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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

FORESTS: NATURE AT YOUR SERVICE | 05 JUNE


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Alan Root O.B.E.

Alan made ground-breaking wildlife documentaries for over forty years, mostly in the East African states and Zaire, but also in New Guinea, Australia, South America and the Galapagos. Aged twenty he was cameraman for *Serengeti Shall not Die*, the greatly influential film that won an Oscar. He went on to film and produce many one-hour 'specials' that garnered multiple awards, including an Oscar nomination for *Castles of Clay*, a film about the lowly termite. He was recently awarded the O.B.E. for his services to wildlife filming. He now lives on the Lewa Conservancy with his wife Fran and two young sons.

LION WARRIORS A Film by Kire Godal

This fine National Geographic production is an in-depth look at the problems of trying to protect the last handful of lions on the 300,000 acre Mbirikani Group Ranch, west of the Chyulu hills. The lion prides there have been whittled down to unnaturally small groupings by warriors taking revenge on the killers of their livestock. Despite the fact there is a scheme in place to recompense them for their losses – and the fact that it is against the law – the warriors are quick to hunt down and spear the culprits. The film follows two young men as they are inducted into the warrior-hood, and express their joy that they will now be able to hunt lions. We then see their mixed emotions as they realise that they may be an age-set too late to indulge in the one traditional activity that would truly validate them as warriors – for the elders who supervise their warrior training are telling them that lion spearing has to stop. But perhaps that is not the main issue anyway, as while this is going on, one old man, well past warrior-hood, kills five lions in a night with the deadly poison Furan. Nothing traditional about that, and it is a widespread and growing threat. There is also an interesting thread through the film of the relationship between Joseph Kotoke a group ranch game scout, and a hardened lion killer called Sainepono, who already has twelve to his name, and has no intention of giving it up. The two are childhood friends and age-mates, yet poles apart as they struggle to reconcile their attitudes. The stories of the various stock-raiding lions, the pastoralists and conservationists are woven together to produce a satisfying story that gives some hope that the compensation scheme, with its provisos that lion killing cancels the benefits, and its efforts to channel the warriors energy into other fields, has a chance of working. Time will tell, but as with every wildlife problem one only has to look at human numbers. There are ten thousand Maasai on Mbirikani's 300,000 acres, one thousand of them warriors. When the Laikipiak Maasai were settled on the southern reserve in the Mara area in 1912 they numbered ten thousand. There were probably fewer children and old folk back then, so let's say there may have been two thousand warriors. But the area they occupied – and hunted lions in – was 6,500 square miles. Perhaps the one heartening thing about today's situation is that we still have some lions for all of us, and the dedicated people we see in this film, to keep fighting for.

WED VOICES

We all know that WED is *the people's* day for global, positive action for the environment.

And every voice counts. We have an exponential impact when our actions are combined. Just look at last year's WED activity drive, your registrations accounted for over \$100,000 in contributions towards gorilla protection in the host country of Rwanda!

But we also know that some voices have the power to break through the clutter faster, be heard louder and reach further due to their recognized expertise in a field, a lifetime of outstanding activism or because they come into our homes and make us laugh, cry, ponder. And WED is fortunate to have an arsenal of these individuals enthusiastically lending their voices to support the movement.

They are our WED Voices: Climate Heroes, Goodwill Ambassadors, celebrities and those who have achieved an inspirational and influential status. In this section, we are privileged to share their dedicated and compelling work on behalf of WED, and for 2011, the International Year of Forests. We will continually share updates with the WED community as projects and engagements are unveiled!

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Richard Wollocombe is free lance documentary cameraman and producer specializing in underwater and terrestrial Natural History.

Since 1997 he has contributed to many documentaries including the BBC's landmark series Blue Planet, Galapagos,

South Pacific and Human Planet.

He is the recipient of numerous awards. Most recently he was awarded an Emmy for his cinematography for the BBC /Discovery Channel South Pacific series and has just been nominated for a BAFTA for his contribution for BBC Human Planet series.

See Richard's work at: <http://vimeo.com/18644726>

Book Review:

Robert Heilbroner: An Enquiry into the Human Prospect.

The author postulates that it may be difficult to persuade people to reduce their consumptive habits with the democratic process and we will probably lose the luxury of our economic and political freedom to face the massive challenges that will face humanity in the not too distant future. He thinks Autocratic regimes will rise again in order to strictly regulate the division resources.

He published the book in 1973 and much of what he postulated about the environmental challenges facing humanity became increasingly relevant so that it was re-edited in the 90's.

Population growth and the increasing demand for resources, plus the use of unsustainable technologies in the extraction of resources, are the main antecedents for the challenges facing humanity. In a nutshell, he believes the world is going to begin outstripping its resource base and at the cost of the Environment. This cost alone will justify drastic political shifts in order to allow humanity to survive into the future.

