



HUNT FOR THE RUSSIAN TIGER

1 x 53 min.

Written and directed by Mike Birkhead

HD, 5.1 and Stereo

Executive producers: Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer



TERRA MATER
Factual Studios

British ecologist and wildlife researcher Chris Morgan has tracked large predators in some of the wildest and most remote places on earth. He now faces his greatest challenge yet: to find and film the Siberian tiger living wild and free in Russia's Far Eastern forests.

The Siberian tiger is the largest big cat on earth ... and the hardest to find. It has long been accepted as impossible to film, but then Sooyong Park, a Korean cameraman, emerged from years in the forest with some extraordinary footage: mother and cubs playing and grooming in the snow, big males hunting and tigers roaming at night. Intimate images that nobody had achieved before or since.

Chris' destination is the Lazovsky Zapovednik Nature Reserve, five hundred miles north of Vladivostok: a remote, lawless but spectacularly beautiful land of snow-covered, densely forested mountains. In meeting Sooyong Park, Chris will learn how he found the tigers.

There are many perils and obstacles in Chris' way. The tigers roam over vast territories and will sense Chris long before he sees them. Wolves, bears and leopards also share the forests. He will endure severe weather and intense isolation living in solitary huts in this vast wilderness.

And that is to say nothing compared with the dangers posed by the tigers themselves: Chris will visit a place where a poacher came to a gruesome end in the jaws of a notorious man-eater. This man, Markov, shot and injured a tiger but instead of sloping off to lick his wounds the tiger came back for revenge, hunted Markov down and tore him limb from limb.

To get his remarkable footage, Sooyong spent years tracking tigers over their huge territories. When he had identified the places they visited regularly, he dug himself into an underground pit and, unbelievably, stayed there for months at a time waiting for the tigers to come.

Chris will soon come to understand the enormity of what Sooyong achieved in capturing the images that we are now able to use in this film. Chris Morgan has a gift for inspiring others. His energy and enthusiasm will carry us off into his most challenging, most arduous and deeply affecting adventure yet.



NATURE