



• NATURAL HISTORY UNIT •

A F R I C A

HD SALES CATALOGUE

2009 - 2010



Into the Dragon's Lair

(1 x 52 mins)

Didier Noirot, a diver with Jacques Cousteau on over 5000 dives, now dives with a giant Nile crocodile, the last predator on earth which views humans as prey. He has battled overwhelming fear, poor visibility, and diving partners too terrified to back him up.

In the clear waters of the Okavango Delta, he had one fleeting encounter with a giant crocodile that disappeared into a huge underwater cave and it became his obsession to explore the mystery of the dragon's lair. He and his diving partner encounter terrifying black outs, deadly hippos, and crocodiles who attempt to eat them. They then discover, deep in the darkest lair, a 14 foot crocodile that accepts their presence, allowing them to bring back footage that defies belief. These men use the strength of their beliefs and intimate knowledge of animals to bridge the ancient interface between man and reptile.



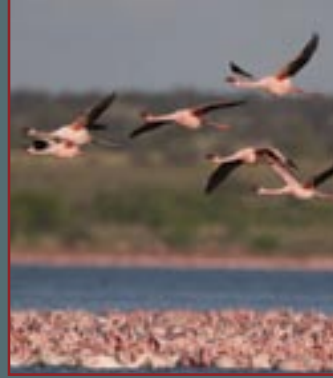
Rainbow Nature

(1 x 52 mins)

The Orange River in South Africa is an oasis in an arid land. Amongst its most interesting creatures is the Augrabies Flat Lizard, locally known as the Rainbow Lizard. The name is derived from the vibrant colours of the male and reflected in the spectacular rainbow that guards over the majestic waters of the river.

The males sport a rainbow of colours - an ultra-violet throat, a turquoise-blue head, yellow legs and a vivid orange abdomen - most conspicuous against its earthy surroundings, but still camouflaged from a bird's perspective.

In Rainbow Nature, we discover how remarkable these little lizards are, encounter many other creatures of the area and learn from the local communities about the myths and legends surrounding the Augrabies Waterfall.



The Giant Pink S

(1 x 52 mins)

Lesser Flamingo numbers are declining, so ornithologist Mark Anderson came up with the idea of constructing an artificial breeding island for the birds in Kimberley, South Africa.

A local mining company agreed to help with the construction of a giant S-shaped island. The birds accepted the island as their home, and in their first successful breeding season, over 9000 chicks hatched. As a result the project has received world wide acclaim.

But this great success story was soon obscured, as raw sewage was being pumped straight into the dam and the largest ever housing development on its banks was green lighted.

This film records the story of the island and its flamingos, its unprecedented success, and the obstacles threatening its future.



Most Endangered

(13 x 24 mins)

The Red List released in 2008, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, has confirmed an extinction crisis, with almost one in four mammals at risk of disappearing forever. Most Endangered, presented by TV presenter Michaela Strachan, seeks to find the rare and endangered species of South Africa and establish what we need to do to conserve them.

Documenting and recording the status of our endangered species by region, the series includes profiles on some incredibly rare animals: the Riverine Rabbit, the Oribi and all three of South Africa's crane species which are all threatened with extinction. The series will also include Humpback Dolphins, numerous bats, wild dogs, honeybadgers, Ground Hornbills and giant bullfrogs which are all facing extinction.



Peace Parks

(13 x 24 mins)

In 1997, Dr Anton Rupert, HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and Nelson Mandela founded Peace Parks Foundation.

In this series we follow the trail of the Transfrontier Parks bordering on South Africa and extending into neighbouring countries. We explore why these conservation areas are important and what they protect.

Through the eyes of the local communities and the conservation bodies, we follow a trail along the major rivers, mountains and deserts to see what can be achieved if countries work together to conserve a shared heritage. A pictorial encyclopaedia and visual record of these important conservation areas is recorded for generations to come, and includes exciting 3D GIS maps which show the terrain as never before.

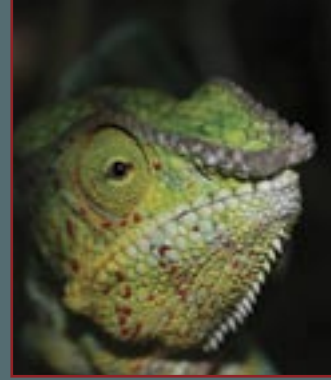


Troop

(13 x 24 mins)

An entertaining, fast-paced reality soap series on the daily dramas and fascinating psycho-social quirks of two neighbouring baboon troops which have been filmed exclusively for 7 years on the Cape Peninsula in South Africa. There is never a dull moment, whether raiding suburbia or later sleeping breakfast off in the breathtaking mountains of the Cape, where both troops interact on a regular basis.

