

**FUTURE  
PROJECTS**  
AUTUMN  
2022



TOP DATA MATTER

CONVENTION



- 
- 4 50 SHADES OF PREY**
  - 5 ALIEN CONTACT**
  - 6 ALIVE!**
  - 7 AMERICAN OCELOT**
  - 8 THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS** JEWELS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
  - 9 BIG CATS, SMALL WORLD**
  - 10 BIRDS IN PARADISE** HUMMINGBIRDS OF COSTA RICA
  - 11 CANADA** SURVIVING THE WILD NORTH
  - 12 DEGREES OF LIFE**
  - 13 THE DIRTY DOZEN**
  - 14 EUROPE'S AMAZON**
  - 15 EUROPE'S BADLANDS**
  - 16 EUROPE'S WILD BORDERS**
  - 17 FELINES** OUR FATAL ATTRACTION
  - 18 GAME OF MOONS** A TALE OF ICE AND FIRE
  - 19 GORILLA GORILLA GORILLA**
  - 20 GREAT LAKES UNTAMED**
  - 21 HEALTHY CITIES** MORE THAN HUMAN
  - 22 HORRORS OF NATURE**
  - 23 ICON** UNCOVERING THE SOUL OF SHERE KHAN
  - 24 JAGUAR BEACH**
  - 25 KATAVI**
  - 26 KORSHA** THE SECRET LIFE OF A PANGOLIN
  - 27 KUI BURI** RECREATING PARADISE
  - 28 MORAVA** BETWEEN DELUGE AND DROUGHT
  - 29 MYSTERY OF THE HOMELESS HERD**
  - 30 ONCE UPON A TIME IN TSAVO**
  - 31 PENGUIN BAYWATCH**
  - 32 THE PHILIPPINES** ISLANDS ON THE EDGE
  - 33 PLANT INTELLIGENCE: UNEARTHED**
  - 34 QUEST FOR THE CROCODILE CALLERS**
  - 35 RAPTORS** A FISTFUL OF DAGGERS
  - 36 REASONS TO LOVE**
  - 37 ROOTED** AMERICA'S TREES OF LIFE
  - 38 SCOTLAND** THE NEW WILD
  - 39 THE SECRET CROWN**
  - 40 THE SECRET SOCIAL LIFE OF REPTILES**
  - 41 SENTINELS** SEEING NATURE FROM SPACE
  - 42 THE SHARKS OF HAWAII**
  - 43 SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT ...**
  - 44 SOUL OF THE OCEAN**
  - 45 SPACE MISSION SENEGAL**
  - 46 THE STORM** WILDLIFE IN WILD WEATHER
  - 47 THAT'S LIFE!**
  - 48 ULTIMATE ANIMAL** NATURE'S GREATEST
  - 49 ULTIMATE PLANET** THE UNKNOWN STORY OF LIFE ON EARTH
  - 50 URBAN NATIONAL PARKS**
  - 51 THE VIEW FROM ON HIGH**
  - 52 WILD SAN DIEGO**
  - 53 THE WILD SIDES**
  - 54 WILD VIENNA**





# 50 SHADES OF PREY

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**5 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Wildlife films frequently show slow-motion, magnificent predators chasing their prey – and just occasionally one quarry escapes. But most hunts fail.**

**W**e take the prey's perspective to see how they survive a world of sharp claws, snapping teeth and slicing talons. Gazelles are finely honed running machines with the stamina to outrun a cheetah, the world's fastest terrestrial animal – in short sprints. If the gazelle escapes the first dash, the cheetah can't sustain a long chase. In the New World, pronghorn antelopes are just as fast – which seems excessive, but pronghorns evolved to outrun American cheetahs, now extinct.

The peregrine falcon dives at 300 kph and surely nothing can escape. But starlings or shorebirds form huge flocks and perform mesmerizing aerial displays – murmurations. Singling out one target is almost impossible.

Insects are tiny but far from defenseless. *Lonomia* moth caterpillars have venomous hairs so powerful they've even killed humans. Some bugs imitate something much more fierce. One lantern bug mimics an alligator, and the *Hemeroplanes* hawkmoth caterpillar accurately mimics a deadly pit viper. Moon moths have long tails with twisting paddles at the end that scramble the bat's sonar so they can fly under the radar ... all tricks keeping prey animals one step ahead of their predators.

# ALIEN CONTACT

Written by **Chris Carter**  
Directed by **Rick Rosenthal**  
Executive producers: **Birgit Peters, Sabine Holzer**  
**1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Emmy award-winning filmmaker and marine biologist Rick Rosenthal teams up with science fiction writer Chris Carter on an investigative journey to explore evidence of intelligent life, not in space, but in the sea – specifically, manta rays. Might these alien-looking animals be trying to make contact with us? There are intriguing clues.**

**R**ick's investigation explores the life histories of several species of rays, while assembling a compelling case that one of them, the giant manta, may actually be making contact with, and even influencing, the behaviour of humans. We reveal the beauty of these most elegant of fishes, expose their vulnerability and come away with the mind-blowing revelation that in important ways, manta rays are closer to primates, dolphins and elephants than many other mammals.

'Alien Contact' takes a fresh approach to the wildlife documentary. We put the methods of scientific investigation to work in combination with some of the story-telling tools of science fiction. Script writer Chris Carter has spent a career imagining contact with extra-terrestrials in his acclaimed television series *The X-Files*. A lifelong diver, surfer and advocate for protecting our oceans, in 'Alien Contact' Chris combines storytelling with ocean adventure and natural history to help us decode some of the secrets of the sea's most graceful giant.

A Terra Mater Studios / Wild Logic production in co-production with Doclights / NDR Naturfilm





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# ALIVE!

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**7 x 50min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**What does it mean to be ALIVE? Life goes on all around us – but have you ever asked how? What makes life tick?**

**A** cheetah runs down a gazelle in a dramatic high-speed chase. A spectacular yet familiar moment in natural history. It's impressive – but it's beyond belief when we see it from the perspective of this ground-breaking new series ... when we deconstruct it in both scale and time ... to reveal life's essential ingredients!

The latest science has uncovered amazing new insights into how life works and where it came from – about what it really means to be alive. This series takes us on a rollercoaster ride from big, spectacular natural history events to dramatic new images from within living cells, from monkeys to molecules, and through three and a half billion years of extraordinary moments on Earth to reveal the secrets of life.

In seven programs, using the most innovative technology and camera techniques, input from cutting-edge science and the skills of the world's great storytellers, we'll show how life on this planet is nothing short of a miracle.

You'll never look at nature – or yourself – in the same way again.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

# AMERICAN OCELOT

Written and directed by **Ben Masters**  
Executive producers: **Andrea Gastgeb, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

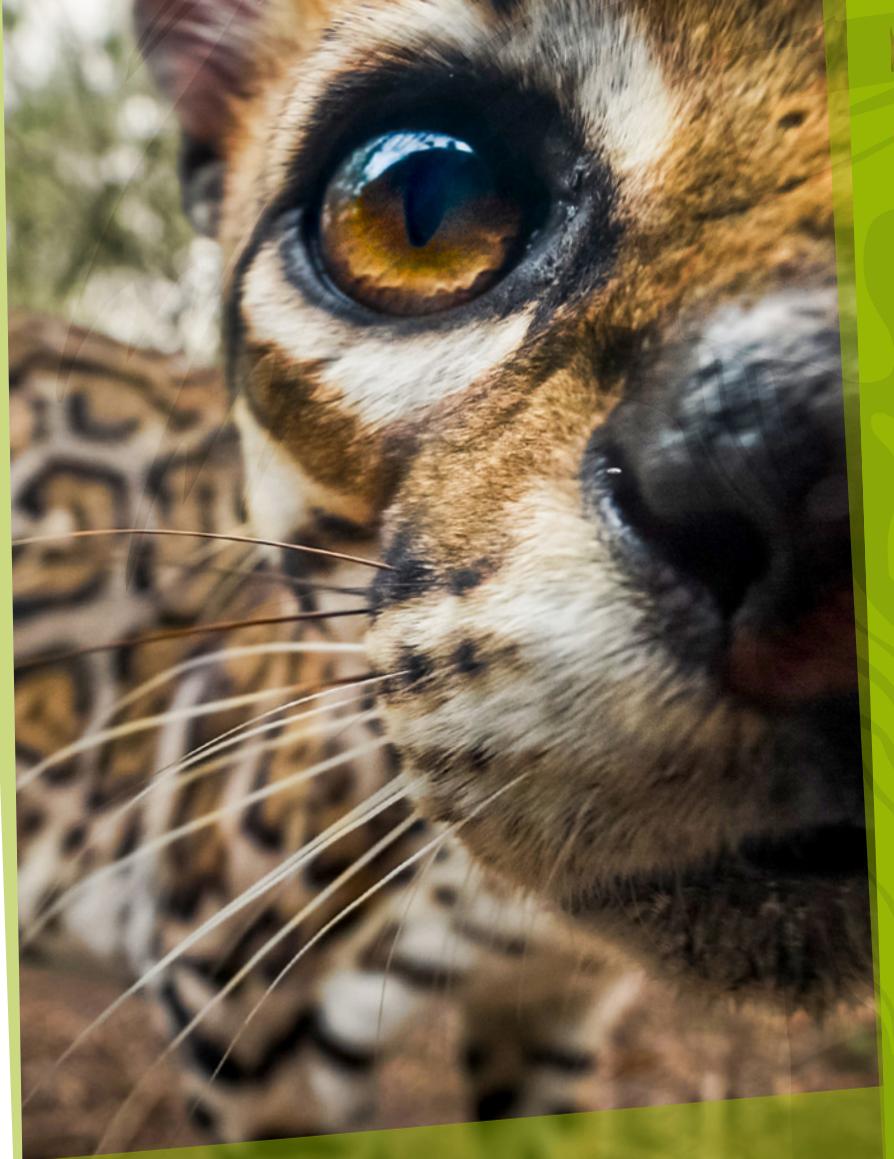
**'American Ocelot' will be a 50-minute film that chronicles the sad history, precarious present, and optimistic future for the United States' most endangered wild cat: the ocelot. Told through the lens of wildlife filmmaker Ben Masters, the viewer will go on a brush dive into the deep South Texas chapparal to meet the biologists studying the rare cats, the ranchers with the habitat, and the cats themselves.**

**D**uring the film, our primary ocelot character, Mama Jane, gives birth to two beautiful kittens. Through camera trap cinematography, we get a never-before-seen glimpse into the struggle, love, and determination that is required for a mother ocelot to successfully raise her young. And the stakes could not be higher: with fewer than 80 known ocelots remaining in the United States, divided into two small populations, each kitten is absolutely precious to the future of the American ocelot population.

But there is hope for a bright future! New genetics can be introduced from ocelots in Mexico, new populations can be established in their historic range in Texas, and a potential international conservation success story is poised to launch.

'American Ocelot' will be a gripping 4K documentary of international importance told through verité events, engaging interviews, character-driven narration by Ben Masters, and intimate footage of a mother ocelot raising her kittens.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and THIRTEEN Productions LLC  
in association with PBS, CPB and WNET produced by Fin & Fur Films





# THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

## JEWELS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Executive producers: **Stephen Dunleavy, Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Remote. Beautiful. Mysterious. Unique.**

**T**he hundreds of islands that make up the Andaman archipelago are little worlds of their own, set apart, where life has evolved in splendid isolation. Sunshine, satin seas, pristine golden beaches and emerald waters, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are Nature's paradise tucked away in the corner of the Indian Ocean. But this paradise has a wilder side. Some of the islands are in the firing line of the most devastating storms and tsunamis. All living creatures on the islands have had to adapt to survive, becoming either specialist or opportunist. Some of the native inhabitants are seafarers, others began life as castaways and a few evolved into species of their own. From the closest living cousin of the Dodo, to the largest crabs on Earth, from colourful underwater killers, to prehistoric giants of the deep, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to a vast array of wildlife that is both spectacular and unique to these islands.

But how did these creatures get here? And how have they survived? And who are the ancient human tribes that arrived here some 60,000 years ago, whose mysterious lives have intrigued explorers and scientists for centuries?

Away from the sunny beaches and crystal shallows, there is a treasure trove of life hidden in the dense forests. From mangrove labyrinths to underground limestone caves, from active volcanic islands, to unexplored jungle, there's much more to these islands than meets the eye.

This is the untold story of life in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

# BIG CATS, SMALL WORLD

Written and directed by **Robyn Keene-Young**  
Produced by **Adrian Bailey**  
Executive producers: **Andrea Gastgeb, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Three Big Cats occupy the top of the food chain, but they must compete for prey and territory in a land where they keep bumping into each other.**

In northern Botswana, a dozen lionesses and cubs live under the protection of two ageing males. Roaring and scent-marking, the males patrol their borders, proclaiming ownership of the woodlands, the grasslands, the floodplains and the river. The pride anchors itself in whichever habitat is currently richest in their favourite prey—and often the prey of two other Big Cats, who dare to live in their world.

The solitary leopard argues for her territory with hoarse coughs. She's no match against the lions, but she's resilient and resourceful and uses her wooded home to her advantage. She can't run far or fast, but she can climb. Tall trees provide a refuge and a pantry, without them she would lose her kills, and possibly her life, to the lions.

Since birth, the cheetah brothers have spent every moment together. With no family responsibilities, their bachelor days are filled with hunting, avoiding enemies and securing their territory. But what's it all for if they have no heirs? They lack the vocal chords for roaring, leaving them with scent-marking as the only means to declare their vast range and lure scarce females. But the leopardess has been leaving her own scent on top of theirs, chasing away any female cheetahs that might be interested in them.

As events and changing seasons conspire to bring the Big Cats together, can they rely on their unique skills to avoid deadly conflict?

