

NATURE ON TRACK

ON TRACK I

1. *Turtle Tales*

This, the first of thirteen programmes on the environment to commemorate world environment day, it is headed up by a “DID YOU KNOW” segment which comprises of dynamic attention grabbing and sometimes even humorous environmental information geared to entertain and educate. The remainder of the programme is made up of a documentary section.

“*Turtle Tales*” focuses on the loggerhead and leatherback turtles of Maputoland. These huge ocean-living, air breathing reptiles beach themselves annually on the Maputo land Coast to lay their eggs. Genetically, the turtles are almost identical to those living 100 million years ago, hence their prehistoric appearance.

2. *Horn of Death*

“*Horn of Death*” deals with the black and white rhino and the controversy surrounding the trade in rhino horn. Demand for their horn, fictitiously believed to have healing powers, and a status symbol in its carved form as a Yemeni dagger handle, continues to cause their demise. The black rhino in Botswana has become extinct twice in one century, dethroning programmes have been adopted in Zimbabwe and Namibia and shoot on sight policies have become full-scale wars between poachers and conservationists. Yet still the rhino’s future looks bleak.

3. *Birds of a Feather*

The success story of the Ostrich, the largest living bird on earth, is probably attributable to the alliance forged between man and these great flightless birds. Throughout the ages Ostriches have been hunted for their meat, plucked and captured for amusement. However, it is due to the domestic farming of Ostriches that they have not become extinct.

They are devoted parents and have some interesting physical adaptations to cope with dust synonymous with the arid regions they inhabit.

4. *Chita*

This is the story of Ann Van Dyk and her incredible dedication to a lifetime’s work towards the preservation of the cheetah. Her work began in 1968 on the family farm, De Wildt, when she adopted two cheetah cubs.

Through trial, error and heartbreak, Ann’s dedication has been rewarded and she has had much success in breeding these spotted cats, including the unusually marked and

rare king cheetah. Over the years, her “Orphanage” has expanded to include other injured, orphaned or threatened animals who too are cared for in true De Wildt style.

5. Snakes and Other Reptiles

Scaly, cold-blooded and sometimes deadly... These creatures have been feared, hated and the subject of many a myth. The family of reptiles includes the turtles, tortoises, terrapins, lizards and, probably the most awe-inspiring, the snake and crocodiles.

It is these last two, most lethal reptiles that are the focus of this documentary.

6. A Terrible Beauty

For centuries, the skeleton coast has scorned man’s encroachment. Shipwrecks and epitaphs are exhibited as perverse monuments to man’s defeat.

Although seemingly inhospitable, the skeleton coast offers life to some - Jackal, Springbok, Cormorants, and Seals, to name a few. These creatures have adapted to their desert environment and where people have not encroached, there is plenty for all. However, the seals face a ruthless competitor: man.

Though harsh and arid, the skeleton coast is a land of terrible beauty.

7. A Handful of Dust

“*A Handful of Dust*”, following the “DID YOU KNOW” section, which is geared to educate and entertain.

Towering dunes, sand storms, searing days and freezing nights characterize many of the deserts of the world. Although apparently inhospitable, they provide habitat for many species of plant and animal that have adapted to survive the harsh climate.

8. The Ivory Kings

“*The Ivory Kings*”, follows a series of “Did you knows” - a few entertaining and interesting environmental facts.

Once roaming freely through Africa and Asia, these gigantic mammals have suffered the persecution and ridicule of man. Their “white gold”, ivory tusks, so treasured by man, have been the cause of their demise, although they have too been revered by certain cultures through the ages. Their “rumblings”, greetings and rituals bear testament to their emotions and family structures, so akin to our own.

9. *The Highlanders*

The attention grabbing “Did You Knows” precedes the On Track documentary: “***The Highlanders***”.

High up on cliff faces, overlooking lush valleys and shadowed by craggy peaks, are the Drakensberg baboons. Although not a subspecies, these primates have adapted to an unusual environment, having to resort to digging for tubers and roots to eat, keeping their troop size smaller than is usual and sprouting “woolly” coats to combat the bitterly cold winter months.

10. *Tracing the Shades*

“***Tracing the Shades***”, follows a series of “Did you Knows” - some entertaining and educational environmental facts.

The shades of the spirits of the ancestors, whose voices speak in the winds that whistle through the thatch of tribal hunts, are mysteries that are an integral part of Africa. Credo Mutwa is one of Southern Africa’s foremost herbalists and spiritual councillors, known as a sangoma or inyanga in the local African vernacular.

Intense training and years of study have resulted in his knowledge of the ways of his ancestors. However, with spiralling urbanisation of rural peoples, the true initiates in the arts of healing and divination are retreating. Sadly, one wonders if this is a dying breed.

11. *The Long Shadow*

The “DID YOU KNOW?” Will entertain and enlighten the viewer and are followed by the documentary of the week entitled “***The Long Shadow***”.

With the advent of the industrial revolution and man’s so-called advancement into the age of technology, we have destroyed much of our earth, with little thought of what is to come. Industrial pollutants, smoke, exhaust fumes and gases all aid us in our headlong rush towards development - and disaster, our land, our seas and our skies are being eroded by our own hands as we apathetically await our own fate.

12. *At The Waterhole*

“***At the Waterhole***”, focuses on the variety of wildlife in the Hluhluwe and Umfolozi Reserve.

13. *The Money Game*

“***The Money Game***” is the title of this week’s On Track documentary that follows a sequence of “DID YOU KNOWS” which includes informative, interesting environmental facts.

“The Money Game”, illegal wildlife trade is a business subordinate only to the smuggling of arms and drugs, and unless brought under control, The ecological implications are horrifying. There are many countries that rely on legal wildlife trade, and depend on sustainable wildlife resources for foreign exchange earnings, however this documentary concentrates on the illegal trade and its horrific implications.

ON TRACK II

14. Patterns Out Of Time

“Patterns Out Of Time”, follows the “DID YOU KNOW?” section which is geared to educate and entertain.

Colour, bold vibrancy and patterns characterize the Ndebele people of Southern Africa. Drawing inspiration from their African surrounds, each new day will find the Ndebele mothers creating trees, flowers, birds and animals in beadwork and paint from colours of the rainbow.

The women of the Southern Ndebele tribes are custodians of their art and through them the cultural fabric has remained intact, despite their many decades of strife at the hands of apartheid.

Their roots are found in the mighty Chief Mzi, who spoke of peace and who fathered many children. It was his two sons who betrayed his legacy of peace and fought for power over the tribe. Still today the Ndebele remains divided.

But they continue to paint - it is in their hearts the essence of what it is to be Ndebele is nurtured and kept alive. And through their craft this spirit becomes manifest.

15. Ark Of The City

“Ark Of The City” follows the “Did you know” section that is geared to educate and entertain.

Zoosis a very real psychological affliction, affecting thousands of animals behind bars. The symptoms? Pacing. The monotonous, pendulum-like stride of so many animals, which we have all seen yet not observed or questioned, as they seem to ritually, hypnotically move from corner to corner of a cage not much more than a few paces wide.

Man’s fascination over the centuries for all things wild and woolly has led to the creation of zoos. However moral or immoral, the justification for their existence remains unresolved -are they there to titillate and entertain or are zoos organisations fulfilling valuable research, conservation and educational functions?

Whatever the justification, the moral dilemma remains.

16. *Still Life - Steel Shadows*

“Still life - Steel shadows” follows the “Did you know” section, which is geared to educate and entertain.

The Kalahari region of the Southern African subcontinent, which has the most expansive stretch of sand in the world, is a vast and desolate area where people and animals subsist alongside each other.

All that concerns the people is seeking out a living from this barren region to ensure the survival of their children.

This documentary is a still life portrait of a scorched land where nothing changes from day to day.

17. *Parklands*

“Parklands” follows the “Did you know” section, which is geared to educate and entertain.

With the rampant destruction of habitats worldwide, particularly in Africa, humankind is finally waking up to the fact that game parks and nature reserves are vital components in the struggle to preserve endangered species. The question is: how should they be run? As sustainable resources, which benefit local communities or as enclaves to be enjoyed only by the rich and famous. Tonight’s On Track takes a look at ***“Parklands”*** and examines the complex issues surrounding them.

18. *A Liquid Cradle*

“A Liquid Cradle” follows the “Did you Know” section which is geared to educate and entertain.

“A Liquid Cradle” is a celebration of the spirit of birth, regeneration and creation in the St. Lucia wetlands, an area that extends over five different ecosystems. A place where tropical and temperate life forms, inland and coastal ecologies fuse and blend, to form one of the most unique places in the world.

19. *Of Lost Cities & Forests Found*

As man destroys, so he replenishes - usually with an imperfect variation on Nature’s original theme. Today, tropical rain forests are being summarily mutilated, the commercial playthings of big business.

Recently, at the Lost City, a commercially - inspired project has seen the recreation of a tropical enclave in the middle of the Bophuthatswana shrub land. Perhaps this is the first indication of how succeeding generations will experience that which we've always taken for granted. ***"Of Lost Cities And Forests Found"*** takes a look at the implications of this trend for the environment... And at ourselves.

20. Sets, Mice & Videotape

Animals in advertising have firmly entrenched themselves as the new stars of the media revolution. Consumers love them; they have been admirably doing their bit, selling things from banks, to motor vehicles to airlines to computers.

After much research into why consumers love watching animals in advertising and films, the only answer we could get from psychologists and animal trainers, is that they are "cute".

This documentary concentrates on the people who train these animals and their respective eccentricities.

21. Emerald Veils

Man is more intimately acquainted with certain sectors of the moon than he is with the heart of a rainforest. And yet, rainforests are the oldest ecosystems on this planet, containing by far a majority of life forms when compared to any other habitat. On Track lifts the emerald veils on the Madagascan rainforests and finds an evolutionary quirk born of their island status.

22. Jungle Jive

"Jungle Jive" deals with those lovable lemurs who've adapted to the bounteous tropical forests on the island of Madagascar. For the last 50 million years these primates have flourished & diversified into about 40 different species, but today upheavals on their island haven might mean that these fluffy creatures might not survive. On Track, takes a look at these planetary court jesters, bizarre evolution & their precarious future.

23. A Restless Spirit

Madagascar is an island that is unique from an evolutionary and ecological perspective. But the Malagasy people, too, have many interesting quirks and characteristics, which have developed as a result of their separation from mainstream Africa. In this, the first of two "On Track" episodes on the subject, we trade the history and culture of a people who play out their lives according to the dictates of the living dead.

24. *Burnt Offerings*

The people of Madagascar are in the proverbial catch-22 situation. On the one hand, their economy depends to a large extent on the exploitation of their island's natural resources. On the other hand, these resources are fast being exhausted. Tonight, On Track takes a look at this unhealthy situation and its causes.

25. *Once Upon A Time*

Man has always had a preoccupation with his origins. Philip Tobias, Professor of anatomy at the Wits medical School, world renowned paleo-anthropologist has been researching the origins of Man close on half a century. His contributions to the field are the now widely accepted postulate that Africa was where it all happened. This episode relates the story of the history of Mankind.

26. *Green Exiles*

For centuries Robben Island has been synonymous with cruelty and inhumanity. And more recently, it has come to symbolise the excesses of the apartheid system. What is not usually known is that the island is a haven for wildlife that flourishes in a habitat relatively untouched by human influence. Tonight's episode of On Track is entitled "***Green Exiles***" and takes a look at the paradox that is Robben Island.

27. *The Tides Of Change*

All life, including our own, has its origins in the sea. It is a world we left long ago, and it has become strangely forgotten. In this episode of "On Track", we discover a lost world of life, that belongs neither in the sea, nor on land - this is the inter-tidal zone, where sea meets land, where ocean meets continent, and there is bound to be an extraordinary intercourse.

28. *Lion Heart*

The lion is a wild animal that has brushed against just about every culture and civilisation since man started recording his sojourn on this planet. Stealthily treading through our histories and mythologies. Today the lion is locked in a struggle to survive the onslaught of man, the only predator to ever inflict permanent harm on the species. Tonight's "On Track" takes a look at the king of the jungle, "***Lion Heart***".

29. *Toad In The Hole*

Frogs and their amphibious relatives represent an evolutionary landmark, both literally and figuratively. Some three to four hundred million years ago, these intrepid creatures took their first pioneering hops, out of the sea and onto terra firma. Thus, the stage was set for a new era in evolution, and ultimately all land animals, including

man, have them to thank. This episode of On Track takes a look at the descendants of these first colonists.

30. Skinned

This episode examines the cruelty and misery visited upon millions of animals every year by unscrupulous farmers who supply the raw material for the international fur trade. Sadly, the campaigns are not working and the fur trade is booming on an unprecedented scale. Since this documentary was filmed, it has come to light that South African traders and consumers are contributing to these tragic activities in no small measure. Please note. This is sensitive viewing, which shows acts of extreme barbarism being perpetrated against animals. However, for those with fur coats previously unaware of the issues, this is the essential viewing material.

31. Creeping Beauties & Other Beasts

Arthropods are those many-legged creepy crawlies, including insects and spiders, which have plagued humankind for as long as anyone can remember. This episode puts the spotlight on a whole new world that we've only ever seen from behind an aerosol can.

32. Towards A Lonely Planet

The fate of a species during the normal course of evolution is extinction. But humankind is accelerating this phenomenon at an alarming rate. Currently, at least one life form is disappearing permanently each day, compared to one every thousand years during the age of the dinosaurs. This episode takes a look at man's inexorable march towards a lonely planet.

33. The Industrial Evolution

For over a century people have been enjoying the trappings of technology. And the planet has been stripped of its resources, polluted and otherwise abused. Tonight's On Track takes a look at how the industrial revolution has given way to the Industrial Evolution. A new spirit pervading technological enterprise. A spirit that cares for the environment and makes restitution for past excesses.

34. The Gatherers

The Bushmen of Southern Africa have a tormented history that has largely been ignored by the mainstream. They were dispossessed of their land. The arid environment of which they depend for survival is slowly losing its ecological integrity. This episode takes a look at these forgotten people, their ancient ways, and their outlook for the future.

35. Etosha - A Portrait

The Etosha National Park in Namibia encompasses an area that was once a lake some 100 thousand years ago. Over time, the lake dried up leaving a salt-encrusted desert that periodically fills with water during the wet season. It is then that Etosha flushes with green and a superabundance of life. This episode paints a startling portrait of Etosha, capturing its spirit of vitality.

36. African Lace & Petticoat Dust

The history of the Herero-speaking people of Namibia is a complex one, fraught with conflict. The last 200 years have witnessed clashes with other tribes over land and brutal campaign of genocide waged against them by the German colonists. More recently they became unwillingly embroiled in the Namibian War of independence. This episode takes a look at these dispersed pastoralists and what the future has in store for them.

