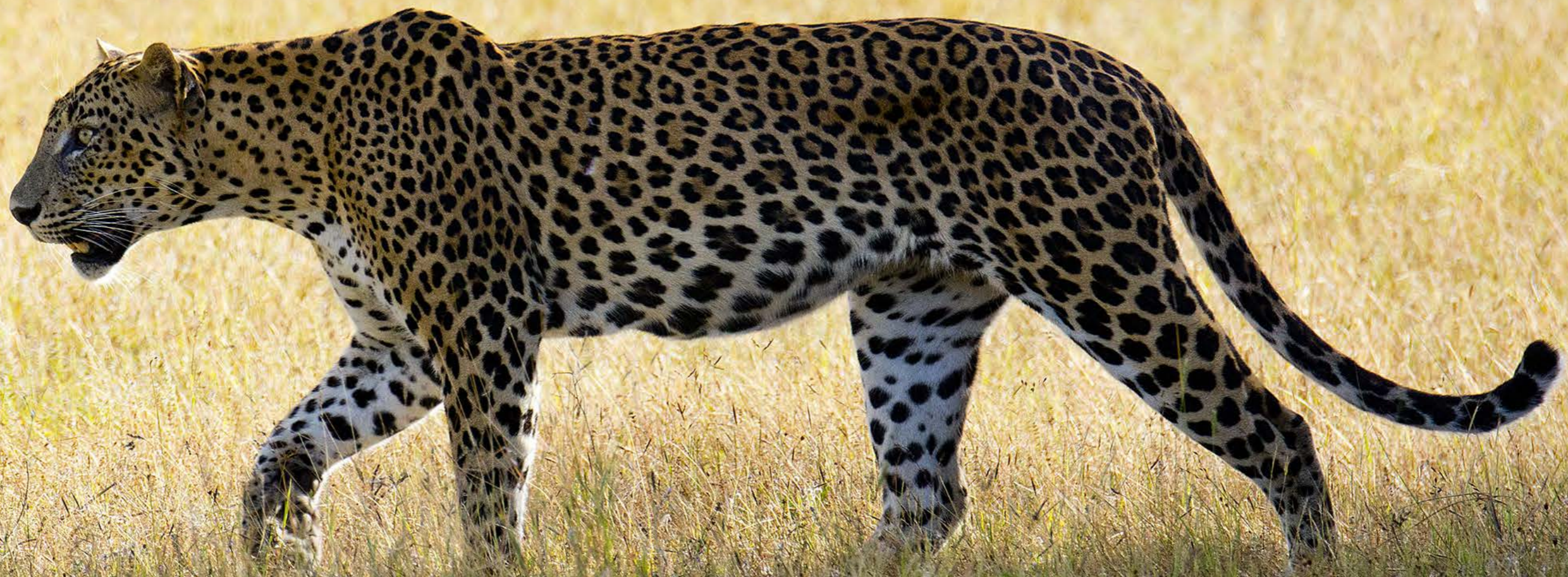
■ The Yala Leopard Center at the Dr. Ravi Samarasinghe memorial hall at the Yala National Park was opened and handed over to the Department of Wildlife Conservation by its initiators, Dushyantha Silva, Milinda Wattededara, Raveendra Siriwardene and Mevan Piyasena on June 26, 2020. The center contains information about the Leopards of Yala and their behaviour, and it is housed in 2 adjacent buildings named as Whiskers Wing and Rosettes Wing. Whiskers Wing shows a collection of photos of Leopard Behaviours. It also has a digital touch screen that shows a range of information including the identification and other data of the Leopards of the Yala National Park. It also has many research articles on Leopards. Rosettes Wing has many information panels containing information of Leopards. It also has a continuous display of video recordings of Leopard behaviour.

The Aim of the center is to help the DWC to ensure enhanced conservation of Leopards and to make the public aware of Leopard behaviour.



