Carlton Ward Jr is a conservation photographer from Tampa, Florida. His passion for nature was born from the Florida landscape, where eight generations of family history have grounded his perspective. He sees natural environments and cultural legacies as the earth’s greatest yet most threatened resources. For his first book, The Edge of Africa, Carlton spent eight months in the tropical rain forests of Gabon with the Smithsonian Institution documenting the region’s unseen and undiscovered biological diversity. The photographs were exhibited in Gabon, London and by the United Nations in New York.

Carlton is a founding fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers (ILCP) and founded the Legacy Institute for Nature & Culture (LINC), a non-profit organization with the purpose of celebrating and protecting Florida’s natural and cultural heritage through art. While completing a Master’s degree in Ecology, Carlton wrote Conservation Photography, the first thesis on the emerging field. His 2009 Book, Florida Cowboys, won a silver medal in the Florida Book Awards and for that work Popular Photography Magazine featured him as one of three photographers working to save vanishing America.

Carlton’s immediate focus is the Florida Wildlife Corridor project which he established in 2009. Starting January 17, 2012, he will co-lead the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition – a 100 day, 1000 mile trek and public awareness campaign from the Everglades to Okefenokee (Georgia). Photographs from related assignments within the Everglades Headwaters are published on the cover of the May-June issue of Audubon Magazine and in the summer 2011 issue of Nature Conservancy Magazine, and featured in the film Kissimmee Basin: Northern Everglades.