37. Labour Of Love

The wind chisels the pale sandstone of the Soutpansberg. And ancient foothills roll into forests thick with wild figs and stinkwoods and trickling waterways. It is into this hilly precinct, three centuries ago, that a people migrated ... Bringing with them a magic drum which smote all their enemies before them.

They called their new home Venda, which means "pleasant land". And there they've remained. Fanning the flames of an artistic tradition brought from another land. A special edition of On Track for "Art & the Environment" week takes a look at the Venda people and how their dream worlds and mythologies are made substantial through painting, pottery and wood sculpture.

38. All Creatures Great And Small

Man's unsympathetic approach to colonising the wilderness has resulted in large numbers of wild birds and animals being injured. Hazards such as hit-and-run incidents, poisoning, trapping, barbed wire fences and many more contribute to the decline in wildlife populations. And when endangered species are involved, the problem becomes critical.

The Animal Rehabilitation Centre, or ARC, East of Pretoria is dedicated solely to handling such cases. This episode takes a look at the valuable contribution they're making to the conservation effort.

39. Lords Of The Sky

The majestic eagles, the lethal hawks and falcons, the mysterious owls and the scavenging vultures are known collectively as birds of prey, or raptors. These flying assassins have long captivated the imaginations, respect and admiration of human

observers. This episode takes a look at some of these magnificent birds and how they go about their fatal tasks.

ON TRACK III

40. Dog Days

Uncontrolled urbanisation is a problem that besets most developing countries. And whether goes a man goes his domestic animals. Sadly, the creatures of the urban slum are often at the bottom of the list of aid priorities, and they subsist in the most inhumane circumstances. This episode puts the spotlight on the South African end of the problem.

41. Island Rhythms & Crystal Waterways

Mozambique is a country that has been torn apart by civil strife since independence in 1975. However, the islands in the Bazaruto archipelago have remained relatively unscathed. But then, the island have survived a tumultuous history from the time the Arab slave traders first docked in the 8th century AD.

This episode takes a look at the people and their attempt to sustain the ecologically sound environment in the face of a tourist revival.

42. Out Of The Blue

The war in Mozambique extracted a terrible price: Hundreds of thousands of lives, many of whom were children. However, a lucky handful managed to escape to the islands, the Bazaruto archipelago. These peaceful havens were untouched by the war. Ironically, since the peace accord on the mainland was signed, their future has been under threat. This episode takes a look at the island fauna and the conservation thereof.

43. In Search Of Secret Africa

The mystical traditions of Africa are coming under the spotlight once again with a proposal that South Africa indigenous healers be integrated into the national health care structures. This episode goes in search of secret Africa in an attempt to understand the far-reaching influence held by sangomas over ordinary South Africans.

44. Wild Winter

The management of game parks is an uncomfortable fusion of science and nature. The old migrations, which restored the balance of things, have been curtailed. And the onset of winter brings with it unnatural concentrations of animals with accompanying pressures on the land.

This episode takes a look at a wild winter in the Kruger National Park.

45. The Big Spill

The Cape Sea Route is an environmental time bomb. Ageing tankers round the Southern Peninsula at least once every 12 hours, laden with toxic cargo. Sooner or later, one of these ships is bound to fall victim to a Cape winter storm. This episode takes a look at the disaster in the light of the Apollo Sea spill of June 1994 where thousands of oiled penguins faced certain death.

46. An African Rodeo

Game capture and translocation is a relatively new science, which has developed in the last 30 years. It is one of the few disciplines where the bulk of the research has been done almost exclusively in Africa. Tonight's On Track puts the spotlight on the cowboys, the helicopters and all the drama and action that goes with an African Rodeo.

47. The Nature Of Art

The artistic traditions of the South African people once played a functional role in the domestic life, customs and magic-religious festivals. Today, it is a booming trade. Artefacts created from woods and natural materials are churned out en masse. And to this end, the environment is being plundered. On Track looks at this growing market, the negative effects on the land and the consequences thereof.

48. Life Under The Bed

Kelp was once the Cinderella of the sea. Dismissed as unattractive and useless, it is only in recent years that this rather drab algae has been hailed as the primary link in the food chain of some coastal ecologies. On Track takes a look at the abundance of marine life that owes its existence to this much-maligned seaweed.

49. An Armchair Guide To The Galaxy

The origins and structure of the universe have preoccupied 20th century physicists for many decades now. The implications of this quest for ordinary people are many; because solving the mystery of creation is the key to grasping the enigma of our own existence. On Track is an "***Armchair Guide to the Galaxy***" - a layman's look at what the scientists have achieved so far.

50. Silent Sanctuary

One of the end points of the African Great Rift is the Luangwa Valley - a water filled depression, which draws the animals from their highland homes in the dry season.

Now at the start of spring as the rains are awaited, the animals stir lazily in anticipation of a return to their summer retreats.

“On Track” takes a look at springtime in this peaceful sanctuary.

51. In A Crowded Valley

The villagers of the Luangwa Valley in Zambia have been part of the ecology for centuries. But in recent decades, they were excluded from conservation efforts and antagonised by the colonial government. It is only in the recent past that conservation authorities have realised their error and are busy implementing a revolutionary integrated environmental management plan. On Track takes a look at the history and progress of the people “*In a Crowded Valley*”.

52. A Kingdom Come

Most of us are so wrapped up in our fax machines, cellular telephones and state-of-the-art motor vehicles; we forget sometimes that we’re just plain old mammals.

We’re furry, we hunt, we eat, we breed, we build houses - in fact, we have a lot in common with our evolutionary classmates.

On Track takes a look at the adaptations and habits that have made our fellow mammals and us so successful.

NATURE ON TRACK I

53. Their Master’s Choice

The study of Human Animal Interaction is a relatively new scientific discipline. Nevertheless, the value of dogs and other animals to human beings has long been recognised. From a physical point of view, disabled people benefit in a number of ways. And emotionally and psychologically, the input from our furry friends can be a lifesaver. On Track takes a look at animals in the service of mankind.

54. Phantoms Of The Forest

Two hundred years ago, the forests of the Southern Cape were magnificent woodlands packed with wildlife. Today, the vestiges of these are to be found only in the Knysna area. And the only animals left are a handful of elephants, if that. After years of controversy, three

Elephants were brought in from the Kruger Park to supplement the Knysna herd.

“*Phantoms of the Forest*” takes a look at the wrangling and issues surrounding this area and the elephants in particular.

55. Where There Water Touches The Sky

The Okavango Delta is a primordial oasis- a last Eden in the middle of a scorching dessert. And it is here that the denizens of the dry land and the swamps meet and then drift with the ebb and flow of the water. Nature On Track goes on a journey through the papyrus galleries and floodplains to discover a breathtaking world where the water touches the sky.

56. Life On The Edge

The Okavango Delta has survived into the 90's as a coherent ecosystem, more by accident than anything else. But now the prospect of the wetland being exploited for industrial and agricultural purposes is looming closer. In conservation circles, this is seen as an attempt to destroy one of greatest natural wonders on this planet. "***Life On The Edge***" takes a look at the complex issues involved.

57. Both Sides Of The Story

Hunting is a sport which most people find cruel and distasteful. They look down on hunters as bloodthirsty and violent murderers of wildlife. And yet, hunting is a lucrative source of revenue for conservation, more so than is tourism. This episode takes a look at "***Both Sides Of The Story***". The verdict is left to you.

58. In The Line Of Duty

Over the millennia dogs have often voluntarily placed themselves in the firing line at the behest of their human masters. Today, their instinct to serve without question is being utilised by law enforcement agencies around the world. Dogs in the South African Police Service are no exception. Nature On Track takes a look at their superior training and excellent track record in the line of duty.

59. In Time, With Water, Everything Changes

Water is the source of all life on this planet. All living creatures can trace their origins to the oceans, and all living things depend on this precious liquid for their continued existence. Nature On Track looks at the abundance of water in all its forms and examines how poorly humankind is managing this resource. The episode is entitled "***In Time And With Water Everything Changes***".

60. On A Wing And A Prayer

The history of the interaction between humankind and vultures has been a long one. Once revered by ancient civilisations, they have toppled from this position of prominence in recent times to a point where most of the vulture species are rare, threatened or endangered. Tonight's episode of Nature On Track joins these

misunderstood raptors as they soar into the next millennium ***“On a Wing and a Prayer”***.

61. In Shaka’s Footsteps

Just over two centuries ago, Zulu-speaking people were an insignificant grouping of coastal clans in the Kwa-Zulu Natal region. But it took one man, the mighty King Shaka, to weld them into the great warrior nation that confronted Boers and British Empire alike. Nature On Track takes a look at the Zulu: the People of Heaven, and throws the spotlight on their history and traditions.

62. A Time Of Respect

The enormous whales, the affectionate and intelligent dolphins, and the ferocious sharks. And they all occupy a special place in the human psyche. Yet, a lack of understanding, fear and greed on our part are pressurising their populations. Nature On Track looks at the problems besetting these creatures of deep and calls for ***“A Time of Respect”***.

63. On The River Shire

The Liwonde National Park in Malawi is a tiny enclave nestled on a gentle extension of the Great African Rift. The River Shire is a flat and fertile area. A super-abundant knot of fauna and flora displaying a range of habitats. Nature On Track alights on the banks of the River Shire and examines life as it exists on this plain of plenty.

64. The Lake Of Stars

Malawi’s lake is its lifeblood, forming the backbone of all economic activity. For Malawians this is a boon, and they’re only too aware of it. But not so long ago, the lake was responsible for carrying traffic that specialised in human misery. The Arab slavers. And modern-day Malawi can never forget this either. Nature On Track takes a look at this landlocked country, its people, its history and its ***“Lake of Stars”***.

65. A Bull Market

In the last few years, conservation in Africa has received a welcome boost from an unlikely source. If our wildlife is to survive, it can no longer be the sole responsibility of governments who would rather channel money into social projects. Fortunately, private enterprise has come along to fill the gap. The environment is acquiring an economic value, inducing companies and local communities to protect what they have. This episode takes a look at the wildlife business, which is fast becoming ***“A Bull Market”***

NATURE ON TRACK II

66. Interview With A Spider

Starting with Miss Muffet, the press has had a field day on the subject of spiders. Even Hollywood portrays them as evil arch villains of infinite cunning. The truth is, most spiders are benevolent, harmless creatures, without which the balance of nature would not be maintained. This episode enters the silken parlour for an **“Interview With A Spider”** which will help clear up all the rumours about arachnids.

67. So Shall He Reap

In the world's mad rush to feed itself, agriculturalists have systematically destroyed vast tracts of wilderness. Natural flora and fauna are retreating to increasingly smaller areas in the interests of filling the breadbaskets. And yet, despite the consummate success of farmers and food production, a billion people continue to starve. This episode counts the cost of habitat destruction and examines potential solutions.

68. The Great Thirstland

There is a buffer land between the fairest Cape and the Southern African interior, a dry and barren tract known as the Karoo. Here, early travellers and explorers were forced to run a gauntlet of disaster if they wished to taste the riches of the north. And yet, despite the harshness, the people of this region have come to love their desert. Nature On Track takes a look at this great thirst land and the forces that have shaped its destiny, from primordial marshland to modern day sheep country.

69. The Night Shift

Under cover of darkness a whole new set of actors flood the stage of the African wilderness. In fact, nocturnal animals together with those who live in caves or underground constitute half of all vertebrates on the planet. But it is half that we rarely get to observe. And so, Nature On Track takes us into an alien realm of mystery and shadows, and zeroes in on those creatures that work **The Night Shift**.

70. On The Waterfront

Southern Africa is an arid region with unpredictable rainfall and periodic droughts. Despite this, the sub-continent does have a substantial complement of aquatic birds who depend on what little water there is. Nature On Track goes down to the waterfront and surveys the more familiar inhabitants.

71. *Ke Bona Leseli (I Have Seen The Light)*

The tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho has a history grounded in the wisdom of its first leader, Moshoeshe. This is a man whom history recognises as one of the greatest African rulers on the sub-continent. His sense of justice, fairplay, his love of culture and his willingness to take in refugees set the stage for the ethic of modern Lesotho. Nature goes into mountains for a glimpse of the traditional past of Moshoeshe's highland people.

72. *Dhivehin*

The people of the Maldives archipelago have a history, which dates from the 5th century BC, and probably even further back. How they got there and where they came from is still a matter of conjecture. Since then, their island kingdom has been a port of call for just about every sea-faring civilisation. The Romans, the Mesopotamians, even the Scandinavians, have all docked at some point and left their mark. Nature On Track, entitled "***Dhivehin***", which means "The Islanders", drops in on a few of the atolls. It is the start of the southwest monsoon, and we find a people caught up in the crosswinds of modern life and centuries-old tradition.

73. *The Greatest Variety Show On Earth*

The almost infinitely diverse parade of life forms on this planet is often taken for granted. Enervating this pageant is the ongoing mystery of creation. Charles Darwin was a man who immersed himself in this mystery and briefly glimpsed what some would call the land of God, others the dynamism of a natural world literally unfolding before our eyes. Tragically, what little human understanding there is has been eclipsed by a wake of destruction left in the path of industrial and agricultural progress. Nature On Track, the award-winning environmental series produced by the Talking Pictures Company, raises the curtain on "***The Greatest Variety Show On Earth***" and spotlights the ecstasy of diversity, and the agony of human folly.

74. *With Time & Tide*

The Maldives archipelago is a low-lying group of islands rarely extending two metres beyond the surface of the Indian Ocean. It is said that with the passage of time and the action of the tides, all such fragile islands eventually disappear. However, global warming has raised the spectre of such an event taking place far sooner than anticipated - possibly even within the next fifty years. Nature On Track's episode entitled "***With Time and Tide***" takes a look at this environmental threat, as well as a few others impacting on this equatorial paradise.

75. *In Uncertain Waters*

For centuries the people of the Pongola Floodplain relied on the seasonal surge of water when the river would gently spill onto the flats and nourish the pans, the

summer grasses and the crops into plenty. Then in the 60's a dam was built, disrupting the natural flood cycle forever. The impact on the ecology was disastrous. The effects on the lives and livelihoods of the people even more so. This episode of Nature On Track entitled "*In Uncertain Waters*" takes a look at the people of the floodplain and how they have come to terms with environmental crisis.

76. Gateways To The Mysteries

The Southern San cave painters who once lived in the Drakensburg are no more. During the 18th and 19th centuries they were systematically exterminated by white colonists. The only evidence we have of this tranquil people is a wealth of rock art bedaubed across sandstone overhangs and cavernous shelters in the mountains. Through the paintings we discover a mystical religion and spiritual way of life as portrayed by the Bushmen shamans. Nature On Track attempts to enter the gateways to their mysteries and looks at the images left by the Southern San and their spiritual significance.

