

Best of World Natural History and Conservation Cinema

This special segment takes the audience on an eventful journey in to the diverse geographical realms of our planet, through the lens of some of the finest natural history and conservation filmmakers of our time.

Award Winning Films of following International Festivals

**JACKSON HOLE
WILDLIFE
FILM FESTIVAL**



Ya'an Panda International Animal & Nature Film Festival, CHINA





Wild Russia: Kamchatka | 00:44:54 | English | Christian Baumeister | GERMANY



Located on Russia's far eastern edge is the stark peninsula of Kamchatka. Here, golden eagles and Steller's sea eagles share in the spoils of Lake Kuril. Brown bears feast on the annual salmon spawn, and take a dip in a bubbling, geothermal cauldron of hot steam and lively waters. But Kamchatka's active volcanoes continually transform the region; not long ago, a massive landslide engulfed the green valley with 4.5 million cubic metres of rock, gravel and snow. Directed by Christian Baumeister, this film stands out for its remarkable visual affection for Kamchatka.

Elephanting | 01:19:00 | English Subtitles | Xiao Wei | KOREA

As volunteer of forests protection, Mr Xiaowei goes to the tropical forests from the Pacific Ocean Island. But he is struck by unexpected shock and horror when he arrives in the "eco felling" site belonging to the Boong people. Though all know that the 100-year old tree will be cut down, for Mr Xiao, it is not the death that is terrible, but waiting for the death becomes the most terrible thing in the world. It is the first documentary, in the genre of animals and nature, directed by a musician.



Polar Bears - Living in the Thin Ice | 00:44:42 | English | Thomas Behrend | NDR Naturfilm



This documentary by filmmaker Thomas Behrend charts the struggle of a polar bear and her three cubs, as they battle against the forces of climate change in the Arctic. It captures the beauty of the Arctic as well as the unique behaviour of its inhabitants. As winter storms rage, the animals try their best to survive — a nursery of polar bears, ringed seals, walruses and beluga whales, all trying to raise their young. Behrend and his team follow two polar bear families over one year, capturing rare pictures of a mother and her triplets.

Out of the Rock Comes Life | 00:54:05 | English | Lou Xiaoyun

The film captures the experience of a pair of panda babies, following an earthquake, indicating the relationship between feeders and panda babies. The film beautifully unravels how pandas go back to nature. However, Uncle Zhang, who used to live in Wolong, the hometown of the pandas, and lived with pandas in nature, still prefers to stay in the mountains. As for living in a new house or giving up the land to pandas, Uncle Zhang proposed 3 conditions....





The Meadow | 00:45:58 | English | Jan Haft



Directed by Jan Haft, this is a beautifully crafted film. It shows the origin of a meadow following the last ice age, its evolution through the present day, and the impending threat of present agricultural practice. A flower meadow's ocean of colours and fragile shapes offers a genuine paradise to countless species of animals. Some live underground, some among the blades of grass; still others populate the colourful "canopy." Shot in high definition with special lenses, luxurious time lapse, and animations, the film is a magical trip full of surprises.

**CINEMAMBIENTE – International
Environmental Film Festival, ITALY**





Loro Della Munnizza (Your Garbage is their Gold) | 00:50:00 | English Subtitles | Marco Battaglia, Gianluca Donati, Laura Schimmenti and Andrea Zulin | ITALY



Since 2008, a rag-pickers' cooperative numbering 85 members recover anything reusable from Palermo's garbage. Like their father and grandfathers before them, the rag-pickers work at the city's central dump, wielding a sickle and wearing a plastic pail tied to their belt, scavenging for old iron, paper, glass and plastic for resale to earn their livelihood. Following years of battling Amia, the municipalised sanitation company, they finally managed to obtain a contract. The company is now on the brink of bankruptcy, however, threatening the survival of the cooperative and its members.

