

Program Schedule

Bhutan CMSVATAVARAN Film festival & Forum on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action 2022

In collaboration with
The Royal Thimphu College, Thimphu, Bhutan

Day 1 (Wednesday) November 02, 2022

SLOT	Auditorium	Executive Centre
09.00 am 09.30 am	Registration	
09.30 am 11:00 am	Inauguration followed by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Green Ambassador awards ➤ Inaugural film screening 	
11:00 hrs 11:30 hrs	Tea Break	
11:30 hrs 12.30 hrs	PANEL DISCUSSION: Climate Change Challenges to sustainable agriculture, tourism, biodiversity and natural resources conservation in Bhutan.	
12:30 hrs 13:30 hrs	Lunch Break	
13:30 hrs 15:30 hrs	SEMINAR on Communicating Conservation Resource persons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Southey (IUCN, Chair) • Dr Vasanti Rao (DG, CMS) 	Green Filmmaking Workshop By Rakesh Rao

Day 2 (Thursday) November 3, 2022

SLOT	Auditorium	Executive Centre
09:30 hrs 12:30 hrs	<p>FILM SCREENING on CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Challenge 00:23:15/ English/Rakesh Rao/ India • New City 00:26:47/ English/ Magdalena Krukowska/ Poland • EDUCATION ON THE BOAT -A NEW HOPE FOR TOMORROW 00:15:00/ Bangla and English/ K M TAJ Biul Hasan/ Bangladesh • Kokota-The Islet of Hope 00:29:02/ English, Swahili/ Craig Norris/ Canada • Hope: Climate Positive Stories from India 00:29:59/ English/ Gurmeet Sapal and Rishu Nigam/ India • Global Warning - Kashmir Chapter 00:28:42/ English and Kashmiri/ Jalal Ud Din Baba / India <p>Short Discussion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Green Filmmaking Workshop by Rakesh Rao</p>
12:30 hrs 13:30 hrs	Lunch Break	
13:30 hrs 16:30 hrs	<p>FILM SCREENING on Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their Land: Last of the Caribou herd 00:10:28/ English/ Isabelle Groc and Mike McKinlay / Canada • THE PYTHON CODE 00:28:45/German and English/ Andreas Ewels /Germany • Operation Sumatran Rhino 00:44:00/ English/ Chris Annadorai /Singapore • Peng Yu Sai 0:54:37/ English/ Nitye Sood & Malaika Vaz /India <p>Short Discussion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Green Filmmaking Workshop by Rakesh Rao</p>

Day 3 (Friday) November 4, 2022

SLOT	Auditorium	Executive Centre
09:30 hrs 12:30 hrs	FILM SCREENING on Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakshman-Rekha (The lines that Lakshman drew) 00:60:15/ Hindi and English/ Nandan Saxena, Kavita Bahl / India • Holy (un) Holy River 00:59:52/ English/ Jake Norton, Pete McBride / USA • Water Be Dammed... 00:35:00/ Punjabi and English/ Vanita Khanna, Romila Verma, Prab Kainth / Canada • Saving the Saviour 00:28:42/ English and Kashmiri/ Jalal Ud Din Baba / India Short Discussion	<p style="text-align: center;">Green Filmmaking Workshop by Rakesh Rao</p>
12:30 hrs 13:30 hrs	Lunch Break	
13:30 hrs 15:00 hrs	VALEDICTORY FUNCTION followed by High Tea	



Film Screening, The Royal Thimphu College, November 3
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The Climate Challenge | English | 00:23:15 | Rakesh Rao

AWARDED: Award in Indian - Best Film on Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: We are on the brink of a Climate Crisis. There is empirical evidence of changing climate across the planet. The worst affected regions facing the brunt of climate change are the Cryospheric regions of the world (Arctic, Antarctic and the Himalayas) and the Oceans. The Arctic sea ice cover has declined over 30 percent in the recent years and the region is also noticing rapid thawing of permafrost. The oceans are becoming acidic. Scientists are now using the latest technology and braving some of the harshest conditions on this planet only to investigate these effects of changing climate. The film takes you on a journey documenting these scientists conducting research in the Arctic, Himalayas and the Southern Ocean and experiencing some lifethreatening situations to get the scientific data.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: A Photographer/ Filmmaker and a science enthusiast specialises in documenting scientific expeditions and research activities. His recent film “ The Climate Challenge” won the Best Science Film award at the International Science Film Festival of India.