■ Sloth bear
Melursus ursinus,
Wilpattu.

Sri Lankan leopard
Panthera pardus kotiya, an
endemic subspecies and the
island's apex predator,
Wilpattu NP.



At-a-glance travel guide



COUNTRY OF DESTINATION: **SRI LANKA**



USEFUL TIPS FOR YOUR EXPEDITION

Some simple, common sense, field-tested advice and information to make the best out of your trip and avoid hassles, worries and problems

ROUTE: Your international flight will land at Bandaranaike International Airport, in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, where you will be met by your guide of choice. Travelling around this beautiful and relatively small tropical island for holiday and sightseeing alone is exceedingly easy and safe (in fact highly advisable), but when dealing with the bureaucracy of National Parks and the unpredictability of wildlife we always prefer to rely on a good, knowledgeable local guide. Whenever we visit Sri Lanka's National Parks we do so with our naturalist and wildlife photographer friend **Mevan Piyasena**, who has proven himself on several occasions a highly reliable, professional organizer.

MEANS OF TRANSPORT: Open, canvas-roofed 4-wheel drive jeeps are used for privately guided trips and are ideal for comfortable, flexible wildlife photography inside the National Parks. Walking and night driving inside the protected areas is not allowed, but a few semi-protected rest stops are provided where one can get off the car and have a light picnic breakfast or lunch.

CURRENCY: Sri Lankan rupee - even if US dollars and Euros are commonly accepted at most tourist resorts, it is advisable to change a reasonable sum upon arrival to buy the inevitable (and excellent) organic spices and tea to bring home.

ACCOMODATION: Accomodation ranging from spartan to luxurious is readily available in the vicinity of the Parks's gates (camping or spending the night inside Sri Lankan protected areas is sadly not allowed anymore). A very good and practical option is offered by simple, clean, private country bungalows - complete with personal cook and caretaker - being widely offered for rental.

FOOD: Sri Lankan food is spectacular, often very fiery, mostly based on all possible culinary declinations of coconut flesh and milk and with a predominance of savoury vegetarian and fish dishes, usually served in abundance. Do not miss the

A rich wildlife which has been long preserved by Buddhist culture



mouth-watering curries and the buffalo milk curd topped with treacle (palm sugar syrup) dessert.

LANGUAGE: Sinhalese and Tamil, but excellent English is widely spoken everywhere.

