

# **Alternative Film Guide**

A guide to video films on

## **Development and Environment**

*Distributed by*

**Development Alternatives**

## Development Alternatives

is a not-for-profit organisation which designs and promotes better approaches for sustainable development. The Communications Unit of Development Alternatives is involved in designing, producing and disseminating communication packages for generating mass awareness on sustainable development issues.

Our video distribution centre has an extensive collection of high quality TV and video programmes on environment and development issues. The bulk of these films have been given to us by Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) for distribution in India. In addition, we have a number of video programmes produced in India, including a series of Indian NGO profiles and training films. These films are available to NGOs, educational institutions and other organisations in India for a nominal price to cover our costs.

Besides generating awareness, we hope this effort will create a better understanding of key environmental issues among the public and help bring about a change in public attitudes. These films not only highlight the 'global environmental crises', but also bring to the fore the pioneering work and experiments that our counterparts in various countries have carried out to face the environmental challenge. They effectively reinforce the growing realisation that individuals and organisations have a crucial role to play in bringing about change.

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## Environment and Development

### BITTER HARVEST

(VHS/Colour/English/24 min.)

**Production Coordinator** - TVE & Jordan Radio and TV Corp.

**Producers** - Bruno Sorrentino and Robert Lamb

**Country** - Ethiopia

Desertification and soil degradation are destroying all life in third world countries. In Ethiopia, deforestation, population explosion and mismanagement of land has resulted in famines, causing unbearable misery to the people there. The film looks at how aid programmes and multi-million dollar projects have failed in countries like India and Africa because of a lack of understanding of the ecological relationship between the land and man. It also highlights some promising solutions and efforts by the local people to fight the menace of soil erosion and desertification.

### LIVING WITH DROUGHT

(VHS/Colour/English/49 mm.)

**Production Company** - BBC/Open University

**Producer** - Eleanor Morris

**Country** - Niger and Kenya

Living with drought examines how rural communities in Niger and Kenya are responding to the severe changes wrought in their environment by climate change, poverty and population pressures. Soil and water conservation projects, such as stone terracing and tree wind-breaks, have helped improve crop yields by as much as 25 percent in some regions. Projects like these, the film concludes, have helped make small but measurable advances in the fight against environmental degradation.

### SHRIMP FEVER

(VHS/Colour/English, Spanish/52 min.)

**Production Company** - Central TV

**Producer** - Ron Orders

**Director** - Nick Davidson

**Country** - Ecuador

In 1990, more than a billion tropical shrimps were consumed in Europe and the USA. Many came from Ecuador where hundreds of miles of tidal mangrove, the breeding ground for much of the fish and shell fish of the Pacific Ocean, have been burned to make way for commercial shrimparms. Running in a fringe down the coasts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, mangroves are the ocean's equivalent of the tropical rainforest, vital to the preservation of the coastline and the ecological balance of the region. But today the 800 km of Ecuador's Pacific coastline - once the most densely

forested in Latin America - are largely bare. Shrimp fever hit the country in the early 1980's. In less than a decade, shrimp farming became the second largest export business in the country (after oil), earning almost US\$400 million a year. Big profits attracted big - and sometimes unscrupulous - investors: a pond the size of a football field can yield four harvests of 200,000 shrimp a year, each worth up to US\$180,000. And a determined businessman with the right connections in government or the army can simply enclose common land and build his own shrimp pond. But Ron Orders and Nick Davidson's salutary film warns, Ecuador is fast destroying the very ecosystem that created the conditions for this shrimp gold rush.

## THE HANGING GARDENS OF ARABIA

(VHS/Colour/English/53 mm.)

**Production Company** - TVE, Independent Communications Association

**Producer** - Anthony Milroy

**Director** - Andre Singer

**Country** - Yemen

Dominated by a compact group of volcanic mountain heights on the southwest corner of Arabia, Yemen shares the same hot, dry climate as its closest SubSaharan neighbours, Ethiopia and Sudan. Though isolated for centuries from the

outside world, Yemen has always been self-sufficient in food. Yemeni farmers still practise a highly sophisticated form of sustainable agriculture, growing crops on intricate terraces carved into the mountain slopes, and harvesting every available source of water. Each farmer is a vital part of an interlinked chain: if one link breaks, the whole system starts to collapse. *The Hanging Gardens of Arabia* is the story of how misguided aid projects almost destroyed the delicate balance of Yemeni agriculture, and of the efforts now being made to restore its mountain terraces.

## SOUTH AFRICA - WASTED LAND

(VHS/Colour/English/52 mm.)

**Production Company** - Debonair Productions, TVE, Central TV

**Producer** - Tony Strasburg

**Director** - Jamie Hartzell

**Country** - South Africa

South Africa, the most prosperous country on the African continent, is also one of the world's largest food exporters. But its wealth has been won not only at the expense of its black population, argues this film, but also of its environment. Apartheid policies have been directly responsible for the environmental degradation of the black homelands; directly responsible for sterile fields, hills stripped bare of tree cover, yawning gullies and drastically

reduced crop yields. Leaking drums of toxic waste and abandoned piles of asbestos have been dumped in the Bantustans, several partially self-governing areas reserved for Black South Africans (such as Hindustan) by unscrupulous industrialists. Even more serious for the future development of the country, claims director Jamie Hartzell, may be the insidious demoralization and loss of self-esteem that results from denying blacks control of their own lives.

## **WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS**

(VHS/Colour/English/53 mm.)

**Production Company** -Central T.V.

**Producer & Director** -Lawrence Moore & Robbie Stamp

**Country** – Global

There are nearly six billion people on Earth today, two billion of them children under the age of 16. In the next ten years another one and a half billion will be born into a world whose resources are already under enormous pressure. For this landmark documentary, made by Central TV in the UK for World Environment Day 1990, producers Lawrence Moore and Robbie Stamp worked with film-makers all over the world to explore how the lives of children are affected by environmental problems: toxins in Poland, water resources and disease in India, child refugees and global warming

in Sudan, environmental pressure of debt in Bolivia and irresponsible consumerism among teenagers in USA and UK. The film is divided into six chapters with simple graphics spelling out the kind of choices we could make which would put children at the centre of our political agenda.

## **FIRST HARVEST / CHANGING VALLEYS**

(VHS/Colour/English/58 min.)

**Production Company** - Northern Lights Media Corp. & The Agha Khan Foundation

**Producer** - David Yager

**Director** - Nicholas Kendall & Jack Silberman

**Country** – Pakistan

In the far north of Pakistan, at the meeting place of the frontiers of Asia, the inhospitable mountain terrain has kept local villages isolated from each other for centuries. To feed their growing populations, villagers have cut down the trees and overgrazed the land, creating a barren landscape.

**First Harvest**, by the Canadian production company Northern Lights, looks at the remarkable success of a scheme initiated by the Agha Khan Rural Support Programme which is helping local village organizations in over 800 villages in the region. Farmers meet to formulate common policies, build roads and irrigation channels, and start a programme of tree-planting, while women gain confidence and status as they learn how to

process and market fruit and vegetables. The film shows how village organizations can become the driving force not just for economic but also for social change.

### **PROFITS FROM POISON**

(VHS/Colour/English/45 min.)

**Production Company** - TVE

**Producer/Director** - Jamie Hartzell

**Exec. Producer** - Robert Lamb

**Country** - Philippines and Thailand

This video is filmed in the Philippines and Thailand. It shows the harmful effects of chemical pesticides on the human environment and the efficacy and safety of traditional, natural alternatives to them.

### **SALT OF THE EARTH**

(VHS/Colour/English/21 min.)

**Production Company** - TVE

**Producer** - Robert Lamb

**Director** - Ishwar Pandey

**Country** - China

Ten percent of China's arable land has been reduced to a barren and useless desert of salt. Now farming communities on the North China plains

are being mobilized to reclaim the land.

