



Convention on International Trade in Endangered  
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

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## Finalists Announced for World Wildlife Day Film Showcase

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### JOINT PRESS RELEASE

## Finalists Announced for World Wildlife Day Film Showcase

**Geneva/Jackson Hole, WY/Montreal/Nairobi/New York, 19 February 2020** – Judges and organizers of the World Wildlife Day 2020 Film Showcase have unveiled the finalists of this year's contest, highlighting 57 outstanding films, picked from a total of 345 entries. The seven final laureates will be announced on 3 March, during the World Wildlife Day celebrations at a high-level event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The festival was organized by Jackson Wild, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), along with film professionals. It was announced last November and is the fifth of its kind.



The Showcase is anchored in the theme of this year's World Wildlife Day: "Sustaining all life on Earth," which aims to celebrate wild fauna and flora as essential components of the world's biodiversity, to highlight their immense benefits to humanity as purveyor of resources and livelihoods, and to raise awareness about the threats they currently face.

The theme also underlines the importance of sustainable use of biodiversity, as research continues to shed light on the scale and speed of the biodiversity loss crisis the world is facing, and the role that overexploitation of wildlife and the degradation of habitats and ecosystems play in accelerating it.

The judges – professional filmmakers, biodiversity experts and stakeholders from around the world – selected the finalists in eight categories:

- Science, Innovation and Exploration;
- Issues and Solutions;
- People and Wild Species;
- Stories of Hope;
- Global Voices;
- Web of Life;

- Short; and
- Micro.

The full list of finalists can be found below.

Winners and finalists will be showcased extensively at events across the world to raise awareness of the importance of conserving and sustainably using the world's biodiversity and wildlife and maintaining their habitats and ecosystems that benefit all humankind. They will also be part of the messaging around what has been dubbed the 'biodiversity super year', at the numerous high-level events organized in 2020 by UN Member States, UN system organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and civil society. The aim is to bring biodiversity and the challenges of halting its loss to the forefront of the sustainable development agenda by adopting an ambitious and transformative global biodiversity framework in line with the Agenda 2030 decade for action.

CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero said: "We are grateful to all filmmakers who submitted their entries celebrating all life on Earth and the great value of our world's wildlife. The stories and images they recorded will be powerful tools to help raise awareness of the grave crisis that is biodiversity loss. With nearly a million species currently threatened with extinction in the near future because of unsustainable human activity, it is time for us to reshape our relationship with nature, including wild plants and animals. For this year's World Wildlife Day celebrations, we want to push for a more sustainable use of all the precious and – though we sometimes forget it – limited components of the biosphere. These wonderful films will help us do just that."

"Global biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history, with one million plant and animal species currently threatened with extinction. 2020 is a critical year for transformative change to lay the groundwork for a decade of nature conservation and restoration. The World Wildlife Day 2020 Film Showcase will inspire action by capturing real stories about the irreplaceable benefits that nature provides to support human well-being," said Susan Gardner, Director for Ecosystems for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

"This year's selection of finalists are some of the most moving and powerful pieces of media we have ever seen," said Lisa Samford, Executive Director of Jackson Wild. "These films are sure to move the dial for conservation of our planet's biodiversity."

"The World Wildlife Day 2020 Film Showcase serves as a wonderful way to highlight the importance of sustaining all life on Earth," said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). "As governments prepare to negotiate the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, increasing the sustainability of wildlife use and management is a priority. We know the stakes are high. We must strive to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably to ensure wildlife keeps sustaining all life. The awareness raised by these films will no doubt serve to enlighten many people about the critical importance of bending the curve on biodiversity loss."

#### **World Wildlife Day 2020 Film Showcase finalists:**

##### **Science, Innovation and Exploration:**

*A Song for Love - An Ape with an App*

A co-production of Terra Mater Factual Studios, Mark Fletcher Productions and Colorful Nature Films.

*Nature: The Serengeti Rules*

A Production of HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and Passion Planet in association with Sandbox Films, Thirteen Productions LLC and WNET

*Serengeti: Nature's Living Laboratory*

Day's Edge Productions for Howard Hughes Medical Institute

##### **Issues and Solutions:**

*Gorillas of Gabon*

Earth Touch, Smithsonian Networks

*Our Gorongosa*

A Gorongosa Media and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios Production

*Watson*

Local Hero, Participant Media, Terra Mater Factual Studios

##### **People and Wild Species:**

*Grasslands - North America's Hidden Wilderness*

A River Road Films production in association with CBC and Terra Mater Factual Studios

*Kingdom of the White Wolf: Episode 103*

Nat Geo Wild

*Sharkwater Extinction*

Sharkwater Pictures

*The Serengeti Rules*

HHMI Tangled Bank Studios/Passion Planet

##### **Stories of Hope:**

*Europe's New Wild: Episode 103*

Nat Geo Wild

*Rare: Creatures of the Photo Ark: Episode 1*

WGBH Boston and So World Media, LLC in association with National Geographic Channels

*Silent Forests*

House Tiger Productions

**Global Voices:**

*Mundiya Kepanga, The Voice of the Forest*

Muriel Barra/ LatoSensu productions

*Okavango - River of Dreams - Episode 1: Paradise*

A Terra Mater Factual Studios / Wildlife Films production in co-production with Thirteen Productions LLC, Doclights/NDR Naturfilm in association with PBS, CPB, Arte France / Unité Découverte et Connaissance, National Geographic Channels and SVT