Polvere – II (Dust - The Great Asbestos Trial) | 01:24:38 | English Subtitles | Niccolò Bruna, Andrea Prandstraller | ITALY

With the increasing use of asbestos in China, Russia and other countries, production of this carcinogenic material has grown apace, engulfing at least 70% of the world's population. The film captures events starting from the first court hearings in Turin, involving the multinational Eternit. It now faces claims of having caused the death of nearly 30,000 former plant workers. From there onwards it takes us to India and Brazil on an exploration into a multimillion dollar business managed by a lobby that controls the policies of many countries.



Into Eternity | 01:15:48 | English | Michael Madsen | DENMARK



In the few decades since the first nuclear power plant went into operation, over 250,000 tons of radioactive waste will need to be disposed of in the next 100,000 years. In order to store the waste in a place safe from natural or man-made disasters, a huge site is being constructed in Onkalo, Finland. The project is as unfeasible as it is inconceivable: how and to whom should the danger of these stockpiles be communicated in the far-off future? A hard-hitting film on a critical issue of today.

There Once was an Island | 01:20:00 | English Subtitles | Briar March | NEW ZEALAND

Taku, a tiny Polynesian about 250 km from Bougainville, is populated by a small native community. Because of the rise in sea level due to global warming; this community now faces the predicament of having to leave the atoll. Some inhabitants, like Teloo, Endar and Satty, are determined to stay. The film offers an insight into their lives and culture. With oceanographer John Hunter and geomorphologist Scott Smithers, we explore the problem and its implications to discover the real impact climate change has on the environment and its population.





Un Monde Pour Soi | 00:26:00 | English Subtitles | Yann Sinic | FRANCE



Some say that a home, a piece of property and a private swimming pool are all that we need. From this perspective, second home developments set in green surroundings appear to meet the canons of ideal modern cities. But what is the real impact of this urban sprawl on the countryside, its landscape, biodiversity, and the environment? Based on Jean Giono's story, "The Man who Planted Trees", Yann Sinic gives an accurate account of contemporary urban encroachment into rural areas and the proliferation of architecturally standardized constructions.

Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, USA

**JACKSON HOLE
WILDLIFE
FILM FESTIVAL**



Broken Tail | 00:59:21 | English | Colin Stafford-Johnson | Crossing the line films, IFB, RTE, CBC, SWR, ZDF, ARTE, MEDIA nature for WNET New York Public and Natural World - BBC NHU



The film is the remarkable true story of one tiger that “vanished” and was presumed dead, only to re-appear a year later after a seemingly impossible journey across modern India. On a spectacular odyssey across Rajasthan, cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson travels by horseback to retrace Broken Tail’s journey, gathering clues as to his route and behaviour, exploring why he abandoned his home and above all - revealing important truths about India’s last wild tigers. This story inspired Sonia Gandhi to declare a new national park in Darra, a safe haven for future tigers following in Broken Tail tracks. She has helped galvanised efforts to establish a new

network of jungle corridors - a viable ‘highway for tomorrows’ wandering cats. And along with many other ‘vanished’ tigers, he spurred a team of ordinary people to take on and defeat the poachers who were running riot in Ranthambhore - and who may well have driven Broken Tail to leave in the first place.

Finned | 00:05:00 | English | Will Parrinello | Mil Vally Film Group

Drawing international attention to the inhumane and environmentally catastrophic shark finning industry, Randall Arauz led the campaign to halt the practice in Costa Rica, making his country the new international model for shark protection. This film is narrated by the eminent film personality, Robert Redford.



Human Planet Arctic: Life in the Deep Freeze | 01:00:00 | English | Nicolas Brown | BBC, Discovery Channel, France Televisions and BBC Worldwide



The Arctic is the harshest environment on Earth: little food grows, it's dark for months on end and temperatures stay well below freezing for much of the year. Yet four million people manage to survive here. Human Planet tells remarkable stories of extraordinary people who make their homes in nature's deep freeze. In springtime Amos and Karl-Frederik set out across the sea ice with their dogs to catch a real-life sea monster: a Greenland shark! Inuit mussel-gatherers venture underneath the sea ice at low tide for a perilous race against time as they gather their food. And the children of Churchill, Manitoba, set out on the most dangerous trick or treating Halloween

in the world: they risk coming face-to-face with deadly polar bears on the streets of their town. Who'll get the tastiest snack?

