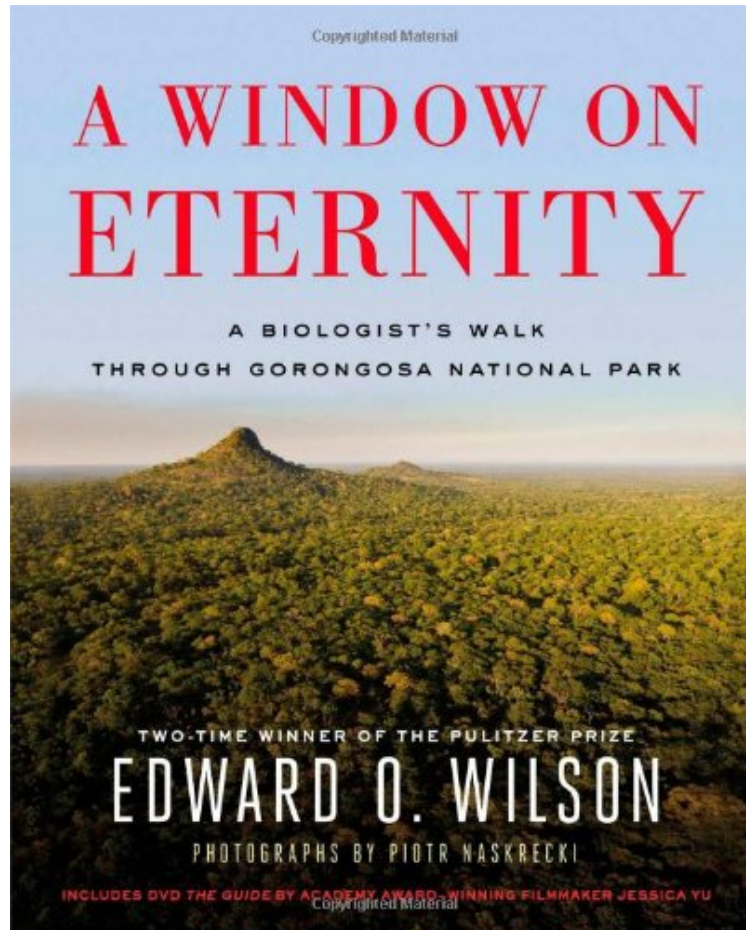


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# A Window on Eternity: A Biologists Walk Through Gorongosa National Park

*Edward O. Wilson*

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**Edward O. Wilson : A Window on Eternity: A Biologists Walk Through Gorongosa National Park** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Window on Eternity: A Biologists Walk Through Gorongosa National Park:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Window On Eternity By William M This book is a beacon of hope, an example of what humanity can do if it wishes species to survive in their diversity. Gorongosa was a war torn park, species were reduced from hundreds to sometimes single digits. An entrepreneur, Gregory C Carr, along with E O Wilson to open a biodiversity research center there, has re-established the mega fauna to almost its original state. As habitat loss and poaching decrease wild animal populations world wide, this book is a positive note on what one species can do to open the window on eternity for itself and many others. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By J. Wagner Nice book came with a cool DVD that hubby and I (both nature nuts) enjoyed watching. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Well worth the price. By Dale Viljoen I first heard of this

book on a late night show and am extremely pleased that I bought it. Well written with great photos. One is not overwhelmed with the details.

The remarkable story of how one of the most biologically diverse habitats in the world was destroyed, restored, and continues to evolve with stunning, full-color photographs by two of the world's best wildlife photographers. *A Window on Eternity* is a stunning book of splendid prose and gorgeous photography about one of the biologically richest places in Africa and perhaps in the world. Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique was nearly destroyed in a brutal civil war, then was reborn and is now evolving back to its original state. Edward O. Wilson's personal, luminous description of the wonders of Gorongosa is beautifully complemented by Piotr Naskrecki's extraordinary photographs of the park's exquisite natural beauty. A bonus DVD of Academy Award-winning director Jessica Yu's documentary, *The Guide*, is also included with the book. Wilson takes readers to the summit of Mount Gorongosa, sacred to the local people and the park's vital watershed. From the forests of the mountain he brings us to the deep gorges on the edge of the Rift Valley, previously unexplored by biologists, to search for new species and assess their ancient origins. He describes amazing animal encounters from huge colonies of agricultural termites to specialized raider ants that feed on them to giant spiders, a battle between an eagle and a black mamba, conversations with traumatized elephants that survived the slaughter of the park's large animals, and more. He pleads for Gorongosa and other wild places to be allowed to exist and evolve in its timeless way uninterrupted into the future. As he examines the near destruction and rebirth of Gorongosa, Wilson analyzes the balance of nature, which, he observes, teeters on a razor's edge. Loss of even a single species can have serious ramifications throughout an ecosystem, and yet we are carelessly destroying complex biodiverse ecosystems with unknown consequences. The wildlands in which these ecosystems flourish gave birth to humanity, and it is this natural world, still evolving, that may outlast us and become our legacy, our window on eternity.