### **PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH WITH WOMEN FARMERS**

(VHS/Colour/English/French, Spanish/28 min.)

**Produced for** - International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Andhra Pradesh, India

**Country** - India

Everywhere our biological diversity is under threat, compromising our ability to provide for the basic needs of future generations. Through their large share of work in food production, storage and food preparation, women can play a key role in extending and conserving this genetic diversity in their farming communities. This film shows how the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics - ICRISAT - in South India, is working with women farmers to preserve and promote their valuable knowledge for the future.

### **FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE**

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

Produced for UNEP

**Production Co.** - Cinematografics/BBC

**Producer** - Octavio Bezerra

**Country** - Africa and Asia

This programme examines strategies to combat natural disasters. It has been filmed on location in Ethiopia, India, China and Botswana to promote the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

## RIVERS OF SAND

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Production Co.** - Central TV

**Producer/Director** - Bruno Sorrentino

**Country** - Mali

Tv news coverage of the great droughts of the 1970s and 1980s in the African Sahel mobilized a huge wave of international sympathy and foreign aid flooded into the region. Twenty years later, 4,500 aid projects are still in operation in the Sahel, where 26 million people face starvation due to drought, overgrazing and famine. In Rivers of Sand, three aid projects battle with a deteriorating environment in a remote corner of northern Mali, the inner delta and lake district of the great river Niger. The film travels north from the river and its colourful birdlife, up to the very edge of the Sahara, where moving sands threaten to engulf entire communities and Lake Fagubine, once the biggest lake in West Africa, is now a dried-out desert plain.

## WATER WARS

**Production Co.** - BBC

**Producer** - Michael Waldman

## WATER WARS: TO THE LAST DROP

(VHS/Colour/English/50 min.)

**Country** - Middle East

*To the Last Drop* focuses on the Middle East, where every conflict in the region is aggravated by water disputes. Since the West Bank and the Golan Heights contain water resources vital to Israel, water is one of the key factors blocking a settlement of the Palestinian issue.

## WATER WARS: GOOD AS GOLD

(VHS/Colour/ English/50 min.)

**Country** - United States

*Good as Gold* focuses on the United States, where water is primarily a marketable product: something that a few people have and a lot of people want.

## WATER WARS: THE GIVER OF LIFE

(VHS/Colour/English/50 min.)



**Country** - Central Asia

*The Giver of Life* focuses on the Islamic countries of the former Soviet Central Asia where the fate of the disappearing Aral Sea is described as a catastrophe on a par with Chernobyl. Irrigation schemes to feed the thirsty cotton fields of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are to blame.

## SEEDS OF PLENTY, SEEDS OF SORROW

(VHS/Colour/English subtitles/50 min.) **Production**

**Company** - Media Workshop, BBC

**Producer/Director** - Manjira Datta

**Country** - India

"The Green Revolution displaced despair with hope, food shortages with overflowing granaries, and famine with food abundance," claimed Dr. Norman Borlaug who was awarded the Nobel prize for his historic role in revitalizing developing countries' agriculture. Credited with ensuring that India is no longer a developing country, "basket-case", the Green Revolution is widely regarded as one of the most successful development strategies of the twentieth century.

But twenty five years later, Manjira Datta's disturbing documentary asks, who has been the real beneficiary of this biotech package? The poor peasant? The big farmer? Or the multinational corporations? And what damage has the Green

Revolution done to the social structure and the ecology of Third World countries?

The film reveals a darker, more problematic side of the Green Revolution, largely ignored by the celebratory coverage of the Western media. In India it has helped to create a new serf class and the dramatic yields of the early years have fallen away in the wake of pesticide poisoning and short lived miracle wheat strains.

## WOMEN AT WORK

(VHS/Colour/English/51 min.)

**Production Co.** - Belbo Productions

**Director** - Steven de Winter

**Country** - Kenya

Started by activist Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan Green Belt Movement is helping African women to protect their environment by growing trees and, in the process, improving their standard of living and status.

Growing trees gives women a means of taking practical, effective action on their own behalf. It helps them to fight desertification and soil erosion, they learn better land management techniques and they earn an income for every tree successfully planted.

## GREEN BUCKS

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

**Production Company:** Nexus Television

**Producers/ Directors:** Gabrielle Kelly, Nick Hart-Williams

**Country-** Global

Co-directors Gabrielle Kelly and Nick Hart-Williams set out to explore the way the concept of sustainable industrial development is changing the face of businesses around the world. One of the world's largest chemical companies, Dupont - according to Friends of the Earth - "the single largest corporate polluter in the US", now embraces a policy of 'Corporate Environmentalism' and is currently phasing out production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) worth US\$750 million a year.

The film also looks at new initiatives to foster sustainable practices in the South with a UNIDO (the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) project to help 'clean up' poisoned water emissions from small tanning businesses in Africa.

## WE, THE PEOPLE

(VHS/Colour/English/25 min.)

**Production Company** - Worldview International Foundation

**Producer** - Arne Fjortoft; **Country** - Asia

As more and more pressure is put upon the environment and our natural resources begin to dwindle, it is the poor and powerless who first feel the bite. Whether it is deforestation in Nepal, sinking water tables in Sri Lanka or natural disasters in Bangladesh, those lacking economic and political power pay the highest price. It is ironic that those who consume the least (causing less environmental damage per person), suffer the most. We, The People seeks to give voice to these people. The film takes the form of a series of interviews with those people who have been directly affected by environmental degradation: flood victims in Bangladesh, firewood collectors in Nepal, farmers in Sri Lanka and tribals in Thailand.

## Social Issues

### STREET CHILDREN

(VHS/Colour/English/23 min.)

**Production Company:** TVE & Jordan Radio and TV Corp.

**Producers:** Bruno Sorrentino & Robert Lamb

**Country** - South America

There are 30 million street children in the world, most of them in the third world. Brazil alone has up to two million surviving in the streets. A large

number of them are addicted to drugs. Abandoned by their parents and ignored by society, these children slip into crime, child prostitution and drug addiction, while society pays money to institutionalize them instead of rehabilitating them. The film looks at the life in slums in these countries and comments on possible solutions like adoption and rehabilitation.

## **THE DISAPPEARED**

(VHS/Colour/English/23 min.)

*Production Co.:* TVE & Jordan Radio and TV Corp.

**Producer:** Bruno Sorrentino

**Executive Producers:** Robert Lamb & Zia Rizvi

**Country** - Africa and South America

In countries on every continent, thousands of people disappear, are tortured and murdered by the State. Most of these disappearances have no record. In Latin America and Africa, where it is most common, people are disappearing daily only to be found dead on the roadside next morning. Organizations like Amnesty International and the UN Working Group on disappearances are helping to create awareness amongst people and, now, with the help of science - archeology and forensics - people who disappeared years ago can be identified. The film documents the ordeal of relatives who are anxious to find their loved ones;

grandmothers take help of genetic tests to find their grand children while media coverage of large peaceful demonstrations help people support the cause of the disappeared.

## **REFUGEES**

(VHS/Colour/English/20 min.)

**Production Co.** - TVE & Jordan Radio and TV Corp

**Producer** - Bruno Sorrentino

**Executive Producer** - Robert Lamb & Zia Rizvi

**Country** - Africa

Being a refugee does not mean only being uprooted and robbed of one's home, it means misery, poverty and an endless struggle for existence. Millions of people cross borders to reach refugee camps. This puts tremendous pressure on the environment and resources of the host country, giving rise to hostility against them. While more than half of the world's refugees exist in the African continent, the wealthier nations turn a blind eye to the refugee crisis in the entire Third world. This film explores the other side of the aid coin; while people flee from the twin evil of drought and war, the wealthier nations offer aid in exchange for an arms sale.