Serengeti | 01:38:00 | English | Studio Hamburg DocLights/NDR Naturfilm, Universum Film & Intervista Jorn Rover, Reinhard Radke, Sound Mix Richard Borowski, Kai Storck & Carsten Richter, Sound Design

The Serengeti: an endless sea of grass, thorny bush land, and life-giving rivers. In this untamed wilderness, the epic drama of millions of animals unfolds. This production shows the Serengeti, thanks to the use of brand new HD technology, with a fresh eye: Cineflex stabilized aerials let us witness the splendour of the landscape and show animal behaviour from a new perspective. HD high-speed cameras, with up to 2000 frames per seconds, reveal the fascinating hunting strategies of predators. Big cats ambush the herds on the open plains, but have to fight for the survival of their helpless young themselves.





Helgoland: Island in the Storm | 00:45:00 | English | Robert Morgenstorn | Reobert Morgenstern, Studio Hamburg and DocLights Naturfilm



Amidst the rugged North Sea, the island of Helgoland braves the elements for centuries. As another natural spectacle, each year thousands of migrating birds find their safe haven on Helgoland and their resting and breeding attracts ornithologists from all over the world. Robert Morgenstern's debut is an empathetic and visually stunning declaration of love to the small island and its inhabitants.

Life: Reptiles and Amphibians | 01:00:00 | English

Life is a 10-part, natural history television blockbuster; shot in HD. It is the definitive exploration of the diversity of life on earth, full of stories that reveal the most spectacular and fascinating behaviour driven by the endless struggle to survive. It stars a cast of box-office wildlife characters, filmed on every continent and in every habitat across the world, with each drama-filled episode entirely dedicated to one of the planet's ten most important wildlife groups.

Reptiles and amphibians appear better suited to the past, but through extraordinary behaviour they remain a global success. A pebble toad bounces like a rubber underwater, air-filled cavern to lay her eggs; a komodo dragon uses a poisonous bite to bring down a buffalo, but the venom takes several weeks to kick in. All the while, the dragon relentlessly pursues its prey.



Life: Challenges of Life | 01:00:00 | English | BBC Natural History Unit, Discovery Channel, Open University, SKAL & BBC Worldwide



Rod Clarke, Kevin Flay, Alastair MacEwen, Peter Nearhos, Simon Werry, and David Wright

Challenges of Life introduce the extraordinary things animals and plants must do in order to survive and reproduce. Witness amazing behaviour, captured at 1,000 frames per second: capuchin monkeys smashing open palm nuts with stone “hammers” and hippos launching from the water into the air and chameleons stealing prey from a spider’s web. Sprint with cheetahs as they band together to tackle ostriches; watch dolphins form perfect rings of silt to trap fish, and swim with a seal as it struggles to escape attacking killer whales amongst the ice of Antarctica. Key animal characters include brown-tufted capuchins, dolphins, cheetahs, chameleon, and killer whales

My Life as a Turkey | 00:52:00 | English | Passion pictures, Nature for WNET New York Public Media & Natural World – BBC NHU

Mark Smith & David Allen, Principal Camera Jeff Palmer, Additional Photography

Writer and naturalist, Joe Hutto was given the rare opportunity to raise wild turkeys from the moment they hatched. Hutto spent each day out and about as a wild turkey with his new family of poults until the day came when he had to let his ‘children’ grow up and go off on their own. As it turned out, this was harder than he ever imagined.



Joe’s narration combined with an actor’s recreation of the story leads the viewer on an emotional journey of discovery rarely seen in natural history films.



The Worm Hunters | 01:08:00 | English | Gulliver Media Australia Pty, Ltd.



In a dark underworld of dirty deeds, vile slime and deadly pollution, scientists are exposing an animal that could help save our challenged planet – the humble earthworm. So what can it tell us about Earth's geographic evolution? Can it reverse the Earth's infertile hot spots? Can it really cure cancer? Is it the answer to toxic waste? The Worm Hunters go underground to find answers. Armed with spades, GPS worm locators, secret 'worm ousting' fluids, backhoes and worm evacuators, our somewhat oddball, but dedicated scientists literally search 'high and low' for the world's first Super Worm.