From Booklist \*Starred\* A man of towering achievements, biologist and Pulitzer Prize winner Wilson (*Letters to a Young Scientist*, 2013) is still happiest in the field, alert to new discoveries. In his latest book, this inspiring teacher and clarion voice of reason and wonder, compassion and realism turns his exploration of Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park in search of previously little-known insect fauna into a walking seminar on the grand and complex web of life and how human activity imperils it. Damaged by a brutal civil war, poverty, deforestation, and poaching, Gorongosa, a place of caves, ravines, rain forests, and mountains, is now being restored, thanks to the government's innovative partnership with American philanthropist Gregory Carr. Fascinated by the region's natural and human history, Wilson conducts Gorongosa's first bioblitz, in which local children and adults count wildlife species, and revels in his own encounters. He explains why Africa needs its elephants and celebrates all the little things that run the world, including his specialty, ants, and mound-building termites. Profoundly knowledgeable and passionately appreciative of the beauty and ferocity of life and its finely calibrated and vulnerable equilibrium, Wilson calls for more inviolate nature reserves around the world because wildlands maintain the stability of the biosphere, and nature is the birthright of everyone on Earth. --Donna Seaman *A Window on Eternity* revels in biodiversity and nature's inventiveness. . . . Wilson plants his defiant flag defending biodiversity in a place once so brutally despoiled that its recovery is truly momentous. (Stuart Pimm *Nature*) Wilson suggests that our tired planet, managed wisely, can still demonstrate an enormous capacity for regeneration. . . . [his] prose consistently strikes a note of transcendence, and one sees a hint of that, too, in the pictures of Gorongosa by Piotr Naskrecki that accompany the text. (Danny Heitman *The Christian Science Monitor*) The father of sociobiology and one of the most prolific science writers of our time, Edward O. Wilson is back with a new book that explores a slice of wilderness in deepest Africa. . . . As usual, Wilson's observations carry more weight than the descriptions of a simple naturalist. In *A Window on Eternity*, he invites us to glimpse ourselves in the mirror of one of Earth's few remaining wildernesses. (Bob Grant *The Scientist*) "[Wilson is] The world's greatest living naturalist." (Justin Moyer *The Washington Post*) Wilson describes in language that is both poetic and scientific a kind of parable of what is possible in the realm of environmental protection. . . . By destroying the natural world, we are destroying ourselves. Our blindness to this reality is the most crucial and fundamental fact of the world today. *A Window on Eternity* brings this reality into focus in a lucid and disarmingly gentle manner. It is a fitting capstone to Wilson's exceptional career. (David Edmund Moody *The Huffington Post*) A lyrical ode to biodiversity. . . . Wilson speaks with passion throughout. . . . This volume's visual content [is] as remarkable as the stories. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) Entomologist E.O. Wilson chronicles both the shifting ecology of Gorongosa after the war and how researchers are trying to repair the damage. . . . Naskrecki's images are a delight, capturing the spirit of the recovering landscape and its animals, great and small. . . . Ultimately, the book is a cautionary tale about how human affairs are fundamentally entangled with the natural world. (Allison Bohac *Science News*) Wilson specializes in ants, and his explanations about the importance of insect relationships and biodiversity in Gorongosa are charming and accessible, no jargon, just joy. (Associated Press) The famed biologist still gets giddy as a schoolboy when he encounters ants that can consume a live python, or describe how to hypnotize a dragonfly. Wilson waxes poetic about the marvel of the park's well-balanced ecosystems, but changes his tone in the final chapter: a

condemnation of humanity trampling en route to what he calls the Eremocene, or Age of Loneliness. (Discover)The rebirth of a premier nature reserve in Mozambique, recounted in a gentle storytelling style by noted Harvard entomologist Wilson. . . . A big story about a small place with an ageless appreciation and discernment it would be criminal to ignore. (Kirkus s)About the AuthorEdward O. Wilson is generally recognized as one of the worlds leading scientists. He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and the author of many influential books, including *The Diversity of Life*, *Naturalist*, *The Ants*, and *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*. He is currently Honorary Curator in Entomology and University Research Professor Emeritus, Harvard University.