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and THIRTEEN Productions LLC  
in association with PBS, CPB and WNET produced by Road Media





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# BIRDS IN PARADISE HUMMINGBIRDS OF COSTA RICA

Written and directed by **Dough Shultz and Ann Johnson Prum**  
Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**By some measures, it's a tiny country, just 0.03% of the Earth's landmass. But when it comes to wildlife, Costa Rica is an ecological giant, bursting with a density of species and diverse habitats unparalleled anywhere else in the world.**

**C**radled by the Caribbean on the East and rugged Pacific shores on the west, this sliver of tropical paradise stretches from dry forests to verdant wetlands, coastal mangroves to misty cloud forests shrouding rugged volcanoes – a multitude of spectacular worlds all packed into a country the size of Denmark. Each of these habitats shelters a staggering diversity of life that fills their trees, skies and waters – rainbow-beaked toucans, capuchin, spider and howler monkeys, majestic parrots, long-snouted tapirs and slow-moving sloths.

Over a quarter of the country is protected reserve, making Costa Rica's wild areas a virtual symphony of life, and at its heart are the tiny conductors that keep the land in bloom and the orchestra on cue: Hummingbirds. In eye-popping, cinematic style, 'Birds in Paradise – Hummingbirds of Costa Rica' captures the intricately linked creatures of Costa Rica's lush environments, showcasing the dazzling hummingbirds at their heart, giving new meaning to the country's motto, Pura Vida – Pure Life.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and THIRTEEN Productions LLC in association with PBS, CPB and WNET produced by Coneflower Films Studios

# CANADA SURVIVING THE WILD NORTH

Written and produced by **Patrick Morris and Verity White**  
Executive producers: **Martin Mészáros, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Canada, covering almost ten million square kilometers, is home to some of the world's most astonishing wildlife. It has the largest intact forest on the planet, more than two million lakes and rivers and the longest coastline on Earth.**

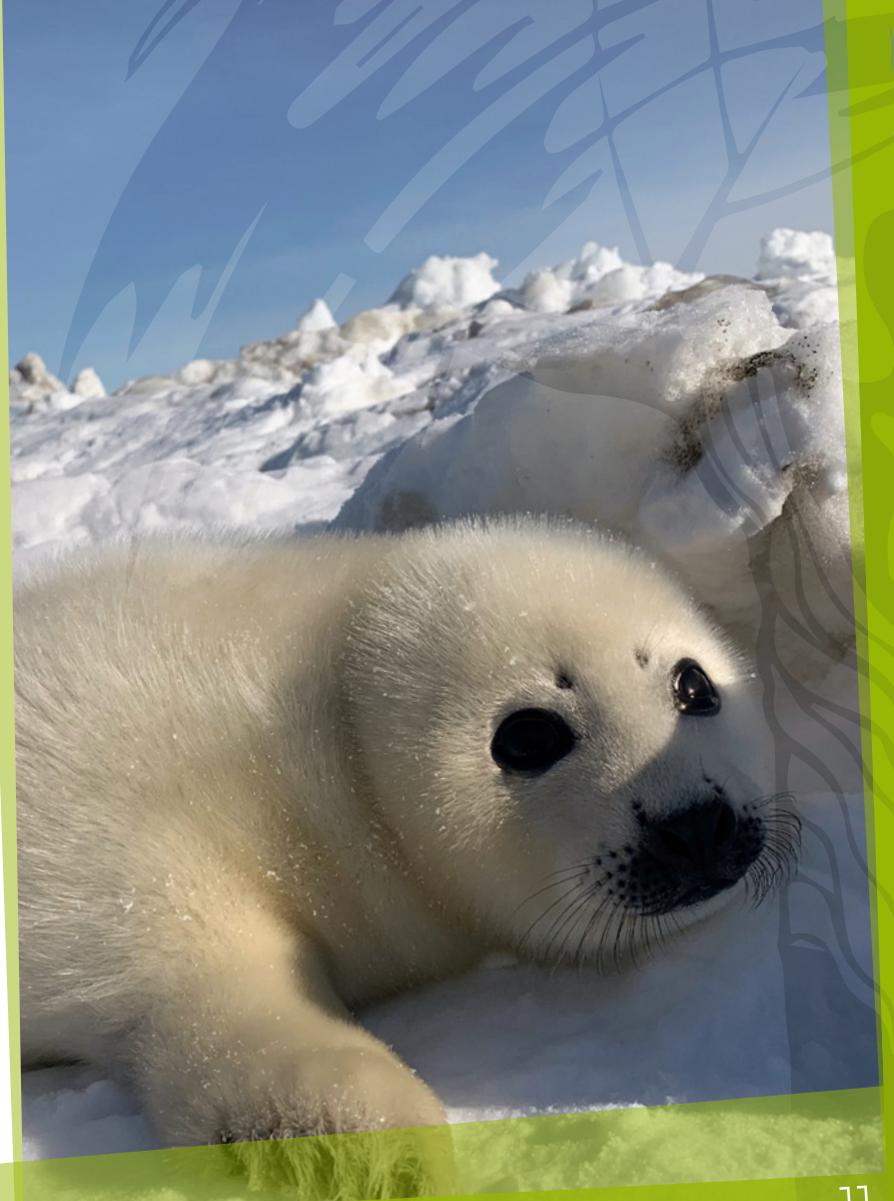
It is high summer in Canada's Far North, where polar bears have learned to ambush beluga whales. In the vast swathes of tundra, a pair of Arctic foxes gather and bury snow geese eggs, and hunt the chicks, for their fast-growing pups.

As Canada warms, its Pacific coastline comes alive. Among the blossoming kelp forests a male sea otter goes hunting, while on a remote island a pack of wolves uses unusual hunting and feeding techniques to get the best from Pacific salmon.

Winter sets in, and temperatures plunge across the vast boreal forests that cover much of central Canada. A Canada lynx hunts a snowshoe hare in an age-old duel, and a pack of wolves work together to strategically drive a herd of caribou from a frozen lake into deep forest snow.

The film concludes on the sea ice off Newfoundland, where a harp seal mother teaches her newborn pup how to swim for the first time, before spring finally arrives across the whole of Canada. With windows of opportunity opening up again, it brings relief to all.

A production of Terra Mater Studios, Brian Leith Productions, Impala Pictures and River Road Films  
in co-production with THIRTEEN Productions LLC in association with PBS, CPB and WNET



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# DEGREES OF LIFE

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**6 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo**

**Prepare to discover Planet Earth like never before! This strongly conceptual, visually stunning six-part series follows the world's most iconic and charismatic species as they battle for life beneath immense external forces.**

**T**ake a look at a globe. Bands of green, rust and white circle around it. Lush jungles, lonely deserts, seasonal forests, winter wonderlands; ever wondered why these different realms exist in fixed stripes around the Earth? Told through the eyes of the iconic creatures that call these places home, we follow the changing power of the sun between equator and pole as it binds all life on our planet.

Between equator and pole lie 90 degrees of latitude. As we head north and south from the equator at 0°, the sun's intensity changes, driving patterns of wind, rain and seasonal variation that shape the world's great biomes.

It is no coincidence that desert prevails at 30° or boreal forest at 60°.

Modern drone, timelapse and moving camera techniques allow us to bring these processes to life, revealing the planet as a living, breathing organism over the course of six episodes.

When used alongside breathtaking behavioural sequences, the series will bring an immersive experience and fresh feel to natural history television.

What makes this series stand out? Spectacular imagery and behaviour. Immersive, conceptual storytelling. Our animal characters are but players on a cosmic stage, their fates bound by elemental forces ruled over by the sun. Change comes in seconds or years. Fire, flood, snow and ice bring drama, conflict and co-operation. The struggle for life is bound not by country or continent, but by degrees of latitude: the degrees of life.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

# THE DIRTY DOZEN

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**12 x 30 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**We like our world to be ultra-clean, trying to banish all dirt ... but in nature, dirt – soil, mud and dung – provide a very good living. We'll meet twelve creatures that thrive in dirt and see how vital they are to the planet's functioning.**

**W**ild pigs create wallows of sticky mud, and many other creatures depend on these pig ponds, and the constant rooting of pig snouts through forest dirt crucially rotavates the soil.

Without earthworms, agriculture would collapse – they eat dirt and aerate the soil ... We'll meet the world's largest worm – the 3 metre long giant Australian Gippsland earthworm.

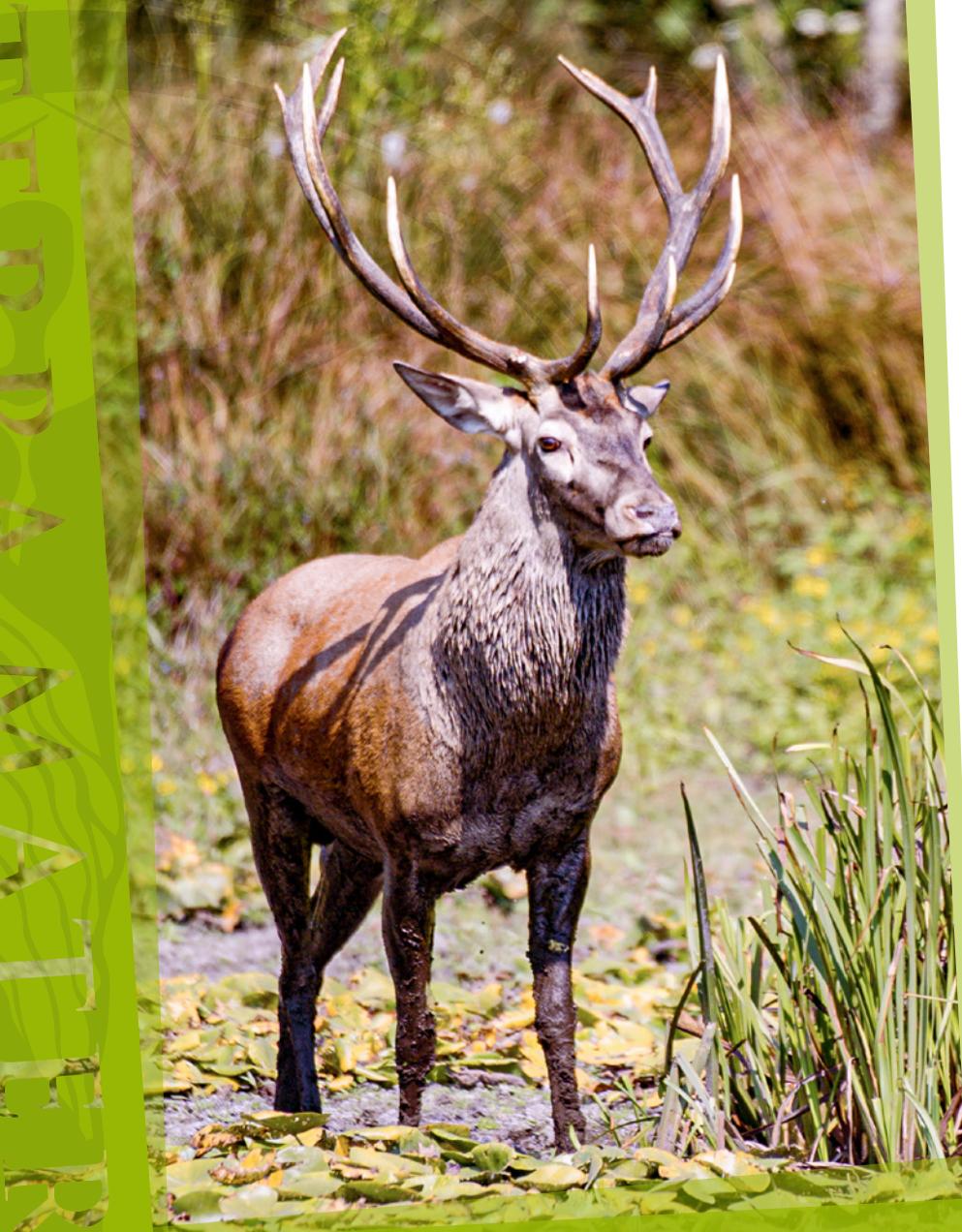
The rich, thick mud of estuaries supports flocks of shorebirds that follow the receding tide. Growing out of rich mud, tropical mangrove swamps are so diverse they rival rainforests. Here, mudskippers dig burrows and skip over the mud at low tide in extravagant leaping displays.

The world is full of shit – but dung beetles swarm to fresh dung, rolling it away to bury. Without them we'd be up to our knees in shit – as happened in Australia. Native dung beetles couldn't process dung from vast herds of cows, so dung lay thick on the ground, breeding millions of flies – only solved by introducing African dung beetles.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



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# EUROPE'S AMAZON

Written and directed by **Szabolcs Mosonyi**  
Executive producers: **Andrea Gastgeb, Sabine Holzer**  
**2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Everyone knows the Danube. But do you know its major tributary, leading from White Summits towards the Black Sea?**

**W**here Drava and Danube meet, we encounter Central Europe's most spectacular inland delta; a secret realm of wetland forests, oxbows and floodplains, ever-shifting channels, islands and swamps vibrant with a stunning diversity of plant and animal life.

It gathers all the waters and rich sediments from a vast catchment area of countless ridges, slopes and valleys south of the Continental Divide and east of the Adriatic basin, featuring glaciers, snowy summits, a legion of lakes, widespread woodlands covering mountainsides and valleys and rolling green foothills – before these waters spill into the mighty Danube and end up in the Black Sea.

While **Episode I** portrays a bright, cold world in the midst of the very clouds that feed the river system, **Episode II** reveals an entirely different world of flooded broadleaf forests roamed by herds of red deer, of swamps and gravel banks inviting plovers and terns to breed and raise their young, of beaver lakes covered by wild water lilies and alive with fish, amphibians and turtles under giant willows with colonies of water-fowl – a wetland world vying with Brazil's Amazon or Florida's Everglades.

The makers of this film have grown up, lived and worked along this still secret gem of river. Being familiar with some of the great rivers of the planet, including the Amazon, the comparison they draw reveals the Drava's unique and fascinating character and uncovers many of its hidden treasures.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

# EUROPE'S BADLANDS

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

The word 'desert' causes most people to think of the Sahara or the Gobi: vast sand dunes that cover large areas of countries and continents.