Radioactive Wolves | 00:51:59 | English | EPO Film for ORF/Universum, NDR and Nature for WNET New York Public Media

After the explosion of the Chernobyl reactor on April 26, 1986, about 340,000 people were displaced from the radioactively contaminated exclusion zone of Chernobyl. Which stretches from Ukraine into Belarus and Russia? Uninhibited by the presence of humans, a profusion of wild species has since taken over a territory of about 3,000 square kilometres, creating a new wilderness. At the top of this ecosystem is the wolf. Rumours about wolves in the zone have been numerous, but hard facts are still rare.



Curious about these rumours and surprised that no one had actually asked these questions, Christoph and Barbara Promberger immediately sprang into action: How many wolves are there really in this area? How are the animals dealing with the radioactive pollution? Do they migrate to the zone from uncontaminated areas and then die? Or is there a resident population? If so, is it suffering or healthy, stable or even growing? Do wolves even spread from Chernobyl to other areas? Does the absence of humans outweigh the hazards of radioactivity?

The Riddle Solvers: The Shark Riddle | 00:29:00 | English | Laura Sams and Robert Sams | Sisbro Studios & The Save Our Seas Foundation



The second episode in The Riddle Solvers series, The Shark Riddle is a half-hour shark film for the whole family, featuring high-definition footage of 20 different shark species from around the world. Follow “The Riddle Solvers” on an adventure through the pages of a magical journal to solve a mysterious riddle about shark teeth. Meet a raucous group of sea lions who sing a tribute to their old nemesis, the great white shark. Take a ride with the swimming suction cup, a remora fish, and discover what makes a shark a shark in the underwater game show Are You A Shark? Find peaceful, shark-infested dreams with the shark lullaby and stare into the gaping mouth of the

enormous whale shark for an unexpected opera. Finally, meet children at the Sanibel Sea School, who build a life-sized whale shark on the beach. This charming and hilarious look at the ocean’s top predators is recommended by nine out of ten shark dentists and has received ‘two fins up from sharks everywhere.

Decoding Immortality | 00:55:00 | English | December Films and Pemberton Films & Smithsonian Network

The key to endless life has probably discovered. The bad news is, it can kill you. The fountain of Youth may have just been discovered, not in a Florida spring, but in a murky Australian pond. Far from myth, the findings of Nobel Prize-winning scientist Elizabeth Blackburn, an enzyme that can keep cells young, may just prove to be the key to immortality.

Blackburn and molecular biologist Carol Greider’s decades-long journey to fully understand this enzyme is both amazing and paradoxical, for while it may prove to be an elixir of endless life; it also has the power to kill.





Elsa Legacy the Born Free Story | 01:17:00 | English | Brian Leith productions, Natural World – BBC NHU & Nature for WNET New York Public Media



Fifty years ago, the book *Born Free*, became a runaway international bestseller. For George and Joy Adamson the experience of bringing up a lioness and returning it to the wild changed their lives forever. Joy set up the Elsa Conservation Trust. George went on to release other lions and become an early conservationist. He realized that each lion was an individual with its own traits but also that the species as a whole would become endangered. He met Virginia McKenna when she played Joy in the feature film and his calm understanding of wild animals was infectious. Virginia went onto set up The Born Free Foundation, a group that combats cruelty

against animals to this day. Elsa's story triggered a new love and respect for nature that has grown ever since. Still inspired by George today, Virginia McKenna returns to Africa to bring the Elsa story alive for a new generation.

The Last Lion | 01:28:00 | English | Dereck Joubert | Wildlife films and National Geographic

From the lush wetlands of Botswana's Okavango Delta comes the suspense-filled tale of a determined lioness ready to try anything and risk everything, to keep her family alive. In the new wildlife adventure *The Last Lion*, filmmaker Dereck and Beverly Joubert capture the epic journey of the lioness named Ma di Tau (Mothers of Lions) as she battles to protect her cubs against a daunting onslaught of enemies.