77. Where The Desert Roars

For centuries travellers have marvelled at the sound of the Augrabies Falls, which can be heard from quite a distance away. After all, this is what Augrabies means - the place of great noise. Once the land of outlaws, the area is now a reserve. Its proximity to the Kalahari lends the national park a unique ecological flavour. Nature On Track goes to where the desert roars and looks at the history of the area: natural, ancient and modern.

78. One Day At A Time

Rob Filmer is blind. He also suffers from a life-threatening disease, which, for him, means that tomorrow may never come. And yet, despite his disabilities, he has a vision of a wilderness accessible to all - regardless of their physical or mental disadvantages. This episode of Nature On Track focuses on the courageous struggle of this one man to fulfil his bittersweet quest for a more perfect world.

NATURE ON TRACK III

79. A Matter Of Life And Death

There are only the coming, the quick and the dead in the great global food chain. In the search for sustenance, where resources are limited, Nature has imbued the predators with weapons, poisons and strategies that enable them to kill. Nature On Track examines the killing game and just what it takes to be a natural born killer.

80. Curse Of The Gods

In Botswana, the Rhino is in crisis - in fact the rhino is in crisis everywhere. Man, in his belief that ground Rhino horn will cure his myriad ailments, and increase his potency, has hunted the Rhino almost to extinction. But if man is essentially his enemy, he is sometimes also his saviour. At the instigation of Lieutenant - General Ian Khama, the Khama Rhino Sanctuary was founded. Nature On Track looks at how four of the remaining Botswana rhino were captured and brought to the sanctuary, and a further five translocated from South Africa.

81. A Time Passed

The Xhosa society is not gone. It is only changed. A time has passed, but not a culture. In Nature On Track entitled "**A Time Passed**", we go to the Transkei, President Nelson Mandela's birthplace and take a look at the culture and history of the Xhosa people.

82. The Mother Sea

In "**The Mother Sea**", Nature On Track examines the global issue of fishing and sea management. Recent laws give responsibility for ocean management to coastal states. But the sea is in fact one huge ecosystem. If it is to be managed, it has to be managed as a whole. And it must be managed, because at present it is being destroyed.

83. Relatively Speaking

Chimpanzees have always smudged the dividing line between humans and animals. They're not quite one, but neither are they the other. However, research over the last half century has uncovered startling evidence of their humanity. Findings show that chimps exhibit nearly all the characteristics hitherto exclusively attributed to humans. Nature On Track shines up the family tree and asks the somewhat bizarre question: is it not time to embrace these persecuted beings as our fellow man? "**Relatively Speaking**", of course.

84. Paradise Endures

In "**Paradise Endures**", Nature On Track takes an intimate look on the birds of the Seychelles. This charming programme will have bird lovers and arm chair travellers glued to their seats as it examines myriad bird species, some found only on specific islands. Sit back and enjoy.

85. My Treasure, To He Who Can Understand

"**My Treasure, To He Who Can Understand**". These were the last words of notorious Seychelles pirate "La Buze" as he mounted the gallows in 1972. For

ecologists, the rouge's final, defiant cry is just as applicable to the islands themselves as it is to pieces of eight. It is a warning: Let no man enter the Seychelles lest he understands these unique and untainted environments. Nature On Track takes a look at some of the island treasures and assesses the full portent of the pirate's call. ***"My Treasure, To He Who Can Understand"***.

86. All For One

The next episode of Nature On Track, ***"All For One"***, examines the extraordinary society of the Wild Dog. It is a Kiplingesque world of the den and the pack. A world of savage hunts and utmost gentleness. A world where the young feed first. A world governed by one overwhelming rule: The pack above all"

87. And So, He Listened To The Earth

Dr Ian Player" is one of South Africa's finest prodigies. In his field of conservation he has made a remarkable impact all over the world. And underlying this lifelong dedication to the environment is a deep conviction: That the spiritual interconnectedness of all men is to be found in the wilderness. Because it is here that we rediscover a commonality, a common consciousness. In the wilderness we switch off the 20th century and remember the ancient religion of our early ancestors. Nature On track "listens to the earth" and presents a glimpse at the life, works and mystical philosophies of Dr Ian Player.

88. Born Of The Fire

A small area of fynbos in the Western Cape can own a diversity of plant species equalled to an entire tropical rainforest. Under our doorstep is a floral kingdom of extraordinary richness, a wonder of the world periled by exotic invaders. Watch Nature On Track and discover the secrets of those born of the fire.

89. People Of The Rain Queen

Hundreds of years ago a people came from the north with magical powers to control rain, a people ruled by a queen: Modjadji, the Rain Queen. The one who is obeyed. In ***"People of the Rain Queen"***, Nature On Track takes a fascinating excursion into the country of the Lovedu, and pays respect to their ancient secrets, their alliance with the giant cycads of Modjadji.

90. The Beach Boys

The chacma baboons of the Cape Peninsula have lived between two oceans for thousands of years. They occupy a unique position in baboon chronicles with their leisurely seaside lifestyle and dietary habits. Certainly, the Cape troops are far better known throughout the world than any others. Unfortunately, urbanisation and

development on the peninsula is encroaching into their real estate and the spectre of conflict with human beings is increasingly fogging their outlook. This episode of Nature On Track checks out the surf & turf belonging to these old time Beach Boys.

91. *For Queen And Colony*

The life of an individual ant means little to the colony. Surprisingly, the ant itself attaches even less value to its own life. For it exists solely to serve the Greater Good and ensure the survival and success of its immediate colony, and the species as a whole. It is selfless, hard working, and unconscionably vicious in pursuit of these aims. Nature On Track disappears down the bolthole and checks out these remarkable insects who think nothing of making the Supreme Sacrifice "***For Queen and Colony***".

NATURE ON TRACK IV

92. *The Image Of Ra*

The sun, which the ancient Egyptians called Ra, creator of the gods, is a massive thermonuclear reactor a million times bigger than the earth. Mankind, and life generally, is totally dependant on it for energy, light and food. The sun controls our lives in ways we do not usually imagine. Perhaps the Egyptians saw more than we can know. Find out more in: "***The Image Of Ra***", on Nature On Track.

93. *In God's Shape*

The Kruger National Park is part of the new South Africa's heritage. During the years of Apartheid, the park thrived. It had second-class amenities for black South Africans and it culled elephant. Now the park is open to all, but the slaughter continues. In "***In God's Shape***", Nature On Track examines the park's past and present and asks some crucial questions about its practises.

94. *The Song Of The Wind*

The Richtersveld represents a new development in the evolution of South African parks. The land is leased from the Nama people and the Namas continue to live and graze their animals within the reserve. In "***The Song of the Wind***", Nature On Track takes a loving look at this windy landscape, and it's people, plants and animals.

95. *The Masks Of Africa*

In "***The Masks of Africa***", Nature On Track offers a character analysis of a continent. This exquisite programme offers an insight into the shifting moods of the

mother, a meditation on the female forces of the world, and an explanation of the ruminant demeanour of the antelope. If you live in Africa, don't miss it.

96. Guardian Of The Ark

In Guardian of the Ark, Nature On Track examines the Big Games Parks of Swaziland and the extraordinary collaboration between Ted Reilly and the Swazi Monarchy. This partnership has seen destroyed ecosystems replaced link by link. Now, after a savage war against poaching, even the black rhino graces the King's hills. "**Guardian of the Ark**" is the story of a king, and a Knight, and a dragon held at bay.

97. Waterwolds

Wherever water rests on its journey to the sea, life erupts in systems and cycles and a parade of organisms. Even a little old puddle here today and gone tomorrow bursts with a universe of creatures. Nature On Track looks at our magical water and the worlds that it creates.

98. The Bat Pack

Bats have always got a bum rap. From Dracula to Mac Beth, we associate them with the blood-sucking, disease-ridden ingredients of witch's brews. In reality, they are highly successful, highly evolved mammals with an ecological role of unparalleled importance. In this episode, we go upside down with "**The Bat-Pack**" and echo located the true story.

99. Break On Through To The Other Side

All creatures are driven to replicate themselves. We have this much in common. But when it comes to nurturing and rearing offspring, there are as many strategies as there are species. Nature On Track spotlights the young and their struggle to survive as they "**Break on Through to the Other Side**".

100. Across A Scented Sea

Its names are Chancibar and Zengibar, the coast of slaves. It is cousin to civilisations gone before yours was born. In Across the scented sea, Nature On Track, with the help of a fictional and long dead sailor, peeks through veils of mystery that surround Zanzibar. Zanzibar, where the sailors navigate by smell, following the scent of cloves through the dark sea. Zanzibar, beautiful and inscrutable.

101. Hanging In There

Not too long ago, one could look up any tree in equatorial Africa and almost certainly glimpse a red colobus monkey frolicking in the canopy. Now, with the exploitation of

rain forests from Zanzibar in the east to Senegal in the west, these good-looking monkeys are in trouble. Unlike the worldly baboon, the red colobus has not been able to adapt to a vanishing habitat. Many of the 14 sub-species are threatened or endangered. Nature On Track zooms up a few tropical trunks to discover that the red colobus is barely *“Hanging In There”*.

102. A Torrent Of Splendour

Vast herds of gambol on the plains of the Ngorongoro. Elephants glide silently like stately ships through the tall grasses. The Maasai, proud blood-drinking warriors of a time long past, herd their cattle carefully past prides of lion. In *“Torrent of Splendour”*, Nature On Track takes you into the wonder world of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

103. The Plains Of Predation

Lying in the east of Africa, south of the equator and straddling the border between Tanzania and Kenya, the Serengeti National Park stretches from the highland plateau of the Ngorongoro in the south to the Isurai in the North.

Although the vast grassland teems with life, one drama, bloody, relentless and continuing, dominates the landscape. It is the drama of the hunter and the hunted, takes place on *“The Plains Of Predation”*. Nature On Track takes us through the drama of the Serengeti where all species compete for survival and one of the last great migrations still occur.

104. Scale, Skulk N’ Scuttle

Many millions of years ago, when dinosaurs were quitting the planet in droves, one group of reptiles refused to surrender. And today, lizards represent the most versatile, diverse and well-adapted family of reptilians across the board. There are over 3000 species of lizard ranging in size from tiny to dinosaurian proportions. Nature On Track drops in on this scaly brood as they continue skulking and scuttling along a successful evolutionary path.

NATURE ON TRACK V

105. The Final Phase

The food chain begins with plants trapping the sun’s energy and creating food for herbivores. The miraculous journey of sun’s forces climaxes when the lion devours the antelope. But when carnivores die, they too must be consumed. Hyenas, jackals, maggots and snails, feed, in turn, on decayed lion flesh. This episode of Nature On Track, *“The Final Phase”*, is an exploration of the journey, an examination of sun’s power, a glimpse into the nature of the scavengers.

106. Victims Of Prejudice

With only a few centimetres of horizon, the world of the slithering snake is so different from our own. They smell with their tongues, hear with their lungs, walk with their ribs and some can even see in the pitch black. Does their difference justify our loathing?

From birth or hatching until death all a snake wants is to do is find food, keep an optimum body temperature find a mate and reproduce. They have no ulterior motives and yet they're blamed for some of humanity's greatest woes such as the fall of man and the loss of paradise. It's no wonder the python is so thick skinned...

The secretive snake slithers away when it senses the presence of man, yet it holds such an important role in religious, literary and mythological symbolism. A venomous reputation precedes a fascinating and quite surprising reality on Nature On Track.

107. Living In The Extreme

Wedged between Egypt and Jordan lies an eroded wasteland of sculptured rock and sandy plains. Balancing between extremes, life in the Negev is a struggle against the capricious whim of nature and God. Yet this is the place where prophets sought solitude to discover the divine and ancient civilisation carved their history in the rocks. The animals of the desert have evolved ingenious coping mechanisms in the fight to survive but many now teeter on the brink of extinction.

108. The Vapours Of History

A hesitant vapour of history hangs mist like in the air. Ruined empires and crawling fossils share the earth with a rainbow of ephemeral colour. The air is thick with ancient traffic, migrating birds making their annual move across the blue. Thousands of years of human habitation have altered the landscape in Israel, a land clasping tenuously to three continents, juggling an ancient past and the problems of an unpredictable present. The animals, which were here millions of years before the naked ape built his citadels and his condominiums, find that they too, have an unforeseeable future.

109. Loaded Dice

Cheated out of a rich genetic inheritance 11,000 years ago when the ice age ended and the earth's climate changed, the cheetah stalks the last remnant of pristine African veld.

With the largest free-ranging population of this feline predator in Namibia where about 1000 farmers hold the key to the cat's survival, the cheetah dawdles precariously close to the oblivion of extinction.

Nature On Track witnesses the relocation of Namibian cheetah to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozo Park in Kwazulu - Natal, a programme in which conservationists hope fervently to save the cheetah's evaporating gene pool.

A "***Loaded Dice***" decides the fate of one of Africa's great feline predators.

110. Tribe Of The Massives

Embraced by an impenetrable thicket of thorns, a handful of Addo elephant survived a massacre intended to exterminate their tribe. Ironically the valley bushveld which hid the animals, now owes its own survival to the public's will to save this bulky beast. A rich diversity of rare and endemic wildlife, from the colossal elephants, rhino and buffalo to the minuscule flightless dung beetle, endure on a tiny patch of land off the coast of the Eastern Cape. Watch the animals of the Addo Elephant Park on Nature On Track.

111. A Tangled Web

The entirety of known life is supported in a thin layer, sandwiched between fiery molten rock and the vast expanse of space. The biosphere itself is neither solid nor stable, made up of a tangled web of interconnected threads which create a dynamic and vibrant pattern like an eco-tapestry. Each organism plays its part in the workings of the tapestry, each creature a vital thread. Peering into the workings of the Southern Africa lowveld, the mysterious ways of the tangled web begin to unravel...

112. Hard Bodies

A pair of ragged claws scrapes the sediment in search of prey. They belong to a member of a diverse family of hard bodied animals. Crustaceans have been called the insects of the sea and they do swarm the oceans from the seashore to the coastal shallows to the murky depth. They are predators, scavengers, parasites and determined vegetarians and range in size from microscopic plankton to the twelve-foot span of the giant spider crab. Enclosed in their hard exoskeleton, a gift of the evolutionary raffle, crustaceans are amongst the most successful of earth's life forms.

113. Ancient Dust

The Tuli Block, kissing the banks of the Limpopo River, is home to the largest single elephant population still surviving on freehold private land in southern Africa. Its existence in the face of diminishing elephant numbers continent wide is largely thanks to the conservation ethos of the private reserves in the area. Here at the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashi Rivers, where South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe meet, is an enclave of another era. Though the wild dog, roan and sable antelope and the white rhino remain locally extinct, elephant, giraffe, lion, leopard, cheetah and a host of other animals thrive in the ancient dust.