## **CHILDREN IN DEBT**

(VHS/Colour/English/28 min.)

**Producer** - Patricia Boero  
**Director** - Estela Bravo  
**Country** - South America

There is a popular Latin American saying that children are born with a loaf of bread in their arms. Today's comments Cuban director Estela Bravo, children throughout Latin America are born with the burden of debt on the small shoulders. *Children In Debt* looks at how this affects children throughout the sub-continent. In Argentina, street children beg for food and small change in front of expensive shops and restaurants. In Peru, abandoned children sniff glue to drown out hunger pains. In Bolivia, destitute Indian mothers leave their new-born babies at the local convent, as they have no food to feed them. And in Colombia, mothers march in protest against policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that have cut budgets for children's health care and education.

## HEALTH IN THE CITY

(VHS/Colour/English/7 min.)  
**Production Company** - TVE  
**Produced for** - WHO  
**Producer**- David Jay & Jamie Hartzell  
**Country** - Global

An innovative video, orchestrated to the music of the Eurhythmics, highlighting the crisis in the

growing urban slums around many of the world's major cities.

## RAINBOW REPORTS

(VHS/Colour/EngIish/74 min.)  
**Production Company:** Hawkshead Ltd.  
**Producer:** Carol Haslam  
**Director:** David Jay  
**Country:** Global

Sixty per cent of the world's population is under 30 years old. Like their parents, they face the same dilemmas of choosing between sustainable principles or environmentally destructive practices. Rainbow Reports profiles seven young environmental activists from around the world who describe their motivation for choosing to live and work as they do.

In India, 23-year old Vanita from the Gammit tribe in south Gujarat works as a health educator in an environmental education project.

John Meunyes is a nomadic pastoralist from the arid Tukana region in northern Kenya.

Andrezej Dlugosz is an active campaigner in the Polish environmental movement, Peace and Freedom. 25-year old Disney Barragan is a community leader in the sprawling Tibabuyes barrio

of Bogota, Colombia. Melody Kousley is a teacher in Kingston, Jamaica.

## LUCIA

(VHS/Colour/Tagalog with English subtitles/90 min.)

**Production Company:** Manila Inter-Film/BBC

**Producer:** Peter Firstbrook

**Director:** Mel Chionglo

**Country** – Philippines

**Director** Mel Chionglo's powerful human drama, based on an original screenplay by the late Filipino director Lino Brocka, chronicles the family's struggle to stay together and build a home in their own country - a country, ironically, that operates an open door policy for tourism and foreign investors. Driven to destitution by the activities of foreign multinationals, by pollution and militarization, Lucia is powerless to stop the disintegration of her family as they are forced into the slums of Manila.

## SUSPENDED DREAMS

(VHS/Colour/English subtitles/50 min.)

**Production Company:** Media for TV and Cinema Production and Distribution/BBC

**Producer:** Mai Masri

**Directors:** Mai Masri and Jean Chamoun

**Country** – Global

Through the lives of four Lebanese from very different backgrounds, Mai Masri and Jean Chamoun's documentary tells the story of a Beirut community's struggle to reconstruct their lives after the war. The film assesses the appalling impact of modern warfare on the environment, and looks ahead to a new conflict in the making - this time over the Middle East's most precious commodity, water.

## AND THE DISH RAN AWAY WITH THE SPOON

(VHS/Colour/English/50 min.)

**Production Company:** Banyan Limited/BBC

**Producer:** Bruce Paddington

**Directors:** Christopher Laird & Anthony Hall

**Country** – Caribbean

Culturally, the Caribbean is a meeting point for all the world's civilizations: European, Indian, Chinese, African and Amerindian. A wry, irreverent look at the whole question of cultural imperialism in the region, Christopher Laird's film weaves interviews, vox pops, indigenous poetry, music with clips from imported French and USTV programmes to show

how foreign television programmes - made almost exclusively in the North - give Caribbean viewers a totally distorted view of the world.

## **LIFE AND DEBT**

(VHS/Colour/English subtitles/48 min.)

**Production Company** - Cinematografica/BBC

**Producer/Director** - Octavio Bezerra

**Country** - Brazil

A van grinds to a halt on a wasteland in Rio de Janeiro. Masked gunmen drag a handful of black teenagers from the vehicle, stand them against a wall and shoot them. This gruesome scene is repeated in cities throughout Brazil every day. In Rio alone, over 500 street children were assassinated in 1991. Their only crime was that they were poor and they had nowhere else to go.

"Brazil is no more a country of carnival, or coffee or football or soccer," claims narrator and social activist Herbert de Souza in this shocking documentary. "Brazil is the county today that kills kids...".

The problem of Street children is not a new one. It results from the same pressures, argues director Octavio Bezerra, that have led to the widespread exploitation of the Amazon rainforest. Ultimately, he claims, these pressures derive from Brazil's

massive US\$130 billion debt first incurred by Spanish conquest of the 'New World' - a conquest based on the genocide and oppression of native peoples.

The fall-out has been horrendous, Brazil's debt has led to a vicious circle of debt, impoverishment and environmental degradation, severe cut-backs in social, health and education programmes, rampant inflation, disintegrating families, soaring crime and widespread corruption.

## **DEBT GAME - WHO OWES WHOM**

(VHS/Colour/Spanish with English subtitles/58 min.)

**Production Co.**-Fundacas de Cinema Brasileiro

**Producer/Director:** Eduardo Coutinho

**Country:** Brazil

In Latin America, argues director Eduardo Coutinho, there are two kinds of debt. Neither are likely to be repaid. The first is the economic debt owed to Western banks and institutions, amounting to almost US\$400 billion. The second was contracted at the time of Christopher Columbus' 'discovery' of the Americas and the subsequent colonization by European countries.

With clever use of animation, archive film and interviews, Coutinho traces the history of Brazilian debt from the 1898 agreement with the city of

London to the heady days of the early 1970's when Western banks were awash with OPEC petrol dollars after the 1974 oil crisis.

## **THE VIETNAMESE EXPERIENCE**

(VHS/Colour/English/31 min.)

**Production Company**- Worldview International Foundation

**Director**- Hilmy Ahamed

**Country**- Vietnam

Since the war, Vietnam has been struggling against a number of problems to reconstruct the country. Along with a scarred landscape and the many left dead in the fighting, Vietnam has been burdened with a high number of its citizens left disabled either directly from the war or for other reasons such as malnutrition. This film documents the efforts of the country to implement a community based rehabilitation program. Following a model set forth by the World Health Organization, health workers have gone into communities to train local people to act as rehabilitation specialists who can then work with the disabled in the community. This approach leads to a greater integration of disabled people into society as people can remain with their families during their treatment.

## **NO ROOM FOR DARK ANGELS**

(VHS/Colour/English/36 min.)

**Production Co.** - Worldview International Foundation

**Director**-Shani Jayawardena; **Country**-Sri Lanka

This film portrays the life and work of George Keyt, a painter from Sri Lanka, who chose to portray many scenes from the small villages and country side of Sri Lanka.

## **REALIZING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN**

(VHS/Colour/English/26 min.)

## **THE SAMROENG CASE**

(VHS/Colour/English subtitles/30 min.)

**Production Co.** - Worldview International Foundation

**Executive Producer** - Rune Hersvik

**Director/Producer** - Arne Fjortoft

**Country** - Thailand

Throughout different parts of the world, children are being used as a cheap source of labour and to perform tasks which larger people are unable to take on. Often these children are forced to work long hours under very bad conditions. The Samroeng Case tells the story of one boy in Thai

land whose parents are forced to send Samroeng and his brother to work in Bangkok because of their debt situation. The film is based on a true story and all the children acting in the film were once child labourers.

## **POPULATION CRISIS COMMITTEE: "DECADE OF DECISION"**

(VHS/Colour/English/13 min).

