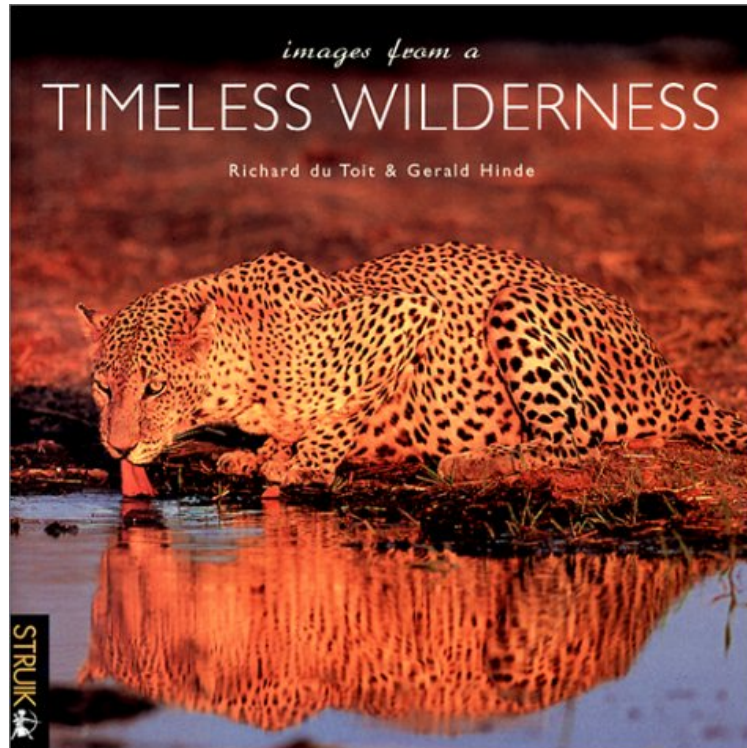


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Images from a Timeless Wilderness

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From Brand: Struik Pub : Images from a Timeless Wilderness before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Images from a Timeless Wilderness:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent collection African Wildlife Photographs (Khwai River Region-- see review) Introduces the Wildlife and the Ecosystem By Dr Richard du Toit and Gerald Hinde are the photographers who have produced this wonderful book of wildlife photos. (None of the photos were manipulated or altered with the use of computers.) It is well worth considering .The two photographers spent a year in the Khawi River area-- a narrow area between the Okavango Delta (permanent wetlands) and the Kalahari (semi desert) ecosystems..They see the book as about Nature itself in all its extraordinary complexity and beauty, and not about a group of animals primarily.They wanted to capture the moods of the of this wilderness ,and portray the freedom and movement of the creatures that lived there. They also aimed to show the interaction between the animals themselves and also their interaction with their environment. (see preface.-- this is my paraphrase)The sections are::The Rains-- revive the parched landsThe Floods--arrive from the distant NorthThe Gatherings-- around the dwindling watersThe Waiting-- for the first stirrings of summer.Each of these sections has a short introduction.This is followed by a number excellent colour photos-- many are full page , several half page.There is no fixed pattern but usually there are 2 pictures on a double page spread, with the captioning taking up half a page on one side, or with captions below the pictures on both pages.See the page for the books dimensions-- it is oblong and the pictures are of a pleasing size and detailThe captions are by Richard du Toit and are clear and well written, some are short but many are 100 words or