The characters you will meet include: Eric, Jessie, Slumka, Anelle, Nesketi, Quizzy and Peter, to name a few. The uniqueness of this series is the huge variety of behaviour and the contrast in the locations and settings where the two troops act out their daily dramas: from stunning beaches with giant sand dunes up to the rugged awe-inspiring mountains contrasted with crowded city streets of life in suburbia.



Chameleon

(1 x 52 mins and 3 x 30 mins)

Using X-ray cameras, high-speed recording and innovative cinematography the programme journeys through Europe, Spain, Arabia, East Africa, South Africa, Namibia and Madagascar, exploring the weird and wonderful lives of chameleons.

They are undoubtedly amongst the world's most remarkable lizards. They inspire a sense of wonder and fascinate nature-lovers. By contrast, in some human cultures, they evoke mystery and even fear. The aura surrounding chameleons results from their unusual characteristics: they change colour, have a projectile tongue for catching prey and swivel their eyes in all directions. Some grow to only 3cm whilst some reach the size of a dog. Some even have more power in their jaws than a Great White Shark! Yet there is still much more to be discovered...



Keepers of the Cape

(13 x 24 mins)

Currently there is much concern about global warming and how the human species has plundered the earth - so much so that we wonder whether our children and grandchildren will be able to witness animals in their natural habitat.

Keepers of the Cape explores conservation projects in the Western Cape and is presented by Zoologist, Tali Hoffman. Viewers are taken on a journey around the Western Cape exploring the environmental problems and solutions of this inimitable province.

Audiences will experience a rich array of wildlife including marine and terrestrial life such as Southern Right Whales, Great White Sharks, the charismatic African Penguins, Black Rhino, Chacma Baboons, Cape Leopard to name a few, against the backdrop of the unrivalled natural beauty of the Western Cape.



Modern Migrations

(13 x 24 mins)

Less than a century ago, vast herds of wild animals would migrate to greener pastures as the seasons changed. Today, natural areas have been fenced to protect not only the animals, but also the habitats within them. As a result, people now have to make it possible for the animals to move beyond the fences that hold them in.

With helicopter blades turning, precision flying and the execution of excellent planning, whilst animals kick up dust, viewers are taken on an adrenaline-packed ride transporting wild animals, including buffalo, giraffe and warthog, to new habitats. This series travels to locations all over South Africa to provide the perfect backdrop, with presenter Mark Bayly following the game capture crews as they track, dart and transport the animals to their new homes.



Camp Raiders

(1 x 48 mins)

It's hard to keep a lid on things, especially when the members of the Camp Raiders are doing their daily rounds of the dustbins in South Africa's most famous Kruger National Park.

Many visitors to South Africa's National Parks are not lucky enough to witness something extraordinary such as a lion kill or a glimpse of a leopard. But they are guaranteed of seeing the stars of this show, the naughty wildlife that has made the Park's rest camps their territory. The main characters include families of Vervet Monkeys, Tree Squirrels, Bushbuck, Yellow-Billed Hornbills, sparrows, starlings, and warthogs. How do the unsuspecting tourists stand a chance? This programme follows charismatic camp-dwelling animals and how they cause havoc and amusement amongst the Park visitors.



Wild Walk

(13 x 24 mins)

Internationally-acclaimed conservation journalist Swati Thiyagarajan gives us an insightful look into South Africa's wild spaces and wild animals, together with a combination of natural history and conservation concerns.

Get to understand baboons, swim amongst seals and sharks, walk with great African Elephants as the tourism industry attempts to tame them. Fight against the canned hunting, illegal breeding of lions and probe into the fact that Africa's wild lions are in trouble. Join the Zoo Debate, spot cheetahs as they work as ambassadors and hike through the Cederberg to save the Cape Mountain Leopards.

In all, see the beauty and the frailty of the gifts of nature and understand the indelible truth: for one to survive all have to survive.



Animal Nation

(1 x 52 mins)

For tens of thousands of years, humans have had a deep connection to nature that was both intuitive and spiritual. Today with the clutter and noise of our modern concrete jungles, that connection with nature is all but gone.

And yet there are some of us who can stop, tune out the man-made clutter and listen to the natural world, who can talk to it and have it talk back, and can tell you what an animal is thinking when it looks at you. Do you want to find out how? This is a film about that connection, about that conversation, exploring our ability to talk to the natural world around us and have it talk back. It's a world television first, reviving the human relationship with animals, healing our own species' emotional, spiritual and cultural ties with nature.