Inhospitable stony deserts like Death Valley or Australia's outback might come to mind – but the world's deserts are not limited to Africa, Asia, America and Australia. Europe's deserts are remarkable because of their unusual history, characteristics or geographic locations in Spain, Italy, in the Highlands of Iceland or on the volcanic island of Fuerteventura. There are tiny deserts in Sweden and Norway, and large ones in Poland, Serbia and Ukraine. They all continue to expand, and their growth is being exacerbated by climate change.

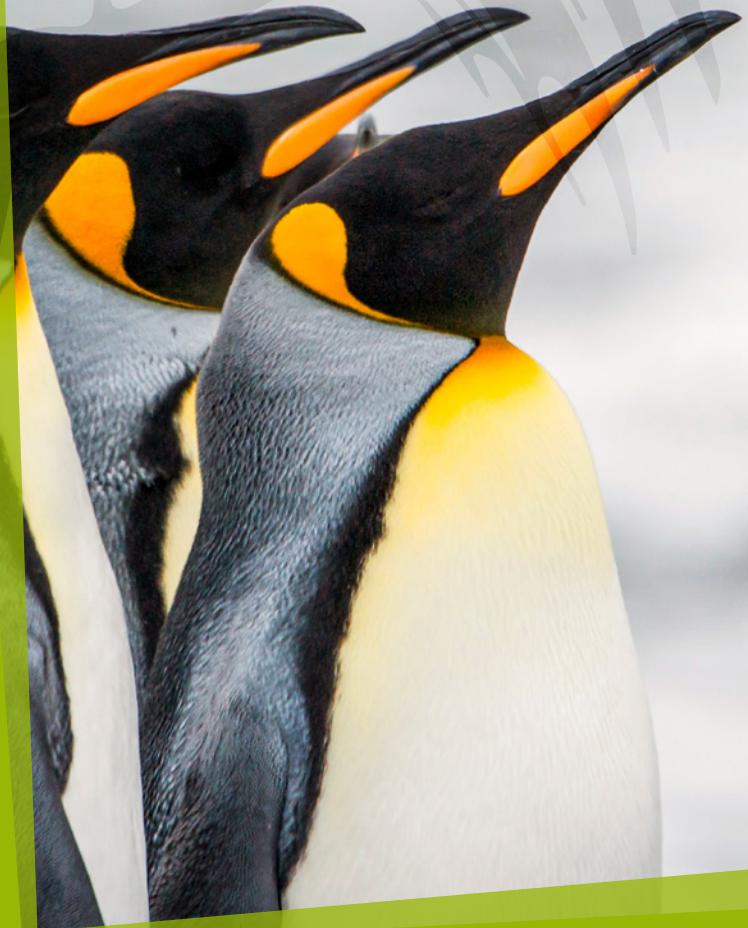
**Spain's Tabernas Desert** is often compared to the Badlands of North America. It is an inhospitable, sparse world created by centuries of low precipitation, extreme heat and strong wind erosion. The animals and plants that live here are specialists that have learned to survive despite the meagre resources. Meanwhile, wild cats and foxes roam the **Bardenas Reales** semi-desert in northern Spain. Little apart from saltwort grows on 400 square kilometres of sparse soil, and great bustards frequently fall prey to eagles and vultures. **The Highlands of Iceland** are an extensive

stony volcanic plateau interrupted by shimmering green oases of grass. At first glance, the area seems completely uninhabited, and heavy rainfalls, sandstorms and blizzards can occur anytime during the year. However, the desertification here is a result of human animal farming, rather than drought. The Highlands of Iceland are now the hunting grounds of arctic foxes, the island's original inhabitants.

**In three episodes**, we take a look at Europe's deserts – their present, but also their future.

A production of Terra Mater Studios





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# EUROPE'S WILD BORDERS

Written and directed by **Harald Pokieser**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**4 x 50 mins., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Raging oceans. Towering snow-capped mountains. Dense, mysterious forests. They all mark Europe's wild borders. These wild regions are home to wolves, bears, ospreys, sperm whales and penguins. In addition – and somewhat unexpectedly – Europe also contains the world's second-largest coral reef, vast lagoons, sea cows, green sea turtles and reef sharks.**

**T**he search for Europe's borders reaches from the Ural Mountains to the South Pacific and beyond, to the Antarctic. The term „Europe“ is by no means easily defined: Is it only the European mainland, or do the islands off the coasts count, too?

Is „Europe“ determined by geographical borders, or do political ones that include overseas territories count as well? In four visually stunning episodes, this blue-chip documentary series takes an open-minded approach, looking for answers wherever the adventurous journey to the remotest, wildest areas of Europe leads.

We take the viewer on a compelling journey around the outer edges of Europe, capturing the fascinating wildlife and spectacular landscapes of the border regions while exploring one apparently simple question: Where does Europe really begin, and where does it end?

A production of Terra Mater Studios



# FELINES OUR FATAL ATTRACTION

Produced and directed by **Aaron Gekoski and Will Foster-Grundy**  
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**  
**1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**F**or nearly 10,000 years, humankind has been engaged in a complex relationship with cats. During this period, they have been domesticated, worshipped, feared, bred, and traded across every part of the world.

They are featured in the history of many nations, are subject to legend, and have been captured by artisans through the ages. Nowadays, cats are in our favourite movies and comic books: from Simba and Cat Woman, to Puss in Boots and Tony the Tiger.

But of all 38 species of cats, it's the largest – jaguars, lions, tigers and leopards – that hold the most symbolism. But is our fascination with felines leading to their demise? Big cats are now facing unparalleled threats. They are being slain from the jungle for their teeth and fur, or factory farmed for their bones. Others are kept as exotic pets or locked up in tourist traps.

Environmental photojournalist Aaron Gekoski is on a global mission to document our relationship with big cats: from the jungles of Peru and the African savannahs, to the glitz of the UAE and the epicentre of the trade, Southeast Asia.

Beautifully shot, and thoughtfully produced, this documentary investigates what happens when we destroy all that is sacred.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and Four Corners Film & Photography in association with Four Paws



# GAME OF MOONS A TALE OF ICE AND FIRE

Written and produced by **Ivo Filatsch**  
 Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo**

**Everyone knows the Moon – our Moon. Up till now, it is the only other celestial body besides Earth humans have set foot on. But the companion of our planet is by far not the only moon in the solar system.**

It's probably the most prominent object in the night sky and has fascinated humans since the dawn of mankind, sparking legends, tales and myths, but also research and science all around the world.

All in all, there are more than 200 of these natural satellites orbiting other planets in the solar system, and even much smaller asteroids. All these moons are incredibly different regarding their size, but also in terms of their environments.

Studying these alien worlds in detail, scientists are getting a better understanding not only of the solar system, but of our world as a whole. And the better we understand our neighbourhood, the better we can take care of our home planet.

This three-part series is a visual, substantial and emotional rollercoaster ride through the solar system – exciting, entertaining, elaborate. It shows widely unknown foreign

worlds of extremes in our celestial neighbourhood, each single one amazing, fascinating, and unique.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

# GORILLA GORILLA GORILLA

Written and directed by **Harald Pokieser**  
Executive producers: **Birgit Peters, Sabine Holzer**  
**1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Gorillas are the largest primates and are among our closest relatives ...  
yet wild gorillas are still a mystery.**

**W**e follow researchers on hazardous journeys into remote areas of Africa as they try to contact wild gorillas and record their behaviour. Rwanda's mountain gorillas, made famous by the film "Gorillas in the Mist", are just one of four subspecies living in Africa. The mountain gorilla is a subspecies of the eastern gorilla, as is Grauer's gorilla, the largest of them all. The western gorilla also has two subspecies, the western lowland gorilla and the world's rarest great ape, the Cross River gorilla, only recently described as a distinct subspecies. Isolated in small pockets of highland forest on the border of Cameroon and Nigeria, the Cross River gorilla has evolved a smaller head and shorter limbs than other gorillas, but before scientists can start to understand what makes this gorilla different, it could disappear. There are only a few hundred left. We join scientists on a difficult quest over steep mountain slopes and thick rainforest, to find them before it's too late.

In Gabon, we meet biologist Martha Robbins from Germany's Max-Planck-Institute, who's studying western lowland gorillas. Their life in captivity is well understood but their lifestyle in the rainforests still holds many secrets. Extremely shy, the wild gorillas normally avoid human contact but Martha has gained their trust. She has found clear differences between western lowland gorillas and mountain gorillas, including their fur colour and thickness, and their family structures. For the first time, we meet the entire gorilla family including the elusive Cross River gorilla. As scientists meet them and record their behavior, we share their revelations that could save all the different species of gorilla from extinction.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and Doclights / NDR Naturfilm  
in association with National Geographic Channels





# GREAT LAKES UNTAMED

Written by **Phil Fairclough, John LaRose & Ted Oakes**  
Directed by: **Jeff Morales, Ted Oakes & Nicholas De Pencier**  
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**The first definitive natural history of North America's spectacular five Great Lakes – Earth's largest freshwater ecosystem.**

In a world short of freshwater, the Great Lakes are one of our planet's most important ecosystems. The five great lakes flow into the Atlantic Ocean via the St Lawrence River as connected water ways that cover more than 94,000 square miles; provide 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the world's fresh surface water and drinking water for over 40 million people.

Home to more than 3,500 plant and animal species where extreme temperatures from minus to plus 40 degrees Celsius have forced nature to adapt in unique and remarkable ways. What do glowing rocks tell us about the world's biggest island? Why is this the world's largest concentration of shipwrecks? How do ravens outwit bald eagles and wolves?

Witness flying squirrels using ultraviolet fur to communicate; newly discovered underwater caves with untold secrets; never-before-seen footage of wolves fishing in fresh water; and moose diving underwater to feed their calves.

Filmed by an Emmy-award-winning team with a remarkable television pedigree, 'Great Lakes Untamed' reveals a world that audiences have never seen before; one that the future of our planet depends on.

An Oak Island Films Canada / Merit Motion Pictures / Terra Mater Studios co-production in association with TVO, Smithsonian Networks, Doclights / NDR Naturfilm, ARTE France and Two Wise Monkeys Entertainment



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# HEALTHY CITIES MORE THAN HUMAN

Written and directed by **Heiko De Groot**  
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**  
**2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**C**ities are like living organisms. Healthy and in perfect balance they can make their inhabitants happy, humans just as well as animals and plants. Thrown off balance, they get sick – and with them all the creatures living here.

Growing numbers of people and a capital investment boom are leading to a tremendous loss of green spaces, increased sealing of soils and a higher population density. The well-being of many cities is under threat.

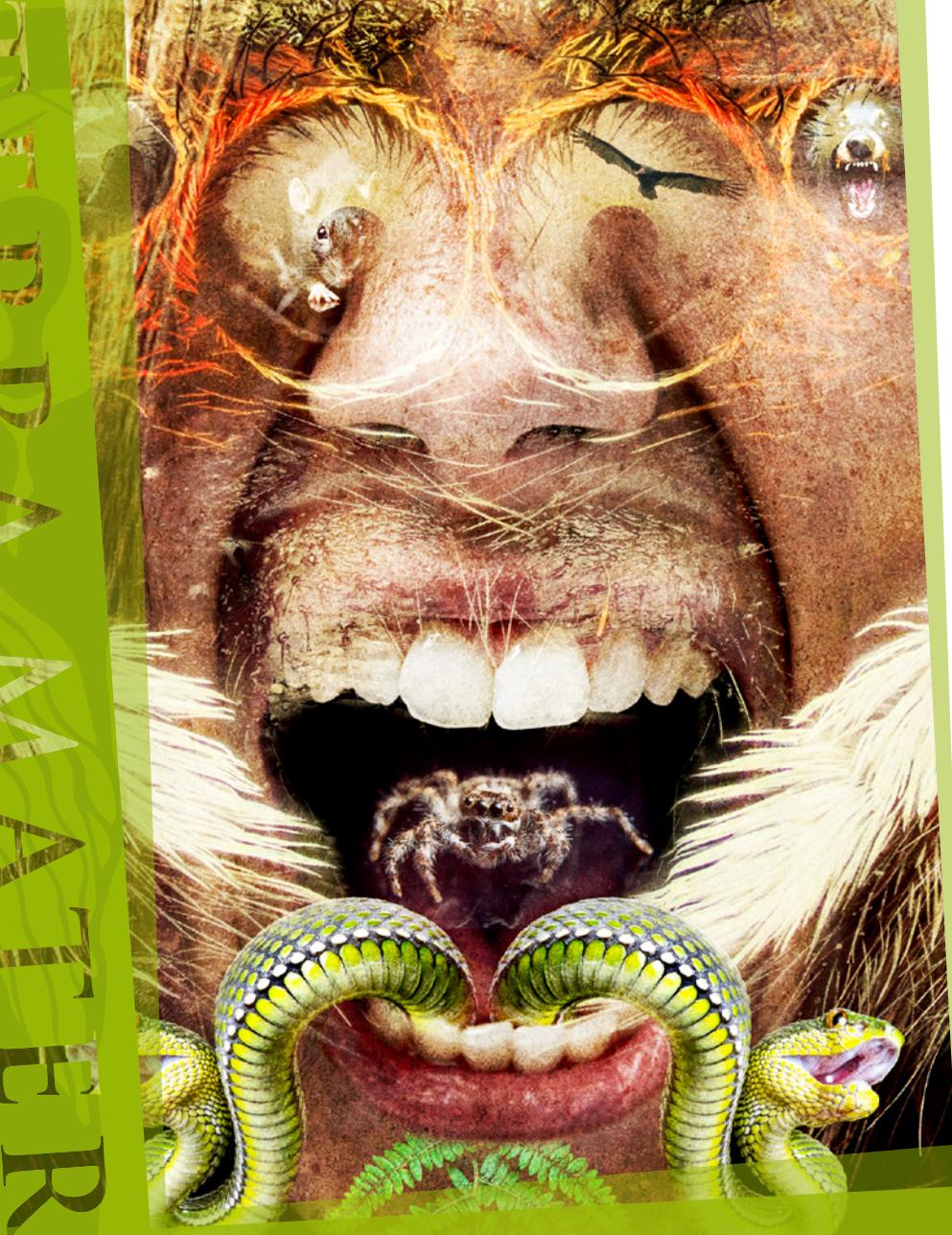
The prevailing opinion is that cities belong to the people and that “nature” is the place for animals. We tend to forget that we have long since turned the countryside into an agricultural desert. What’s more, we urgently need to protect whatever remains of “nature” in our cities. What are the consequences of rapid urbanisation for biodiversity, cities’ ecosystems and people’s health?