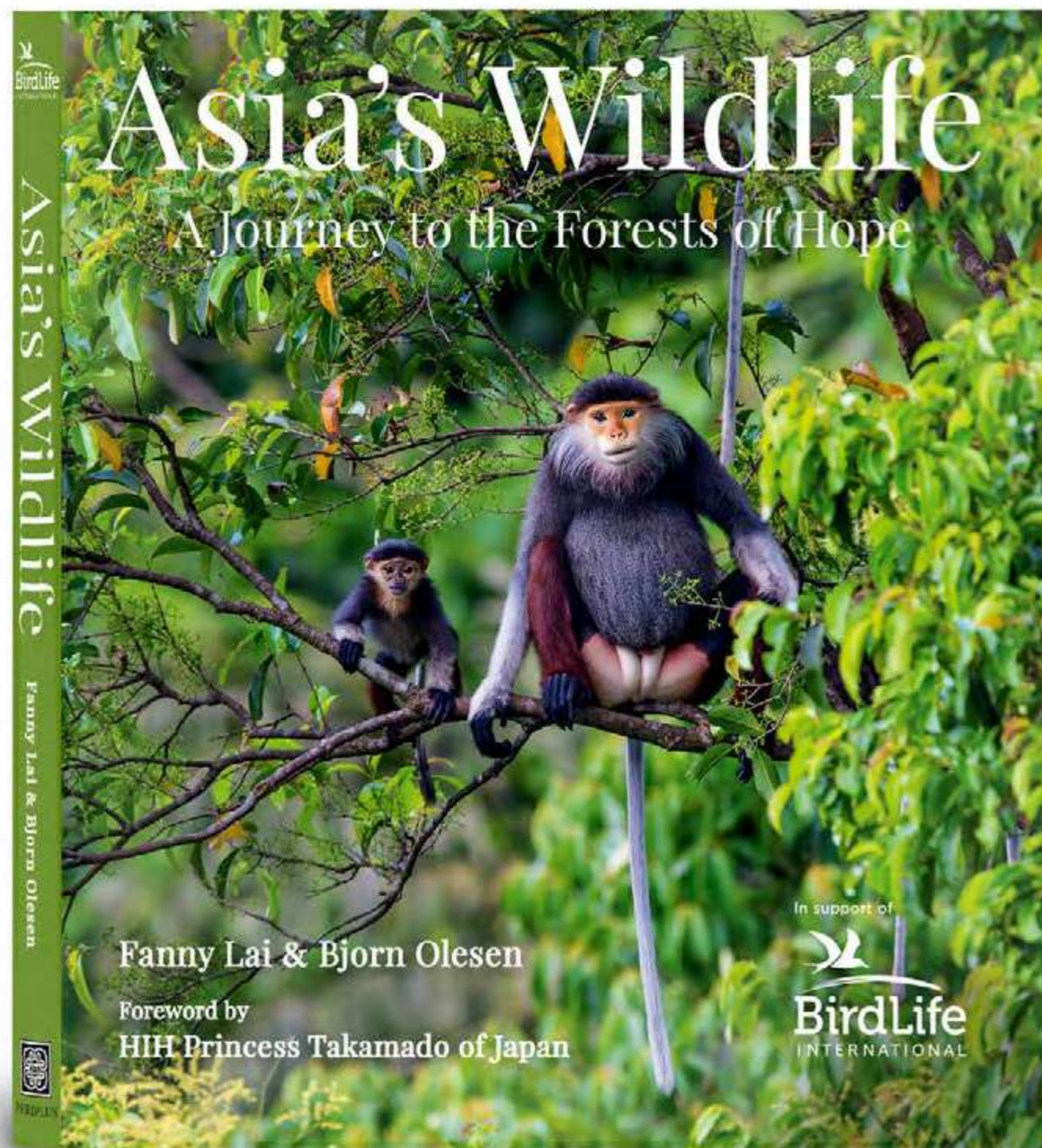
WORRIES: Basically none at the moment - Sri Lanka is one of the safest, most relaxed countries we know. As anywhere else, avoid being around alone at night in Colombo, especially if carrying expensive jewellery and cameras.

HEALTH: Again, Sri Lanka appears to be a very safe tropical country health-wise. We are unfamiliar with any cases of dangerous tropical diseases there, and food appears to be safe anywhere. As usual, avoid drinking tap or well water and prefer tea or bottled water. Ticks, mosquitoes and the occasional venomous snake are a liability in the field.

CLIMATE: Tropical, but very variable depending on season and altitude. In the lowlands expect hot, relatively dry days and the occasional thunderstorm; at higher elevations - such as in the tea plantations of Nuwara Eliya - expect misty, cool mornings and cold nights. One side of the island is usually experiencing the rains of the monsoon at a time while the other is in the dry season - so simply switch sides accordingly to your preferences of the moment!

BESIDES: Situated at the southernmost tip of the Indian subcontinent, the island of Sri Lanka - the ancient Serendib and Taprobane - has always been at the crossroads of the busy sea lanes of the Indian Ocean, a rich, bountiful, teardrop-shaped land of ancient history and culture where a wealth of wildlife and a beautiful environment have historically been preserved by the strong influence of Buddhist culture. And because of the beneficial Buddhist influx, not