114. How Are We Going To Tell Father?

Chauvinist stereotype of the little woman and feminist stereotype of the dominant sex both disintegrate in the natural world. The feminine principle in our wildernesses is as varied, dynamic and as unpredictable as there are species on this planet. Nature On Track entitled "*How are we going to tell Father?*" punctures the sexist and feminist myths, and pedestals the female role in all her powerful, life-giving glory.

115. The Check Is In The Male

The natural world reflects the full gamut of male roles found in our own species. There is the stereotyped sexual aggressor. But also the hen-pecked husband. There is the disinterested sire. But also the concerned and nurturing father. This episode of Nature On Track visits some of these roles in our wildernesses and finds that indeed "*The Check is in the Male*".

116. In A Flash Of Brilliance

For most of the year, Namaqualand is a barren stretch of terrain. The arid plains and granitic highlands paint a stark portrait to outsiders. But once a year, if the gods smile upon this forsaken corner, spring flowers burst through the sandy substrate and colour just about the entire length and breadth of the desert. Thus is the sterile Namaqualand reborn. Nature On Track brings you this enchanting flash of brilliance in all its radiance.

117. A Circle Of Seasons

In "*A Circle of Seasons*", Nature On Track examines the bird and seal colonies of the South Western Coast of Southern Africa in relation to their food source, the pelagic shoals of pilchard and sardine. The programme also questions man's role in the coastal ecosystem.

118. Waterlooms

Our rivers are tragically over-exploited and undervalued habitats. Collectively, they constitute the framework around which terrestrial life is woven. Born in mountain highlands, they rush youthfully downwards, mellowing in the foothills and finally merging once again with the source at the coast. This episode of Nature On track journeys with a river from birth to re-absorption. And we show how these watery looms are no longer able to hold together the fabric of existence.

119. Crockwise

Crocodiles have always suffered a notoriety that is undeserved. Their reputation for being cruel predators coupled with a hide, which makes fine wallets and handbags has resulted in their appearance on the endangered list. Fortunately, over the last thirty

years, a few dedicated conservationists have uncovered some astonishing facts about crocodilian behaviour, facts that have caused everyone to see this dinosaurian relic in new light. Join Nature On Track as we examine how and why the world is moving in a “*Clockwise*” direction.

120. Crooked Hands

A bird of prey is characterised by the powerful grip of its taloned feet, the feet which puncture organs and shatter bones, the hooked beak which tears skin and shreds flesh, the immense wingspan which buoys them along on the thermals and the piercing stare of front focusing eyes. Including in its definition: eagles, buzzards, falcons, kites and vultures, a group who are artificially joined by behaviour and similar appearance, but without direct evolutionary connection. The vigils of the white-stained mountain walls are now themselves being watched, on Nature On Track, Saturday, five thirty.

121. Lake Of Legend

Lake Kariba is one of the largest man made bodies of water in the world. A veritable ocean has sprung up in the middle of Africa thanks to an arch dam wall plonked in the middle of the Zambezi gorge. This episode of Nature On Track looks at some of the legends surrounding this neo-lake and assesses the past and present ecological impact of these waters.

122. Chitinous Shields Forever

There are over 350 thousand species of beetles currently on the books. Which means that entomologists have been discovering and describing at least 4 new beetles a day since people started classifying them, a few hundred years back. This episode of Nature On Track crawls under the bark and finds out just why the song “*Chitinous Shields Forever*” took beetles to the top of the evolutionary hit parade.

123. Wilderness Without Parallel

Mid-way along its course the Zambezi River turns north and in so doing deposits much of its rich alluvial load on to its southern bank. Over the centuries, these fertile soils have formed terraces and the terraces, in turn, have created a series of pools, which nurture and nourish one of the great wilderness areas of the world -Zimbabwe’s Mana Pools National Park. Although proclaimed in 1984 as a World Heritage Site for its natural beauty and proliferation of game, the Pools continue to be threatened by poachers, developers and farmers seeking land for grazing. Nature On Track looks at the life-sustaining qualities of the Mana Pools, the threats they face and the diversity of wildlife attracted to them.

124. *Little Souls*

Of all the insects, butterflies are the most appreciated by human observers. Their ethereal manner and colourful patterns have carved a distinctive niche for them in the mythologies of people around the globe. This episode of Nature On Track flits into the world of the Lepidopterans and discovers how these “*Little Souls*” got to be so popular.

125. *Guided By An Ancient Moon*

For over three hundred thousand years two species of sea turtles - the Loggerhead and Leatherback - have returned each year to the beaches of northern Zululand to lay their eggs. It is a nocturnal event, guided only by the light of the moon, and the only time that these ancient amphibians emerge from the ocean in which they live. As predators lie in wait, there are many dangers to be faced both by the mother, the nest she prepares and the hatchlings born after a two months incubation period. Of every thousand eggs laid, two turtles will survive to reach full maturity. In Nature On Track, the chilling story of the life and death of the Zululand sea turtle is recorded.

126. *Awesome Alliances And Fantastic Frauds*

Relationships, partnerships, associations and opportunistic exploitation are found in the most unlikely combinations in the Natural World. What brings two completely unrelated species together, what binds them together, and who really benefits at the end of the day is the subject of this episode of Nature On Track. “*Awesome Alliances And Fantastic Frauds*” spotlights some strange bedfellows indeed.

127. *Savuti In A Passing Spell*

Savuti is an area contained within northern Botswana’s Chobe National Park. It is here that some of Africa’s most abundant and prolific concentrations of wildlife are to be found. Surprisingly, the region suffers from terrible droughts exacerbated by the dysfunctional Savuti channel that has been dry since 1982. Nature On Track looks at the region’s past and present, in trying to understand where it is going.

128. *The Call Of The Running Tide*

At the juncture between river and sea is found a mysterious and diverse wilderness called an estuary. Here the tidal action of the ocean produces a dynamic clash between salt and freshwater. It is this rhythmic encounter, which massages a unique profile of habitats and life forms into existence. This episode of Nature On Track uncovers the agony and ecstasy contained in “*The Call of the Running Tide*”.

129. Coming Up For Air

The mammals of our oceans are the intelligentsias of marine life. Each family has unique and fascinating quirks. The friendliness of dolphins toward humankind. The superb seal metabolism, which allows them to remain submerged for lengthy periods. And the songs of the gentle whales. This episode of Nature On Track takes an alluring peek at those mammals that need to come up for air every so often.

130. A Show Of Hands

The appearance of primates on this world represented a major shift in evolutionary trends. The mammalian dependence on the sense of smell was replaced by a pair of forward-looking eyes and an ability to see stereoscopically. More importantly, paws with claws became hands with fingernails. These were developments that ultimately resulted in our own species. Which is why this episode of Nature On Track calls for "**A Show Of Hands**" - an examination of the natural history of primates and the current status of a few of our kindred creatures.

NATURE ON TRACK VI

131. Forward To The Past

The Shamwari Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape is the site of an extraordinary conservation initiative. For the first time in a hundred years, big game animals once endemic to the region are being reintroduced. Farmland is being restored to its original veld type. And the rich wilderness destroyed by agricultural settlements is again becoming a reality. Nature On Track spotlights the heroic Shamwari story as they move the land "**Forward to the Past**".

132. The Silence About Us

Beyond the Lubombo Mountains in Swaziland, through to the subtropical coastline of South Africa and Mozambique lies a wilderness area with an almost unparalleled diversity anywhere in Africa. With internationally recognised wetlands, at least 10 major game parks, and a multitude of distinct ecosystems, the greater Lubombo region could prove to be a rippling nucleus of eco-tourism on the subcontinent. Nature On Track, in an episode entitled "**The Silence About Us**", explores the remarkable beauty of Lubombo and the economic implications for its people.

133. A State Of Nature

The Pilansberg national Park has a history spanning 1.3 billion years. Born in volcanic turmoil, eroded by the elements, it became a wilderness populated with all of Africa's abundance. Then, within a geological instant, guns and agriculture destroyed it. In 1979, it was proclaimed a wildlife sanctuary. Nature On Track examines the complex

restoration that has taken place in Pilansberg and the challenges and victories of maintaining a State of Nature.

134. A Watercolour Garden

Kosi bay is a system of interconnected lakes culminating in an estuary on the eastern seaboard of Southern Africa. The biodiversity of the area is driven by the cyclic intermingling of tidal salinity and fresh nutrient-rich waters in the lakes. But it is beneath the liquid surface that the true beauty of the region is discovered. This episode of Nature On Track dives down and throws the spotlight on ***“A Watercolour Garden”***.

135. In The Heat Of The Night

Galago Moholi, or the lesser bushbaby, is a diminutive nocturnal primate with superb adaptations to its treetop lifestyle. While the rest of Africa sleeps, the little bushbaby bounces around the acacia woodlands, foraging, feeding and having affairs, unnoticed and unobserved by the majority of people. In this episode, Nature On Track waits for the sun to go down and then exposes what happens ***“In the Heat of the Night”***.

136. A Place Of Clear Water

The Tsitsikamma is dominated by ragged mountains, dense rainforest and sandy beaches. From the scrubby highlands to the salt marsh estuaries this area supports an astonishing diversity of plant and animal life. The continued survival of this lush environment depends on maintaining a delicate harmony between man and the forces of nature. This episode of Nature On Track explores Tsitsikamma and finds ***“A Place Of Clear Water”***

137. The Colours Of Fire

The Kalahari is not a desert in the conventional sense of the word. It is more of a thirst land, to be accurate. Scant summer rainfall and pockets of blooming vegetation periodically coax the wilderness to life. But it is a hard, harsh existence for the plants and animals, many of which have evolved special adaptations to survive. This episode of Nature On Track goes into this thirst land and finds ***“The Colours Of Fire”*** splashed everywhere across the skies and the land.

138. High Noon

Winter in the Etosha pan is a time of harshness and suffering for the animals. As the pan desiccates and mopanes shed their leaves, the creatures of the wilderness congregate around man-made waterholes. The searing heat drives them to drink, notwithstanding the regular ambushes staged by the resident predators. This episode

of Nature On Track goes into a wintry Etosha and captures **“High Noon”** at the waterhole.

139. *Rocked On A Desert Sea*

The Namib is one of the world’s most ancient deserts. It is a diverse landscape of endless gravel plains, rocky hills, enormous mountains, dry riverbeds, and a dune system, which extends right up to the Atlantic seaboard of Namibia. This episode of Nature On Track discovers those hardy and spectacular plants and animals that play out their lives while **“Rocked On a Desert Sea”**.

140. *Elephant Song*

Elephants are extraordinarily intelligent mammals. They have a complex social system. They have their own language. And they have their own rituals. In years gone by, they have suffered terribly at the hands of humankind. Fortunately Southern Africa’s populations are stable for the moment. Nature On Track visits Chobe National Park and listens out for the **“Elephant Song”**.

141. *Blood Of The Land*

In the dry season, animals in Chobe National Park congregate about the remaining water sources. Buffalo, elephant and wildebeest migrate to the Chobe River or the Savuti marsh. The predators follow. The high concentration of game means easy pickings for lions. This episode of Nature On Track explores the relationship between the seasonal absence of water, the demands this places on the game, and how the lions take advantage of the situation. In the dry season, the cost of a drink must often be paid in blood.

142. *The Power Brokers*

The baboons are the most intelligent of all the monkeys. Their big brains relative to size have ensured exceptional success in a modern world where wildlife is retreating. Their social systems demand a degree of sophisticated interaction and complicated politicking which even human beings can learn from. This episode of Nature On Track goes into the baboon boardroom and discovers nature’s own **“Power Brokers”**.

143. *Where The Rufiji River Runs*

The Selous Game Reserve in southern Tanzania is one of the largest protected wilderness areas in the world with an area greater than that of Wales. It is completely uninhabited by humankind. Scything through the park is the enormous muddied Rufiji River, which courses down an ancient fault line of the Great Rift. This episode of Nature On Track floats down the Rufiji and encounters some of the spectacular wildlife that populates the reserve.

144. Coats Of Many Colours

The natural world is full of examples of deceit and illusion. Some animals disguise themselves in order to ambush their prey. While others don cloaks of invisibility to hide from their predators. This episode of Nature On Track unveils this evolutionary subterfuge and exposes Nature's "**Coats Of Many Colours**".

145. Mafia Of The Ancient Sea

Mafia Island is the centre of a small tropical archipelago in the Indian Ocean, located just off Tanzania's Rufiji delta. Its ruins speak of a time dating back to the wealthy Persian families of the 12th century. But its natural resources whisper sweetly of magnificent underwater reefs and coastal mangroves where life is found in superabundance. Nature On Track sails out to the island that is called "**Mafia of the Ancient Sea**".

146. Majesty Unveiled

Swaziland's wildlife was completely destroyed in the hundred years following the arrival of white settlers. Nevertheless, a man by the name of Ted Reilly has been labouring since the 1960's to set right the wrongs of the past. With the mentorship of successive Swazi kings, he has gradually restocked the small landlocked kingdom with the wild creatures of yesteryear. This episode of Nature On Track takes a current peek at the former glory of the Swaziland wilderness.

147. Wild Words

Animals might not be able to speak, but they do have ability to communicate among themselves and with other species. Their signals are complex and varied. Using scent, sound, posture, gesture and facial expression, they are able to communicate a wide range of emotions and needs. Be it warning to others or finding a mate or expressing pleasure or staking out a territory, animals always manage to get the message across. This episode of Nature On Track looks at this fascinating language of "**Wild Words**".

148. A View To A Kill

The predators of the sky are superbly adapted to the task of hunting and killing. There is a great variety of species and techniques in Africa, but all the raptors possess common attributes dedicated to the art of death. This episode of Nature On Track takes to the skies and reveals "**A View To A Kill**".

149. The Ties That Bind

In a small, little known area of protected Ghanaian rainforest, two of West Africa's monkey species find sanctuary. The Forest canopies of Boabeng Fiema contain one of

the highest densities of Lowes Mona monkey and the Black and White Colobus. Here, shielded from hunting and habitat destruction these primates survive in tightly bonded troops whose ties are forged by an intricate system of grooming rituals.

150. Sacred Children

In a small sanctuary in northern Ghana, a traditional religion of ancient origin has joined forces with modern conservation philosophy to preserve a threatened species. The villagers who live in the Boabeng-Fiema sanctuary have long possessed strict taboos against killing monkeys. This episode of Nature On Track visits Boabeng and discovers just how diligently the people guard the “**Sacred Children**” of their patron goddess.

