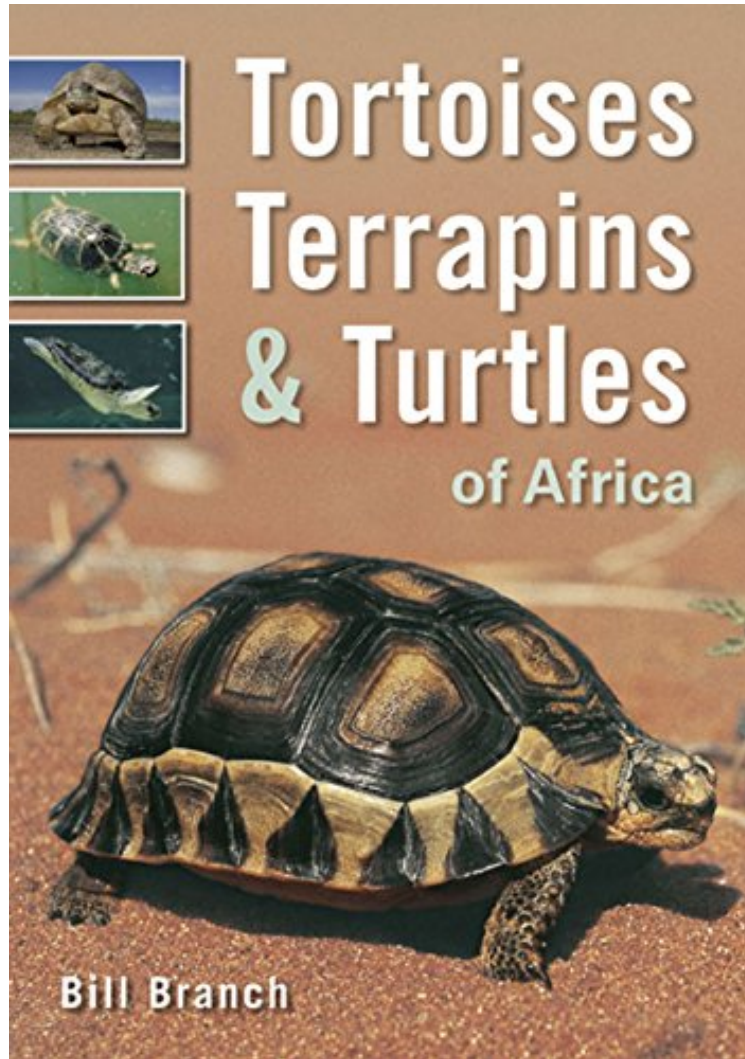


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Tortoises, Terrapins Turtles of Africa

Bill Branch

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Bill Branch : Tortoises, Terrapins Turtles of Africa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tortoises, Terrapins Turtles of Africa:

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Tortoises, terrapins and turtles belong to the oldest surviving reptile lineage. They have been around for 220 million

years, and witnessed the rise and fall of the dinosaurs. Africa has a rich diversity of these reptiles, known collectively as chelonians. Tortoises are found in forests and deserts, savannah and fynbos; terrapins inhabit marshes, rivers, lakes and ponds; and sea turtles swim in the oceans of Africa, coming ashore to nest on certain beaches. This authoritative field guide to the tortoises, terrapins and turtles of Africa is richly illustrated with color photographs that make for easy identification of 46 chelonian species (some only recently described); it provides accessible, up-to-date information and distribution maps; and it examines how chelonians have adapted to their environments. The book provides an overview of chelonian origins, anatomy and biology, their conservation status and the threats to their survival posed by the destruction of their habitats by man.

About the Author BILL BRANCH is a well-known herpetologist and author of a range of books and papers on African reptiles and amphibians. He has done extensive fieldwork in over 20 African countries and has described over 40 new species. Bill has served on international conservation committees and co-authored the Atlas and Red List of South African Reptiles. He holds a doctorate in Zoology from the University of Southampton.