only wildlife is confident and abundant everywhere, but many stunningly beautiful archeological sites - still vibrant in the daily observance of cult by the locals - survive and are carefully preserved today in the island. Given their proximity to each other and ease of visiting, the ancient cities of Anuradhapura (the closest to Wilpattu) and Polonnaruwa and the mountain fortress of Sigiriya - all three exceedingly abundant in spectacular works of art, sculpture and architecture and forming the so called "Cultural Triangle"- are an absolute must for all discerning travellers. The ancient capital of Kandy and the hill station of Nuwara Eliya are also not to be missed. The flat, palm-fringed island coastline also offers excellent opportunities for relaxing at some of the world's most beautiful beaches. Sri Lanka has a wonderful hospitality tradition, and some of the most beautiful, well-furnished, romantic hotels we have ever visited are found here. ●



Asia's Wildlife: A Journey to the Forests of Hope

'In these pages, we can read about eight forests in eight countries of Asia that we call forests of hope because of the love and commitment we have for them. The powerful photographs evoke feelings in me, and I suddenly realise that that is because Asia is my homeland. That we are blessed with such beautiful forests is a joy and a responsibility. But they are, of course, just examples of the miraculous riches that forests possess, and on this tiny planet we want all forests to be forests of hope.'

Hope is the life force we all share. Hope is the thing with feathers. It perches in our souls.'

HIH Princess Takamado of Japan. Honorary President of BirdLife International.

'The surprising range and breathtaking beauty of the animals so miraculously photographed in this excellent book are a powerful reminder of the need to protect these treasures before they are lost forever.'

Dr. John van Wyhe, historian of science and one of the world's leading experts on Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace.

'Close-up views of Endangered fauna in their natural habitats are difficult enough to obtain, but the breathtaking quality of the photography in this valuable documentation of Asia's forests makes this book highly recommended for both scientists and nature lovers alike.'

Robert Stuebing, The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

'These arresting portraits of living creatures from eight Asian forests remind us all that forests have value beyond our capacity to measure. Without forests we cannot dream. Without forests we cannot breathe. Without forests we cannot hope. Forests are forever, and their conservation is the human endeavour that represents the best hope of our own survival as a species. Forests of hope indeed!'