We set off into the world of animals that have escaped to the city and tell their stories. These animals have adapted over time. Blackbirds sing louder and earlier in the morning to brave rush hour; urban foxes have grown shorter snouts

for they no longer use them to catch mice but tear open plastic packaging. White-footed mice in New York can now digest fast food instead of whole grains.

Intriguing behavioural animal stories, sublime city shots and the exciting projects of proficient scientists will reveal amazing connections in an attractive and entertaining way and give us a new look at life in our cities.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and federvieh in association with NDR/ARTE



# HORRORS OF NATURE

Written & directed by **Ruth Berry**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**6×30 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**It begins with heart palpitations, sweating and shortness of breath, then comes the shivering, the dizziness. The symptoms are severe. Is this a heart attack? No, but for the sufferer it's every bit as real. The disease – Animal Phobia!**

In this series we explore animal phobias and fears from unique perspectives, as we'll feature celebrities and how they handle their fear of butterflies, pigs, eggs, ferns, mice or insects, to name just a few.

We investigate the latest science and look at the animals in question. Is there something about their behaviour that triggers extreme fear in humans? Research has uncovered many reasons for animal phobias. While some say they are inherited from our early ancestors, others look at the transference of animal fears from parents or friends, negative experiences with animals, or even the way animals are portrayed in the media.

But films and books about deadly animals can also inspire a life-long fascination to study these creatures. What is it that makes some of us pursue a snake, and others run the other way. It seems that spiders and snakes are universally feared. "Natural", you might say; not really, when mosquitoes kill 14 times as many people as snakes every year!

We're not suggesting your phobia or fears will be cured by watching this series. But you will find out why they exist and how they are being tackled using everything from sleep therapy to Virtual Reality. And you will get to see the other side of animal phobias and fears. Because we are animals too and it seems that our cousins are just as afraid of us, as we are of them.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



© Getty Images

# ICON UNCOVERING THE SOUL OF SHERE KHAN

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Narrated by Idris Elba**

**T**igers are one of the most elusive apex predators on the planet, and this series aims to unravel the many unknowns about them. By exploring the natural world of these big cats as well as their historical and cultural impact, 'ICON' reveals extraordinary stories that create a greater understanding of the species.

This three-part series is part cinematic drama, part scientific investigation, and part blue chip natural history documentary, all woven together with a heart-led sensitivity to how tigers have left their mark on our planet. We immerse ourselves in

all aspects of the tigers' world, including the good, the bad, and the difficult.

In each hour-long episode, we will focus on specific tiger subspecies in the wild and unlock similarities between different types of tigers while also marveling at their unique geographical adaptations to their specific environments. These natural history stories will be interwoven with historical tales with important messages. Stories which have to be told now, as Tom Gray, the Tiger Scientist for WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative, explains: "While

Tigers might be omnipresent across our cultural landscape, their actual existence in the wild is reduced to a few pockets of their historical range. Wild tigers are found in just 10 countries, their historical range shrunk by over 95 %."

This spectacular series debunks and demystifies one of the world's most revered and feared apex predators on the planet.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Think Lemonade Productions



# JAGUAR BEACH

Written and directed by **Ann Prum and Doug Shultz**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Where the king of the jungle becomes the king of the beach.**

**O**n a remote stretch of Central America's Pacific coast, far from tourist beaches, there is a unique dry tropical forest, the last of its kind on the planet.

Over 500 species of birds, wild pumas and ocelots, monkeys and 100 species of reptiles all make their home in this remote coastal oasis. And at the top of the food chain reigns the healthiest population of jaguars in Central America. We've only recently discovered why.

Here, on one isolated beach, the local jaguars have learned that there is more to eat than what's found in the forest. Under cover of night, these cunning cats slip out of the trees and onto the sand to stalk a surprising victim: sea turtles.

In cinematic blue-chip style, we'll follow several individual jaguars over the course of eighteen months, capturing their complex lives as they navigate this unique environment between forest and beach, hunting sea turtles, mating, rearing their young and battling for territory.

Through startlingly close and intimate filming with these cats, we'll transport audiences to a never-before-seen place where two worlds – the dry tropical forest and Central America's rich marine seascape – collide in a spectacular battle for survival.

For the first time, we'll tell this previously unknown story, how the lives of two of the world's most beloved species – the jaguar and the sea turtle – meet with spectacular consequences for everyone on 'Jaguar Beach'.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Coneflower Films Studios in co-production with The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB and Tangled Bank Studios



# KATAVI

Written and directed by **Owen Prümm**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**1x90 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**An extreme weather phenomenon strikes remote, inaccessible Katavi National Park in Southern Tanzania. The powerful local tribes of hippo, lion and crocodile struggle for survival while defending their turf from intruders. This allegorical tale offers a fascinating insight into how an animal society can be affected by a changing climate and how this situation requires new strategies and changed behaviors from everyone.**

In the secluded world of Katavi National Park, this documentary feature captures a once-in-a-lifetime event: during a very special year, a severe drought and flood due to a 90-year cyclic change in climate makes life increasingly difficult over the course of the seasons.

During the normal rainy season, Katavi flourishes. Babies are born and life is bountiful. But the dry season develops into an

extreme drought, until the last water holes dwindle into dark mud pools in which the residential hippos, lions and crocodiles are forced together, fighting for the last drop.

In stark contrast, the rainy season that follows the extended drought brings flooding to the region, creating havoc, cutting off members of the lion pride from each other, leaving them vulnerable.

The filmmakers lead the audience into an intimate drama that unfolds between these powerful clans over the most extreme year of our characters' lives. Our characters' plight to overcome lean and dark times is governed by the wisdom of generations. It ultimately weaves a message of tolerance, flexibility, and hope. A deeply resonant lesson we can all learn from, and one that has governed Katavi since time immemorial ...

Produced by Terra Mater Studios, Bonne Pioche and Shibumi Films



# KORSHA

## THE SECRET LIFE OF A PANGOLIN

Written by **Ruth Berry**  
Directed by **Bruce Young and Wayne De Lange**  
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**'Korsha' tells the story of the fascinating journey of an orphaned baby pangolin rescued from poachers, and the team of local Zimbabweans who support her right to be a wild and free pangolin.**

**A**t the world-renowned Tikki Hywood animal rehabilitation centre in Zimbabwe, Lisa Hywood cradles a tiny creature, part mini-dinosaur, part baby dragon. She tries to get it to suckle milk from a bottle, but it refuses.

This is Korsha – “the precious one”; a baby pangolin saved from the illegal wildlife trade, and if she doesn't eat soon she will starve. As a last resort Lisa and her team offer the baby some adult pangolin food – ants. She licks them up immediately. Korsha is a survivor.

When Korsha is released back into the wild her progress is monitored by a small team of researchers. Their study will become the longest and most extensive of its kind in the world. Already it has delivered radical new insights into pangolin behaviour and reproduction.

Now, Korsha has become the first rehabilitated pangolin to successfully breed with a wild pangolin. Images of her tiny pup have been recorded from inside her burrow.

We have exclusive access to this unfolding story; a heartfelt tale that offers ground-breaking scientific solutions to save the most trafficked mammal on the planet.

A Silver Bullet Films / Terra Mater Studios production

# KUI BURI RECREATING PARADISE

Written and directed by **Heinz Leger**  
Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**There is a place in Southwestern Thailand that holds a secret.**

**T**he dense jungles of *Kui Buri National Park* seem a natural paradise. Here, some 300 wild Asian elephants are thriving – but this was only possible thanks to a special initiative that turned the long-time agricultural area of Kui Buri back into a Garden of Eden. Alongside the elephants lives a vast number of animal species, like gibbons, wild dogs, and hornbills. For these remarkable birds, special conservation efforts have been made: instead of natural tree holes, whose numbers are decreasing due to deforestation, scientists have tested old wine barrels as replacements for the hornbill's nesting – with surprising success.

Moreover, Kui Buri is home to a mysterious creature, which the locals call *Krathing Daeng*. It's an extremely rare natural hybrid – a caprice of nature, created through the mating of two different bovine species: the *gaur*, the world's largest bovine, and the *banteng*, a smaller, more reddish species. In addition, there are sambar deer, and the Malayan tapir, the largest of all the subspecies – and the only one that lives in Southeast Asia. With all its bounty of species, *Kui Buri* is a true success story; it's become sort of a role model for national parks.

A production of Terra Mater Studios





# MORAVA BETWEEN DELUGE AND DROUGHT

Written and directed by **Manfred Christ and Tomáš Hulík**  
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**One of the last and most exceptional remaining riparian wildernesses:  
join us on an exploration of the Morava River in the heart of Europe.**

**P**articularly along its last 60 kilometres, vast wetlands full of meadows, forests and a wild network of branches and streams meet ancient sand dunes on both its sides. The animals and plants here thrive in dry, hot and sandy surroundings in which the sky appears to meet the land and the sun and clouds create picturesque landscapes that are reminiscent of the American west.

Only a few species are able to navigate both of these vastly different worlds. Among them are the birds of prey, and, above all the eastern imperial eagle; the Morava marks the westernmost point of their territories. Regular flooding often drives the region's larger animals to higher, more arid elevations. Entire herds of red deer, fallow deer, wild boars and even mouflons can frequently be seen wading or swimming through the river and its many tributaries.

The annual flooding defines life along on the Morava. It is the life force of these wetlands. The floodwater penetrates far inland, creating ponds and puddles and contributes to the diversity of the local flora and fauna. As soon as the waters begin to recede, fish enthusiasts such as herons and storks begin to recede, fish enthusiasts attracted by fish trapped in puddles. Foxes emerge to try a little fishing, and even white-tailed eagles occasionally partake of the generous fish buffet.

Slow-moving rivers surrounded by both wetlands and an encroaching dry, hot steppe landscape have become scarce in central Europe. This film simultaneously explores and pays tribute to one of the last and most exceptional remaining riparian wildernesses.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and Cosmos Factory Filmproduktion

# MYSTERY OF THE HOMELESS HERD

Written and directed by **Ruth Berry**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**It has been described as a storm of epic proportions with a sound like something out of a Mesozoic nightmare. It strikes in the middle of the night with 15 tonnes of muscle. The Homeless Herd. This is their story.**

**F**ear and mystery surround a herd of nomadic elephants that terrorise people and raid villages along a 100 mile stretch of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India. They swim downstream from the east, arriving in the highly populated areas around Kaziranga National Park at the end of the monsoons. Sometimes they leave after two months, sometimes they stay longer. Then they vanish. The visitations started in 1987 and since then the herd has doubled in size.

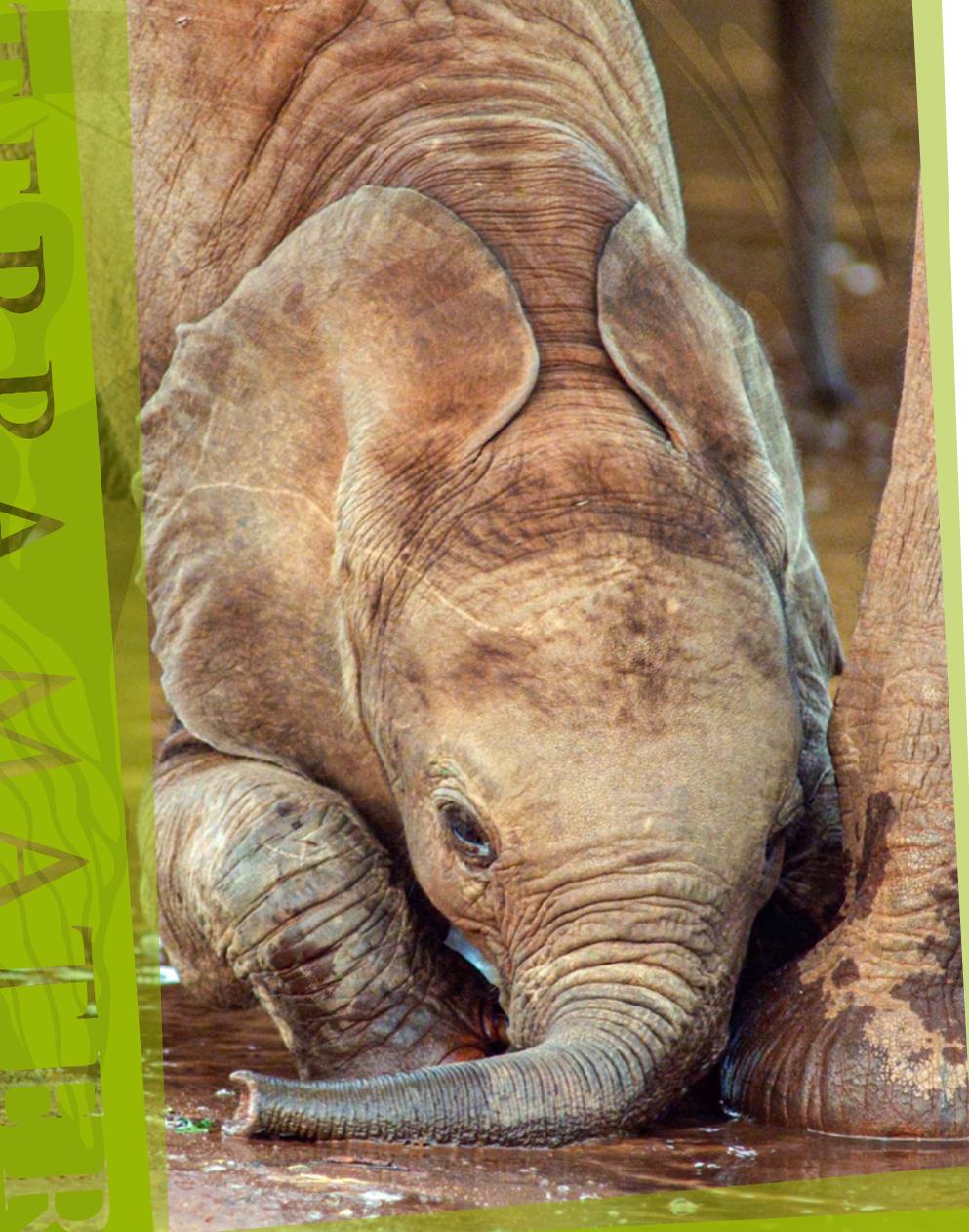
The behaviour of the homeless herd is unlike any other herd of Asian elephants. They have turned their backs on their natural forest habitat to pursue a life on the river with easy access to human food. Other Asian elephants live, mate and raise their young in the forest, they eat grasses, bark, leaves, fruits and roots.

