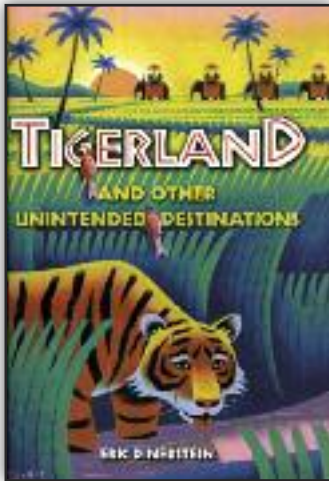


# SB&F

## BOOK | CLUB | GUIDE



### ***Tigerland and Other Unintended Destinations***

***Eric Dinerstein (Island Press, 2005)***

#### **What's it about?**

*Tigerland and Other Unintended Destinations* is a quiet, unassuming book that can (and should!) be savored on many levels. In it, author Eric Dinerstein presents a series of autobiographical chapters about his experiences in the wild and unique places of the world: Nepal and Costa Rica, New Caledonia and the Galápagos Islands, Venezuela, Tanzania, and even Montana. Each essay is enjoyable as narrative, with the author recounting his encounters with people and efforts to preserve wild places and wild things. Each chapter is unique, too, as the author addresses the critical issues associated with wildlife and wild lands conservation today—protection for endangered species, the protection of habitats, the destruction and fragmentation of habitats by humans, and, finally, the restoration and repopulation of ecosystems—all key concepts and each fundamental to an understanding of how conservation really works.

#### **Who is this book for?**

This book can be read and enjoyed by anyone from high school students and above.

#### **Who wrote it?**

Eric Dinerstein is a die-hard adventurer who has traveled the world practicing conservation on the frontlines—working on everything from snow leopards in northern India to tigers in Nepal to fruit bats in Costa Rica. He is Chief of Conservation Science and Vice-President for Research at World Wildlife Fund in DC. He led the first team to identify every ecoregion on the planet and define the most biologically important of those, a framework called the Global 200 that now guides World Wildlife Fund's fieldwork in more than 100 countries.

#### **Why should we read it?**

Conservation biology is a relatively new discipline that provides a picture of the impact that human activities have had on the natural world. Unfortunately, much of our recent impact has resulted in the loss of species and habitat. Yet, in *Tigerland*, Dinerstein argues that “the combined efforts of people working on behalf of conservation proves the point that against enormous odds, a single individual can make a difference in the world if he or she embraces the cause of safeguarding the future of the planet's millions of species so dependent on us for survival.” This book will give you a broad perspective of what is involved in conservation today and how a few dedicated individuals have made (and are continuing to make) a difference.



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## What can we talk about?

How did experiences with other people influence the author? How was he inspired?

What messages does the author have for readers?

What are some ways that humans can impact biological diversity?

How do conservation biologists investigate human impacts on biological diversity?

What are some practical approaches that can promote human development without threatening biological diversity?

What are some economic and ethical arguments for preserving biological diversity?

What are the major threats to species described in the book?

## What are some other books like this I might like?

- ◆ *Central Park in the Dark: More Mysteries of Urban Wildlife*. Marie Winn. FSG, 2008)
- ◆ *The Lives of Ants*. Laurent Keller and Elisabeth Gordon, translated by James Grieve. (Oxford, 2009)
- ◆ *Return of the Unicorns*. Eric Dinerstein. (Columbia, 2003)
- ◆ *Sky Time in Gray's River: Living for Keeps in a Forgotten Place*. Robert Michael Pyle. (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

## Where can I find out more?

A Conversation with Dr. Eric Dinerstein <http://www.sbsonline.com/BookTalk/Pages/EricDinerstein.aspx>

World Wildlife Fund <http://www.worldwildlife.org/home.html>

Society for Conservation Biology <http://www.conbio.org/>