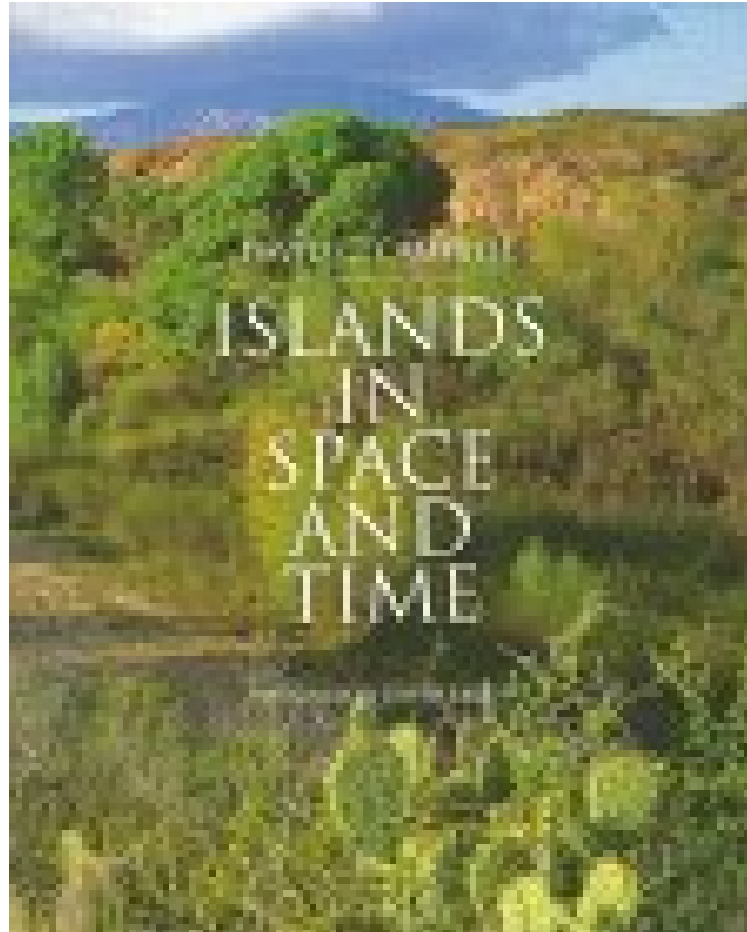


(Free) Islands in Space and Time

## Islands in Space and Time

*David G. Campbell*

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**David G. Campbell : Islands in Space and Time** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islands in Space and Time:

So much has been written about the complexity of environmental issues that we sometimes forget that what we are really talking about when we speak of the environment is home." Ecosystem" is another word for home, and Islands in Space and Time dramatically shows us what that means by telling the stories of some of the last great intact ecosystems on Earth, places that are home not only to a rich diversity of wildlife and plant life but to a rich diversity of people as well. Traveling from the Florida Keys to the R'o San Pedro in Arizona, to the Flying-D Ranch in Montana, and to the islands of Molokai and Palau, with several expeditions to Central and South America, the gifted ecologist and writer David Campbell brings us vivid portraits of places where the needs of humans and the needs of nature are being kept in balance, the kinds of places that we must save and protect if our children are to have a planet they can

call home.

.com The islands of Campbell's title are not necessarily sea-encircled places, but endangered landscapes surrounded by sweeping ecological transformation: the Everglades, the Brazilian rainforest, streams in Arizona, prairies in Canada. Touring these, we learn about complex issues like "integrated ecosystem management" and the theory of island biogeography, which holds, in part, that the rate of species divergence is directly related to the size of a given ecosystem. The heavily illustrated book, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, makes a solid argument for the preservation of large and diverse wilderness areas. From Publishers Weekly For this tribute to the richness of the natural world, Grinnell College biologist Campbell (*The Crystal Desert*) traveled to 10 of the remarkable habitats protected by the Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places program. Campbell's prose is only workmanlike but his understanding of ecosystems is deep and conveyed clearly as he describes the geological and biological history of these preserves, as well as the influence that humans have had on the flora and fauna of each area. Focusing on reserves in three South American countries (Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay), Belize, Mexico, the Palau Islands and four U.S. states (Arizona, Florida, Hawaii and Montana), his reach is international, yet rooted in the regional. Campbell describes the current state of wildlife—whether bison in Montana, flamingos in Mexico or mangroves in Belize—in these preserves, which he views as habitat islands surrounded by human disturbance. Unless great care is taken, he explains, all are ephemeral; but if they are lost, some small solace will be gained by knowing that they have been chronicled in this fine, well-organized book. The text is complemented by 100 striking color photographs. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Campbell, a gifted ecologist and writer (*The Crystal Desert: Summers in Antarctica*, LJ 11/1/92) has written a moving, thought-provoking description of some of the last remaining intact ecosystems on Earth. He describes in beautiful prose both the natural and actual history of ten "islands in space and time" spanning the Americas and the Pacific Islands. He traveled from the Florida Keys and Everglades to the Flying D Ranch in Montana to the San Pedro in Arizona. He then traversed the high Andes in Ecuador and pushed through the jungles of southern Brazil and Paraguay. In the Pacific, he visited the island paradises of Molokai and Palau. The result is both a portrait of these places and a plea to take stock now and preserve our planet while we can. Campbell points out again and again that it's up to the community surrounding these areas to preserve them now before they are lost forever. Recommended for the natural history and ecology collections of public and academic libraries. Sandra Knowles, Univ. of South Carolina Libs., Columbia Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.