

From a small island in the Baltic Sea to the large tropical islands of Borneo and Madagascar, *Messages from Islands* is a global tour of these natural, water-bound laboratories. In this career-spanning work, Ilkka Hanski draws upon the many islands on which he performed fieldwork to convey key themes in ecology. By exploring the islands' biodiversity as an introduction to general issues, Hanski helps us to learn how species and communities interact in fragmented landscapes, how evolution generates biodiversity, and how this biodiversity is maintained over time. Conceptually oriented but grounded in an adventurous personal narrative, *Messages from Islands* is a landmark work that lifts the natural mysteries of islands from the sea, bringing to light the thrilling complexities and connections of ecosystems worldwide.

"Hanski's book is an engaging example of an unusual genre—a personal journal through a professional landscape. Join him on his travels, share his insights and wisdom, and learn the basic principles of population ecology."—Peter R. Grant and B. Rosemary Grant, coauthors of *40 Years of Evolution: Darwin's Finches on Daphne Major Island*

"Hanski was an inspiring world leader in research on the ecology, evolution, and conservation of life on earth. His many projects on islands worldwide serve as a springboard to his remarkably comprehensive yet elegant account of biodiversity, the forces that threaten it, and what we must do to save it."—Daniel Simberloff, University of Tennessee

"Islands gave Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace critical clues about evolution. Hanski shows they are a gift that still spawns compelling questions: How many species are there, how did they get there, what are we doing to diminish biodiversity, and why is this important? He does this in a rich personal adventure that spans the planet from the frozen arctic to the steamy tropics—working on small animals, yes, but ones that generate great insights."—Stuart L. Pimm, coauthor of *Patterns in Nature: The Analysis of Species Co-Occurrences*

"What a lovely book. *Messages from Islands* reminds me of Edward O. Wilson's *The Diversity of Life*, with its mix of the personal and the scientific, its elegant tone, its straightforward and crystal-clear prose, and the subtle way in which so much ecological and evolutionary ground is covered. . . . One of the best tales of scientific discovery and understanding, and of the humans who make those discoveries, that I have ever read."—Nathan J. Sanders, University of Copenhagen



Ilkka Hanski (1953–2016) was professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and director of the Metapopulation Research Centre at the University of Helsinki. He is the author of *Metapopulation Ecology*, among several monographs and edited works.

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