Fleeing a raging fire and a rival pride, headed by the cub-killing lioness Silver eye Ma di Tau and her cubs make their perilous escape by swimming a crocodile-infested river. On Duba island, Ma di



Tau must face off with the island's herd of fierce buffalo whose huge, slashing horns are among the most dangerous weapons in Africa. The buffalo herd is one of her biggest threats, but also one of her best hopes for survival. Yet, even as Ma di Tau faces escalating dangers and devastating loss, she becomes part of a stunning turning point in the power dynamics on Duba Island, as she brings together the rival pride in a titanic primal bid to preserve the thing that matters most: the future of her bloodline.

**Human Planet: Rivers Friend & Foe | 00:59:00 | English | Mark Flowers
| BBC Wales, BBC Natural History Unit, Discovery Channel, and BBC
Worldwide**



Rivers provide the essentials of life: fresh food and water. They often provide natural highways. They enable us to live in just about every environment on Earth. But as we discover in this episode, rivers are also capricious and treacherous. They can flood, freeze or disappear altogether!

Join a laotian fisherman who must walk a high wire strung above the raging mekong river rapids on an extraordinary commute to work. Marvel at a remarkable partnership between Samburu tribesmen and wild elephants in their search for water in the dried-out riverbeds of Northern Kenya. Meet the father who must take his two

children on a 6-day trek down a frozen river – the most dangerous school run on earth! Watch the ice dam busters of Ottawa with their dynamite solution to a City Centre hold-up. This film plunges you straight into the real lives of real people caught up in the most surprising and dramatic human-versus-river stories that you will have ever seen!

**United Nations International Year of Forests/ Mensch Wald: Inspiration |
00:03:00 | English | Traffic Konzept+ Film GmbH**

Mensch Wald is Germany's official campaign for the UN International Year of Forests. The focus is a multimedia project in which leading German film-makers create a short film each on the inspiring forests. You can follow their journey via web and social media, watch online premieres, and participate in a film contest hosted by Vimeo. To launch the campaign, director Axel Baur Axel filmed his subjects in different settings, across three days. The result isn't just a uniquely human portrait of our relationship to the forest, but its unyielding power to move us.





Wildlife Vaasa Festival, FINLAND



Dipole | 00:26:00 | English | Edward Snijders | Submarines Foundation



In the late 1990s, an Indonesian coral reef was devastated by the cold Indian Ocean Dipole and fallout from drought-provoked forest fires. As the reef recovers, its marine life needs protection. When octopus fishermen and egg collectors instead find work as tourist guides and a turtle conservation organization chips in, the reef is given many helping hands. This documentary directed by Edward Snijders shows growth in the face of destruction — no more turtle eggs are poached while education is now given in English, and tourism is growing.

The Soul of Water | 00:57:00 | English | Kurt Skoog | SWEDEN | AV-Media Jämtlands Län AB SVT-Sveriges Television | SWEDEN

We live on a water planet and each single drop of water belies a world of remarkable abilities. Water is a very simple substance but the small water molecule carries properties that seem designed to fit perfectly into the requirements of life. And water never rests; it has an ongoing movement. From a very personal point of view, the film deals with water from different perspectives — from the structure of the water molecule to waterways in the landscape, from micro to macro cosmos, from scientific perspective to an emotional, poetic perspective.





On the Fish Streams of the Gulf of Bothnia | 00:35:00 | English | Eero Murtomäki, Juhani Koivusaari and Ari Valkola



Brooks and brooklets that flow from a peculiar kind of enclosed natural pools – called kluuvi – and lakes into the sea, are typical for the eastern coast of Merenkurkku/Kvarken and its archipelago. Upstream the brooks filled with water from the melting snow; pike, perch and roach move to spawn in the freshwater of the kluuvi-pools and lakes. The film captures the changing nature of the brooks and the wild-life they support — local sea eagles and the gulls and goosanders, a crane-couple, foxes and raccoon dogs also come to the brooks. A lively watch.