151. Wings Of Bright Water

On the shorelines, in the shallows, dipping and dabbling, and plying all sorts of ingenious methods to earn their daily bread, are the water birds of Southern and Central Africa. Whether they wade, dive, skulk, sieve of fish, all these creatures have evolved unique adaptations and niches at the water’s edge. This week’s nature On Track gets its ducks in a row and illuminates the “**Wings of Bright Water**”.

152. The Bee All

Social honeybees count among the most successful and intelligent of insects. To date, no human process has ever managed to duplicate the formulation of honey. And without these creatures, fully one third of the world’s food could not be produced. This episode of Nature On Track buzzes around the business of the hive. We enter the food chamber the brood chamber, and meet the queen, and discover that to be a bee she is “**The Bee All**”, and shall be so until the end of all.

153. A Voice Of Fire

“**A Voice of Fire**” explores the ancient tradition of African storytelling - the myths and legends of Africa. The first storytellers emphasized the interdependence of human beings and nature. They told tales of cruel and benevolent animal gods, declared the tragic necessity of sacrifice, and warned of the danger of a fall from grace because of human pride.

154. A Couple Of Home Truths

Nature is ingenious in the way she houses her children. Up trees, underground, Second hand holes. Forgotten shells. Mud towers. Elevated nests. Silken cocoons and webs. These are just some of the home-making marvels that animals use to protect themselves from predators and the elements. This episode of Nature On Track

surveys the architects of the wilderness in their comfort zones and learns “*A Couple of Home Truths*”.

155. Season Of Tall Grass

Sandwiched between a fortress of high forest and the equally impenetrable frontier of the Saharan Steppe is a wide band of fertile savannah. For thousands of years man has been unable to conquer and cultivate these lands because of a multitude of pestilent diseases plaguing the area, leaving it free for wildlife. Now with the population explosion the tide has turned and animals are confined to a few reserves. Ghana’s Mole National Park is one of these.

156. Trade Winds

The coast of West Africa is dotted with the ruins of a bygone era of international trade. Kakum, just 35km from the slave forts at Cape Coast. This episode of Nature On Track illustrates an example of how international trade and development can benefit both local people and the environment.

THE WHOLE STORY

13 x One-Hour Programmes

1. Elephants

Elephants are not only the largest land mammals on Earth. They are also among the most endearing: an irresistible mix of intelligence, dexterity and sheer power.

Comprised of over 100,000 individual muscles, the elephant's trunk is the world's most versatile nose. At various times it functions as hand, weapon, drinking straw, vacuum cleaner, snorkel and eating utensil. Combine this with a pair of tusks that are, in fact, the world's longest teeth and the elephant presents an extremely formidable face.

These powerful pachyderms are able to adapt to almost any African habitat. In the Kunene desert, they trek for days in search of precious water to drink. In the rainforest of Ghana, the smaller, more agile elephants face different challenges. In rarely captured footage, the forest elephants are seen spraying themselves with half-chewed food and saliva to cool down.

Wherever they find themselves, elephants are fiercely familial. They travel in herds and keep in touch with each other using 30 different long-distance, low frequency calls. This way, group members can call home from over 8 kilometres away.

Science has only recently revealed a rare new elephant ailment known as 'floppy trunk syndrome'. Thought to be a new type of virus or the result of eating toxic introduced plants, the result is that the animal loses all control of its trunk. There is no recovery and, unable to feed properly, there is little hope of survival.

With stunning visuals, the latest scientific research and rare elephant behaviour, we tell ***The Whole Story*** on Africa's grey giants.

2. Baboons

One primate has colonized more of Africa than any other. The versatile baboon is at home everywhere from rainforest to mountaintop. Almost anywhere that has food, water and safe shelter at night is baboon territory, making them the most successful, diverse and widespread monkey around.

From the hamadryads baboons in the Somali desert to the chacmas of South Africa's Drakensberg Mountains, these primates can adapt to the demands of most any habitat.

In the dark, shaded world of the West African rainforest, the most powerful baboon of all: the mandrill - sports a spectacularly colourful facemask. His vibrant colours

attract the opposite sex and announce his rank to other males. The brighter the better, in mandrill society.

At the southern tip of Africa, baboons have acquired a taste that no primates other than humans share. While rich in variety, plants here hold little nutritional value. So, when the tide is out, the local chacmas are down on the seashore finding crabs, mussels and other small sea creatures to supplement their diet.

Baboon society is a complex web of politics and alliances. Females are the majority, and centre of the web. Their place in society is fixed at birth, and almost never changes. Males, on the other hand, live their lives as one long struggle to move up the hierarchy.

Surprisingly, research has recently shown that baboons are capable of altruism. In Ghana a patas monkey that became lost when it was still very young took up residence with a local troop of baboons. It was adopted and accepted as one of the family, playing, eating and grooming alongside their own young.

Altruism is usually seen as a uniquely human virtue, but baboons echo human society in number of ways. Socially advanced and sophisticated, adaptable and versatile, devoted to their young, fearless in defence of the group - all of these characteristics shared with their primate cousins the humans.

3. Crocodiles

Africa's crocodiles face stiff competition for their food. Fortunately for them, they are blessed with an even greater variety of prey. Over millions of years, these two factors have honed them into versatile, opportunistic hunters - master predators from the age of the dinosaurs.

4. Spiders

Whether small enough to fit the head of a pin, or large enough to fill a dinner plate, spiders are amazing animals. Supreme hunters of the invertebrate world, they are the most numerous predators on Earth. But, they are also nature's master craftsmen, fashioning exquisite webs of the finest silk - a natural fibre so tough that it may rank with the most advanced human innovations.

5. Frogs

The world of Africa's frogs is versatile, vibrant, noisy and sometimes bizarre. From some of the world's biggest - weighing as much as a small dog - to fingernail-sized rainforest miniatures, Africa boasts an impressive array of colourful species.

Unsung heroes of nature, frogs devour mosquitoes and crop pests, and have made a significant contribution to modern medical research. Recently, science has discovered

that because they live in two worlds - land and water - their sensitive skin is doubly susceptible to pollution and subtle environmental change. Frogs are actually living barometers of world climate change.

We tell *The Whole Story* on these jewels of the natural world.

6. Snakes

Through the ages, snakes have symbolized not only evil, but also wisdom, health and life – a constant source of both revulsion and fascination.

Silent – and only sometimes deadly – snakes come in one basic shape, but a wide range of sizes. Whether they are small as a pencil or tall as a pillar, the world's 2,500 snake species have slithered their way around the world – and may soon conquer other worlds as well. NASA scientists are working on robotic snakes that can negotiate even the toughest extraterrestrial terrain.

Masters of disguise, stealth and sophisticated weaponry, snakes may well have a thing or two left to teach us, once we have uncovered *The Whole Story*.

7. Beetles

With more than 3,000 known species around the globe – and who knows how many yet to be discovered – beetles are the most numerous life form on earth. Nearly one in every three animal species is a beetle.

Equal parts aviator, woodworker, sewage disposal, strongman and athlete, the humble beetle is among the greatest survivors the world has ever known. With their hard body armour and endless adaptability to climate and food source, beetles have outlived the dinosaurs and are poised to conquer the 21st century.

We tell *The Whole Story* on these amazing arthropods.

8. Lions

Lions are a universal emblem of courage - the super-charged hunting beasts admired for centuries for their strength and prowess. More than any other animal, lions symbolise Africa.

The roar of a lion fills the night - the world's most chilling, spine-tingling sound - as powerful as the noise of a small plane taking off. It has a huge appetite: at one sitting, a hungry lion can eat the equivalent of a whole person. Its eyes are keen: this big tawny hunter has night vision six times better than ours. It's a big killing machine: it weighs at least twice as much as a grown man, has claws like sharp switchblades, a rasping tongue much rougher than sandpiper. It can overpower animals far bigger than itself. Yet it can be gentle, caring and affectionate. Mothers

even suckle each other's cubs. The secret of the lion's success is that it lives in a group - Africa's most powerful land carnivore is the only truly social cat in the world.

The mighty male's life is fraught with danger, the sleek females with the cares of child minding, warring with neighbours, and risking all in the hunt. So do lions have it made?

We find out *The Whole Story* of life in the pride.

9. Cheetahs

The cheetah is the natural world's super-charger. This spotted speedster of the wild is the fastest thing on four legs.

A creature of grace and beauty, the cheetah lives life in the fast track. Its design breaks all sorts of records. At full sprint in pursuit of prey, a cheetah can race at over 100 km. An hour. It accelerates from 0 to 72 km in just 2 seconds. And it can stop in a single stride from 32 km an hour. It out-performs even a racing car. But a design dictated by speed leaves little room for the usual mighty big cat claws and fangs. The human race quickly spotted the cheetah's talents - for thousands of years, European and Asian rulers used this cat to hunt.

Caring, tolerant and shy, this is perhaps the most endearing of Africa's big cats. But are cheetah mothers bad mothers? And why do cheetahs lose out in the food stakes? And where does this racer do best?

We shed light on *The Whole Story* of one of Nature's most elegant animals.

10. Hyenas

Manic cackler of the African night - the animal whose calls send trickles of unease down the spine. Ally of witch and sorcerer - according to old superstitious belief. The animal with just about the mightiest bite on the planet. Regularly seen scavenging abandoned kills, or slipping through the trees in the dead of night, going about its stealthy carnivorous business. The spotted hyena is the one African animal that seems to be nobody's favourite.

Yet it's worth a kinder look. The females in particular. There are some very special, very un-female things about them. Reputedly vicious, aggressive and dangerous, this powerful predator is a gentle parent and united family member.

Discover the hyena of fact and fable in this episode of *The Whole Story*.

11. Ungulates

From tanks to watchtowers, trumpeters to dressage experts, Africa's plant-eaters are the most varied of its land animals - creatures with hooves that walked into the world on tiptoe when the dinosaurs left.

Some are lumbering heavyweights - the showpieces of the African bush. Others, in herds of hundreds of thousands, put on the greatest wildlife show on Earth in an extinct volcanic crater.

Ungulates wield some of the natural world's mightiest weapons - as the Roman Army found to its cost. Yet by nature they're pacifists - grazers and browsers - content to mow their way through grass, bush and tree, the gardeners of the wild. One of them inspired the pedestrian crossing, another makes its own sun block, yet another is the supermodel of the bush, with slinky sway and bold fashion statement - and one is the goliath of land animals.

Discover Africa's ungulates in *The Whole Story*.

12. Sea Mammals

An insight into the *The Whole Story* of Africa's amazing creatures of the sea. Dolphins, whales and seals: the sleek, elegant, smart and powerful African mammals of the sea have more secrets than one would expect.

Find out that the v-shaped blast the Southern Right whale breathes, is actually condensed air. This mammal that weight up to 800 times more than an average man and can grow to be as large as 17 meters.

Seals are the only mammals who inhabit both the worlds of the sea and the land.

Equivalent to a large catamaran, dolphins can 'race' through water at incredible speeds.

The human free dive record is eight minutes. Find out how long mammals can stay under water for without surfacing for air.

Did you know that land animals originated in the sea and that some eventually returned?

13. Eagles

Bones like honeycomb, skull-filling eyes, wings the length of a piano, a neck that turns almost full circle, the keenest vision of all vertebrates. And built to kill. The eagles of Africa are impressive.

Mighty birds build mighty nests. Whether perched on dizzying mountain cliff or high in the forest canopy, some lofty eagle homes can weigh as much as a family car.

Generations may grow up in the same nest, carefully refurbished and re-used year after year for decades.

Over forest, desert and mountain, the monarchs of Africa's skies soar on the thermals, scanning the ground for prey with eyes that see over twice as well as human eyes. From mice to full-grown bushbuck, their food tastes range wide. Some dine on large fish - airlifting them surfboard-style in deadly talons. Others swoop on prey over four times their own weight. While some tuck into fruit and nuts!

Discover the surprising world of eagles, Africa's majestic aerial predators, in ***The Whole Story***.

YOUNG & WILD SERIES I

13 x Half Hour Programmes

1. First Breath

The process of birth can be a traumatic time for a mother and one when her life and the lives of her offspring are at great risk

Within the mammal group each species differs in the way in which it prepares for birth but of all Africa's wild animals, the mammals shower the most attention on their young.

Each wild mum experiences the happy event differently.

Some prepare a nest or den for protection while for others birth may simply occur where the female finds herself;

Some births are synchronized so that a migrating herd can move to an area of good grazing and the birth of a single young might take no longer than a few minutes from start to finish. Also remarkable is the speed at which the baby recovers from the shock of being born has been liked clean by mum and attempts to walk. Others take time

But for all between **First Breath** and having families of their own, Africa's wild babies face many challenges. For them, life's journey is just beginning

2. Breaking Through

Africa's wild babies face many hazards especially those that must brave a new world alone and face predators, disease, and starvation....

But those that hatch from eggs face the greatest odds as most egg-laying parents deposit their eggs, and leave them to fate while only a few stay on hand to see their babies safely on their way.

The python, a casual mom lays many eggs so at least some will survive, then leaves just before they hatch, while the female crocodile stays to protect her hatchlings to the bitter end. Gannets protect and nurture their one egg but have to be careful with their laying site and loggerhead turtles partake in a life and death race. The greater leaf folding frog mates lays and builds her nursery simultaneously before leaving her little ones to fend for themselves

Breaking Through shares these first few moments that the Young & Wild experience after leaving the egg and facing the first of life's many challenges

3. Home Truths

In order to survive every creature must reclusively periodically from nature's moods. Which is why they pursue the business of shelter with such zeal.

Whether they live sociably, underground or up a tree, however humble or ambitious natures home makers may be, the variety of architecture and technique is endless

It demands strategy and skill to establish a food rich territory or construct a home base where the young can be raised free of predation and safe from the natural elements of nature's climates.

Home Truths shows the skill, courage and resourcefulness needed to make a good home for the young.

4. First Bond

With most young animals the role of the mother or the parents continues long after birth and because young mammals are dependent on their mother's milk as a source of food, they all show some degree or other of parental care. This initial nursing stage varies according to how advanced or otherwise the young animals in question are.

This relationship between mother and offspring is vital in the development and general survival of the "Young and Wild" and is more than just a need for protection and continuous feeding.

It is this **First Bond**, which is necessary in the development of young animals into independent older animals and helps to hone and cultivate skills necessary to survive the many challenges that a life in the wild presents.

Skills necessary for survival are passed down through generations and for the young life's many trials and tribulations will be made easier with this special bond between mother and child.

5. Safety First

In the wild there is constant threat and Baby animals are by nature small and defenceless, which makes them vulnerable to attack by predators.

But nature has ensured that all young creatures are given an equal chance to survive and withstand the many dangers of the wild and some species have built in instinctive mechanisms for the protection of their young.