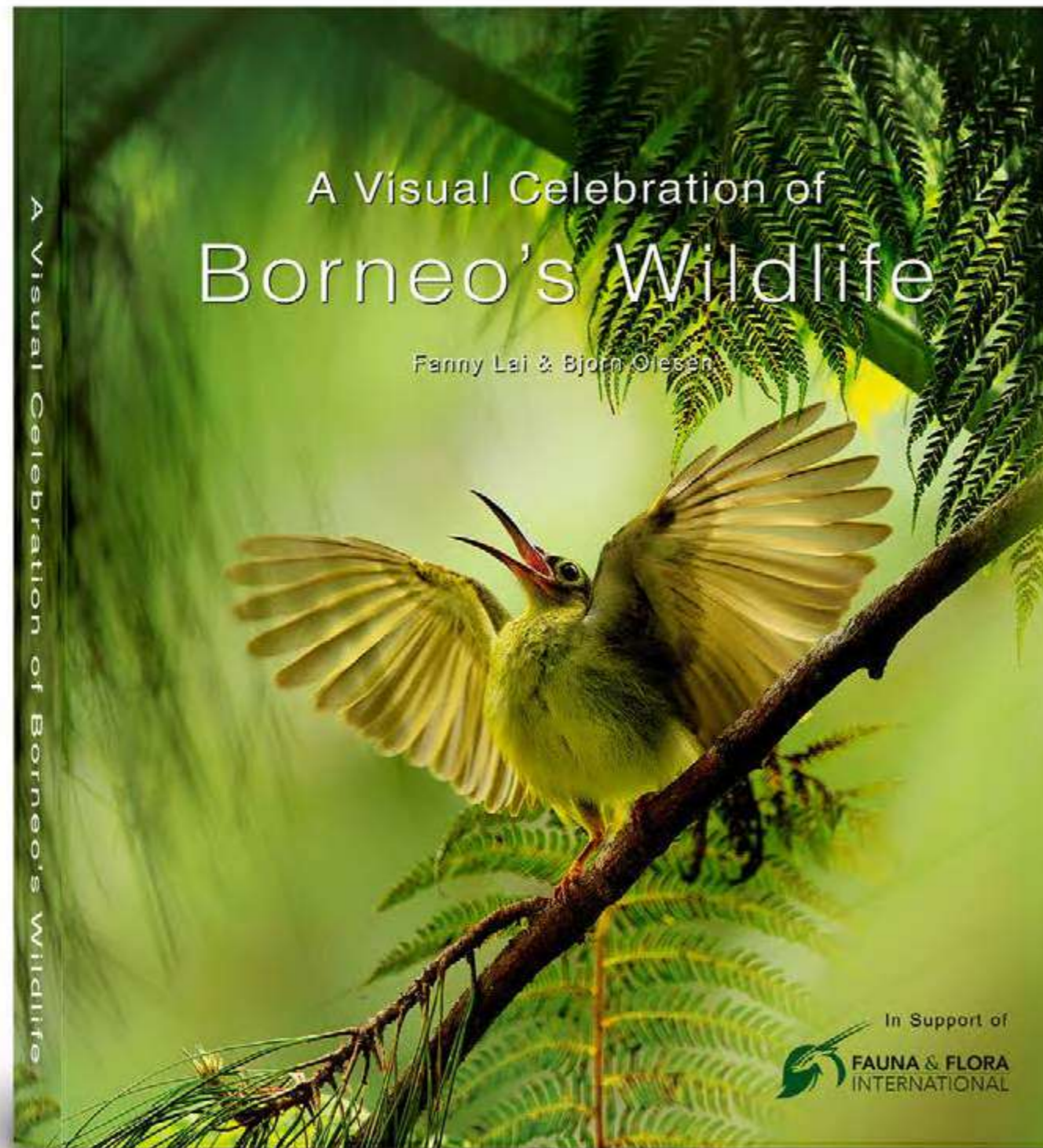
Dr. Nigel Collar, Leventis Fellow in Conservation Biology, BirdLife International.

This book features some of the world's least known species like Vietnam's Saola and the Sumatran Tiger in their natural environment. It weaves high quality photography of these species and inspiring conservation stories from forest sites across Asia together through the lenses of lead photographer, Bjorn Olesen. I recommend it highly to anyone interested in saving Earth's biodiversity.'

Prof. Paul R. Ehrlich, President, Center for Conservation Biology, Stanford University.

Wildlife of Asia's Forests of Hope has been produced to raise funds in support of BirdLife International, and to increase awareness of nature conservation and their Forests of Hope programme in Asia. The authors have contributed their time and resources on a pro bono basis for the production, research and travelling for this one-of-a-kind publication.

Available at leading bookstores, including: [Amazon](#), [Amazon UK](#), [Barnes & Noble](#) and [nhbs UK](#).



A Visual Celebration of Borneo's Wildlife

This book has the best collection of images ever published of Borneo's wildlife.

'The most important, and visually ravishing, record of Borneo's wildlife ever published. The authors have followed in the storied footsteps of Wallace and Whitehead to capture, in all its glory, the dramatic creaturely life in the most biodiverse forests on Earth....'

Prof. Gillen D. Wood, University of Illinois–Urbana Champaign, author of *Tambora: The Eruption that Changed the World*.

'In A Visual Celebration of Borneo's Wildlife the authors have documented the natural wonders of Borneo through stunning photographs and informative text, and illustrated that these marvels of nature are still alive and well in Borneo, at least in certain areas....'

Paul S. Sochaczewski, leading conservationist and author of *An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles: Campfire Conversations with Alfred Russell Wallace*.

