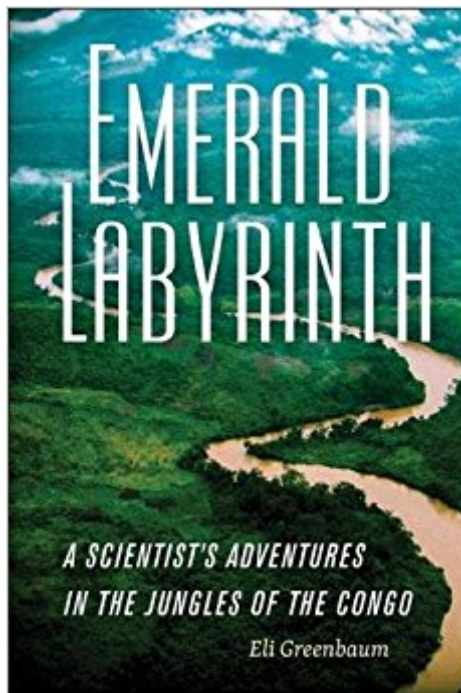




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Emerald Labyrinth: A Scientist's Adventures In The Jungles Of The Congo



Synopsis

Emerald Labyrinth is a scientist and adventurer's chronicle of years exploring the rainforests of sub-Saharan Africa. The richly varied habitats of the Democratic Republic of the Congo offer a wealth of animal, plant, chemical, and medical discoveries. But the country also has a deeply troubled colonial past and a complicated political present. Author Eli Greenbaum is a leading expert in sub-Saharan herpetology—snakes, lizards, and frogs—who brings a sense of wonder to the question of how science works in the twenty-first century. Along the way he comes face to face with spitting cobras, silverback mountain gorillas, wild elephants, and the teenaged armies of AK-47-toting fighters engaged in the continent's longest-running war. As a bellwether of the climate and biodiversity crises now facing the planet, the Congo holds the key to our planet's future. Writing in the tradition of books like *The Lost City of Z*, Greenbaum seeks out the creatures struggling to survive in a war-torn, environmentally threatened country. *Emerald Labyrinth* is an extraordinary book about the enormous challenges and hard-won satisfactions of doing science in one of the least known, least hospitable places on earth.

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Customer Reviews

“Delivers the goods. . . .” Greenbaum masterfully wraps each of his biological discoveries in rich tapestries, from Africa's history to its current quagmires of politics and corruption. • (Kurt Johnson, coauthor of Nabokov's Blues and Fine Lines) “Engrossing. . . . Slipping unobtrusively between armed militias, avaricious bureaucrats, courageous conservationists, and tropical diseases, Greenbaum takes his readers with him to discover the depths of our ignorance of

Congo's natural history, with erudite forays into the country's political and social history and its importance to the fate of the planet. . . . His research is urgent. • (Ian Redmond, OBE, wildlife biologist and ambassador for the UN Convention on Migratory Species) • Thanks to scientists like Greenbaum, expeditions such as those described in this book offer reassurance that innovative research can proceed despite the many difficulties that get in the way. • (Jonathan Kingdon, University of Oxford)

ELI GREENBAUM is an associate professor of evolutionary genetics at the University of Texas at El Paso, with a research focus on the herpetology of Central Africa. He has published over one hundred articles in refereed science journals, and his work has been covered in NBC News, National Geographic Daily News, Africa Geographic Magazine, and The Huffington Post. This is his first book.

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