## **Indigenous People**

### **THE PRIOR NATIONS**

(VHS/Colour/English/29 min).

**Prod. Coordinator** - TVE & Jordan Radio and TV Corp

**Producer** - Bruno Sorrentino

**Executive Producer** - Robert Lamb & Zia Rizvi

**Country** - Global

This film deals with the key issues concerning indigenous people whose lives are threatened by the dominant cultures. There are over 200 million indigenous people all over the world - whether it is the Brazilian Indians, the Aborigines in Australia, the Kalingas in the Philippines, or the Hawaiians -

they are all being threatened by the so called modern civilization. Tourism, consumerism, big hydroelectric dams and evangelism have been used against them in an effort to civilize them. They have, been displaced from their land, robbed of their forests and exploited for money. But now the indigenous cultures are fighting back, teaching their young the ancient communal values, their own language and guarding their own forests. The indigenous people have begun their battle for survival.

### **BLOWPIPES AND BULLDOZERS**

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

**Produced in Association with** - National Geographic Society Channel Four

**Produced & Directed by** - Jeni Kendell & Paul Tait

**Country** - Malaysia

The Penan tribe of Malaysia are among the few remaining nomadic forest people left Asia. Now their way of life is threatened by the relentless encroachment of logging companies, clear-felling the Sarawak forests to provide hardwood for luxury goods in Japan and the West. This Australian film tells the story of Bruno Manser, a young Swiss shepherd and artist who went to live with the Penan - and was forced to become an outlaw in the forest



as a result of his campaign to save the forest, and the Penan people, from extinction.

## **NO MORE TIGERS IN THE YARD**

(VHS/Colour/English/28 min.)

**Producer** - Suresh Kumar Awasthi

**Director** - Mira Tanna; **Country** - India

This film by Mira Tanna is a testimony to the struggle of the tribals of Gujarat to retain their cultural identity and their forests in the face of modern development. In a series of moving interviews, the tribal people relate the history of the great forests which once surrounded their villages.

They are highly critical of the Forest Societies who, they say, have not come up with effective policies for man aging the forests. Ultimately, the activists argue, the forests will not survive without them.

## **THE 'SAVAGE' STRIKES BACK**

**Production Co.** - Nexus Features

**Exec. Producer** - Alan Hayling

**Series Producer**- Luke Holland

**Producers** - Rex Tasker and Graeme Isaac

**Directors** - Alan Hayling, Luke Holland, Hugh Brody, Nigel Markham, Claudio van Planta, Graham Chase, Vasudha Joshi and Ranjan Palit

## **PROG. I - FLAMES IN THE FOREST**

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

**Country** - Ecuador

*Flames in the Forest* tells the story of the Amazonian Indians' resistance to multinational oil companies' invasion of their traditional forest lands in Ecuador.

## **PROG. II - HUNTERS AND BOMBERS**

(VHS/Colour/English/53min.)

**Country** - Canada

*Hunters and Bombers* looks at the conflict between the Innu people from the sub-arctic region of Labrador- Quebec in north-east Canada and the British, Dutch and German air forces who use the Goose Bay air base for supersonic, low-level training in bomber aircraft.

## **PROG. III - REBELS OF THE FORGOTTEN WORLD V**

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Country** - West Papua, Indonesia

*Rebels of the Forgotten World* is filmed in the tropical forests of West Papua, in the western half of the island of New Guinea. It looks at the armed tribal opposition by guerrilla leaders of the Free West Papua Movement (OPM) to Indonesia's controversial transmigration project, which involves relocating thousands of peasants from the overpopulated islands of Java and Bali to West Papua.

### **PROG. IV - THE KIMBERLEY MOB**

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Country** - Australia

*The Kimberley Mob* explores the growing movement to rebuild Aboriginal culture on traditional Aboriginal land in Australia.

### **PROG. V - FOLLOW THE RAINBOW**

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Country** - India

*Follow the Rainbow* tells the story of the Ho tribe in South Bihar in India.

## **Forests**

### **VANISHING FORESTS**

(VHS/Colour/English/29 min.)

**Production Co.** - TVE and Jordan Radio and TV Corp.

**Producers** - Robert Lamb and Bruno Sorrentino

**Country** - Brazil and India

Tropical rainforests, covering one sixth of the earth's land and home to half of all the living species, are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Half of the rainforests have been cleared this century and, by the middle of the next century, there may not be any rainforests left. The film explores various issues involved with the problem of deforestation in third world countries like India, Nepal, Brazil and several African countries. In Brazil, the brutal invasion by man into the Amazonian rainforests is threatening to destroy the ancient Indian culture. As more settlers come in, the situation is becoming tense and confrontation with the local Indians is feared. In India, the Bishnoi community tries to preserve its ancient cultural heritage that taught them to respect and treasure the forests instead of consuming them.

## JUNGLE PHARMACY

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Production Company** - Central TV, TVE, Better World Society

**Producer** - Herbie Girardet

**Director** - Jamie Hartzell

**Country** - Brazil

Over a quarter of Western medicines contain plant toxins - half deriving from tropical forest species. For-est plants have been the source of some of the most effective drugs in the history of pharmacology, but so far only 2 per cent of forest flora have been screened for their pharmaceutical potential. *Jungle Pharmacy* looks at research into the commercial potential of plant remedies in Brazil and the United States, and explores the traditional knowledge of the shaman - the tribal healers in Peru and Brazil who use plant remedies to cure a variety of ills. The anthropologist Dr. Darrell Posey believes the Indians have developed a perfect model for sustainable development, managing the forest in a way that actually increases its biological diversity. *Jungle Pharmacy* has received awards in France, Italy, the UK and the USA.

## DEATH IN THE RAIN FOREST

(VHS/Colour/English/42 min.)

**Production Company** - BBC

**Producer** - Peter Molly; **Country** - Brazil

Chico Mendes, leader of the Brazilian rubber-tappers, was assassinated in December 1988 because of his opposition to ranchers burning the Amazon rainforest to provide pasture for their cattle. The burning of the rainforest is estimated to contribute about 20 per cent of the gases currently contributing to global warming. But the Brazilian economy is crippled by debt - and one way for the government to earn foreign currency to repay foreign loans is to exploit the wealth of the Amazon. This edited version of a BBC investigative documentary analyses the conflict facing Brazil - and many other countries in the developing world: a conflict between the imperatives of development and the need to protect the environment.

## ONCE THERE WAS A FOREST

(VHS/Colour/English/58min.)

**Producer** - Lars Jahannessen

**Director** - Lars Brydesen

**Country** - Tanzania

Three hundred thousand people live in the shadow of the Usambara Mountains in north-eastern Tanzania. Only 100 years ago the rainforests that grew on the mountain slopes were the richest habitat for flora and fauna in all East Africa. The

Sambaa people, who built their villages on the mountain sides, mimicked the forest ecosystem and grew gardens in the heart of the forest that yielded an abundance of fruits, grains and vegetables. Now the forest and the rich soil that accumulated from the old cultivation techniques have virtually disappeared. Danish Director Lars Brydesen's film is the salutary story of the exploitation of these majestic forests - and of the efforts the Tanzanians themselves are now making to re-establish them. Traditional agriculture is being revived, tree nurseries set up and over 10,000 trees distributed, free, to farmers in the highlands.

### **SONG OF THE FOREST: YANOMAMO**

(VHS/Colour/English/54 min.)

**Production Company** - North South Productions, Central Independent TV

**Producer & Director** - Richard Keefe

**Country** - Brazil

*Yanomamo* is a musical which tells the story of the Amazon rainforest, the Indians who live there - and the widespread destruction of the forest brought about by reckless development. Written by two teachers from St. Augustine's High School in Lancashire, UK, It is performed by the school's choir and musicians, together with the rock-singer Sting, an old pupil from the school. Intercutting shots of the school children's choir with film footage of the Amazon, its wildlife and the Indians, the

musical is a powerful plea for preserving the *Yanomamo's* land and traditional way of life. Yanomamo was commissioned by the World Wide Fund for Nature in the UK, and forms part of the educational material it makes available to schools.