Survivors | 00:05:00 | English | Zsolt Sasdi | HUNGARY

The film is set in the future, when humans exist no more. In this fiction, Earth has been devastated, but the oceans remain. The film's narrator is the survivor turtle, who tell us why the ocean world still remains whereas that of the humans is extinct. It introduces us to the safe and balanced underwater life in contrast to the war-ridden and scavenged human world. Nature had her revenge, and after millennia of patience, was not able to forgive human mistakes anymore. The underwater scenes reveal to us the secret of survival.



Aliens of the Amazon Ep. 1: Treehoppers | 00:45:00 | English | Quincy Russell, Thierry Berrod and Patrick Landman | FRANCE



The Membracide insect family is roughly unknown to us. However, these neotropical treehoppers are probably the most astonishing creatures ever concocted by Nature! Some view them as miniature aliens; others consider them to be masterpieces of biodiversity. The film's team has sought out these mysterious insects, accomplishing the first ever scientific documentary dedicated to them. Equipped with state-of-the-art imagery gear, a group of researchers embarking on an expedition in Ecuador has revealed the infinitely strange, observed the hitherto unseen, listened to the most outlandish of sounds and elucidated

previously-unexplained entomological mysteries.

The Fight for Amazonia Raids in the Rainforest | 00:54:13 | English | Thomas Wartmann | for Arte, SWR | GERMANY

Ana Rafaela D' Amico is the youngest national park director in Brazil. To save the rainforest, the 27-year-old has declared war on the drugs gangs, logging mafia and illegal fishing in Campos Amazonicos National Park. Her enemies are invisible. It's a straggle of dangers and bitterly fought successes. The small players she can catch and snatch away their livelihood, but there is often little she can do against the big players. Still, Rafaela believes that it is possible to save Amazonia if everyone does their bit. She will not give up!





Crocs of Katuma | 00:47:00 | English | Jochem van Rijs | NETHERLANDS | Nature Conservation Films



The Katuma River flows through the isolated wilderness of Tanzania's Katavi National Park. It is a lifeline for everything that swims crawls or walks. In this remote corner, a river shelters two uneasy neighbours. A truce endures when the river is deep and flood abundant. As the sun claims the river water, both the hippo and the crocodile are vulnerable; tensions will mount. With high-tech camera techniques, the filmmakers show the extraordinary behaviour of the cave crocodiles, lions and hippos in one of the most unknown and remote places of Africa.

**Inkafest Mountain and Environment Film
Festival, PERU**





The Fight for Amazonia - The Intern Indians | 00:54:00 | English | Ilka Franzmann | ALEMANIA



“The Internet is our weapon. We gave up fighting with bows and arrows long ago,” says Benki Piyako, son of Ashaninka chief. “We all need to be interconnected if we want to live in safety on our territory.” The film tells the story of the Ashaninka, who successfully combine traditional and modern tools to preserve their territory, history and future. Today the chief’s two sons, Benki and Moises, are working hard to provide more Indian communities with the Internet. They run an environment school and have made their villages self-sufficient, again.

World of Water (Yaku Patsa) | 00:20:00 | English Subtitles | Carlo Brescia

The film documents the culture of people living in the southern region of Conchucos (Ancash, Peru) through their relationship with water. Drifting upstream from 2000 meters above sea level to 5000 meters, it encounters their culture, histories and beliefs against the lush and breathtaking landscapes of southern Andes. Antonio, a carpenter, recounts how his ancestors used to call for water during droughts. Ninfa shows how to make maize beer. Bebel, an archaeologist, narrates an origin myth and Jose, a mountaineer describes how global warming is affecting his profession and the tranquil glaciers.



Greenland an Expedition Aboard Sailing Vessel Gambo | 00:23:00 | English | Grant Redvers and Pascale Otis



Glaciologist, Dr Alun Hubbard, has been sailing aboard his yacht Gambo in the high latitudes for over a decade. In 2010, Gambo and crew supported a number of scientific projects on the west coast of Greenland, looking at the impact of climate change in the region. GREENLAND - an expedition aboard sailing vessel Gambo, represents the passion we share for science and adventure. As usual, this voyage was done in the typical Gambo style: big plans, limited funding, a mixed bunch of sailors, scientists and climbers. A daring and fascinating journey.