With mammals the most intimate of care is usually given by the mother but the protection of the young is often the responsibility of a group as well as the parents.

Safety First is about the mechanisms provided by nature for the protection of baby animals at this vulnerable stage.

6. Mr Mom

When it comes to looking after the young the female gender has always been number one and all babies' retreat into mom's arms and enjoy a moment of female affection, whether its food, protection or simple reassurance they are after

But either through a freak of nature or simply by grand design there are certain times in the wild where roles are reversed and dad becomes **Mr Mom**

Dad who not only takes on the responsibility normally reserved for mom but dad who also wants a cuddle likes to watch over the kids, and sometimes even bears the brunt of childbirth

These are the **Mr Moms** of the animal kingdom that are there to be counted

7. Family Affair

In all species the bond between mother and child is undisputedly binding and without doubt the strongest either will experience.

But in many animals this bond is taken a step further and a family, whether it be a small tight knit group of extended siblings or an entire colony of thousands of individuals make their contribution and play an important role in the survival of many wild babies.

This episode looks at the role these family units play and the babies who owe their very existence to the vigilance of their family and endurance of their community?

For these social animals survival is a **Family Affair**

8. Table Manners

All babies are born small and have a relatively short time in which to grow and reach a size where they can look after themselves

This growth is accompanied with developmental changes, which are equally vital to their survival so its not surprising that from the first moments of life the main occupation of all baby animals is feeding.

And it is from these initial **Table Manners**, whether an instinctive suckle, being fed from a parents beak or taught the finer points of killing ones prey that survival for these wild babies depends and their ongoing ability to find food and fend for themselves.

For these wild babies surviving the first breath is only the beginning and from that very first taste of sustenance whether from a mothers teat or the nutrition derived from the inside of an egg a desire for more is born.

9. Risky Business

Because of their small size and inexperience, baby animals are by their very nature vulnerable in the world at large.

This vulnerability means that for every successful birth there is more often than not immanent danger lurking.

This danger may be a super predator, a freak storm, a dangerous enemy or even simply ones own sibling but whatever the hazard there are many perils that makes this growing up experience a very **Risky Business**.

Risky Business looks at the many diverse dangers that affect the lives of the Young & Wild

10. Basic Instinct

Because most babies' basic needs are met by the mother - from food to protection and shelter - the babies have time to develop those skills needed for their survival.

This learning process can either takes place through interaction with others, trial and error or basic instinct

These essential skills cannot always be practically taught by watching an adult and are often developed while playing and interacting with siblings and babies of the same age.

So whether its merely playing with ones siblings, scrutinizing ones teacher, doing what comes naturally or just testing the waters this behaviour training is a vital part of all babies growth and development and its very survival is dependent on these **Basic Instincts**

11. First Steps

In all babies lives there comes a time when the lure of the outside world becomes too attractive to resist and the once strong bonds of mom are severed slightly.

This lure for independence begins a whole new phase of the babies lives and for some it means merely learning to self locomotive while for others to begin fending for oneself.

For these adolescents these **First Steps** are perhaps the most important ever taken and will mould the eventual route there future holds

Whether its an adolescent cheetahs first attempt to successfully hunt, a Vervet trying to find food for itself or an eagles first attempt to leave the confines of the nest for the first time, these **First Steps** are the most important lessons any animal will

endure to ensure the successful transition into adulthood and will determine their future and ability to survive away from their mothers protective bonds.

12. The Dating Game

All species are driven by an internal force to procreate and before this is possible they must find a partner.

From an animals first breath to his first steps to when he finally leaves the maternal bonds he is moving with one purpose, to find a mate.

Whether this driving force is motivated by lust, passion or simply a desire for a soul mate they all have one thing in common, to improve their love life.

The Dating Game takes a look at various methods of finding a mate from a persistent male ostrich to a large and aggressive female spider or just a large bull seal looking for some serious real estate.

Whatever the method used to attract another the final goal is always the same, to find a mate

13. Full Circle

In the wild there are many different methods of attracting a mate whether from persistent harassing, mutual attraction or just being in the right place at the right time, but whatever form this courtship takes and however the attraction is manipulated for each the grand finale is to mate.

Mating is the culmination of a life's work having survived from first breath through the many challenges of the wild and finally back again to the fertilisation and growth of another life, and so the cycle continues.

Full Circle looks at this ongoing evolutionary cycle all wild animals must take in order to survive as a species

YOUNG & WILD SERIES I: 3 x One-Hour Specials

1. Steps in the Wild

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For these adolescents these first ***Steps in the Wild*** are perhaps the most important ever taken and will mould the eventual route there future holds.

These First Steps are the most important lessons any animal will endure to ensure the successful transition into adulthood and will determine their future and ability to survive away from their mothers protective bonds.

2. On Their Wild Way

For all living creatures the most important period of their lives is when they make the giant step and gain independence from the restrictions of the home.

The lure of the outside world becomes too much to resist and the young animals must venture out and fend for itself.

For most of these young animals this urge is driven by an internal force to procreate and before this is possible they must find a mate.

On ***Their Wild Way*** is the story of how some animals finally break that invisible bond and venture out into the unknown, to face the many dangers and opportunities that lie between them and their independence.

3. Wild Family Affairs

The relationship between mother and offspring is a vital one in the development and general survival of many animal babies and is often more than just a need for protection and continues feeding.

When it comes to looking after the young the female gender has always been number one but sometimes either through a freak of nature or simply by grand design there are certain times in the wild where roles are reversed and dad takes responsibility for the young, sometimes even as far as childbirth

Wild Family Affairs looks at the role that mother, dads and sometimes even the entire family play in the life of some baby animals.

YOUNG & WILD SERIES II

13 x Half Hour Programmes

1. New Life

For all baby animals the ordeal of being born is traumatic enough without having to face the hardship of survival. Being a newborn animal means you are fair game not only to predators but also the natural elements.

Each **New Life** must first endure the challenge of birth before it can even begin the added trial of survival in the wild.

We experience the tragedy of a wildebeest calf being born deformed and left when the herd moves on, the jubilation of a healthy calf learning to walk and run. The dramatic **New Life** of the most dangerous snake in Africa and the quirkiness of a newborn baboon leaving mom's tummy for the first time.

New Life is about the harsh contradictions of nature, the joy of life and the diversity of Africa's **Young & Wild**.

2. Stepping Out

Perhaps the most vital part of any baby animal's life is when it learns to walk independently of its mother. While getting to one's feet and actually walking is the first important step, it's not the only part of **Stepping Out**.

Stepping Out is leaving the sanctity of a birthplace and meeting other wild animals for the first time, experiencing new environments and coming to grips with being mobile and forward motion

In **Stepping Out** we experience the joy as a Giraffe learns the basics of coordinating its long neck and legs, a baby hippo getting his land legs and brand new rhino coming face to face with elephants for the first time. We also witness the "super dad" African Jacana as he takes his chicks on a hippo safari.

Stepping Out is about the challenge of discovery, the trepidation of new environments and the joys of new conquests.

3. Breaking Ground

Animal babies are vulnerable and in greatest danger directly after birth and most need protection from the many threats from the outside world.

But as they grow stronger these baby animals must leave the safety of their birthplace and face the many hazards of the wilderness. Each new risk presents a new challenge that must be overcome before a young animal can successfully grow up.

For jackal pups their first taste of independence is when they find themselves “home alone” for the first time and need to survive through the many dangers without their mother’s guidance.

Nile monitors are left to break ground all alone and don’t have the luxury of an adult to watch over them while a leopard mother is extra careful, only allowing her cubs out of hiding after a few weeks.

Elephants are by nature nomadic animals and after birth, **Breaking Ground** for a young calf, happens on the move.

These new experiences might not always be happy ones. Some will be traumatic, dangerous, enlightening, or even trials of endurance. But for all it will be crossing new frontiers and breaking new ground into the future.

4. Bonds & Boundaries

Like human children, animal babies are extremely inquisitive and feel the need to investigate their surroundings. With this comes the desire to wander further away from mom.

Young banded mongoose kittens exit the den for the first time under the close scrutiny of the adults. The kittens soon start playing and run into a puff adder.

Lion cubs have stronger **Bonds & Boundaries** than most animals and meeting the rest of the pride can be a bit daunting - especially during times of drought. But they soon learn that strength, for a baby, lies in the number of adults who can look out for one.

The bond a mother and baby shares is often an extremely close one. For a young vervet mother and her baby, this is no different and when the baby dies, she has to find a way to come to terms with the tragic loss.

The **Bonds & Boundaries** of wild dog society are pretty clear-cut. Young wild dog pups who exit the den for the first time learn about the do’s and don’ts of their society and have their first solid meal.

All animals must cross these important boundaries in life. Regardless of where these early hurdles may lie, our young one’s survival will depend largely on the close bond with an adult who will lead it through the obstacles in life.

5. *Dangerous Steps*

For a baby animal, learning to walk not only allows them to discover new environments - it also brings them closer to the dangers of their world.

For a baboon baby *Dangerous Steps* might be a simple thing like taking a drink or playing on an elephant's highway

A hippo calf who has early in life learnt a painful lesson about the fragile relationship between his own species and crocodiles now has to learn to adapt to life with a serious injury.

One young zebra foal is lame due to an infection and taking *Dangerous Steps* when trying to reach the waterhole without being caught by lions.

The *Dangerous Steps* animal babies take bring them into contact with hazards of all kinds; but for all of nature's babies, these first steps symbolize the threshold of life.

6. *Dining Out*

The greatest challenge for any young animal is when it must go out into the unknown and feed itself.

Black mamba hatchlings, deadly and dangerous from their first moments out of the egg, have to fend for themselves immediately. We see how a hatchling finally gets hold of his well-deserved meal.

For a leopard cub, *Dining Out* is much less complicated - mom caters for their needs until they are ready to hunt for themselves; but sometimes, it is still a bit difficult to reach one's dinner...

We see how a baby Nile Monitor learns what makes a good meal and what doesn't. With no one to teach him the ropes, it takes a while before he finally gets to fill that hollow spot.

For wild dog pups, *Dining Out* is filled with etiquette and protocol that must be strictly adhered to - but once they have their table manners down pat, digging into a good meal is just a matter of finding an adult.

For all baby animals, *Dining Out* is fraught with challenges, whether hanging onto one's quarry, a matter of careful selection or simply holding onto one's meal. But it remains, for all youngsters, the single most important lesson needed to survive.

7. Natural Impulse

From the very first breath, an animal's **Natural Impulse** dictates its destiny. Whether surviving a dangerous situation or coming to terms with new tastes, every animal has to trust its natural instincts to guide it.

A newborn Blesbok foal follows his **Natural Impulse** by getting onto his legs at the soonest moment, learning to recognize exactly who its mom is and staying close to her.

Natural Impulse leads a banded mongoose kitten to a face-to-face confrontation with a snouted cobra but his natural impulse does not alert him to the fact that this snake can spit and is dangerous from far.

By following her instincts, a mother hyena ensures that she does not lead her enemies straight to her pups.

Cold, hungry cormorant chicks are guaranteed warmth, food and protection from Seagulls thanks to their parent's instinctive behaviour.

Through playing and having fun, baby baboons do what **Natural Impulse** dictates and in the process, learn skills that are vital for their survival.

To overcome the many challenges that life brings their way and be able to secure their eventual contribution within their peer groups, all young animals must react to different circumstances in different ways by following their **Natural Impulse**.

8. At Play

In a life surrounded by obstacles, being **At Play** is an important component of building confidence and physically preparing young animals for the future.

Two African Wildcat kittens on the brink of independence play a bit of "Cat & Mouse", with an all-star cast.

Newborn Wildebeest calves spend many a happy hour **At Play** in their playgroups. Running around and frolicking develops the ability to keep up with the herd and outrun predators.

While playing, a baby hippo discovers that others of the same species can be rather scary and meets a herd of elephants for the first time.

Together, a Leopard cub and his sister explore all the fascinating features of their territory. Whilst investigating some Hornbills, the little boy gets stuck in a tree. And to make up for this, he decides to stalk his sister, who surprises him, proving that being **At Play** certainly pays off.

Being **At Play** is filled with adventures, challenges and excitement and a necessary stepping-stone for all animals to progress from helpless baby to strong, healthy adult.

9. **At Risk**

It is never easy being a wild animal and being small and vulnerable means that you are even more **At Risk** than others.

An elephant mother mourns the death of her newborn calf and does not want to leave his side. Her older calf is in danger of dehydration if they do not get to water soon.

Newborn tadpoles have to face risks from both above and below the water's surface, making the game of their own survival a hard one and paying the ultimate price for others, such as a Platana's survival.

A Fishing Spider catches a Golden Leaf-Folding Frog in order to secure his survival but is simultaneously **At Risk** of losing a limb in the process.

Warthogs, a favourite amongst predators are often **At Risk** and have to keep a sharp lookout. After successfully avoiding a pack of Wild Dogs, a baby warthog is lost to a Leopard who has to climb a tree in order to avoid having his meal stolen by a Hyena.

Sometimes even that which an animal might depend on for protection is a risk. A weaver builds his nest above the water where it is guarded by crocodiles. However, the increasing weight of the nest places the chicks **At Risk** and they become crocodile food.

Even though all animal parents have ways of reducing the risks that their babies are exposed to, their small, inexperienced offspring remain easy targets vulnerable to attack. Because they live in a world where only the strongest survive at the expense of the weak.

10. **Family Ties**

The strong emotional bond between a baby animal and its mother is a crucial component of growing up. For some babies this bond extends to an entire family whilst for others it is the only emotional bond they will ever form with another animal.

For a troop of Baboons, having **Family Ties** means more than having unlimited access to playmates; it is about an integrated society where primates have each other to rely on every day. Even an orphaned Baboon can count on his aunt for a bit of quality bonding-time.

Baby Elephants rely on **Family Ties** not only for safety, but also for learning the basics of being an Elephant - learning how to use one's trunk can be rather difficult

and the fine art of a good mud bath might remain a mystery without a live demonstration.

Crocodiles, the most maternal of all reptiles, take their responsibilities as mothers very seriously. Mom teaches her hatchlings how to swim and is there to keep them out of harm's way. A late hatcher wants to befriend an African Rock Python and manages to get by thanks to mom's initial perseverance.

Without ***Family Ties***, a Lion cub would not survive for more than a few days. They are completely dependent on the pride for safety, company and food. Playful wrestling and tussling not only serves to exercise muscles and develop skills; it also establishes unity and partnerships that will last a lifetime.

For most animals, the bond a baby has with its close relatives is a union that will shape its character and prepare it for future hardships, coaching them and lifting them above the rest. In the animal world, ***Family Ties*** mean more than merely looking out for one's own. It is about mutually beneficial bonding and making sure that no family member has to enter the future alone.