### **HALTING THE FIRES**

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Production Company** - Nexus TV

**Produced for** - Channel Four

**Producer** - Herbie Girardet

**Director** - Octavio Bezerra; **Country** - Brazil

In 1964, Brazil's military government announced Operation Amazon - a project intended to "flood the Amazon with civilization" by building roads, hydro electric dams and cities, and developing mines and cattle ranches in the Amazon rainforest. In this Anglo/ German production, Octavio Bezerra shows how cattle ranchers, industrialists and multinationals were encouraged to clear the forest with huge subsidies and tax concessions. To date, 10 per cent of the Amazon has been cleared, with tax incentives and cash grants totalling \$6 billion. Each year, for the last three years, some eight million hectares of forest have gone up in smoke. *Halting The Fires* looks at the disastrous legacy of Brazil's development policy for the Amazon, current attempts to stop the burning of the forest - and alternative ways of exploiting the resources of the world's greatest rainforest.

## GREEN MEDICINES

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

**Production Company** – Scandinature Films

**Director** - Bo Landin

**Country** – Global

Tropical rainforests are home to thousands of unique medicinal plant species. Between 70 - 90 per cent of the world's rural populations rely on traditional herbal medicines for primary health care- yet everywhere the natural laboratory is undervalued and under threat. Director Bo Landin investigates how communities around the world are fighting back. Shot in Thailand, Western Samoa, Borneo, Costa Rica, Papua New Guinea, and Brazil, his film shows the different initiatives being taken to conserve and promote traditional knowledge of plant-based medicines.

## CAN TROPICAL RAINFORESTS BE SAVED?

(VHS/Colour/English/60 & 59 min.)

**Production Co.** -Richter Production

**Producer/ Director**- Robert Richter

**Country**- Global

Producer Robert Richter looks at the web of economic, social and political pressures that have led to the mass destruction of the forests - and at the prospects today for saving those that still

remain.

An estimated 500 million people worldwide live in the forests, many caught in the clash between development and cultural survival.

Richter investigates alternative uses for the rainforests; debt for nature swaps in Costa Rica and Cameroon, and the sustainable harvest of products such as acai berries, latex and Brazil nuts in the Amazon. But to his own question, 'Can tropical rainforests be saved?' Richter's conclusion is only rarely bleak.

## Environmental Degradation

### THE GREEN DUSTBIN

(VHS/Colour/English/29 min.)

**Producer and Director** - Lars Brydesen

**Country** – Global

The average citizen in the industrialized world throws out around one tonne of refuse every year. Much of the refuse that ends up on garbage dumps is made of toxic materials, that decompose only slowly, often combining to form highly toxic compounds that leach into the soil and can eventually contaminate groundwater supplies. Even incineration can harm the environment. A kilogram

of PVC yields over 1/2 Kg of hydrogen chloride. Combined with rain water, this becomes hydrochloric acid which damages plant life and rusts cars. The solution, claims Danish director Lars Brydesen, is to recycle waste. Plastic, glass and paper can all be sorted at home, bottles can be reused to save on energy costs, and organic waste can be turned into beneficial compost.

## CLIMATE CHANGE: NATURE'S REVENGE

(VHS/Colour/English/13 min.)

**Production Company** - TVE

**Produced for**-UNEP

**Producer** - Danier Rea

**Country** - Global

This disturbing report on Climate Change examines the costs to the planet of the vicious North-South cycle of developing country debt and unsustainable development. Six billion tonnes of carbon dioxide are deposited into the atmosphere every year and 3.2 million tonnes of oil are spilled into the oceans. The humans that inhabit this planet are waging war on the earth, but Nature, claims the film, is taking its revenge. Every year hurricanes and earthquakes devastate communities around the world. In South India, the introduction of renewable solar energy plants have paved the way toward greater co-operation between the North and South.

## WOMEN IN PARADISE

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Production Company** - Ying Yang Productions

**Producers/Directors** - Petter Nome & Torbjorn Morvik

**Country** - India and Maldives

The Maldives are a remote and beautiful group of coral islands just north of the Equator in the Indian Ocean. Largely dependent on fishing and tourism, the islands' 200,000 people live an unhurried existence, preserving their ancient culture and traditions for their children. But scientists warn that the low-lying Maldives could disappear under the Indian Ocean if predictions of global warming and rising sea levels come true. Greenhouse gas emission from industry and agriculture around the world are thought to be the major causes of global warming. But even if Western nations were to cut back now on carbon dioxide and other industrial emissions, countries like India and China have already embarked on ambitious development programmes, which could massively increase greenhouse gas levels in the earth's atmosphere. It is development projects like India's vast coal fired power plants at Singrauli which will, this Norwegian film argues, seal the fate of the Maldives, and low-lying areas in Bangladesh and Egypt. Why should India - (Faced with mass poverty and a desperate need for energy.) not build her economy on coal as Europe and the USA have

done? A brilliantly structured story that conveys the contradictions and complexities inherent in the global warming debate.

## OUR BEAUTIFUL PLANET

(VHS/Colour/English/119 min.)

**Co-Productions** - NHK, TVO, ZDF, MPT SBS, SVT, TTV,TVT, HKTV, Central Independent TV(U.K.)

**Producers** - Sosuka Yasuma, Wally Longul and Dr. J. Bublath

**Country** - Global

A consortium of public broadcasting organizations from Asia, Europe, North America and Australia joined forces to produce this two-hour programme on the global environmental crisis - and the global initiatives needed to solve it. Documentaries from contributors highlight the similarity between environmental problems around the world. German film-makers look at the death of Europe's forests; a Canadian film-maker examines the pollution of Canada's lakes, rivers and oceans; and Japanese and Thai film crews explore the loss of nearly two-thirds of Thailand's forests. *Our Beautiful Planet* also includes a computer simulation of potential climate changes and presents the results of an international questionnaire delivered to more than 700 environmental NGO's

## THE GREEN HOUSE EFFECT

(VHS/Colour/English/50 min.)

**Production Company** - BBC, Scandinature Films TVE

**Producer** - Peter Ceresole

**Country** - Global

Carbon dioxide and other so called Green House Gases' emitted from power stations, cars, factories and agriculture are trapping the Earth's heat. The film finds new evidence to show that global warming has already begun.

## CAN POLAR BEARS TREAD WATER?

(VHS/Colour/English/53 min.)

**Production Company** -Global Weather Watch in association with Central TV, TVE & Better World Society

**Producer/Director**- Lawrence Moore

**Country**-Global

As the Cold War recedes, the world is beginning to grapple with new and more insidious threats to global security posed by global climate change. At a time when the world population is expanding rapidly, a warmer climate threatens to reduce grain production from the United States, which supplies over 100 countries, by as much as 17 percent. Shortfalls in world food supplies will lead to whole

communities uprooting themselves to move to more propitious climates in search of food. Climate change could even trigger wars over scarce resources. This graphic and timely Anglo-American production investigates the underlying causes of climate change, its likely effects, and the measures now open to world leaders to stave off ecological catastrophe.

### **MUCKING UP THE MED**

(VHS/Colour/English/51 min.)