'If the great Victorian naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace could have seen this astonishingly beautiful book he would no doubt have declared it the next best thing to exploring Borneo oneself. I have never seen a book on Asian wildlife that so powerfully takes one's breath away with the turn of every page.'

Dr. John van Wyhe, National University of Singapore, historian of science and leading expert on Alfred Wallace, author of *Dispelling the Darkness: Voyage in the Malay Archipelago and the Discovery of Evolution by Wallace and Darwin*.

All of the authors' royalties will be donated to [Fauna & Flora International](#)

Available at: Leading bookstores including [Barnes & Noble](#), [Amazon.UK](#), [Amazon.com](#)

Costa Rica Wild

TOURS AND EXPEDITIONS



CRWILD

WWW.CRWILD.COM



EXPLORING THE WILDEST PLACES, INCREASING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

DISCOVER THE HERPS YOU EVER DREAMED ABOUT! EYELASH VIPERS AND OTHER PIT VIPERS, EVEN THE MIGHTY BUSHMASTER!, CORAL SNAKES, PHANTASTIC TREE, GLASS AND POISON FROGS, SALAMANDERS, EMERALD BASILISKS, GIGANTIC CROCS AND CAIMANS, AND MUCH MORE IN CENTRAL AMERICA, ONE OF THE TOP HOTSPOTS IN THE WORLD!!

Advertisement / www.crwild.com / Find us on:  

Buy Now



life
IN THE DARK

Illuminating Biodiversity in the Shadowy Haunts of Planet Earth

Danté Fenolio

LIFE IN THE DARK

Illuminating Biodiversity in the
Shadowy Haunts of Planet Earth

Danté Fenolio

Stunning, never-before-seen
photographs of creatures that live
in complete darkness.

“Mesmerizing.” — *Publishers Weekly*

 **JOHNS HOPKINS**
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Advertisement

The leading online resource for underwater photographers and videographers



TECHNIQUES

Learn the fundamentals of underwater photography and progress to the latest, most innovative techniques taught by the top pros in the industry

ARTICLES

Discover the world of underwater imaging through compelling features from photographers, filmmakers, ocean scientists, industry experts, and more

GALLERIES

Browse the portfolios of the industry's biggest names in underwater photography and share your own work online with like-minded members

TRAVEL

Read about the experiences of accomplished shooters as they visit the world's most iconic dive spots, and get inside tips on maximizing your dive vacation

NEWS

Keep up to date with everything that matters to underwater photographers, from the latest gear and gadgets to the newest developments in marine research

EXPEDITIONS

Journey with us to the hottest dive destinations on the planet and learn better technique from the most talented image makers in the scubaverse

DIVE PHOTO GUIDE

www.divephotoguide.com · contact@divephotoguide.com



WETPIXEL

Dedicated to
underwater imaging
www.wetpixel.com

A d v e r t i s e m e n t



The Parting Shot

And so, finally, the time has come to say farewell. During these ten years we hopefully did some good and in the process we've had a great time. Thanks to our magazine we've met many new good friends all over

the world, from India to Ecuador, from Poland to South Africa, from the USA to Denmark. You all know who you are, and so we'll avoid naming you one by one to avoid forgetting someone. To all of you, wherever you are -

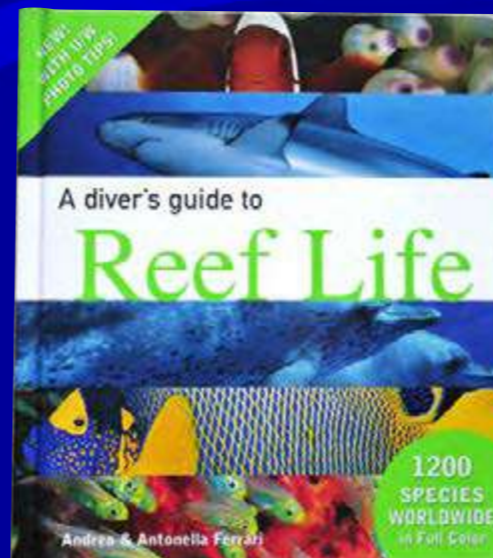
thank you. Thank you for your time, thank you for your hard work, thank you for the suggestions and the inspiration, thank you for having shared our vision - and above all, thank you for the fun and the great trips. ●