11. At Home

Whether it is the safety of a den, safety in numbers or following mom in search of the safest possible location, all young animals spend their early days ***At Home***.

Cheetah cubs born in the safety of a den are now old enough to travel with mom, learning valuable life skills on their journey. Their mother watches with pride as they practice their hunting technique, never straying too far from her.

For a baby giraffe, being ***At Home*** means being surrounded by the safety of the herd and having plenty of available playmates. It also means having a dad to look out for one's safety and guide one away from a pride of hungry lions.

Ever the proud family man, a ground hornbill dad shares his home with his closest relations. While the mother of his children finds food for the family, dad collects fresh nesting material for the newly hatched family member. The eldest child manages to catch a worm, but his younger sister struggles and mom provides food in the form of a juicy frog.

Safely ***At Home***, tucked away in their den, hungry hyena pups await their mother's return. Upon her arrival, their mother discovers that the hyena's archrivals, lions, have moved into the neighbourhood. Only after she has led her pups to safety do they get the opportunity to still their hunger - and then only after the proper etiquette has been followed.

No matter where these wild babies find themselves, being ***At Home*** simply means being in a safe and familiar environment and having someone to look out for them.

12. Check Your Mate

From the time of birth, every animal has one ultimate goal: To advance the species and ensure that their bloodline continues. These babies represent the success of their life's work and to ensure that all has not been in vain, every animal knows that the best strategy is to **Check Your Mate** very carefully.

An African Wildcat mother has thoroughly checked and approved her mate and now has two perfect kittens to show for it. A male African Wildcat enters her territory and after the appropriate courtship has taken place, he gets her stamp of approval. Although he succeeded in conquering his choice partner, it was all in vain - she would not be able to conceive so soon after giving birth.

Upon returning from their first fishing trip after being at sea for months, young male African Penguins are eager to find their ideal partners. **To Check Your Mate** in this instance means forging a partnership that might last a lifetime. One happy couple are the proud parents of two new family members and both are happy to do their part in raising their young.

Southern Right Whales travel all the way from the South Pole to the south coast of Africa in order to find warmer waters where they can find their match and, twelve months later, give birth to the resulting offspring. An intricate mating ritual gives the female the opportunity to choose her mate carefully. But no matter how carefully these ladies check their mates, a small percentage of Southern Right Whale calves will be born pure white.

In the Timbavati, a male Lion of royal lineage is proof that choosing the best mother for your children pays off. But no matter how well you **Check Your Mate**, a genetic curveball can result in cubs that are born pure white.

The fabled King Cheetah with its darker coat is another example of genetic variance. That these hybrids exist is a miracle, since modern Cheetahs are genetically almost identical.

The long legged, aloof look has been a Giraffe trademark for thousands of years. At seven years old, Giraffe males start competing for receptive females and the alpha male stays by his choice partner's side to ensure that his, and only his genes will be carried forth.

All species have a specific trait that is irresistible to the opposite sex; but there is a lot more to the survival of the species than choosing the ideal partner - the outcome of a baby's life is influenced by this decision. Which means that it is crucial to **Check Your Mate** very carefully.

13. Cycle of Life

From the moment a baby animal opens its eyes, a journey with many twists, turns and challenges begins. The ultimate goal: To secure its independence, leave home and find a partner.

A young male leopard ventures out on his own to do his part in the **Cycle of Life** and meets a female leopard who starts flirting with him. Three months later, his cubs will start their own cycle.

Foam nest frog males jostle for position and the opportunity to pass on their genes while the females whip up a huge foam party. Soon after, the eggs develop into tadpoles and the dangerous journey of transition to fully-fledged frog starts.

Two years after she was born, a wildebeest female joins other females to prepare for the most important reason of their existence - to give birth and thus complete her role in the **Cycle of Life** while helping her baby begin his own cycle.

Young lion cubs at the beginning of their journey are introduced to red meat for the first time. A few months later they are taught how to hunt by watching a live demonstration courtesy of their mother. But the cubs learn that things don't always come easily and the chosen buffalo escapes.

Just like the lion cubs, all baby animals learn that it takes hard work to complete the **Cycle of Life**, regardless of whether fun, instinct or an inescapable chain of events drives life's lessons.

NATURE'S BABIES

4 x One-Hour Programmes

1. Wild At Birth

The most precarious time for a baby animal occurs in the short while after it's taken its first breath. Some are born alone while others have a family to look out for them; some quickly have to learn how to stand on their own feet, while others need more time. No matter the process, the trials of life begin soon after birth and, despite these challenges, all animal babies are born to be wild.

A newborn blesbok foal gets onto his legs at the soonest moment, learning to recognize exactly who its mom is and staying close to her.

Truly **Wild at Birth**, the Black Mamba, most dangerous snake in Africa, is born without the presence of its mother and at this tender age, has to learn how to hunt all by itself - sometimes hampered by a bit of sibling rivalry.

Two African Wildcat kittens grow up under the watchful, fiercely protective eye of their mother and, while exploring their new surroundings, learn that not all wildcats have friendly intentions.

We experience the joy as a newborn giraffe learns the basics of coordinating its long neck and legs. For a baby giraffe, being **Wild at Birth** means being surrounded by the safety of the herd and having plenty of available playmates. It also means having a dad to look out for one's safety and guide one away from a pride of hungry lions.

Foam nest frog males jostle for position and the opportunity to pass on their genes while the females whip up a huge foam party. Soon after, the eggs develop into tadpoles and the dangerous journey of transition to fully-fledged frog starts.

Born into a close-knit family, baby Savannah Baboons learn proper baboon etiquette - sometimes with a bit of discipline from mom - from a very young age and hone their co-ordination skills while playing with their peers.

We experience the tragedy of a wildebeest calf being born deformed and left when the herd moves on, the jubilation of a healthy calf learning to walk and run. A baby hippo tries out his land legs with much encouragement from mom and crosses paths with the not-so-friendly dominant male of the pod. Fortunately, mom is there to come to his rescue.

Whether having a family or mother to look after them, or relying purely on instinct, for these babies being **Wild at Birth** means adapting as fast as possible to all the obstacles mother nature puts in their paths.

2. *Wild Bonds*

All babies are naturally inquisitive and eager to explore from the moment they can move. Often this inquisitiveness puts them at risk. But all animals have natural boundaries and these restrictions, whether enforced by a parent, family member or the laws of nature, all illustrate the babies' *Wild Bonds*.

A leopard mother is extra careful, only allowing her cubs out of hiding after a few weeks and then does not let her babies out of her sight. We see how the cubs enjoy their first solid meal in true leopard fashion: Safely out of reach of potential threats, high up in a tree.

The *Wild Bonds* between vervet monkeys are strengthened through daily grooming and group activities. The unbreakable bond of a vervet mother and her baby is clearly illustrated when the baby falls ill.

For jackal pups their first taste of independence is when they find themselves "home alone" for the first time and need to survive through the many dangers without their mother's guidance. Instinctively, they know to stay within the den for safety. A little white rhino calf goes on a walk of discovery and meets a few surprising animals. And even though they mostly look friendly, the youngster soon learns that a rhino should rather stick with other rhinos.

Lion cubs eagerly meet their aunts and cousins for the first time. But because of a drought, they soon learn to push the limits of their *Wild Bonds* by searching for willing milk donors in order to survive. Later, we see how these cubs learn to hunt by example and forge bonds through playful interaction.

Young mongoose kittens are out and about for the first time, foraging with the adults. Soon all fear is lost and while playing around, the kittens come face to face with a puff adder. They learn how to deal with the dangerous snake in a way only mongooses can.

The strong family structure of baboon society is much needed - especially when living close to a river filled with dangerous predators and an elephant highway. But, sadly, a young baboon who did not observe the boundaries, is lost to a crocodile.

In wild dog society, *Wild Bonds* are very clearly defined and bad behaviour is dealt with swiftly. Table manners are strictly adhered to, but the youngsters soon learn which buttons to push if they don't get their way.

Overcoming the risks and obstacles on the way to independence is a great achievement for a young animal. But it is the *Wild Bonds* forged with their fellow animals that lead our youngsters into the freedom of adulthood.

3. Rearing to Grow

There comes a time when all wild babies need to stretch their legs and overcome the restrictions of their environment. Whether this means simply learning to stand on one's own feet or having new experiences, from the moment wild babies learn to walk, they are **Rearing to Grow**.

A baby *elephant* wets his feet for the first time, gets a few useful tips on how to use his trunk properly and learns about the elephant calf's number one enemy - all this while living a nomadic lifestyle with his herd.

Nile monitors emerge from their eggs without their mother nearby and learn that, although they are **Rearing to Grow**, caution is usually the best policy. With no help from mom, they must fend for themselves from the very beginning. A young Nile Monitor learns that the easiest prey is not always the tastiest and, after putting his hunting skills to the test, finally lands himself a big catch.

A young *zebra* foal, lame due to an infection, follows her mother and their herd to water. **Rearing to Grow**, she uses her last bit of energy to get to the drinking hole, only to be interrupted by a pride of *lions*, and she succumbs to dehydration.

An impatient *hippo* calf who wants to get out there to explore, chases away a *crocodile* while another calf has to adapt to an injury caused by an altercation with one of these fierce creatures. While playing, another baby hippo discovers that others of the same species can be rather scary and meets a herd of *elephants* for the first time.

Together, a *leopard* cub and his sister explore all the fascinating features of their territory.

Cold, hungry *cormorant* chicks are guaranteed warmth, food and protection from *seagulls*, thanks to their parents, who are rearing them to grow into strong adults.

Safely tucked away in their den, hungry *hyena* pups await their mother's return, **Rearing to Grow** and explore. Upon her arrival, their mother discovers that the hyena's archrivals, *lions*, have moved into the neighbourhood. Only after she has led her pups to safety do they get the opportunity to still their hunger - and then only after the proper etiquette has been followed.

Vervet monkey mothers believe that their babies should crawl before they can climb and, together with their family members and a helping hand here and there, rear well-adjusted little babies.

Growing up in the wild is not all fun and games. For animal babies to progress from youngsters to self-sufficient adults, they will need to face many dangers and overcome seemingly impossible obstacles. But most importantly, the babies of the wild must be patient and diligent in their lessons, wherever their exciting surroundings might lead them.

4. All in the Family

For most animals, the bond between mother and baby is a strong one - and most necessary in growing up. For some babies, this is the only emotional bond they will ever share, while others develop relationships with the whole family unit. This added support provides the independence, comfort and security that comes from keeping it **All in the Family**.

For a troop of *baboons*, having a large family means more than having unlimited access to playmates; it is about an integrated society where primates have each other to rely on every day. Even an orphaned baboon can count on his aunt for a bit of quality bonding-time.

An *elephant* mother mourns the death of her newborn calf and does not want to leave his side. Her older calf is in danger of dehydration if they do not get to water soon.

Cheetah cubs born in the safety of a den are now old enough to travel with mom, learning valuable life skills on their journey. Their mother watches with pride as they practice their hunting technique, never straying too far from her.

Ever the proud family man, a *ground hornbill* dad shares his home with his closest relations. While the mother of his children finds food for the family, dad collects fresh nesting material for the newly hatched family member. The eldest child manages to catch a worm, but his younger sister struggles and mom provides food in the form of a juicy frog.

A big male *lion* from a strong lineage has chosen his mate well. The subsequent offspring are strong, healthy cubs - but one of them stands out above the rest: a little white cub is playing together with his siblings. This, however, makes no difference to his siblings, who include him in their games.

Warthogs, a favourite amongst predators are often in danger and have to keep a sharp lookout. But even though **All in the Family** sticks together to keep the young ones safe, one baby is sadly lost to a *leopard*.

Two *African Wildcat* kittens on the brink of independence play a bit of "Cat & Mouse", practicing their hunting skills while learning a few valuable lessons. We also witness the "super dad" *African Jacana* as he takes his chicks on a hippo safari, keeping a close watch over his family while mom forages in the distance.

For those wild babies lucky enough to have a sibling or adult to share new experiences with, to guide them through the rough times and to provide safety in difficult situations, it is a union that will shape characters and prepare them for the challenges of the future.

DOCUMENTARY SPECIALS

- 1. *Cry For Africa***
 - 2. *Kaokoveld "How Can I Tell You"***
 - 3. *In Tribute To George Adamson***
 - 4. *An African Ride - Part 1/2***
 - 5. *An African Ride - Part 3/4***
 - 6. *Guardian Of The Arc***
 - 7. *A Chimp Came Calling***
 - 8. *Scavenging Souls***
 - 9. *Bassin' Safari***
-

ENVIRONMENTAL SERIES

Green Machine (Episode 1 - 26)

Planet Green (Episode 27-51)

Grassroots (Episode 1 - 78)

CORPORATE

- 1. Mashatu Game Reserve***
 - 2. Chobe Marketing***
 - 3. NRMP - US AID***
 - 4. Kuru Development Trust***
 - 5. Lubombo SDI***
 - 6. Aids Bobirwa Home Based Care Project***
 - 7. ABSA Soweto Festival 2005***
 - 8. ABSA Soweto Festival 2006***
-

CARTE BLANCHE

PROGRAMME 1 Bushbabies

PROGRAMME 2 ESPU

PROGRAMME 3 Dolphins

PROGRAMME 4 Crittercam

KIDDIES SHORTS I

Animal Antics

17 x Five-Minute Programmes

1. Love On The Reeds

It's a frog fight. First our two males try their voices at vocalizing to attract the pretty gal, with our hero and his expanding balloon like throat, clearly out croaking his rival who then resorts to fisticuffs in an attempt to win favour. The victor wins all and is last seen cuddling in the moonlight.

2. From Hunter to Hunted

Pythons are usually the aggressors snapping up morsels whenever the opportunity arises, but witness as a clutch of python eggs hatch and from 1st breath are cautious to a certain predator who has a panache for little snakes or snake omelette.

3. Many Hands Make Light Work. (For Queen & Colony)

Many hands make light work - tending to their queen is a full time job for termites. Not only is she more than 100x their size and looks like a French loaf with a head, she is also quite demanding and insists on constant attention at all times. The soldier and worker termites not only have to look after her royal highness but they need to collect food, guard the eggs and baby-sit the little ones in a the nursery

4. Turtle Tales (Turtles)

It's one thing for a newly born turtle to dig itself to the surface after hatching but quite another for it to run the gauntlet to the sea and "safety"? Just when they think they are safe when they arrive at the breaking surf, there are a whole host of other dangers lurking.

5. A Load of Bull

Meet the lion of the frog world, the Bull Frog. Big ugly, and a roar like a lion. The bull frog is one of the most aggressive of the frog family and is well known contender in many a fight especially when it's defending a brood of newly hatched tadpoles.