**Production Company** - TVE & TV Espanola

**Producer & Director** - Ashley Bruce

**Country** - Mediterranean

Only 300 monk seals, it is estimated, are now left in the Mediterranean Sea - victims of environmental degradation and angry fishermen who blame hungry monk seals for their dwindling catches of fish. The tragic demise of the monk seal has become a symbol of what has happened to the Mediterranean Sea over the last 25 years. Over-development, over-fishing and the relentless dumping of industrial waste and sewage has turned the crystal waters and stunning coastlines of what was once a European paradise into a dangerous, diseaseridden and often dead sea. The influx of 100 million tourists a year, the lack of regulations covering discharges of industrial waste and sewage, and the geography of the Mediterranean itself, where water exchange through the Straits of

Gibraltar can take up to 200 years, makes the prospect of cleaning up the pollution look grim.

### **THE BLUE EYE OF SIBERIA (IN 2 PARTS)**

(VHS/Colour/English/2 X 52 min.)

**Production Company** - Cicada Productions

**Producer** - Frances Berrigan

**Director** - Yuri Beliankin

**Country** - Russia

Lake Baikal, in Siberia, is possibly the oldest, and certainly the deepest, lake on earth. Known as the Blue Eye of Siberia, it contains one fifth of the world's fresh water and is home to over 2,500 species of fish and crustaceans. To the Tungas, Buryat and other peoples living on the lake and the lake's islands, Baikal wields tremendous spiritual power, its cliffs are gods, its geological creation is legendary. But this Anglo/Soviet production shows that the delicate balance of this ancient ecosystem has been brought close to destruction because of over-fishing and industrialization. Effluent from factories and unused timber dumped back into the lake is poisoning the water. While Lake Baikal is now officially deemed a barometer of atmospheric changes, many scientists say that even if the pollution stopped now it would take 300-400 years before the lake can rejuvenate its self.



## AD 2048: THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

(VHS/Colour/English/46 mm.)

### **AD 2048: The Ozone Alarm**

(VHS/Colour/English/50 min.)

**Production Company** - NRK

**Producer** - Torbjorn Morvik

**Director** - Torbjorn Morvik & Petter Nome

**Country** - Global

Set in the fictional future of the year 2048, these two Norwegian films focus on the damage human activity and man-made chemicals are inflicting on the atmosphere- and look at what the world may be like if depletion of the ozone layer and global warming continue unchecked. TV news bulletins in 2048 report an appalling thesaurus of disaster stories; epidemics of suertyphus' spread by rats, plagues of grasshoppers devouring food crops, and famine relief camps in Europe, while in the Middle East hundreds are killed fighting over the last remaining fresh water supplies. But the films end on an optimistic note with Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland claiming world leaders still have time to forge common policies to head off ecological catastrophe. AD2048, which was made in Norway, was winner of the 1988 Prix Italia for ecological films.

## ANIMATION COMPILATION

(VHS/Colour/no narration/96 min.)

**Production Co.** - Pannonia Films

**Country** - Global

A series of abstract, animated short films highlighting man's relationship with the environment. A variety of themes are taken up including: the problems of industrialization and the associated waste, reliance on non- sustainable energy sources and the disparity in consumption patterns between North and South.

## ONE CHILD, ONE VOICE

(VHS/Colour/English/46 min.)

**Production Company** - Turner Broadcasting

**Exec. Producer** - Peter Wagg

**Producer** - Elliot Rosenblatt

**Director** - Malcolm Clarke

**Country** - Global

Seven children from around the world share their hopes and fears for the future of the planet. Danielle Babo from Brazil, Roland Thomson from Germany, Payal Jain from Bangladesh, Polina Sanchuk from Russia, Brady Tsurutani from Japan, Kenneth Brown from Africa and the star of the film Erika Flores from the US each talk about critical environmental issues such as global warming or acid rain that

affect their countries - and the possible solutions open to them. The film uses the dramatic device of an eerie, surrealistic fair ground at Santa Cruz, California, to illustrate the variety of threats to the global environment. A general, a politician, a business man, a carnival barker and an English policeman are among the fairground characters who hurtle round the switch-backs and ride painted fairground horses on the roundabouts. A fortune teller predicts the rise in sea levels will result from global warming. Bumper cars become a metaphor for air pollution, a shooting gallery features endangered species as targets, while a house of mirrors illustrates the distorted consumption patterns of Western societies.

The fairground scenes and the children's views are intercut with documentary footage from around the world and the film concludes by urging viewers world wide to make their own 'leaf' pledges to support environmental legislation.

## CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

**Production Co.** - Yorkshire TV

**Exec. Producer** - Chris Bryer

**Producer** - Elliot Rosenblatt

**Country** - Russia

It was the worst nuclear accident in history, releasing 90 times as much radioactivity as the

Hiroshima Bomb. The then Soviet Government's first response to the disaster was to impose a news blackout. This deeply shocking documentary, made on the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, is a first attempt to assess the full impact of the explosion for many of the families still living in the contaminated region today. Children are more susceptible to radiation than adults.

## OUR FUTURE WORLD

(VHS/Colour/English/20min.)

**Production company** - BBC/international  
Broadcasting Trust

**Country** - Global

This is the overview programme in the highly-acclaimed BBC/IBT series Our Global Environment. Our Future World looks at current environmental problems, and highlights some of the positive initiatives to deal with them.

## TOP GUNS AND TOXIC WHALES V

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

**Production Co.** - Central TV

**Producers** - Lawrence Moore and Robbie Stamp

**Director** - Robbie Stamp

**Country** - Global

Six thousand years of warfare, combined with 20th

century technological prowess, have peaked in the skill and sophistication of the F-14A Tomcat, the phantom-like Stealth Bomber and the Top Guns' pilots who fly them.

Worldwide, over US\$1 trillion dollars a year goes towards sustaining that machine. Meanwhile, millions of people suffer from poisoned air, water and land, and from the forces of drought, flood and storms. And, in the estuary of the St. Lawrence River, the Beluga Whales are so heavily polluted by man-made chemicals that they are classified - while still alive - as toxic waste.

## GLOBAL DUMPING GROUNDS

(VHS/Colour/English/52 min.)

**Production Co.** - The Center for Investigative Reporting and KOED

**Exec. Producer** - David Fanning

**Directors** - Lowell Bergman and Sharon Tiller

**Country** - United States and Taiwan

The United States produces 500 million tonnes of hazardous waste every year-ten times as much as any other country. The high cost of disposal in the USA, together with loop-holes in US environmental laws, mean that hazardous contaminants ranging from PCBs to asbestos are shipped abroad to developing countries like Taiwan.

A compelling expose of the vested interests which influences US policy on hazardous waste.

## A REVOLUTION FOR SURVIVAL

(VHS/Colour/English/27 min.)

**Production Co.** - Worldview International Foundation

**Executive Producer** - Rune Hersvik **Director/Producer** - Arne Fjortoft

**Country** - Global

The film begins with a dramatic shot of the Maldives being hit by a major storm and rising sea levels. This sets the stage for a general discussion of global environmental issues using the environmental conference in Rio de Janeiro as the center point. Such topics as global warming, preservation of biodiversity and reliance on fossil fuels are touched upon.

## Conservation

### WETLAND WORLD

(VHS/Colour/English/14 min.)

**Production Company** - TVE

**Producer** - Tony Strasburg

**Director** - Jamie Hartzell

**Country** - Global

On the crucial role of wetland and what the Ramsar convention is doing to help protect them around the world.

### ANIMA MUNDI

(VRS/Colour/English/28 min.)

**Production Company** - Instt. of Regional Education, New York

**Producer** - Lawrence Taub

**Director** - Godfrey Reggio

**Country** - Global

Anima Mundi - the breath of life - is a haunting celebration of the living world in music and images from cinematographer Godfrey Reggio and American mini-malist composer Philip Glass. The rhythms of Glass's powerful ethnic music and choral chanting reinforce the sense of mystery and wonder conveyed by Reggio's opulent

photography: breath-taking close-ups of menacing animals are intercut with majestic sea, sky and landscapes. Heaving lava and crashing waves orchestrated to Glass's hypnotic notes alternate with moments of great force and peace, capturing the essence of a vital, living world.