Though the book is a stark warning, I think it's important because it highlights the importance of self sacrifice as the fundamental building block of sustainable living. Most people think their contributions won't matter to the larger scheme of things- but that it's better we make these choices now before the governments do it for us without our consent.

If we don't act in a collective way to live more sustainably then not only are we risking the political freedoms many of us take for granted but also our chance to provide a better future for future generations.

Film review:

I was fortunate to come across Patrick Rouxel at Wildscreen. He made an inspiring film called Green which won the Panda award. I believe he should be in the World Environment Day programme as his contribution to saving our planet from deforestation is genuine and powerful. He lives his life and makes his films and website following his convictions, setting a very inspiring example to all of us dwelling on the question: 'But what can I do?'

He says about himself:

'My name is Patrick, I am an ordinary citizen trying to help protect the rainforest and all the life it holds. I do so by making films on the forest and the industries destroying it.

...To save the Indonesian rainforest we must choose to change our consumer habits so as to not be part of the destruction. If we are enough to do so, we can make a significant impact on the markets involved and make them change. All it takes is avoiding palm oil, tropical hardwoods and paper from tropical countries.'

We must show the way...'

About the film:

Her name is GREEN, she is alone in a world that doesn't belong to her. She is a female orangutan, victim of deforestation and resource exploitation. This film is an emotional journey with GREEN's final days.

With no narration, it is a visual ride presenting the devastating impacts of logging and land clearing for palm oil plantations, the choking haze created by rainforest fires and the tragic end of rainforest biodiversity. We watch the effects of consumerism and are faced with our personal accountability in the loss of the world's rainforest treasures.

Golden Panda Award - Wildscreen 2010

Grand Teton Award - Jackson Hole International Wildlife Film Festival 2009



Charles Scott and his son Sho became UNEP Climate Heroes in 2009 in recognition of their work in raising awareness for environmental issues. The father-son team rode connected bicycles 2,500 miles across Japan in 67 days to support the UNEP Billion Tree campaign and blogged on a variety of

environmental topics. In summer 2011, they will circumnavigate Iceland joined by Sho's younger sister. The 1,500 mile adventure will take 6 weeks and will again seek to bring attention to the value of the world's unique ecosystems. The Scott's blogs will be supported The Huffington Post.

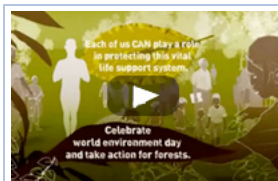
Movie: "The Last Lions", released by National Geographic Movies, 2011

Review: I watched this movie with my ten year old son and four year old daughter. I worried that some of scenes showing animals being preyed upon might disturb my children, but my son said simply after the film, "That's just the way it is in nature." And yet the movie brings home how unnatural are the challenges facing so many animals today. The loss of habitat and hunting space from ever-increasing human populations are forcing confrontations that would not have occurred in a time of greater abundance. The viewer cannot help but marvel at the ferociously impressive single mom lioness who draws on all of her instincts to protect her cubs. Prepare to be moved, heart broken and awed.

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Book: The View from Lazy Point by Carl Safina, published in 2011

Review: In this beautifully written love letter to the natural world, Safina combines his scientific knowledge of our planet with an intimate connection to our place in it. The book is full of surprising observations – who knew that salmon could make trees grow? – and lyrical elegies to the dwindling wild all around us. Both mournful and hopeful, Safina reminds the reader of our deep connection to nature's abundance and encourages us to become more conscious of our role as caretakers.



Sir David Attenborough—this pioneering naturalist and broadcaster, renowned for his decades of work with the BBC, has narrated UNEP's short animated film on the importance of forests to every aspect of our lives. This film was used to formally launch the UN International Year of Forests.



Book on Forests and People

Publisher: Editions de la Martiniere

UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, **Yann Arthus-Bertrand**, best known for his aerial photography book, *Earth From Above*, and the internationally-acclaimed film *HOME*, launched on WED in 2009, is showing his support with a coffee-table book, entitled *Forests and People* in collaboration with UNEP.

Designed for all audiences, the book is illustrated with 70 selected photographs of the exhibition and supplemented with texts written by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) experts, the GoodPlanet Foundation team and celebrity activists Li Bingbing, Janine Benyus, Sachin Tendulkar, Gisele Bundchen, Don Cheadle and Wangari Maathai. The book examines the forests in their biological, cultural and economic dimension. It focuses on those who inhabit them, their benefits, the threats they face and ways to protect them.

Introductions

Branching Out For A Green Economy: Foreword by UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

Seeing the Forest Through The Trees: Preface by Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

Chinese Forests: Our Lifeline for Sustained Prosperity: By Li Bingbing

To Be in the Forest is to be Surrounded by Genius: By Janine Benyus

Battling for more than just the game: By Sachin Tendulkar

Restoring the land: By Don Cheadle



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