

*Non-Fiction Project*

# Beastly Encounters

(Sub-title to be determined)

Michael Buckley

*Beastly Encounters* details forays to the remote reaches of the planet, looking for near-mythical species. Each chapter links those key species to its unique environment—and what is changing in that environment. There are bizarre and marvellous creatures out there—the Komodo dragon, the leopard seal, the polar bear—that are every bit as magnificent as the mythical ones. Looking for rare animals like these has propelled Michael Buckley's quest into wilderness areas—a fascination that has endured over several decades.

Trouble is, getting to see such creatures in the wild is becoming increasingly difficult. In the 21st century, they are doing a vanishing act—on the verge of returning to mythical status. Places where you might previously have counted on observing them are not reliable any more. The time frame to chronicle these creatures before they become extinct is rapidly diminishing.

The book is a lively combination of personal adventure woven in with thoroughly researched background on rare animals and their unusual setting. Some of the bizarre creatures profiled in this book include: Bhutan takin, Bhutan; Proboscis monkey, Borneo; Greater Adjutant, Cambodia; Marine iguana, Galapagos Islands; and Leopard seal, Antarctica



Michael Buckley is a freelance travel writer and photographer based in Vancouver, Canada. He has travelled extensively throughout Southeast Asia, and trekked and mountain-biked in the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges. He is author or co-author of eight books about Asian and Himalayan travel, including:

- ❖ *Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos* (a guidebook to Indochina);
- ❖ *Tibet: the Bradt Travel Guide*; and
- ❖ *Heartlands: Travels in the Tibetan World*.

*Heartlands* was the Bronze Medal Winner for Best Travel Book in the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Awards in 2003.

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