Why did they evolve to live this way? Where do they come from? Where will they turn up next? How long will they stay and where do they go when they leave?

Our film will seek to answer these questions.

A production of Terra Mater Studios





# ONCE UPON A TIME IN TSAVO

Written and directed by **Mark Deeble & Victoria Stone**  
Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**  
**2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**In arid regions across Africa, a remarkable relationship between elephants and termites creates a waterhole – a green oasis which is central to every animal's life.**

**T**he story follows an extraordinary community of creatures, that call the waterhole 'home' over a season in their lives. They range from a family of elephants to a pair of hornbills alongside dung-beetles, chameleons, bullfrogs, geese and killifish.

The elephant family provides the background. They are the 'architects' and heavy lifters, but the intriguing narrative centres on the characters that live alongside them – at elephant toe-nail height.

Their Tsavo waterhole home exists for just a few months each year. One moment it's a dusty depression in a parched landscape, the next a bustling oasis. Its creation relies on both termites and elephants. Deep underground, termites make clay by mixing minerals with organic matter and saliva. They bring it to the surface to build their mound – and that attracts elephants. Elephants excavate and eat the clay for the minerals it contains, which creates a hollow in the landscape. When it rains, they roll in the mud.

A single visit by a herd can remove a ton of mud. The more mud they walk away with, the deeper the hollow becomes, so the more water it holds and the longer it lasts – a waterhole is born.

As we follow the life of a waterhole, we witness behaviours and interactions that are new and exciting, as many have never been filmed before and some are new to science; the result of the filmmakers spending four years filming.

A Co-Production of Waterhole Films Ltd / Terra Mater Studios / NHK / The WNET Group  
in association with PBS and CPB

# PENGUIN BAYWATCH

Written by **Bertrand Loyer**  
Directed by **Kevin Peyrusse and Marta Sostres**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**3 x 60 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Welcome to the Crozet archipelago, a unique penguin paradise!**

**P**enguins are charismatic and funny characters. They always look as though they are ready to go out to a fancy dinner. And while they are clumsy on the ground, they are extremely graceful in the water.

Their neighbours on the beach are often naturally clumsy and grotesque as well: elephant seals look like gigantic bean bags when they leave the ocean to mate, give birth and moult. But while the elephant seal population is rising, king penguin numbers are decreasing rapidly. What is killing them?

Despite its humorous approach, the series relies on hard facts and serious science: telemetry data provides fascinating facts and the investigation raises puzzling questions. How deep and how long can a king penguin or an elephant seal actually dive? Why are elephant seal numbers rising, but penguin numbers are not? How and why do gigantic orcas eat small fluffy penguins? Can a penguin catch bird flu?

There is a dramatic plot behind this wildlife comedy, a mystery to be solved. Like an Agatha Christie novel, each episode, each chapter brings clues to light ...

To delve into the lives of penguins and their invasive neighbors, a new generation of talented film makers and divers is committed to spending extensive periods of time with them in their remote and hostile environment using the most advanced tools in 4K HDR cinematography.

A co-production of Saint Thomas productions and Terra Mater Studios and Ushuaia TV

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# THE PHILIPPINES ISLANDS ON THE EDGE

Executive producers: **Roman Landauer, Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**The Philippines – a group of more than 7,000 islands close to the equator, straddling the unstable volcanic Ring of Fire. The islands' tropical rainforests are teeming with life, in all its plenty and variety.**

## **PART I: ABUNDANCE**

The rich habitats across the Philippines provide for huge numbers of plants and animals. Fertile volcanic soil supports rich, lush rainforest, where the massive Philippine eagle hunts monkeys, reptiles and flying squirrels; where Colugos – nocturnal flying lemurs – search for food in the canopy; and tiny, big-eyed tarsiers live in the lower branches. The shallow seas between the islands support some of the richest marine life on the planet, with deep cave systems and coral reefs, where green sea turtles breed, sharks set up nurseries in underwater caves and pygmy seahorses hide among the coral branches. Many of the islands are unexplored, and, untouched by humans, the wildlife thrives here.

## **PART II: DIVERSITY**

New species are forming on these isolated islands, while volcanic activity isolates populations, eventually creating further species. The area around the limestone caves attracts an incredible variety of birds and the region also supports around 1,000 different plant species. And in the islands' mysterious forests, new endemic species are still being discovered.

The Philippines have huge numbers of endemic species, yet already some are on the IUCN's Red List. Habitat destruction and inevitable sea level rises caused by climate change will have far-reaching effects on the people, flora and fauna. How will they survive the rapid and dramatic changes facing this country of mysterious islands?

A production of Terra Mater Studios

# PLANT INTELLIGENCE: UNEARTHED

Written and directed by **Markus Mooslechner**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**This film is a fascinating tour de force through the young research field of plant intelligence.**

**T**he old theory about plants – still believed by most people – is that plants are unconscious, passive entities subject to environmental forces. Today, there is increasing evidence that we might be just wrong. Compelling photography, computer graphics and state of the art compositing techniques bring to life what most of us deemed impossible: Nature is not just alive – it is even watching us.

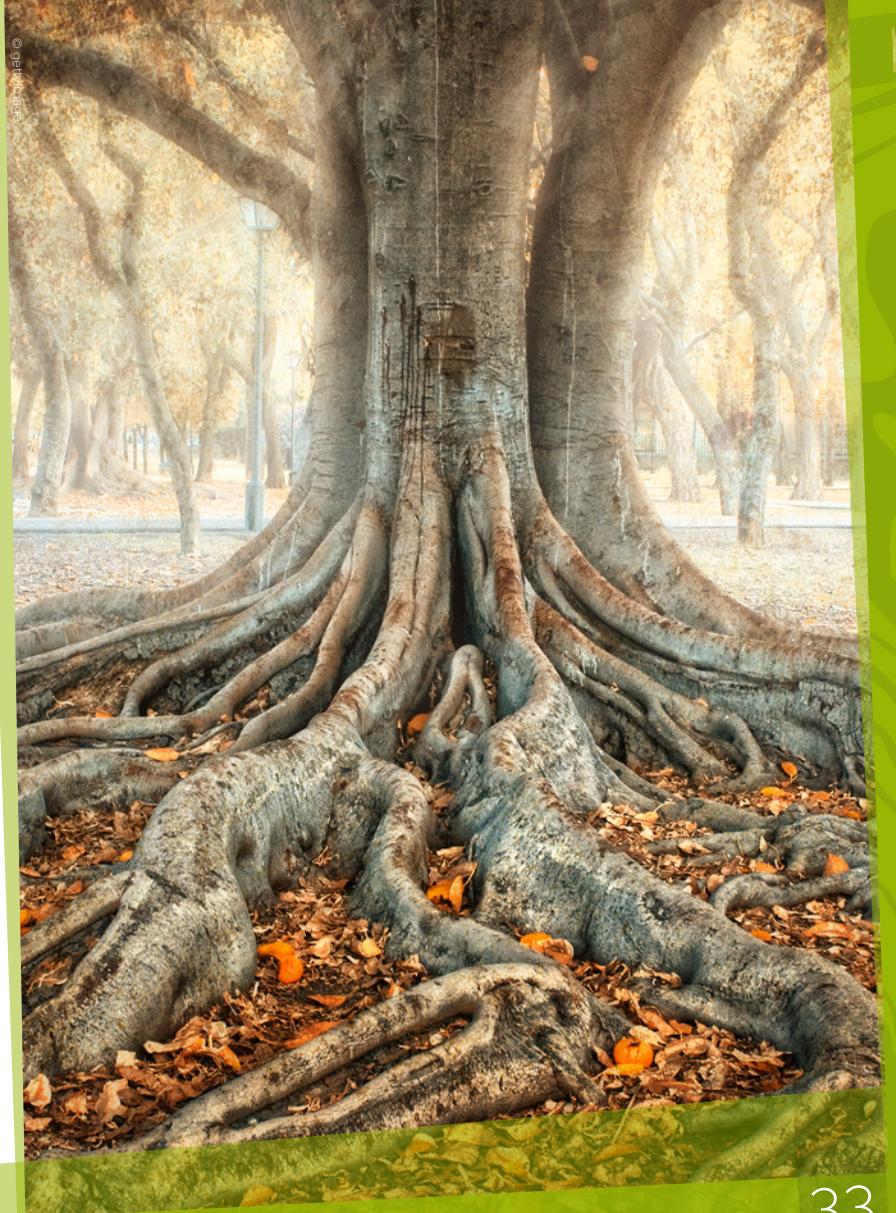
**LISTENING without ears:** A researcher buries two identical tubes in the soil. Water flows through one of them. Without hesitation, the roots align themselves in the direction of water. As if that weren't enough, when the researchers swap the water tube for a loudspeaker broadcasting the sound of water splashing, the roots grow towards the loudspeaker! The question is – how can the plant hear without ears?

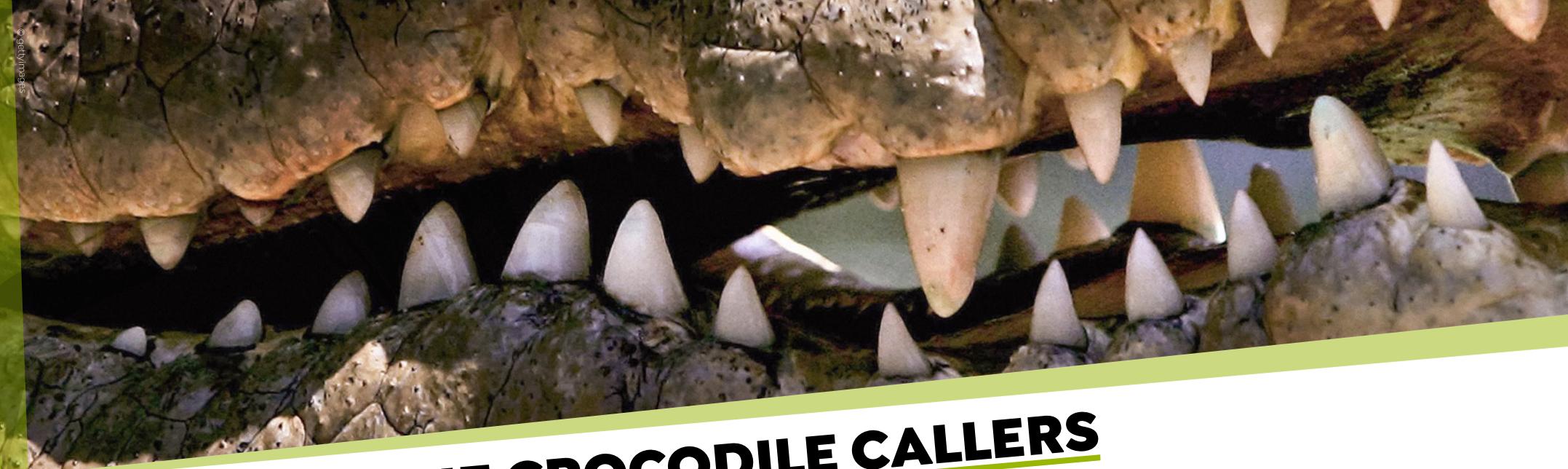
**COUNTING without fingers:** German researchers have been able to prove that the legendary Venus fly trap counts how often its victim fights back before it closes its deadly prison. Is the plant a calculating killer?

**SPEAKING without sound:** Deep in the Canadian forests, researchers are making more amazing observations. Trees chat about weather, nutrients, offspring or the future. Older trees use underground fungi networks to supply young conspecifics with nutrients until they themselves are tall enough to reach the sunlight.

Plants ... we hardly talk about them and rarely know their names. Biology regards them as mere decoration on the tree of life. And yet plants give life to the Earth! They produce the atmosphere that surrounds us – the oxygen that animates us. Plants embody the most direct, elementary connection that life can make with the world. And yet they are alien to us. But, perhaps, not us to them ...

A production of Terra Mater Studios A production of Terra Mater Studios





# QUEST FOR THE CROCODILE CALLERS

Presented by **Aaron Gekoski**  
A film by **Chris Scarffe, Will Foster-Grundy and Damian Antochewicz**  
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

In a land lost in time, mystery and mythology prevail. Timor-Leste, a country known more for its bloody past than the rich culture and biodiversity found in this now peaceful nation. But for those willing to venture onto Timor's shores, great stories are bound to be found. Indigenous animist beliefs still remain strong – among them the belief in 'Abo Lafaek', Grandfather Crocodile ...

Having spent more than a year documenting the country's underwater wonders, environmental photojournalist Aaron Gekoski is now heading into Timor-Leste's cultural heartland,

on a mission to track down the anointed few with the power to communicate with crocodiles. Known as the crocodile callers, these tribal elders are the last of a dying breed of true Timorese animists. The crocodiles live free but alongside people and are treated as highly respected community elders with ritual offerings for special events.