A Diver's Guide to Reef Life

1200 TROPICAL MARINE SPECIES WORLDWIDE in Full Color featuring 1300 spectacular color photos with full details on distribution, habitat, size, life habits and underwater photography tips

THIS IS WHAT THE DIVING COMMUNITY SAYS

JANE MORGAN, DIVE MAGAZINE: A stunning tropical marine life reference guide which is bursting at the seams with outstanding photographs. • WILLY VOLK, WETPIXEL.COM: No marine guide in the world will excite you with this much color, thrill you with this much variety, and fascinate you with this much information. This is an absolute must-have for any diver who has eyes and plans on using them while diving. • TIM ECOTT, author of *Neutral Buoyancy*: With 1200 tropical species, ranging from coral polyps, gorgonians, sea squirts, sponges, nudibranchs and all of the main fish groups, this is a truly comprehensive work, and probably the only reef guide most divers will need to take with them on a trip. The Ferraris also produced *A Diver's Guide to Underwater Malaysia Macrolife*, in my opinion the best of its kind. Now they have created an indispensable companion volume that will serve every diver well. • BOB GOEMANS, SALTCORNER.COM: This work is truly a must for all that are interested in the underwater creatures that inhabit our tropical waters. • CLAUDIA PELLARINI, SUBMERGE MAGAZINE: As essential as your passport on every dive trip from the Red Sea to the Caribbean and Indo Pacific.



A Diver's Guide to the Art of Underwater Photography

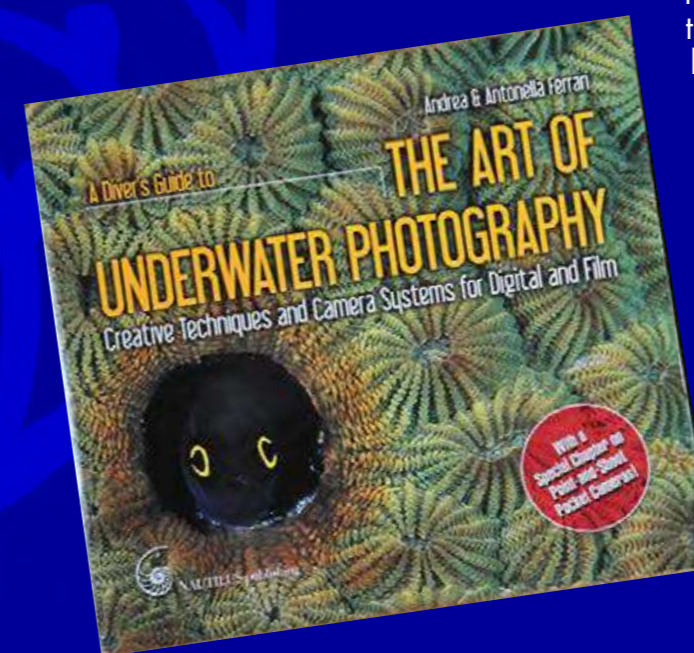
Creative Techniques and Camera Systems for Digital and Film

A highly-readable, technically-accessible, step-by-step guide in eight chapters to the secrets and wonders of underwater photography - featuring dozens of stunning, inspiring images by several of the world's most brilliant authors