He has spent 14 months over a span of 3 years in the icy continent of Antarctica to document the construction of the third Indian Scientific Station ‘BHARATI’ at Larsemann hill, Antarctica. He also developed a documentary film following the Indian scientist researching on the high altitude glaciers in the Himalayas region. He was also part of the NASA Spaceward Bound India Expedition to high altitudes regions in Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir. His work has been published in a book “90 Degrees South” and several of his photographs have been a part of international photo exhibitions.



Film Screening, The Royal Thimphu College, November 3
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"New City" | English | 00:26:47 | Magdalena Krukowska

NOMINATED: Nominated in INTERNATIONAL - Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: Manila, capital city of the Philippines, is one of the most disasterprone, most polluted and congested places on Earth. The whole country is well aware of typhoons, tsunamis, volcanic activity, and many other disasters. That is the official reason why the Philippine government has decided to work on a new capital city, allocated 100 km north of Manila in the former US military base. But is it really possible to build an alternative capital city to the existing one? Would it really help the inhabitants of Manila? Who is the true beneficiary of such investments? Citizens, politicians or business investors? And, finally, is it possible at all to escape from the effects of climate change and constant pollution? This film gives answers to all these questions!!

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Magdalena is a Forbes journalist, scientist, photographer and author of video reportages („Mantra of Bhutan”, „Shule Bora”, „War on war minerals”) published on Forbes.pl, VOD.pl and TVN24. An author of articles and books on globalization, social responsibility of business and global problems related to sustainable development. Postdoc fellow of Bernheim Foundation in Brussels and Japan Foundation.



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EDUCATION ON THE BOAT -A NEW HOPE FOR TOMORROW | Bangla and English | 00.15.00 | K M TAj Biul Hasan

AWARDED: Awarded in International - Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: This film talks about the issue of climate adaptation. It tells the story of the people of Northeastern regions of Bangladesh, dealing with the climatic adverse condition of 'Cholon Beel', the biggest wetland of this region. These areas are fully marshland and are inundated by water 8 to 9 months a year. As a result, the children suffer the most with very limited access to education. A non-profitable organization has come forward with an amazing idea to promote education and basic human needs of that impoverished regions. They have leveraged the natural event of these regions- 'Water' and 'Boat' simultaneously to build up a scheme called "Education on the Boat".

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Mr. KM Taj-Biul Hasan is an Educational filmmaker and Cameraman. He has been in this profession since 1993. He received many awards and appreciation in many prominent film festivals around the world. He also created a historic record by winning three times, the most prestigious award on Educational media competition of the world "UNESCO Japan Prize" for his three educational films. So far Mr.Hasan visited many countries of Asia, Europe and Africa for his professional reason.



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Kokota-The Islet of Hope | ENGLISH | 00:29:02 | Craig Norris

AWARDED: Awarded in International Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: Kokota – The Islet of Hope explores climate change adaptation projects taking place on a tiny chain of islands off the east coast of Africa. This short introduces viewers to people that are on the front lines of climate change and tells the story of how these unlikely heroes have managed to innovatively adapt to a warming climate. This film promises to leave audiences inspired and motivated to bring climate change adaptation action back home to their own communities.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Craig Norris is an award winning documentary Filmmaker, Photographer and Founder of Video Band Productions. His projects primarily focus on issues that relate to the environment, conservation and climate change.



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Hope: Climate Positive Stories from India | ENGLISH | 00:29:59 | Gurmeet Sapal and Rishu Nigam,

NOMINATED: Nominated in INDIAN - Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: Hope is a collection of heart-warming stories that highlight the strength of India's traditions and ingenuity in addressing the crisis of climate change. As other countries battle it out in international climate negotiations, local and national efforts towards a more sustainable future are already underway. The film brings out the stories of community participations that revived the environment and climate.

Biography: Gurmeet Sapal is a Filmmaker and Cinematographer. An alumni of IIMC, he has worked as DOP on a number of International films.

Rishu Nigam is a documentary Filmmaker who is currently associated with the Film & Television Unit of TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute). She has directed and mentored a range of documentary films on ecology, livelihoods and climate change. These films have received prestigious awards in India. Besides her interest in environmental documentaries, Rishu has also been instrumental in founding TERI's community radio, Kumaon Vani, in Nainital in Uttarakhand.



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GLOBAL WARNING - KASHMIR CHAPTER | ENGLISH | 00:28:42 | JALAL UD DIN BABA

AWARDED: Awarded in Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: This film showcases how Kashmir is becoming prone to effects of global warming by well documenting the effect on ice-capped mountains and local practices contributing to environmental degradation.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Jalal Ud Din Baba is a national award winning filmmaker, researcher and cinematographer. His filmography includes 'PASHTOON'S BEYOND TALIBAN', 'SAVING THE SAVIOUR', 'SHROUDED PARADISE' and 'MOUNTAIN OF HUMANITY'.