However, there are problems. Reports of crocodile attacks are on the rise, possibly due to too many dominant crocodiles for the available rivers and estuaries. The crocodile callers believe they can identify crocodile

friend from foe so their ancient skills and wisdom could have a place in the modern day. 'Quest for the Crocodile Callers' will be produced by a team of filmmakers with unique access to one of the least known places on our planet. The documentary will examine the animist cultures that still exist in the backwaters of Timor-Leste and ask the bigger questions about how we humans choose to interact with the natural world in the modern day. Perhaps there is wisdom to be found in what on the surface seem to be defunct and outdated superstitions ...

A production of Terra Mater Studios produced by Chris Scarffe Film and Photography

# RAPTORS

## A FISTFUL OF DAGGERS

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**  
Executive producers: **Martin Mészáros, Sabine Holzer**  
**2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**The planet's most successful large predators are a group of birds known as the raptors. United by a hooked beak, set of razor-sharp talons and a taste for flesh, they have conquered the globe. In doing so, they have won both our respect and an obsessive global following.**

**T**his two-part series tells the story of the raptor's unparalleled success. From familiar favourites to entirely new characters, we reveal the latest discoveries alongside extraordinary behaviours. We discover how raptors perfect the art of survival, how they adapt to the toughest environments, and what the future holds for these remarkable birds in a rapidly changing world.

From distant lands to stunningly lit studios, this series is an insightful and spectacular celebration of the world's top predators. It's time to see the raptors in a whole new light.

### **EPISODE 1: MEET THE RAPTORS**

Our first episode is a tale from the top of the food chain. We reveal the ways in which raptors have come to dominate the planet, kill for a living and inspire both fear and wonder. Alongside astonishing visuals, insights and behaviours, we even introduce you to the newest, rather surprising, member of the raptors.

### **EPISODE 2: LIFE AT THE LIMITS**

Life as a top predator is not as easy as it seems. Our second episode reveals the astonishing ways in which raptors adapt to the toughest places on the planet. We visit frozen wastes, deadly jungles, baking savannahs and remote, storm-battered isles. We bring stories of drama, tragedy and hope, as the world's top predators battle the odds to survive. Alongside a mix of new and familiar faces, we also consider what the future holds for raptors in a rapidly changing world.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and THIRTEEN Productions LLC  
in association with PBS, CPB and WNET produced by Dandy Lion Films



© gartenimages



# REASONS TO LOVE

Written and produced by **Petra Lederhilger, Ivo Filatsch**  
 Executive producer: **Sabine Holzer**  
**1 x 50 min., HD, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Too many legs? Feathers? Tentacles as arms? Behold, there's more to nature's greatest than fluffy cuteness!**

**T**his fast-paced documentary covers three major topics found over and over again in the natural world: family ties, genius and environmental impact.

Desert mole rats live in clusters underground, with each cluster led by a queen, who holds the group together. Big or small: frog fathers are caring creatures, keeping their offspring well-fed and, most importantly, wet. Whether you're a tadpole or a human, there's plenty of reason to love these slimy creatures for their loving nature!

They are considered dirty animals that wallow in mud for fun – but pigs are actually incredibly smart, able to solve puzzles and mazes. And the wallowing? It keeps them cool and the pesky flies away. Slimy cephalopods are intriguingly able to blend into the background suddenly. Crows show they're among the world's best problem solvers when it comes to working with what they have: a beak and, sometimes, a twig.

While once considered pests and hunted mercilessly, we now know that beavers are nature's architects. And nature's

most dangerous birds, cassowaries, play an important role in keeping their environment healthy and green, as do fruit bats. The latter are feared by many, hunted in their thousands and considered nocturnal bloodsuckers – although they are, in fact, vegetarian.

In this film, we experience the many reasons to love the feathery, the slimy, and the apparently dangerous – and draw attention to the fact that we might need to rethink our general perception of the good, the bad, and the ugly of the natural world.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

# ROOTED AMERICA'S TREES OF LIFE

Written by **Henk Ekermans**  
Directed by **Barend van der Watt**  
Executive producers: **Martin Mészáros, Sabine Holzer**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**R**ooted: America's Trees of Life' tells the story of the Americas' iconic trees. Each tree is a vast ecosystem that will surprise even the most avid nature lover. Join us on a journey across this majestic continent to meet a cast of charismatic characters. The series investigates their fight for survival in these untamed lands, and explores their link to some of the world's oldest living beings ... trees! It's a series of extraordinary interlinked relationships. One link simply cannot survive without the others.

## **EPISODE 1: A HARD NUT TO CRACK**

For it to reproduce, the Brazil nut tree relies on a series of intricate symbiotic relationships with plants, animals and insects found in the wild. This means that the Brazil nut tree only grows in its natural habitat – the Amazon rainforest.

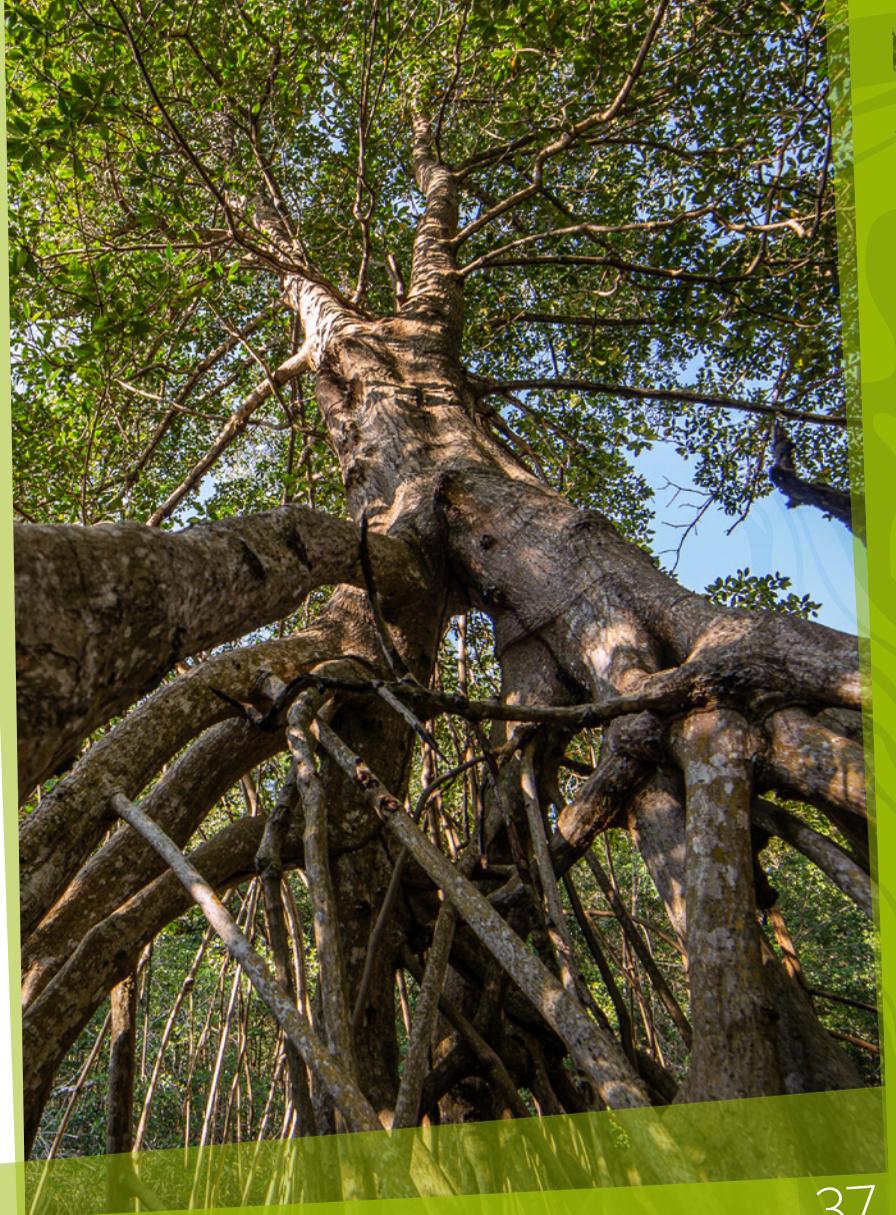
## **EPISODE 2: MANGROVE CITY**

In the dank, tropical marshlands of Mexico, we find one of the biggest mangrove trees on the planet, a Red mangrove more than 20 metres tall! Its vast, tangled root system is a magical realm that provides shelter and food to an array of animal species. In essence, the mangrove ecosystem is a wild city inhabited by an assortment of creatures ... a metropolis for wildlife!

## **EPISODE 3: THE LIVING FOSSIL**

On the snow-covered slopes of the Andes mountains, a living fossil has been rooted for over a thousand years – the monkey puzzle tree. Its cones produce large edible seeds; messy eaters, parakeets crack them open and scatter them – and other animals feast on them.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios, Rooted Media (Pty) Ltd,  
Smithsonian Networks and ARTE G.E.I.E.





[click for more](#)

# SCOTLAND THE NEW WILD

Written and directed by **Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery**  
 Executive producers: **Andrea Gastgeb, Roman Landauer, Sabine Holzer**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Scotland is moving into a new age of the Wild. Driven by the passion of youth and a spirit of innovation, re-wilding has become a flagship issue for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With a new appreciation of the wild and its wildlife, the future of Scotland's most iconic habitats may be wilder than we could ever imagine ...**

In this dramatically realised three-part series, we present the definitive 4K portrait of the natural world in Scotland, from Islands to Highlands to Lowlands. Using the most sophisticated time-lapse, slow motion, aerial and underwater camera systems known, this is the wildlife of Scotland as it marches into the future. From city to coast to island to mountain to the bottom of the ocean, we present a portrait that is both iconic and surprising.

Although Scotland may have the oldest landscapes in Europe, it's not a static place – the natural world is as dynamic as the people that reside here. Ever-changing it is now poised to enter a new phase as we and our natural heritage adjusts to the new wild.

As climate change, shrinking habitats and an ever-increasing human population make their indelible mark, the natural

world here must make a heroic stand if it's to even remain a shadow of what it was. Yet, despite this pressure, many wild animals and plants here are increasing, thriving and even returning from extinction. As the world moves out of the darkness of the pandemic, we need a strong diverse wild Scotland more than ever – for our mental health, for our legacy, for the health of the planet itself.

A Terra Mater Studios / SKYLAND PRODUCTIONS / MARAMEDIA Ltd. Production in co-production with BBC Scotland and Doclights / NDR Naturfilm

# THE SECRET CROWN

Produced and directed by **Ana Salceda**  
Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Guatemala. A fisherman struggling to feed his family is forced further offshore and discovers an unknown reef a great distance from the mainland.**

It is brimming with life and big fish the likes of which haven't been seen before! When a handful of scientists find out, they conspire with local fishers to keep the reef a secret. If word gets out, the reef will be plundered by a host of forces: illegal fishers, unscrupulous charter boat captains, bribable fisheries officials.

'The Secret Crown' is a rich mix of adventure, natural history, and cutting-edge conservation science told against a ticking clock: it is a story of hope in troubling times. The heroes of the story form an unlikely alliance: fishers, scientists and conservationists are working together to explore and protect the reef. What they are finding thus far is staggering. The reef is approximately 260 km<sup>2</sup>, five times the size of Manhattan, featuring three-times the live coral-cover of any reef in the region, and it's teeming with life!

There are canyons, vertical walls, subsea cliffs and deep ocean caves. But what's most remarkable is that the edge of the reef is studded by giant spires that sprout hundreds of feet off the sea floor, forming points that look like a crown, giving rise to its name, 'the Cayman Crown'.

From discoveries to setbacks, from cutting-edge science to spectacular natural history, 'The Secret Crown' will take audiences to the frontlines of a struggle to explore and protect one of the most incredible natural discoveries of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ... offering us all a blueprint for a new era in ocean conservation.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and BelugaSmile Productions in co-production with HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, Doclights / NDR Naturfilm and THIRTEEN productions LLC in association with PBS, CPB and WNET



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# THE SECRET SOCIAL LIFE OF REPTILES

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**3x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**‘The secret Social Life of Reptiles’ is a frightening and eye-opening new three-part wildlife series with unexpected heroes. Through bold stories of the most fearsome reptiles in the wild, we reveal the unexpected social lives of our last prehistoric kingdoms and illuminate how reptiles are the foundation of our social lives today.**

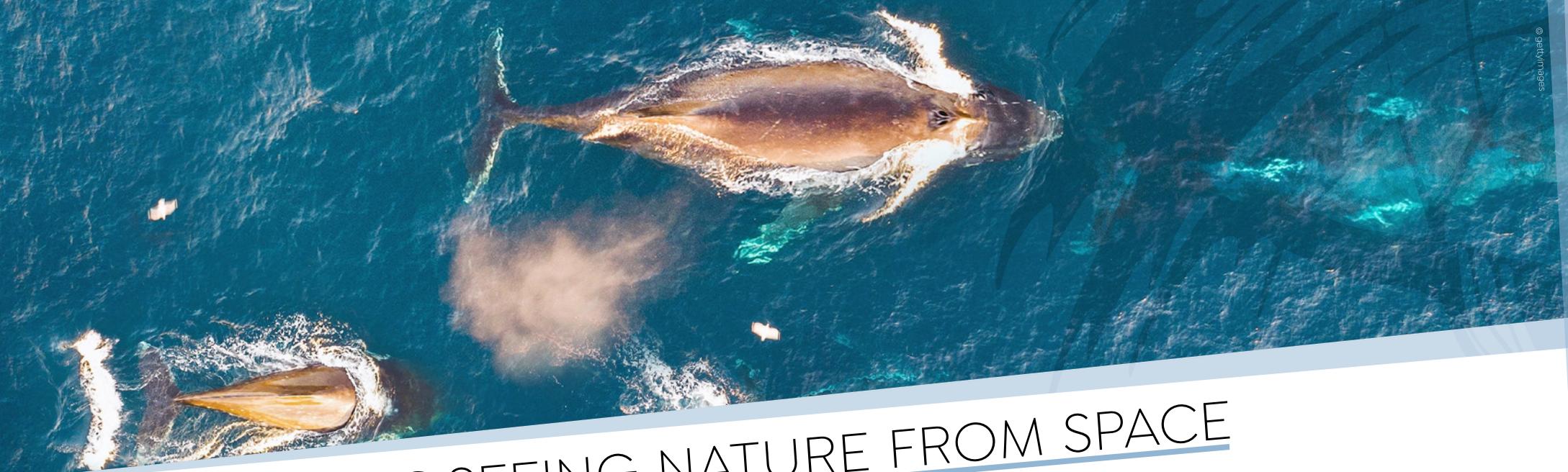
**R**eptiles are assumed to be antisocial animals. Alligators are considered “mindless killers”. Snakes represent evil in numerous tales throughout millennia. And the most basic human behavior is called the “reptilian brain”.