more. The pictures cover mammals, birds, landscapes, reptiles, insects, fungi, sunsets etc. There is a 2 page spread with a female Impala with her young, a Black Backed Jackal and its pup and a young ? Anxious Verlet Monkey looking out at the world from behind a branch. To survive each has to learn a lot from its parent (s) quickly. What are the various calls, what do they mean, what call is for what predator, what is the general alarm call etc. What does one eat, what one must avoid. There are excellent photos of Lions, lionesses and Cubs, and of Elephants I am very fond of the various types of antelope, and these are a number of photos of them including:: Impala-- a good selection along with other antelope. Water bucks, Red Lechwe,--some excellent photos of these antelope rushing about in water, (these antelope live around water) Warthogs get several photos, males battling for dominance, and a subadult warthog being chased by 2 cheetahs (a coalition) one sees the chase and then in the next photo the dust as the warthog rapidly reverses into a burrow-- that way it protects its back and has its tusks out front for defence. Wild Dogs include pictures I presume around the den with pups and a few adults, pups being feed and wild dogs hunting. Lions as in most African Wildlife books are well covered. I still gets a thrill seeing a lioness carry one of her small Cubs in her mouth, and the cub's usually relaxed posture. Leopards have several photos There is an excellent photo of the hard to see Serval-- a small member of the cat family. There are a number of pictures of birds-- I am still learning about them, so am less able to comment. As with the other wildlife photos, the pictures and texts are excellent. There is a good photo of a male weaver bird, under its nest displaying in breeding colours-- seeking a mate. The nest is a work of art. One sees two Egyptian Geese and their new family of 8 goslings. The goslings had jumped from the tree nest at their mother's call and we're headed for the water 100 m away. Alas a baboon near by saw them, and bounded over and got them all. A furious and desperate male did all he could to save his goslings but to no avail. This story plays out for many animals / wildlife with young. Sometimes the family and young prosper, other times they are in the wrong place at the wrong time. As the author points out in another place, lion cubs also have a low rate of reaching adulthood. One sees new life, and death. Some die due to predators, others like an old bull elephant seem to have died from old age. (elephants have several set of teeth, which they wear out throughout their lives-- when the last set are worn out they tend to head to water and spend their last period in this area. Without their teeth they cannot chew so life is usually short.) You see lions and Hyaenas around various carcasses, with Jackals and vultures nearby. You also see the life of the elephants. The solitary Bulls, both younger bulls and elderly Bulls. The matriarchal group, both eating, playing and at waterholes. You see the calves pounding around in the water enjoying themselves. You also see a elephant who is about 10 years old taken down by lions (at this age they are apparently more self confident and easier for the lions to get.) In another picture, there is a huge pelvic bone from a bull elephant that is basically picked dry-- two black backed Jackals are having a nibble. The Jackals are dwarfed by the pelvic bone. The author's show the passage of the seasons in the Khwai River region and how this affects the wildlife that live there. Dung Beetles, Fungi, Bacteria and termites help recycle the animal dropping. Elephant dropping contain a lot of organic material which termites have a major role in processing. As mentioned above, the changing season affect the wildlife that live in the region, and the transient population that pass through-- exploiting the various food items that are available at various times, be it grass or grass seeds, various insects, up to animals. Some animals are water dependent, other can survive for periods without water. All however need food, and many need various defences against predation. It is hard to tell the story of how ecosystems function, as you need to do some background reading. This book with its careful choice of pictures (with a few short sequences of pictures) helps you to get excited both about looking at the wildlife, and beginning to learn about this particular ecosystem. Summary. This is an excellent book of Wildlife Near the Okavango Delta. The photographs are excellent and the text informative. It is well worth having on your shelf. If it is expensive, I would go for Anup Shah's books first, but Richard du Toit and Gerald Hinde are excellent photographers and are well worth buying. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Images of tireless wonder..... By Boo Timeless Wilderness was the first book from Gerald Hinde and Richard du Toit to grace my desk. I paged through it with such excitement that I immediately phoned the publisher asking if I could meet the photographers... This book is filled with the most extraordinary images that I doubt any other photographer has ever captured. The first picture that captured my imagination in the book was the hippo's feet... The large aquatic herbivore rolled underwater in an unlikely display of water ballet and Richard du Toit was there to immortalise the moment. The collection of animal interaction shots is simply astonishing. There are shots of conflict between a Steppe Eagle and a Saddle Billed Stork, as well as between Wild Dog and Fish Eagle to name just a few. These are moments so unique they may never be captured on film again. In writing the text for the book, Richard du Toit really includes you in those unexpected bush moments which one only experiences in a life time of beast watching. His comments show both his extensive knowledge of animal behaviour and his sensitivity in communing with wild creatures. I do have one criticism of this beautiful work. Richard du Toit writes magnificently and his lengthy captions left me craving for more. Let's hope that in his next book he lets the ink flow more freely and gives us even more to get stuck into. I did finally get to meet Richard du Toit and Gerald Hinde. Over a marvellous lunch, I asked why they had named the book "Images from a Timeless Wilderness". Richard's face lit up and he said "There are a handful of places left on earth where you can feel such primal power. This place on the Kwai River feels as though it hasn't changed since the beginning of time. It is the real Eden." Thankfully, there are talented souls like Gerald Hinde and Richard du Toit to document in exquisite detail the

fleeting moments of magic in this African Eden. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent photographs
By EcoDesigner I really like this book. The photography is excellent, and the variety of animals/choice of subjects is also very good. Good page size and print quality too.

The book concentrates on the wildlife of the Khwai River, a narrow link between the permanent wetlands of the Okavango Delta and the semi-desert Kalahari. The photographers spent considerable time in the area to capture the cycle of the seasons: the summer rains; the arrival of the flood waters in late summer; the gathering of the wildlife along the shrinking river in water; and finally, the dry months of waiting for the rains to return.

About the Author Richard du Toit (author and co-photographer) holds a BSc degree in zoology and Entomology. He is one of South Africa's top wildlife photographers, whose work regularly features in magazines. He has authored and co-authored several books.