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Their Land: Last of the Caribou herd | English | 00:10:28 | Isabelle Groc and Mike McKinlay

NOMINATED: Nominated in International - Wildlife Conservation

SYNOPSIS: Across Canada, many Caribou populations are in deep trouble. In the South Peace region of Northern British Columbia, logging, oil and gas exploration, and coal mining have significantly altered the landscape, opening up the forest and pushing mountain caribou away from their traditional range. Most of the herds now only have a handful of animals surviving. In the face of imminent extinction, First Nations communities are taking extreme measures to save their last caribou herds. The film intimately profiles the connections between First Nations and mountain caribou, explores their threatened habitat, and the choices that have to be made to conserve this Canadian iconic species.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Isabelle Groc is a Freelance Writer and Wildlife Photographer, focusing on environmental science, wildlife natural history and conservation. She has also worked as the Species at Risk Project Coordinator for the Wilderness Committee since 2010. Her work has appeared in National Geographic News, BBC Wildlife and Canadian Wildlife. She and Mr McKinlay have co-directed and written ten short films on BC's species at risk. Mike McKinlay is a Filmmaker, Cameraman/DP . His film subjects have varied from non-fictional narrative to wildlife and environmental awareness films.



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THE PYTHON CODE | German | 00:28:45 | Andreas Ewels

AWARDED: Awarded in International Wildlife Conservation (Upto 40 Min)

SYNOPSIS: The Python is a fascinating animal. But the fashion industry is hunting for these beautiful snakes. Its skin is coveted for luxury goods of all kinds. Hundreds of thousands of snakes are killed annually in Asia and shipped to the fashion industry in Europe, America, Japan and China.

A German-South African scientist now has an idea to control especially the illegal snake trade. An extremely exciting documentary, filmed under difficult conditions, which also documents the lives of the catchers and shows the illegal trade routes. A closer look at the snake skin industry - as it has never been shown.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Andreas Ewels is a director and author born in 1969 in the German town of Muenster. 25 years ago he started filmmaking and until today he travels and films all around the globe. Since 2001 he works for the ZDF, a German public-service television broadcaster based in Mainz. He has filmed over 200 long documentaries in over 100 countries. Most of his films deal with wildlife, wonderful countries, people and nature. For his work, he has received numerous international awards and honors.



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Operation Sumatran Rhino | English | 00:44:00 | Chris Annadorai

NOMINATED: Nominated in International - Wildlife Conservation

SYNOPSIS: This wildlife conservation documentary showcases the Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA) in their do or die mission to save Malaysia's critically endangered Sumatran rhino - there are less than 100 of them remaining in the world, with just a few left in Malaysia. Operation Sumatran Rhino documents BORA's incredible quest to find all remaining Sumatran rhinos in the rainforests of Sabah and breed them before it's too late – a critical operation that's charged with emotion, danger, tragedy and hope

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: I am a television producer and director, who for the last 12 years has created engaging factual content for international broadcasters such as National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, History Channel (AETN), ESPN, Al Jazeera and others.



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Peng Yu Sai | English | 00:54:37 | Nitye Sood & Malaika Vaz

AWARDED: Awarded in National - Best of The Festival Wildlife Conservation

SYNOPSIS: Peng Yu Sai is an investigative documentary that dives into the illegal trade in Manta Rays from India's oceans. Through this documentary, wildlife presenter Malaika Vaz follows the illegal trade pipeline from fishing vessels in the Indian Ocean, to the Indo-Myanmar border and finally undercover in the wildlife trafficking hubs of Hong Kong and Guangzhou, in China. Along the way - she meets with fishermen, middle men, traffickers, armed forces personnel and wildlife trade kingpins, as she tries to understand what it will take to protect these magnificent ocean giants.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Malaika Vaz is a National Geographic Explorer, TV Presenter and Green Oscar-nominated wildlife filmmaker. She hosts, directs and produces documentaries on the environment and wildlife conservation. Her past work has aired on television networks like Nat Geo Wild, Discovery Channel, Animal Planet and Al Jazeera. She is passionate about creating policy impact in the field of wildlife conservation, and collaborates with conservation organisations like WildAid and the Wildlife Trust of India on anti-trafficking investigations and campaigns.

Nitye Sood is a Green-Oscar nominated filmmaker and wildlife cameraman. Nitye has worked on a wide range of global broadcast productions for National Geographic, Animal Planet, Netflix and Al Jazeera. Nitye also filmed and co-produced Peng Yu Sai - an investigative documentary on the illegal Manta Ray trade across Asia.