But recent discoveries have left scientists astonished: a hidden reptilian social network unlike any other; a missing link between humans today and our evolutionary past. Not mindless killers, but collaborative hunters! Not evil, but devoted parents! Not basic instinctual intelligence, but skilled communicators! Not cold-hearted, just ... cold-blooded.

This revolutionary series uncovers how reptiles relay escape plans to one another from inside their eggs, battle over mates to the death, use hidden languages to speak to each other, have secret “dating” profiles – and find intimate connections with one another in the most unexpected ways. Each episode delves into a different core social structures looking at family, alliances, competition and networking abilities that run deep within both reptilian and human society.

Ultimately, through these misunderstood creatures, we reveal that these ancient cold-blooded networks are the source codes that explain how humans built the societies we have today.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Red Rock Films International



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# SENTINELS SEEING NATURE FROM SPACE

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**1x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Here on the ground, it's hard to appreciate how our planet works, or how truly global some creatures really are. But Earth is ringed by satellites sending images and data from space, and new GPS tags are so tiny they can track individual insects over long distances.**

**W**e'll reveal the planet's changes over a year, watching seasonal variations in plant productivity with instruments such as SeaWiFS and MODIS and see changing rainfall patterns as the Intertropical Convergence Zone moves north and south of the equator, bringing seasonal monsoons and a flush of new growth.

Painted lady butterflies migrate north from East Africa to Svalbard. But some journeys are much longer. Short-tailed

shearwaters migrate from Australia to the Bering Straits, following patterns of ocean currents visible from space.

Over the oceans, satellites measure complex patterns in sea surface height reflecting the mountains, valleys and plains hidden beneath kilometres of seawater.

And data from tagged humpback whales shows them migrating along underwater mountain ranges, seeking huge

canyons, where upwellings create rich feeding grounds.

We've discovered that every year, huge numbers of great white sharks migrate to a remote spot in the middle of the Pacific – but we don't yet know why.

Even all our technology hasn't solved some mysteries ... yet.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



# THE SHARKS OF HAWAII

Written and produced by **Kevin Bachar**  
Executive producers: **Ivo Filitsch, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 mins., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Although created from the fiery rage of volcanoes, Hawaii is a paradise on Earth.**

**A** living Eden for all creatures, including one of the most misunderstood in the entire world – the shark. Some 40 species call these waters home, and so does world-renowned wildlife cinematographer Paul Atkins. This film takes us from the remote reefs of the Hawaiian archipelago to the world-famous beaches of Waikiki. The sharks here offer up extraordinary behaviour, some seen nowhere else on Earth.

Our journey begins in deeper waters where humpback whales are on their annual migration from Alaska. Here, off Maui's coast, tiger sharks attack humpback whale calves. Rarely do sharks attack prey bigger than themselves. But recently, something has changed in the whale / tiger shark dynamic and the new-born whales are now considered fair game.

But the relationship between whales and sharks in Hawaii's waters is not always confrontational. Oceanic Whitetips and pilot whales have formed an incredible symbiotic relationship off Hawaii's shores. In times of scarcity, Oceanic Whitetips will look to the pilot whales for survival. They'll track pilot whale pods like jackals, feeding on scraps left by the whales. The sharks will even feed on the faecal output of the whales if needed.

Join us as we take a look at the sharks that call this extraordinary place home. Utilising new underwater drones, aerial drones, and remote sensor cameras as well as new 4K lenses, 'The Sharks of Hawaii' casts a never-before-seen look at both an amazing place and amazing animals.

A production of Pangolin Productions, Inc. and THIRTEEN Productions LLC in co-production with Terra Mater Studios in association with PBS, CPB and WNET

# SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT ...

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**6 x 30 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**From the most familiar to the really surprising.**

**W**e live in a world where we're surrounded by things, ideas, feelings, stories, and news items that are so familiar that we take them for granted. We just assume we know what there is to know about them and that's that.

But this series turns this on its head. We take something so familiar and common we hardly give it any thought, and delve into it in depth to reveal surprising, little-known things you never realised.

In a repeating series of six 30 minute-programs, we show you your own world in a way you haven't seen before. The topics will be mixed throughout the series, so even the content of the next episode will be a surprise.

We use a humorous visual style that is a mixture of "2 ½ D" animation, licensed clips from YouTube, TikTok, and innovative camera technology using fast-cut and pacy editing to engage you in exploring something that normally doesn't even get a second glance.

Each series will be a mix and match of categories and topics – categories that can repeat themselves, and topics that will surprise the audience with unexpected twists.

We'll pick from

**THE WORLD:** Volcanoes, Clouds, Rivers;  
**EMOTIONS:** Love, Fear, Humour;  
**NATURE:** Flowers, Pigs, Trees;  
**HOME:** Electricity, Beer, Salt;  
**PEOPLE:** Charles Darwin, Van Gogh, Spies;  
**YOU:** Brain, DNA, Ageing;  
**ENGINEERING:** Trains, Bridges, Bicycles;  
**MATERIALS:** Algae, Bamboo, Plastic; ...  
and many more!

Hosted or hostless, this programme will provide you with everything you ever wanted to know – and more!

A production of Terra Mater Studios



# SOUL OF THE OCEAN

Written and directed by **Howard Hall**  
Produced by **Michele Hall**  
Executive producers: **Andrea Gastgeb, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x 50 min. + 1x 78 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**'Soul of the Ocean', written directed and produced by Emmy Award winning couple Michele and Howard Hall, explores the complexity of ocean ecosystems. Spectacular underwater cinematography reveals communities of interdependent marine species and highlights the critical role biodiversity plays in maintaining a healthy ocean.**

**T**he violent predatory nature of marine species has long been a staple of marine life documentaries. But the reality of life in the ocean is far more complicated than simply "big fish eat little fish".

As sensational as predation may be on film, the truth is that the ocean is a far less dangerous place than typically depicted. Sharks, for example, are not mindless eating machines. Most of the time they can be seen swimming peacefully among fish species that would easily qualify as prey. Obviously, predation is necessary among marine species. But it is rarely seen by divers.

Cooperation between species, however, is ubiquitous in the ocean and undersea observers see symbiotic behavior everywhere. 'Soul of the Ocean' reveals how complex behaviors support ocean ecosystems that can only exist in an environment of high biodiversity.

To demonstrate the complexity of marine species interdependence, 'Soul of the Ocean' features numerous examples of extraordinary animal behavior. Some of these behavioral stories have never been filmed before. The film demonstrates the value of cooperation between species and high marine biodiversity. Every species has a part to play. And today, as humans become increasingly intimate with the ocean, we discover that we have a part to play as well.

A Production of Terra Mater Studios / Howard Hall Productions / Mark Fletcher Productions  
in Co-Production with The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB

# SPACE MISSION SENEGAL

Written and directed by **Ruth Berry**  
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**This is a story of astronomy and astronomical missions. Of a NASA space mission called Lucy, set to revolutionize our knowledge of the formation of the solar system, and an earthly mission to build a space agency in one of the world's poorest countries.**

**T**he missions are linked by Senegalese astronomer Maram Kaire. Maram wants to inspire a new generation to look to the stars and use space science to solve Senegal's development challenges. He moves one step closer to his goal when he is chosen by NASA to lead a team of international scientists on a crucial data collecting operation for the Lucy mission.

Lucy will travel to a group of mysterious asteroids in Jupiter's orbit believed to be leftovers from our solar system's formation. Lucy's mission is to photograph and analyse seven of them. This requires tremendous precision. The more information available before Lucy arrives at the asteroid targets, the better the mission's chances of success.

Asteroid size, shape and location can be precisely estimated from earth by observing a stellar occultation – when one of the asteroids eclipses a star. Maram and his teams' mission is to record the occultation of target asteroid Orus from Senegal.

A successful occultation will further Maram's plan to bring astronomy and space science to his country, but first he must convince the politicians and Islamic leaders of Senegal that astronomy can benefit a emerging country and work for religion too.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and WGBH / NOVA





# THE STORM

## WILDLIFE IN WILD WEATHER

Written and directed by: **Robin Jähne and Michael R. Gärtner**  
Executive producers: **Birgit Peters, Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Every year sees heavy summer storms with thunder and lightning, hail and torrential rain raging over the country. The film shows the extraordinary strategies adopted by animals, from the tiniest insects to foxes and moles, to cope with the threat.**

**W**hen lightning flashes and thunder roars most animals are very directly exposed to the elements. The film shows their strategies for surviving thunderstorms and downpours unscathed. Some species are highly weather-sensitive. They sense when a storm is brewing and take shelter. Other species actually benefit from storms breaking out – from newly formed bodies of water or unexpected feasts. But basically all creatures have to have their wits about them, when stormy weather approaches like a monstrous beast of prey. One wrong move can be their last.

This film takes viewers literally into the eye of the storm. The oppressive heat before the bad weather breaks, the distant rumbling of thunder, the perilous flashes of lightning and the vehemence of the rain – rarely has the struggle of animals against the elements been captured so intimately. A wildlife documentary with the stylistic devices of a disaster thriller.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios, Längengrad Filmproduktion, WDR and ARTE



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# THAT'S LIFE!

Written and directed by **Steve Nicholls**  
Executive producers: **Martin Mészáros, Sabine Holzer**  
**8 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

## Why do plants and animals look the way they do? Why do they live where they do? In short, why is life like it is?

**T**o answer these questions, we set out on an epic journey that takes us across the whole planet, from poles to tropics, and through 4 billion years of life's history.

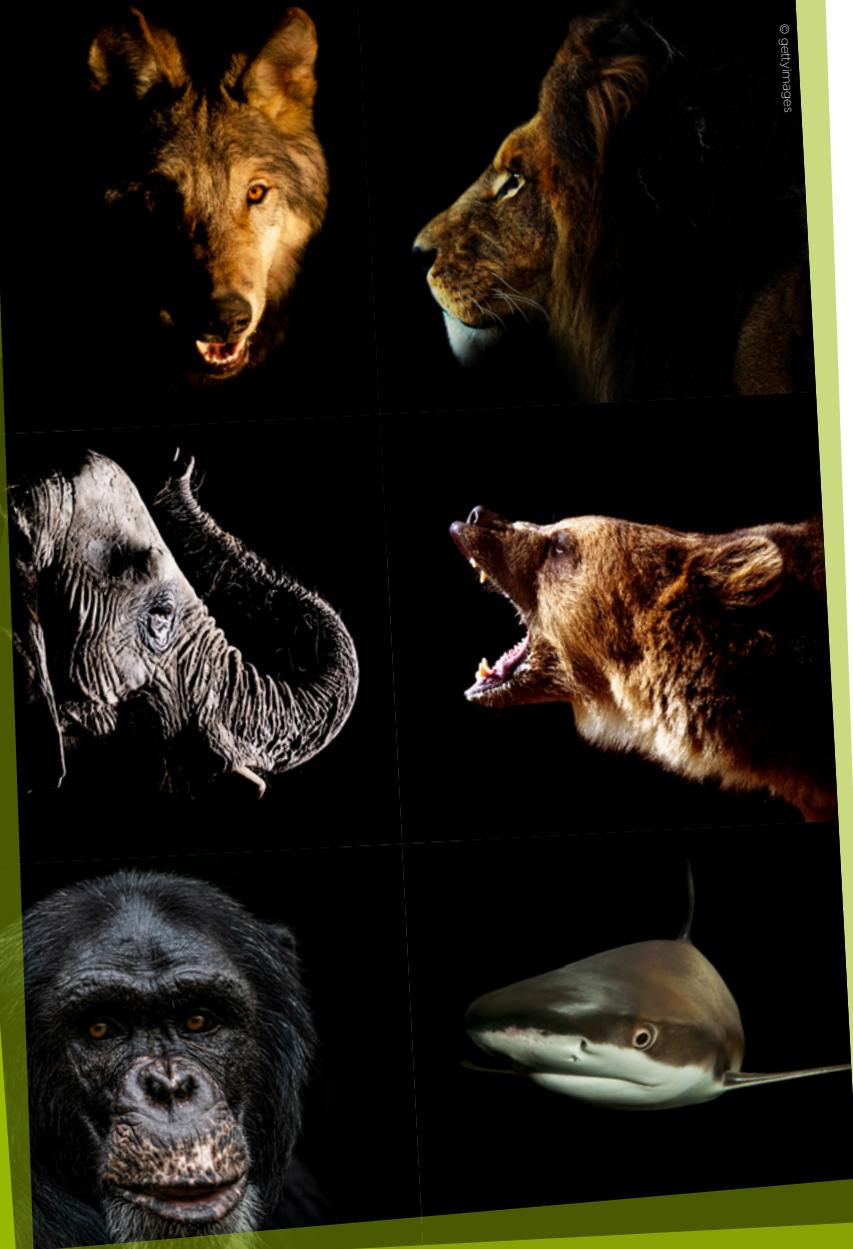
Our story ranges from the greatest animals to walk the Earth, to the unseen world of microbes and even molecules, from the workings of the whole planet to the world of quantum mechanics – and everything between.