*On the Front Line, The Rangers of Gorongosa National Park*

Gorongosa Media

*Queen without Land*

Artic Light in association with NRK, NDR/Doclights, ORF, France 3, Smithsonian Channel, SVT

**Web of Life:**

*Borneo - Earth's Ancient Eden*

A production of Terra Mater Factual Studios

*Epic Animal Migrations: Mexico*

Earth Touch, Smithsonian Channel

*Lost Kings of Bioko*

Gulo Film Productions for NDR Naturfilm / Doclights, NDR, WDR, ARTE, ORF, Smithsonian Channel, SVT

*The Elephant Queen*

An Apple Original and A Deeble, Stone and Oliff Production

*The Sanctuary: Survival Stories of the Alps*

Boreales / Winds, France Televisions, Terra Mater

**Short (under 15 minutes):**

*How to Save Our Planet*

Silverback Films

*Hunting the Helmeted Hornbill*

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Geographic Magazine and Rangkong Indonesia

*Nigerians Fight to Protect the World's Most Trafficked Mammal*

Coral and Oak Studios, National Geographic

*Last Wild Places: Gorongosa*

National Geographic Society

*MY 25: The Ocean Between Us*

Inka Cresswell, University of the West of England - MA Wildlife Filmmaking

*(Re)Connecting Wild - Restoring Safe Passage*

NineCaribou Productions, LLC

**Micro (under 5 minutes):**

*Breathe*

Pioneer Studios

*How to Raise Baby Corals*

Exposure Labs, bioGraphic

*#NatureNow*

A @tommustill Film for Gripping Films

*Ocean Farmer*

Silverback Films

*The Story of Cabo Pulmo*

Silverback Films

*Uncle Elephant*

Wild Earth Allies and Emic Films

*What is Biodiversity?*

Silverback Films

**Honorable Mentions, General:***Tree Climbing Lions*

Nat Geo Wild

*Okavango - River of Dreams - Episode 3: Inferno*

A Terra Mater Factual Studios / Wildlife Films production in co-production with Thirteen Productions LLC, Doclights/NDR Naturfilm in association with PBS, CPB, Arte France / Unité Découverte et Connaissance, National Geographic Channels and SVT

*Fantastic Fungi*

Moving Art, Artemis Rising, Diamond Docs

*Walking Thunder*

Last Stand Films

*Tigerland*

Produced for Discovery by RadicalMedia

*Gerdab*

Wildlife Pictures Institute

**Honorable Mentions, Short:***Beyond The Fence*

Tessa Barlin in association with the Nature, Environment &amp; Wildlife Filmmakers Congress (NEWF)

*Sounds of Survival*

Katie Garrett, bioGraphic

*1 MILLION Species Could Go Extinct... Here's Why. | It's Okay to Be Smart*

Spotzen, PBS Digital Studios

*The Flying Gold of Arabuko*

John Davies, National Film and Television School

*Mexico City and its Sacred Salamanders*

Katie Garrett, bioGraphic

*The Firefox Guardian*

Gunjan Menon, University of the West of England

*Mud, Sweat, and Fears: Episode 2 of 'Last Call for the Bayou'*

Encompass Films

*Where Life Begins*

Coral and Oak Studios, The Wilderness Society

**Honorable Mentions, Short:***Ay Santa Ana*

Pongo Media

*Gajah Borneo*

Shervin Hess, Oregon Zoo

*Meet The Real Wolf*

Grizzly Creek Films

*Spider Monkey for Sale*

An Ateles Films production by Michael Sanderson and Ana Luísa Santos

*A Constituency for Conservation | Ndoki at 25*

Wildlife Conservation Society

*Second Chances*

Eilidh Munro

*The Birdman of Chorao*

Shashank Bhosale

### *The Burrowers*

Yasmine Ellis

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#### **To arrange free community screening events, please contact:**

Melanie Judd, (307) 200-3286 ext. 4, melanie@jhfestival.org

#### **About CITES**

With 183 Parties (182 countries + the European Union), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) remains one of the world's most powerful tools for wildlife conservation through the regulation of trade. Thousands of species are internationally traded and used by people in their daily lives for food, health care, housing, tourist souvenirs, cosmetics or fashion.

CITES regulates international trade in over 36,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, to ensure their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment. The CITES permit system seeks to ensure that international trade in listed species is sustainable, legal and traceable. CITES was signed in Washington D.C. on 3 March 1973 and entered into force on 1 July 1975.

#### **About Jackson Wild**

Jackson Wild's programs promote public awareness and stewardship of wildlife and wildlife habitat through the innovative use of media. For over 28 years, the Jackson Wild Summit has grown a reputation for hosting an extraordinary convening of scientists, conservationists, innovators and media where collaboration and innovation thrive, ideas are launched, and strategic partnerships are forged as participants work together to address critical conservation and environmental challenges facing our planet. The 2020 Jackson Wild Summit will be hosted in Austria: 28 Sept-2 Oct. in the famous Neusiedler See - Seewinkel National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### **About the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

#### **About UNDP**

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

#### **About the United Nations World Wildlife Day**

On 20 December 2013, the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. The date is the day of the signature of the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) in 1973. World Wildlife Day has quickly become the most prominent global annual event dedicated to wildlife. It is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the various challenges faced by these species. The day also reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime, which has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

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