THE GOLDEN ELEPHANTS OF DZANGA BAI

Deep in the African rain forest where the Central African Republic, Cameroun, and the Congo come together, there is a swampy clearing of mineral and salt-rich mud where hundreds of elephants come to soak in the mud to absorb the minerals, turning their skin golden. Other forest animals congregate here as well – buffalo, sitatunga and bongo antelope. In the mountains nearby, there are an uncountable number of gorillas. The clearing is called *Dzanga Bai* by the native Ba'aka Pygmies who live in small encampments in the forest.

We conducted our *Gorillas and Pygmies* expedition here in 2012. It was an unforgettable experience, never to be repeated. *(Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #278 photo ©Jack Wheeler)*