The Kalahari

(1 x 24 mins)

The Kalahari is a vast wilderness in Southern Africa and home to a delicate biodiverse ecosystem. It is a harsh land, yet one which is open to transformation and in this film we are given an intimate portrait of the landscape and the desert dwellers that call it home.

The animals which inhabit the Kalahari desert have specialised their behaviours in order to survive here. In this pale and dusty landscape even the lions, usually successful in any habitat, can fall. Top predators are pitted against scavengers such as the jackal and hyena who have more adaptable feeding patterns, and rare footage is included of the African Wild Cat, showing how the mother of three faces peril every day to feed her young. Seemingly desolate and barren, the land is transformed into an Eden after the rains.



Wild Cats

(1 x 52 mins)

This beautiful account of the critically endangered African Wild Cat is a world first. In the Kalahari, danger stalks from all directions: caracals, jackals, birds of prey and lion make the task of survival difficult for Juliet, a wild cat, and her kittens.

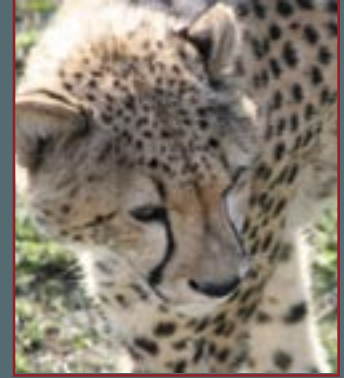
Back in the safety of the den, the kittens await Juliet's return, caring for them is a full-time activity. The day eventually arrives when Juliet's path crosses with Shango, a large male, and she doesn't return to her kittens. They will have to hunt for themselves, fend off Black-Backed Jackals and find their own home territories. Juliet has equipped them with all the necessary skills to survive, and they now need to put them into practice. Fortunately they have inherited strong genes, as Juliet is an extremely remarkable African Wild Cat.



Free Passage to Angola

(1 x 52 mins)

Angola is witnessing a giant homecoming. After decades of civil war, elephants are returning to the now peaceful country on ancestral routes, which have laid dormant for over thirty years. Scientists and locals are watching with surprise at how thousands of elephants are re-populating southeast Angola, although the area is apparently still riddled with landmines. How are the elephants avoiding them? Can these elephants be trained to detect landmines and therefore assist in their safe clearing? These elephant trails are also paving the way for other animals and people, giving them safe access to long lost homes and resources. This film tells the story of peace and resettlement in Angola and the challenge of both elephants and people reclaiming their long lost land and living together.



The Cheetah Diaries

Series 2 (13 x 24 mins)

The Cheetah Diaries' second series picks up on the lives of the well-loved characters profiled in the successful first series as well as introducing a whole new gang of cheetah cubs, caracals, jackals, a meerkat and other animals.

The Cheetah Outreach organisation is constantly expanding and searching for new ways to make a difference in conservation, and The Cheetah Diaries is there to capture all the exciting additions.

Viewers from the first series will be pleased to catch up with Baggins, his handler Liesl, and find out what happened to Whiskey and Zulu. Annie Beckhelling, Cheetah Outreach founder, is there to lend a hand with the six new cubs and introduce them to the Cheetah Outreach Family. With many stories to look forward to, viewers will be entertained from start to finish.



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SOPHIE VARTAN

**Commissioning Editor
NHU AFRICA**

Sophie Vartan oversees the production and commissioning department for NHU AFRICA, based in Cape Town, South Africa. The Unit is producing over 100 hours of HD wildlife and natural history programming for international distribution per year. Sophie works closely with international and local co-production partners and independent producers as well as with in-house production teams. She also raises finance and acts as Executive Producer on a number of productions.



GETA PALM

**Head of Production
NHU AFRICA**

Géta manages the Sales and Distribution for NHU AFRICA's extensive wildlife, natural history and factual programming portfolio. She currently manages over 100 hours of programming which include world class docu-features, one-off specials and series. Working with local and international acquisition executives, she negotiates presales, license acquisitions and multi-media distribution deals. Géta regularly attends the Film Festivals where she markets the NHU AFRICA productions.

The production portfolio for NHU AFRICA includes a number of popular observational documentary series following the busy work of conservationists, environmentalists and animal handlers. One-hour specials focus on a wide variety of topics including strong, character-driven human-animal relationship stories, ranging from the heat of the Kalahari Desert to the cold of the Antarctic ice!