THIS IS WHAT THE DIVING COMMUNITY SAYS

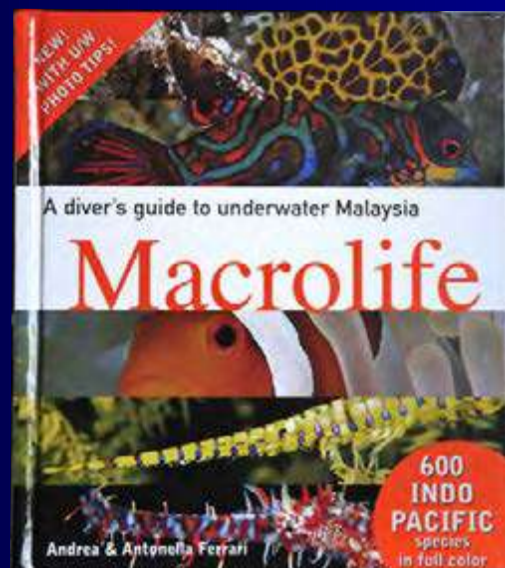
ALEX MUSTARD, WETPIXEL.COM: This book gives us a rare insight into the mindset, dedication and imagination involved in creating magnificent underwater images. I sat down and read this enjoyable book from cover to cover. The lack of techno-talk makes it a very accessible method to improve your photography. The images are some of the finest you will see in a guide to underwater photography. All the images are very well reproduced, which will not come as a surprise to anyone who owns any of the other books by the authors. A large format 360 page feast of fabulous images and thought provoking and enjoyable writing on taking pictures in the ocean. • UNDERCURRENT: This book is filled with spectacular images, designed not only to offer great technical guidance, but also help the underwater photographer discover and develop the artist within. Clearly the best and most beautiful "how-to" book ever produced. • JOHN BANTIN, DIVER MAGAZINE: With an enviable reputation for authoring fine books on underwater photography, the Ferraris have laced the pages of their new book with juicy pictures.

There is none of the pseudo-art talk that often ruins otherwise beautiful books of photographs. I read it from cover to cover, and it's a great read. The pictures do the talking, and need no talking-up. This 360-page volume doesn't have a weak page in it. • MIKE SEVERNS DIVING: This book is less about the technical aspects of the craft and more about the art and the "eye." This is a big, fat, beautiful, coffee-table-type book that includes 400 photographs illustrating techniques to achieve such effects as artistic lighting and framing. Inspirational as well as educational.



Visit www.reefwonders.net for more details. Available worldwide from NHBS.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.com and selected outlets

DIVE INTO DISCOVERY WITH NAUTILUS PUBLISHING



A Diver's Guide to Underwater Malaysia Macrolife

600 INDO-PACIFIC MACRO marine species featuring 800 SPECTACULAR COLOR PHOTOS with full details on distribution, habitat, size, life habits and underwater photography tips

THIS IS WHAT THE DIVING COMMUNITY SAYS

DIVERNET: Not only does it help identify the critters, but it also gives useful tips on how to photograph them. • BACKSCATTER: Best work I've yet seen. For Mabul or Kunkungan, this book should be as necessary as a passport. • FAMA MAGAZINE: Well written, quite informative, beautifully illustrated... a priced right, quality publication. Get a copy, you'll be happy you did! • TAUCHEN MAGAZINE: 600 marine species illustrated with spectacular photos and a compact text for a very useful and much needed underwater guide. • ASIAN DIVER: Illustrated with more than 800

extraordinary colour photos, this is the field guide of choice for all serious macro divers. • NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: The photography is impressive - if you need to identify any species from this area, this guide is a gem. • UNDERCURRENT: We just discovered the ultimate guide to Indo-Pacific macro life - this book is a must for traveling divers. BBC WILDLIFE MAGAZINE: Identifies and describes 600 small marine species from the Indo-Pacific. Clear, concise, informative... packed with more than 800 colour photos. • FOUR LAKES SCUBA CLUB: Both a macro and a fish field guide for all serious divers from the Maldives to Australia. A must! • DIVER MAGAZINE: Colour photographs of the highest quality make it easy to identify what you have seen...An essential tool for anyone.