To arrive at this dense mix of colour and image, Godfrey Reggio edited sequences from outstanding natural history films with original footage: birds skim the water before take-off, majestic giraffes are succeeded by galloping herds of zebras, ostriches strut across the desert, insects sit complacently licking their eyeballs and cells multiply in their thousands to the rising tempo of the music. Plato's definition of Anima Mundi, from his fourth century work *Time us*, provides the finale for the film. "The Breath of Life, the Spirit, the Soul of the Wind...", this world is indeed a living being endowed with soul and intelligence."

### THE STATE OF MARINE MAMMALS V

(VHS/Colour/English/27 min.)

**Production Company** -WTN,TVE

**Producer** - Jennifer Wilson

**Country** - Global

The threat to the existence of many marine mammals - whether from pollution, fishermen or native hunters - has become an emotive issue in many parts of the world. This UK documentary, a

WTN/ TVE co-production, examines both sides of the debate - from the native hunters in the Arctic to the anti-whaling protests in the USA, and from the tragedy of the dolphins killed by tuna fishermen in purse-seine nets to the use of dolphins in military training. It seeks to show how both the threatened species as well as the fishermen's livelihood can be safeguarded. Man, the programme concludes, has always regarded whales and dolphins as fascinating creatures, but while numerous species are now almost extinct, governments dither over taking decisive action for the benefit of short-term political goals.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

(VHS/Colour; English/102 min.)

**Production Company:** Central TV

**Producer/Director:** Phillip Cayford

**Country** - Global

Over the last three centuries, more than 400 known animal species and an unknown number of plant species have become extinct. Scientists predict that by the year 2000, if the current abuse of the planet continues, more than 100 species of fauna and flora will disappear every day.

Central TV's stunning tour-de-force orchestrates breathtaking wild life photography to an emotive score from Michael Kamen in celebration of the richness and diversity of the natural world.

## RABI

(VHS/Colour/English subtitles/60 min.)

**Production Company:** Cinecom Productions/BBC

**Producer/Director:** Gaston Kabore

**Country:** Africa

A modern day fable using traditional African story telling techniques, Kabore's film is a gentle, enigmatic exploration of the relationships that Rabi builds up with the tortoise, with his father, with wise old Pusga - and with his own conscience. "Respect for nature," Kabore claims, "is inseparable from the world's cultural perceptions, from education in the fundamental values of life, from philosophy, the imagination and mythology."

## DONANA - THE LAST RESORT

(VHS/Colour/English/51 min.)

**Production Co** - Central TV

**Producer** - Ashley Bruce

**Director** - Jack Bellamy

**Country** - Spain

Coto Donana, Western Europe's most important untouched wetland, lies between Portugal and Gibraltar on Spain's Atlantic coast. Now this unique ecosystem is threatened on all sides: by intensive agricultural development, unregulated industry, poaching and a growing tourist industry. Illegal

pesticides used for rice growing are threatening the wildlife of the area. Mining, grape processing and olive oil factories are polluting the rivers flowing into Donana with heavy metals and toxic waste.

## **LATVIA'S RICH WETLANDS**

(VH/Colour/English/50 min.)

**Production Co.** - Scandinavian Films

**Producer/Director** - Anders Gissla

**Country** - Latvia

Latvia, on the eastern edge of the Baltic Sea, can still boast of a wide diversity of wildlife habitats.

The film includes stunning wildlife photography of white-backed woodpeckers, black and white storks, otters, beavers, lynx and wolves. Thousands of birds and bats stop over at Lake Pape, in the North, on their annual migration route south. But this rich biodiversity is now under threat as Latvia begins to introduce new farming practices to develop its own, independent economy. Director Anders Gissla shows how drainage ditches in the wetlands are being widened and the marshes are starting to dry out.

## **THE GLOBAL DETECTIVE: THE JOURNEY OF DEATH**

(VHS/Colour/English/50\_min.)

**Production Co.** -BBC

**Producer** - David Henshaw

**Country** - Global

In what amounts to the world's biggest massacre of an endangered species, more than a million alligators are slaughtered every year in Brazil's wildlife paradise, the Pantanal National Park. Using a TV detective story format to add drama and suspense to this real-life investigation to find the killers, producer David Henshaw uncovers a trail of violence that leads all the way from Brazil to the fashion houses of Europe.

*The Journey of Death* is a story of environmental terror, in which the victims are humans as well as animals.

## NGO Profiles and Training Films

### BUILDING WITH MUD

(VHS/Colour/Hindi and English/23 min.)

**Production Co.** - Development Alternatives

**Director** - Safina Uberoi

**Country** - India

The film is meant for NGOs, architects, builders and people involved in exploring the possibility of mud as a viable building material. The Balram mud block press, designed and marketed by Development Alternatives, is a simple manual device which makes easy the tedious job of mud block making. The film explains the procedure and applications of Balram.

### DHOOP KI LAKEERAN

(VHS/Colour/English/20 min.)

**Production Co.** - Cine Arts India

**Producer** - Bikram K. Singh

**Country** - India

A series of twenty documentary films on various NGO's and voluntary organizations working all over India.

### YUSUF MEHR A CENTRE

60 kms from Bombay city is the village Tara. Once there used to be enough forest to feed the tribal population. But today, with the disappearance of forests, hunger and disease have become a common feature in the village. Yusuf Mehr Ali Centre is helping the villagers to generate income and turn the flow of money from the cities to the villages. The film documents its efforts to develop the village health and other infrastructure.

### RUCHI

Life in the mountains can be tough, more so if you are a woman. The women of Himachal Pradesh have accepted as their fate the fact that they have to work in the fields, at home, rear the kids and deal with husbands who are alcoholics. This was until a voluntary organization called RUCHI(Rural Centre for Human Interest) came along. Over the years, the organization has worked with the people to improve their standard of living and stop further degradation of the environment in the hills of Himachal Pradesh. Over the years, the local people with the help of the organization have been able to build schools for kids, health centers and improve the irrigation facilities. Now the locals are getting loans to buy cattle as well. The film documents the efforts of RUCHI and its impact on the area.

## **VIGYAN ASHRAM**

In the state of Maharashtra, a voluntary organization called Vigyan Ashram has been formed. Their aim is to take science and technology to the villages. Dr. S.S. Kalbagh is the founder of the organization. The organization trains young students by conducting courses like water resource development, animal husbandry, energy and environment etc. by giving them practical working experience. This organization also trains them in building special domes, new techniques in poultry and agriculture.

## **SARVODAYA ASHRAM**

About 15 kms from Hardoi in UP is Sikundrapur, where an organization inspired by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave is located. Sarvodaya Ashram has been involved in various developmental activities. The organization has helped the poorer farmer's to reclaim their land from salination. The farmers put in their labour and the organization provides them with the resources. About 11.5 lakh hectares of land in UP is saline and, therefore, unfit for agriculture. Apart from wasteland development which remains their major thrust area, the organization has been trying to generate awareness amongst the villagers about new farming techniques, various government policies and matters of law. They have also been

involved with various other developmental activities like organizing women, giving them better economic opportunities and promoting health awareness in the area. One of their most impressive achievements has been to found a school for the poor children usually belonging to the backward classes. The school, apart from giving education also trains children in making durries. The children also take care of a local plant nursery.