Film Screenings The Royal Thimphu College, November 4

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Lakshman-Rekha (The lines that Lakshman drew) | Hindi | 00:60:00 | Nandan Saxena, Kavita Bahl

NOMINATED: Nominated in Indian - Water Conservation

SYNOPSIS: The film is an intimate, cinematic window into how Laxman Singh, a school dropout, galvanised a drought-hit village into a voluntary force that changed the destiny of 58 villages in the Great Indian Desert in India. Even today the water supply is erratic and he carries on with his mission of creating awareness

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Nandan Saxena & Kavita Bahl multiple award-winning filmmakers. They have thrice received the National Film Award for their films. Over two decades into filmmaking, their films are poignant portraits of people living at the margins in contemporary India, often blurring the thin line between documentary and cinema. They are also TEDx speakers

All their three films on the farmers and aboriginal communities in India have been honoured with the prestigious National Film. As media-trainers, they have offered more than 50 skill-sharing workshops in India, Australia, Singapore and London to help train and retool filmmakers under the banner - Quark Workshops. Nandan has worked as a DoP, Cinematographer, Editor and a Director for Feature-Documentaries and Reality-based programming for Broadcasters like Al Jazeera, BBC World Service, Doordarshan, Zee besides organisations like the Films Division of India, and the United Nations Development Programme.



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Holy (un) Holy River | English | 00:59:52 | Jake Norton, Pete McBride

NOMINATED: Nominated in International - Conservation 4 Water

SYNOPSIS: Although once celebrated for its purity, The Ganges now carries contaminants from its glacial headwaters, where freshly fallen snow contains zinc from industrial emissions. Downriver, the river is dammed 16 times (with another 14 dams under construction) to provide hydroelectric power. Water is diverted for agriculture and other uses, and the 500 million people in the Ganges basin further pollute the river with household trash, industrial waste, raw sewage and the remains of the dead. Still, the Hindu faithful seek to cleanse away their sins by bathing in the holy water. As the title suggests, Holy (un)Holy River examines the paradox of a sacred river treated so profanely that its existence as a river, as opposed to an open sewer, is in question.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Native Coloradan Pete McBride has spent two decades studying the world with a camera. A self-taught photographer, filmmaker, writer, and public speaker, he has traveled on assignment to over 75 countries for the National Geographic Society, Smithsonian, Outside, Esquire, Microsoft, The Nature Conservancy and many more.

Jake Norton is a world-renowned climber, photographer, filmmaker, philanthropist, and inspirational speaker. Based in Evergreen, Colorado, Jake's worldwide adventures have taken him to the summit of Mount Everest (three times) and on expeditions on all seven continents.



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Water Be Dammed... | Punjabi and Hindi | 00:35:23 | Vanita Khanna, Romila Verma, Prab Kainth

NOMINATED: Nominated in International - Water Conservation

SYNOPSIS: We live on "the blue planet", abundant with water. Yet, we are now facing a crisis created by decades of mismanagement, unlimited depletion and pollution of the earth's water bodies, issues accelerated now by climate change. So how did we reach this crisis point? Our documentary shows that by not following the four pillars of water sustainability – science, economics, governance AND spiritual connections, we have damned one of our most precious resources. Through the lens of the Satluj river in Punjab, India, we trace the story of challenges, hopes and aspirations of water will to survive and rejuvenate.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Ms. Khanna is a creative and performance-driven Filmmaker. Her directorial debut in Water Be Dammed, reflects her deep passion for films and knowledge of all stages of the filmmaking process. She is a committed environmentalist who believes in the healing power of nature. With more than 5 years of movie making experience, Ms. Khanna is ready to share more amazing stories with the world!



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Saving the Saviour | English and Kashmiri | 00:27:03 | Jalal Ud Din Baba

NOMINATED: INDIAN - Conservation 4 Water

SYNOPSIS: Saving The Saviour has the powerful protagonist narrative by Billa, 15, from Kashmir who collects trash from Wular Lake, one of the largest fresh water lakes in Asia for his livelihood and family. But what's a mere job for him might just be the only hope left for the struggling Wular. Billa and Wular stand synonym to each other, both are living on nature's mercy. Billa seems to be the only one who understands his and Wular's collective desperation and pain.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Jalal Ud Din Baba is a National Award winning documentary Filmmaker, Researcher, Cinematographer and Editor. His area of interest in filmmaking is environment, wildlife and adventure, and issues related to children and human rights.