In the last decade, scientists have revolutionised our view of the natural world, and in this unique series we'll paint a new picture of life on Earth – the greatest story ever told.

Each episode picks a key turning point in the story of life and unfolds the story from that perspective. Each turning point had huge ramifications, both for life itself and for the planet as a whole. As we trace them, we must ask some of the biggest questions in the natural sciences:

Where did life come from? What do we have sex? Why do we die? What is consciousness – and why did it evolve?

A production of Terra Mater Studios



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# ULTIMATE ANIMAL NATURE'S GREATEST

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**  
 Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**6 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

Of the countless species with which we share our planet, a small group really captures our imagination. They fill us with a sense of wonder, awe, even fear. Their images are all around us. They're part of our expressive language and some of the first words our children speak.

Some animals truly connect with us. This is their story.

**U**LTIMATE ANIMAL is a spectacular, six-part blue chip natural history series about the world's most charismatic and best loved animals. Bringing a fresh approach to top-end wildlife documentary, each episode delivers the ultimate film on one type of animal, creating the feel of an epic special. We build intense drama around a main character, while also covering a range of extraordinary behaviours and stunning locations. The result is the definitive film, showcasing everything you ever wanted to know about your favourite animal. By focusing in on the creatures that really connect, it appeals to a vast global audience. It is also a highly returnable format. There is a long list of animals charismatic enough to feature in an 'ultimate' film. **For this first six-part run, those are Wolf, Lion, Elephant, Bear, Chimpanzee and Shark.**

**The future of nearly all our best loved animals is increasingly uncertain.** In delivering the ultimate film on each one, our 'bigger picture' sequences also allow us to consider the conflicts and challenges they face.

**ULTIMATE ANIMAL** reveals the fascinating behaviours, life cycles and conservation of our planet's best loved creatures, all set against a backdrop of stunning, varied landscapes.

World class cinematography and storytelling combine to make these the definitive films on each animal. It has immense appeal and extraordinary returnability, with the potential to become a household name and major event in itself.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Dandy Lion Films



# ULTIMATE PLANET

## THE UNKNOWN STORY OF LIFE ON EARTH

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**8 x 55 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Earth is the ultimate planet.**

**Generating change by the way it works, relentlessly remodeling its surface, rearranging the elements of life.**

**T**he incredible diversity of life on Earth and its ongoing evolution is driven by a secret yet colossal force: The huge landmasses as we know them have always been on the move, subject to dramatic change—constantly colliding, heaving, breaking up and, in the process, creating ever new opportunities for life.

When continents collide, thousands of species that have evolved in different worlds invade each other's habitats, while the very crumpling zone may form an entirely new sphere of life above the clouds, to be colonized by new plants and animals. When continents break apart, one species will split up into two—or dozens. At the same time, rifting continents have caused Earth's most disastrous mass extinctions.

In eight visually stunning episodes, we look at the big picture, the long, slow dance between the spheres that make up our world. We look at the uniqueness of the individual continents; and we look at the most extreme place of all, Antarctica. We will investigate what the recent changes on and around Antarctica tell us about the future of the planet's climate and the future of all the other continents—the future for all of us.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



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# URBAN NATIONAL PARKS

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Thomas Weidenbach**  
**7x50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo**

**Where wilderness meets the city: You'd think of National Parks as remote, wild places but many of them are surprisingly close to – or even within – major cities. And here, iconic wildlife lives alongside the seething metropolis.**

**T**his returnable series will travel the world to visit well-known cities and meet the less well-known wildlife on their doorsteps.

We'll find a spectacular diversity of nature not only thriving but even taking advantage of their adjacent city. This is where some strange neighbours have learned to live together.

Let's visit places like **Table Mountain & Cape of Good Hope, South Africa** – not only a botanical wonder.

**Biscayne Bay, Florida, US** – with some of the largest remaining coral reefs on the planet.

**Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** – where the statue of Christ the Redeemer towers over the city and a verdant paradise.

**Nairobi, Kenya** – herds of zebra and antelopes live out their lives against a backdrop of skyscrapers.

**Bukit Timah, Singapore** – where several National Parks weave through the city.

**Cuyahoga Valley, Cleveland, Ohio** – a success story for nature and wildlife.

**Donau-Auen, Vienna, Austria** – a park that beavers, storks and bee-eaters call this place their home.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Längengrad Filmproduktion

# THE VIEW FROM ON HIGH

Written and produced by **Andrea Gastgeb**  
Executive producer: **Sabine Holzer**  
**1x50 min., HD, 5.1 + Stereo**

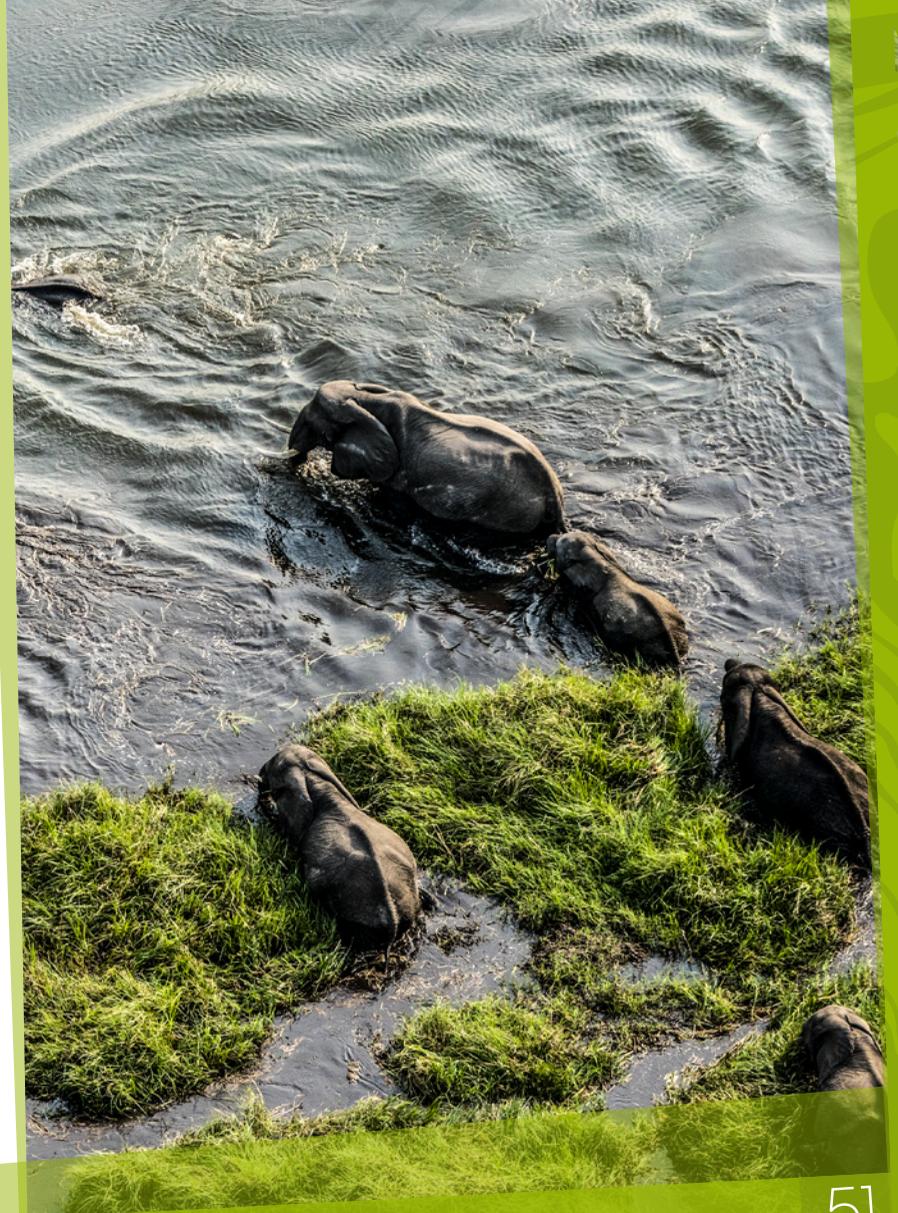
Our planet is defined by spectacular landscapes, yet many of them are inaccessible – only glimpsed from high above.

Vast mountain ranges, endless forests and deserts. Drones, helicopters and balloons reveal spectacular views of tropical rainforests in Borneo, expansive Mongolian grasslands, and wide-ranging river deltas like the Okavango and the Nile – from up close and from far away.

These viewpoints help us understand biological and ecological systems and connections often hidden or obscured by largely untouched nature: treasures like snow mice, rearing their young near the last big glaciers of the Alps, or wrinkle-lipped bats that roost in subterranean caves at the heart of Borneo's jungles and attract the attention of Oriental pied hornbills and Wallace's hawk-eagles ... and eastern black crested gibbons who have withdrawn to refuges in the distinctive hills and rockfaces of China's unique karst mountains.

We'll understand the complexity of mass migrations, such as the large herds of reindeer that leave the deep forests of Lapland and travel to the coast following the seasonal availability of food, or thousands of Mongolian gazelles, journeying to lush green pastures to give birth. The full intricacy and majesty of our planet is only revealed from a height all too often inaccessible to humans – until now.

A production of Terra Mater Studios





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# WILD SAN DIEGO

Written and directed by **Neil Losin and Nathan Dappen**  
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**  
**1x50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo**

**With a population of ~3.4 million people, and more moving in every day, almost all of San Diego looks man-made.**

**B**ut first impressions can be deceptive: look closely and you'll discover a landscape vibrating with wildlife! Sandwiched between harsh inland deserts and the cold Pacific Ocean, between Mexico and the rest of North America, San Diego is a meeting place. Where these seemingly inhospitable worlds collide, is an explosion of life.

However, the geographic isolation that created so much of San Diego's diversity is now one of its greatest threats. To survive here, animals and plants must learn to live alongside people, or they won't live at all.

We will discover the wild side of San Diego; we will see thousands of migrating ducks land on the bay, coyotes running past a baseball field, dolphins riding waves alongside surfers, whales breaching offshore from coastal skyscrapers. We'll witness California ground squirrels fixing up old tunnels, hummingbirds dipping their beaks into giant African Aloes flowers, and a puma prowling in a neighborhood canyon.

And we'll delight in Grebes dancing over the water in pairs, and harbor seals basking in the sun until it sets – only to marvel at brilliantly blue waves crashing on the beach later that night when dinoflagellates brighten the darkness with bioluminescence.

We'll follow the stories of wild animals making a living throughout a full annual cycle in a landscape reshaped by humans, and we'll discover how, despite its urban transformation, "America's Finest City" is still one of the wildest places in North America.

A Day's Edge Productions / Terra Mater Studios production

# THE WILD SIDES

Written and directed by **Wim Vorster, Andy Mitchell, Alex Sletten, Cayley Christos and Mea Trenor**  
Executive producers: **Martin Mészáros, Sabine Holzer**  
**3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**There are two sides to every story.**

**T**he dry riverbed of Mashatu, Botswana, is home to an incredible cast of creatures: A herd of elephants, a mother leopard and her cub, a jackal couple raising their young and a feisty troop of baboons. They might all look like great neighbors, but when push comes to shove, every single creature will fight for their piece of African bush.

Now, we follow their stories as our characters fight to stay alive and raise their young in a world full of danger. But unlike the stories told about the African wilderness in the past, this time we see things from every perspective. In each episode, the stories run parallel, ultimately explaining how and why the wild tales of four species come to intersect.

A young elephant has fallen into the river and struggles to get out. She needs help soon – there are crocodiles in the river! At the same time, a leopard mother comes across an impala, killed by the crocodiles – who are distracted by the young elephant. Can she pull off a heist to steal food for her young?

At night, the baboon's favourite tree is taken over by the leopard mother. The baboon group is in turmoil and moves on. They seek a new resting place for the night, near a jackal couples' den – but the jackals won't have them close. All the baboons want to do is sleep!

For our wild cast, every choice they make along the way to raise their young has a domino effect on every other animal. Without knowing it, they are tied together in their attempt to raise the next generation.

Through extraordinary perspective segments, with over 250 hours of footage filmed over two years, we witness the same events through the eyes of different animals. By uncovering what brought each animal to Mashatu, we witness the events that unfold and explore the ongoing effect of these moments. All of this to better understand the important role each animal plays in nature.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and Red Rock Films International



© getimages



# WILD VIENNA

Written and produced by **Martin Mészáros**  
 Executive producer: **Sabine Holzer**  
**1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo**

**Vienna – millions of visitors arrive every year, drawn by its art and culture, but there's a secret Vienna ... hidden in the shadows of imperial palaces, ancient churches and magnificent gardens.**

**W**ild boar and roe deer roam spacious parks, kestrels nest on prestigious imperial architecture. Beavers and otters build nests in urban streams and ponds and, after dark, foxes – 4,000 of them at the last count – scavenge for food in suburban streets. In one park alone, scientists found more than 200 European hamsters.

Vienna is a unique combination of ecosystems – green spaces form over half of its land area, and parts of the city lie within the legendary Vienna Woods.

One of Europe's largest wetlands spreads along Vienna's Danube and on to the Austrian border, so that sea eagles patrol the skies and kingfishers dive for prey – the wetlands support more than 700 plant species, 30 species of mammals and 100 species of breeding birds. As the Danube winds through Vienna it divides around an island, over 21 kilometres long. "Danube Island" was built to control seasonal floodwaters and most of the year it's a huge public

swimming pool where people are blissfully unaware of being watched from puddles and marshes – in just a few decades, "Danube Island" has created its own ecosystem supporting frogs, toads, and the rare European pond turtle, but they're joined by the voracious North American red-eared terrapin, released by irresponsible terrarium owners.

Vienna even has its own wine industry, with vineyards sheltering the rare European green lizard, basking in the sun along vineyard paths and hunting for insects under the cover of vine leaves. From vineyard to imperial palace, from hidden ponds to deep, shadowy forests, join us on a tour of hidden Vienna.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and Doclights / NDR Naturfilm

**#terramatters**

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