## **KHORI CENTRE**

Haryana is a relatively prosperous state in India. But some areas in the state are still backward and desperately in need of developmental activities. The Khori Centre has been set up in Khori village for this purpose. This organization's main thrust area is soil and water conservation and income generation for the villagers. Shortage of water and degradation of land had made agriculture almost impossible in the area. Khori centre has helped the villagers build checkdams, test the soil and water, and provide them with essential technical assistance. With the help of the villagers, a large part of the land is being used for agriculture. Apart from this, the centre has been promoting traditional skills like leather work, durri(rugs) making, block printing etc. This has been done by upgrading and improving the designs, supplying the raw materials and providing a proper marketing outlet to the artisans. The women in the area have been encouraged to come out of their houses, organize



themselves into Mahila Mandals and participate in various income generating activities. The organization is helping another organization in setting up Gobar gas plants in the state.

## **VIKAS VIKALP**

The film documents the ideology and work of Development Alternatives or Vikas Vikalp. The organization designs new kinds of technologies and institutions for the promotion of sustainable development. A non profit organization, Vikas Vikalp functions as an agent of change particularly for solving the problems of the poor and the peripheralised populace of our country. Its contribution includes designing technologies for low cost housing, upgrading the traditional handloom, training poor weavers to use the new improved loom, and manufacturing recycled handmade paper.

## **KHAMOSHI KE SWAR**

There are nearly one crore handicapped people in India. A large number of them are deaf and dumb. 'Silence' is an organization formed by an ex-Govt. employee, Samir Ray. In the city of Calcutta, which is always bursting with noise, there are deaf and dumb people who are living in silence. 'Silence' trains these people in self promoted income generation activities like making greeting cards,

wax lamps, screen prints and paintings. The film touches sensitive issues like how attitudes towards the deaf and dumb affect their families and marriage.

## **SMRITI VATIKA**

A unique new programme has been started in the capital city of Delhi, called Smriti Vatika. In an effort to green the city, a new garden has come up in Delhi where people can plant a tree in memory of their loved ones or to mark any happy occasion in their lives. The film documents this greening activity by the Vatika.

## **ALOK PATH**

Nature has been rough on Ladakh. Leh is one of the coldest areas in India and is situated in the Himalayas. Due to its geographical position, it remains segregated from the mainland and is often deprived of development schemes. A society formed by the locals called the Friends of Ladakh society has taken up the task of educating the locals, building schools in far off villages in Ladakh. They arrange schools, sports activities and are trying to encourage locals to preserve their culture.

## **JEEVAN DAN**

**B**lood donation has a lot of myth attached to it. Yet it remains one of the most essential products for most hospitals. In this age of AIDS, getting healthy and uncontaminated blood in adequate quantities is a big problem. Chandigarh is a city that fulfills its entire need for blood with the help of the Blood Sank society, Chandigarh and Post Graduate Institute, Chandigarh. While the Blood bank society provides motivation and information to people, PGI Chandigarh provides the technical resources. The film documents the joint efforts of these two organizations in motivating students and the general public to contribute to a noble cause.

## **JALDI KYON**

**C**hild marriage is one of the social ills that Indian society is still battling with. Despite laws prohibiting it, child marriage remains fairly prevalent in certain parts of India. The film exposes the attitudes, economic and social problems that make it almost impossible to completely curtail the practice in our society.

## **SWAYAM SEVA**

**B**hagwatullah Charitable Trust helps the villagers of Elmancheli near Vishakapatnam in Southern

India. The organization works with the villagers to develop the barren land. Now after years of efforts, they have been able to get cash crops on land that was previously barren.

Apart from working in the areas of health and education for the local population, the organization is providing various income generating programmes like screen printing.

## **SAMAGRA VIKAS**

**B**hagwatullah Charitable Trust was started by a group of doctors who left their jobs in the USA to come and work with the villages near Vishakhapatnam in Southern India.

In an area where health conditions were poor, the Trust has succeeded in providing a hospital with modern facilities. The organization is making a social impact by working with the local women. The women in the area were not allowed to go out of their homes and were sometimes even locked inside by their husbands. Most men in the village are alcoholics. Now the women have succeeded in coming out of their homes, forming Mahila Mandals and are contributing to the family income by working in the projects started by the organization. The film documents the work done by the Trust in the area.

## **SARHAKTA**

While the city marches on in Gujarat, some villages and tribal areas are left behind in the race to modernize. The tribals in the Jhagaria village Baroach, in Gujarat, are bearing the brunt of development. The forests on which they were totally dependent are quickly disappearing. Poverty and disease are slowly killing them. 'Sewa Rural' was formed by a group of Indian doctors from USA. After years of effort, the organization has succeeded in providing a hospital which serves about 45,000 people from nearly 40 villages. Eye diseases are a major threat in the area. The hospital performs eye operations and also trains women from the villages as midwives and paramedics. The organization is also involved in various income generating activities for the rural population, especially with women.

## **KHARA PANI, MEETHA PANI**

There is an acute shortage of drinking water especially in the coastal areas of this country. The water is generally too salty to be drinkable. In Tamil Nadu, the T.N. Water Supply and Drainage Board (TNWSDB) is responsible for providing good water.

Of 34 thousand bastis in the state, 10 thousand don't get good water. One such village is the Utthal gram in Chinaiyanna district – 20 Kms from Madras.

Here, there are 50 households, about 500 people, who had to bring water from a pipeline 5 hrs away from the village, and here too the water available was not enough.

The TNWSDB had set up a desalination plant here in 1985 which has now solved all their water problems. The technology was developed at Bharnagar Central Salt Marine Research Institute. TNWSDB plans to set up similar desalination plants in villages that fulfill certain predefined criteria.

## **KUCH AUR KADAM**

The Ladakh Ecological Development Group, established in 1983, explores the possibilities of using alternative energy sources in Leh and the surrounding hills. They have mostly experimented with solar energy in Leh and their products have been successful. The society makes everything in its own workshop - solar cookers, stoves etc. It has also developed an insulating wall which keeps the room warm during the winter. This has enabled the people to earn more because they now have an extended working season. Green-houses have increased fruit and vegetable production which can now be produced in winters too. A vocational training centre trains local people in wood work, handicrafts, tailoring and stitching.

The Group has also ventured outside Leh, where, in one village, they have utilized the rivers' energy

to run a turbine and grind grain. It has also set up turbines to generate electricity to work a pump, a Gobar Gas Plant for providing cooking fuel, and also gives quality fertilizer(manure) to the farmers. The main thrust in the future will be on handicrafts development, water management and soil management.

## **CAPART**

India, a country of villages, has a large number of NGOs and voluntary organizations working in rural areas. The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is an agency of the Indian Government which looks after the funding and resource needs of various organizations working at the grassroot level. Over the years, CAPART has funded 2000 organizations with a total of about Rs. 90 crores. Apart from funding, the Council also provides suitable marketing outlets for various income generation projects by organizing exhibitions in cities from time to time

## **UBESHWAR VIKAS MANDAL**

The Aravalli mountain range in Rajasthan was green and had abundant wild life forty years ago, but today, it is a desert. Ubeshwar Vikas Mandal is involving the villagers of Ubeshwar in re-greening the Aravallis. This is done by reclaiming the barren

land by building checkdams and planting trees. The villagers are reviving the ancient tradition of community work to get control over the land and water. The villagers have not only planted trees, they also guard the new saplings, check overgrazing and the loss of top soil by traditional methods.

## **SEVA MANDIR**

Udaipur in Rajasthan is famous for its lakes and palaces and is now a popular tourist centre. But just a few miles away are villages that are living with virtual environmental catastrophes. The once green Aravalli mountain range which used to fulfill the needs of the local Bhil tribe - are today barren. Sewa Mandir is a voluntary organization helping the Bhils to regreen their surroundings by community work - planting saplings, making nurseries checking soil erosion and developing health and literacy facilities. The film documents Sewa Mandir's efforts to help the Bhils in the villages near Udaipur.

## **LOK KALYAN SAMITI**

This film documents the work of Lok Kalyan Samiti, an organization working with the villagers in Haryana. They have opened day care centres for the old, schools for the village children and are constantly working for the health of the villagers.

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