6. Dance Like A Butterfly, Sting Like A Spider (Crab Spider)

And we thought only chameleons change colour to suit their environment. Take a look at the crab spider that changes colour to blend in with the flower of its choice and thus snare unsuspecting bees on a hunt for pollen.

7. *Dangerous Liaisons*

Like any newly born croc hatchlings, first instinct is to call for mum. When mum does come to help one look at mum's teeth and the hatchlings might prefer to risk the fate of a nearby Lizard who fancies a bit of croc for lunch. Swimming lessons commence straight after hatching. (For those who survive mum's teeth and the lizard's jaw)

8. *What's the Buzz*

Bees have many very different ways to communicate from wing beats to a secret pheromone which only members of the same hive understand. But what happens when an impostor, from another colony, infiltrates the hive and tries to make off with 'the queen's share'.

9. *Dining Out*

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner eating his curds & whey, in swam a spider... Yes, some spiders do swim and some even catch fish rather than moths. A look at some other things, spiders eat and the often-strange ways they catch them.

10. *Gone Fishing*

Crocodiles take their fishing seriously and even an inquisitive terrapin fails to divert this activity, lucky for the terrapin as it gets to avoid being on the menu. These cumbersome creatures boast their agility and speed by catching fish in a waterfall.

11. *One Animal's Dung is Another's Treasure*

What might seem as waste to Africa's many herbivores is gold to the Dung Beetle who needs animal's dung for its species survival. Not only do these dung beetles gather and roll as much dung as possible but they will even resort to high jacking another's ball, which it has spent many hours perfecting. But not without a fight.

12. *Going For a Spin*

It's the strongest substance on earth and manufactured at will by spiders. Spiders use their silk for many different uses including locomotion, hunting and making happy home.

13. *Learning To Be A Croc*

Crocodiles aren't born mean; they have to learn how to do it. Take a look at what it takes to be a real croc from the first meal to recognizing which reptile is the right mum.

14. *Gone Camping*

An orb spider out on a hike gets caught in a rainstorm and quickly has to erect its own shelter. Using its ever-present silk and a bit of leaf, the Orb has a bit of shelter in no time at all and escapes the storm.

15. *Frog In Your Throat*

Frogs generate sound in many various ways including expanding bellow like throats and makeshift musical instruments all with many varying tunes and pitches. Experience a cacophony of frog noises and the ingenious methods of making them.

16. *Snack Attack*

Snakes have ingenious methods of hunting. Some play dead & some just simply camouflage themselves to catch prey.

17. *Spider Babies*

A spiders' strongest instinct is to reproduce and they have unique methods of reproduction as well as distinctive ways of protecting their eggs (and young) from other predators.

KIDDIES SHORTS II

Bird Species

7 x Five-Minute Programmes

1. Penguins

Penguins are not usually associated with other birds for no other reason than they are more comfortable in water than out. These non-flying seabirds are monogamous and are sometimes together with one partner for up to 15 years. Penguins have been on the red list for some time and are directly affected by sea pollution.

2. Flamingos

The Flamingos are a group of long-necked birds, which occur, in large flocks on brackish lakes. Their bills are characteristic, flattened above with the tip bent down at an angle. Made up of both the Greater and Lesser Flamingo these elegant birds are found in many African lakes in great numbers and spend hours filter feeding in the shallows. Found in areas as diverse as the Ngorongoro crater to the beaches of the East Coast Islands these graceful birds degree of colour, usually pink, is a direct result of their diet.

3. Ostriches

The ostrich is the largest living bird on earth and its success as a species can be largely attributed to the alliance forged between man and these great flightless birds. Ostriches are devoted parents and have some interesting physical adaptations to cope with dust synonymous with the arid regions, which they inhabit

4. Weavers

One of the largest bird families in Africa, Weavers are prolific in numbers and usually live in large colonies competing for nest building material and ideal locations. Weavers are gregarious, nesting in colonies and with allies weave domed structures with a side, top or bottom entrance. The male weaver is well known for perseveringly building his nest and having the female destroy it until she is happy and moves in. In large colonies males compete for building materials, often stealing from one another.

5. Eagles

This bird of prey is surely the lord of the skies and uses its uncanny eyesight to spot its victim from a great distance. These flying assassins have long captivated the imaginations, respect and admiration of human observers.

6. Vultures

The history of the interaction between humankind and vultures has been a long one. Once revered by ancient civilizations, they have been toppled from this position of prominence in recent times to a point where most of the vulture species are either rare, threatened or endangered.

Vultures are carrion eating raptors that are largely responsible for alerting other scavengers to a carcass as well as being equipped with a strong beak to break open tough skin.

7. Other Raptors

A bird of prey is characterized by the powerful grip of its taloned feet, which puncture organs and shatter bones, the hooked beak which tears skin and shreds flesh, the immense wingspan which buoys them along on the thermals and the piercing stare of front focusing eyes. The word Raptor means to hunt or kill with its claws.

African Habitats

13 x Five-Minute Programmes

1. Dust to Dust

Towering dunes, sandstorms, searing days and freezing nights characterize many of the deserts of the world. Although apparently inhospitable they provide habitat for many species of plant and animal, which have adapted to survive the harsh climate.

From small desert insects - the welwitchia beetle living in the oldest plant fossil known to man, to dangerous snakes -horned adders lying beneath the hot desert sands surface waiting in ambush, and the exceptional desert Elephant on its endless quest for life giving water, the desert habitat is home to countless species, which have adapted their lifestyle to this challenging environment.

2. Beneath The Trees

Man is more intimately acquainted with certain sectors of the moon than he is with the heart of a rainforest, and yet rainforests are the oldest ecosystems on this planet, containing by far a majority of life forms when compared to any other habitat.

Rich in moisture and natural life sustaining flora, forests are home to a magnitude of reptiles such as the Gaboon Viper, rare primates such as lemurs and even large mammals like the relatively small forest elephant.

3. Fire Birth

A small area of fynbos in the Western Cape can own a diversity of plant species equalled to an entire tropical rainforest. Its a floral kingdom of extraordinary richness, a wonder of the world inhabited by a host of life that survives within.

These fields of beauty owe their existence to fire and need this destructive energy to germinate and reproduce

Making this plant kingdom their home are a plethora of birds and insects as well as an endemic selection of baboon which survive within these inimitable plants

4. No Man's Land

All life, including our own, has its origins in the sea. It is a world we left long ago, and it has become strangely forgotten. Between the sea and dry land we discover a lost world of life, that belongs neither in the sea nor on the land - this is the inter tidal zone, where sea meets land, where ocean meets continent, and there is bound to be an extraordinary intercourse.

Within these confines survive the graceful bulia, busy sea spiders and a host of varying crustaceans all competing for their piece of this "No Mans Land".

5. Water Worlds

Wherever water rests on its journey to the sea, life erupts in systems and cycles and a parade of organisms. Even a little old puddle here today and gone tomorrow bursts with a universe of creatures. From microscopic larva, strange looking amphibians and mud hopping fish these ponds offer more than one can ever imagine.

6. The Junction

At the juncture between river and sea is found a mysterious and diverse wilderness called an estuary. Here the tidal action of the ocean produces a dynamic clash between salt and freshwater. It is this rhythmic encounter, which massages a unique profile of habitats and life forms into existence. Estuaries are the breeding grounds for the oceans and while many sea species use these sheltered areas to reproduce others like the Knysna sea horse survive without ever leaving these waters. Species here must adapt to continual salinity variance and harsh environmental changes brought about by the continual push of the ocean from one side and the natural flow of the river from the other.

7. Mountains

As part of the African environment, mountains play a huge part with a diverse and different ecology all of their own. Many species of animal have sought refuge in these African slopes from mountain baboons to the elephant's closet relative the rock

hyrax. Species here must survive harsh winter winds and climatic diversity as well as have adapted to manoeuvre themselves around these rocky climes

8. Islands

Off mainland Africa there are many islands with a variety of different animals and cultures still surviving. From Bird and Dassen Island on the West coast boasting among others seals penguins and gannets to east coast islands like Bazaruto and even Madagascar with an enormous variety of species and people. Island life includes those species that have been excluded from evolutionary change and annihilation due to their isolation

9. Savannah Landscapes

Savannah areas play a huge role in Africa and one would include the huge migrations of the wildebeest and zebra in the Serengeti and Masai Mara as well as the plethora of predators and scavengers that make these plains of predation their hunting grounds.

10. Source of Life

Water is the source of all life on this planet. All living creatures can trace their origins to the oceans, and all living things depend on this precious liquid for their continued existence. In this insert we will discover the influence water has on animal behaviour and the many ingenious ways life on earth manipulates and utilizes this water to survive

11. African Arteries

Rivers constitute the framework around which terrestrial life is woven. Born in mountain highlands, they rush youthfully downwards, mellowing in the foothills and finally merging once again with the source at the coast. This insert journeys with a river from birth to re-absorption. And we show how these watery looms are no longer able to hold together the fabric of existence.

12. Urban Animals

Uncontrolled urbanization is a problem that besets most developing countries and mankind has always tried to conquer and tame wild animals, which has inevitably caused problems. This insert highlights the topic.

13. The Night Shift

Under cover of darkness a whole new set of actors flood the stage of the African wilderness. In fact nocturnal animals together with those who live in caves or underground constitute half of all invertebrates on the planet, but it is that half that we rarely get to observe.

The night shift looks at these species that inhabit this subterranean space. From mole rats who spend their entire existence underground to bats who live in large and endless cave formations this insert gives an insight to the dark mysterious areas beneath the surface.

KIDDIES SHORTS III

10 x Five-Minute Programmes

1. Dusty Denizens

The desert-elephants of Namibia's harsh coastal desert have long sparked man's curiosity and have left many questions unanswered. Thinner than other elephants this amazing beast has larger feet, working much the same on sand as snowshoes on snow, and remarkably it does not destroy its habitat like its more fortunate cousins. It also has the knack of finding water in the most unlikely places.

2. Run Rhino Run

Almost decimated throughout Africa the highly endangered Black Rhino (*Dicornis Biceror*) has found refuge in the Kaokoveld desert on Africa's Western Coast. Sporting a trophy worth more per kilogram than an elephant's ivory the Black Rhinoceros has adapted to desert life and not only found safety in this vast wilderness but also has a caretaker in the local populace and head of the Save The Rhino Trust Blythe Loutit. Blythe, together with the local population, have fought the cause of this ancient animal and finally the hard work is paying off with populations on the increase.

3. Ricky Ticky Tarvy

Often referred to as the King of the Desert, standing only a few centimetres tall the Meerkat is probably the happiest desert dweller of them all. Part of the fabled snake killing mongoose family the meerkat forges a very comfortable living in the Kalahari desert in Southern Africa. Living on a juicy menu of beetles, scorpions and termites, playing with snakes for fun this tough little cat with the heart of a lion only has high flying predators to worry about.

4. Oh Rats!

How to escape contrasting desert heat and freezing nights? Go underground of course. The Damara Mole Rats have done just that, a couple of thousand years ago they fled the discomfort of surface dwelling dug below the surface, elected a queen and have never looked back, or surfaced. The queen mole rat rules with a rod of her ivory teeth, is the only female allowed to breed and has at least 3 men to keep her happy. The down side is that she is constantly breast-feeding and has more off spring than she can count.

5. Desert Ungulates (without zebras)

The Ungulates that survive in any desert have an unfaltering dependency on water and therefore have the harshest challenges when living in a desert. Many of these four-legged friends have unique techniques that enable them to survive in the heat,

whether it be storing liquid in their bodies, using a radiator to keep body temperature down or an incredible knack at finding the right plants for survival. Some are not so lucky and if injured or unable to make the long crossing to the next watering hole simply perish.

6. Cold Blood in a Hot Place

Reptiles have adapted and survived in every corner of the earth and that includes deserts. In fact these cold-blooded creatures find the warmth of the desert suits their lifestyle and helps with general survival. But despite them all having a cooler than most blood temperature in common they all have different strategies for survival, whether it be actively hunting their prey down, lying in wait or dancing a jig.

7. Whale Tale

All you ever wanted to know about the world's largest mammal, where it came from, how it adapted to living in the water and last but definitely not least all the obscure details of its love life, birth and how it compares with other cetaceans.

8. Whale of a Time

Contrary to popular belief and like most humans, whales use their whole anatomy to communicate with one another and this whale speak is so close to the way they locomote it is impossible to illustrate communication without looking at the way they move. In addition to this sign language whales communicate using the same frequency that elephants use and it is a popular theory that they can communicate with one another.

9. Boomslang

Like its name suggests, "tree snake" this snake lives and hunts predominantly in trees feasting on other reptile delicacies like chameleon. But the Boomslang not only preys on unsuspecting lizards but also its female equivalent, and is quite happy to do battle with a male competitor with similar intentions.

10. Cobra

Internationally famous for dancing to the tune of a flute The Cobra uses its hood to scare away enemies as well as an aid that hypnotizes prey. When necessary this deadly snake draws itself to its full capacity flares open its hood, which usually intimidates an attacker. If this does not work watch out for a dose of deadly venom in the eye for an accurate spitter of note.

African Standard Animals

6 x Five-Minute Programmes

1. Long in the Neck

While a giraffe wants to be treated and thought of as a normal ungulate its gangly physique makes this quite impossible. Using its neck, (that unbelievably has the same amount of vertebra as a human) and long legs it has to manoeuvre its head down to ground level to do a simple thing like drink. When it finally gets down it has to work out how to get the wet liquid uphill into its stomach. If that's not bad enough some acacia trees have waged war on these lanky animals and as there leaves are nibbled by a giraffe the rest of the tree turns bitter to avoid the same fate from the rest of the herd. But these tall animals have a counter plan.

2. Relatively Speaking

Chimpanzees have always smudged the dividing line between humans and animals. They're not quite one, but neither are they the other. However, research over the last half century has uncovered startling evidence of their humanity. Findings show that chimps exhibit nearly all the characteristics hitherto exclusively attributed to humans. We shin up the family tree and ask the somewhat bizarre question: "is it not time to embrace these persecuted beings as our fellow man?" Relatively speaking, of course.

3. The Power Brokers

The baboons are the most intelligent of all the monkeys. Their big brains relative to size have ensured exceptional success in a modern world where wildlife is retreating. Their social systems demand a degree of sophisticated interaction and complicated politicking which even human beings can learn from. Let's journey into the baboon boardroom and discovers nature's own Power Brokers.

4. Designer Coat

If you think the stripped design of a Zebra skin was just a fluke of nature you would be wrong as there is a lot more to this black & white animal than first meets the eye. Its black and white coat is the perfect camouflage for its favoured habitat the savannah grasslands. While you might be wondering how black and white blends in with yellow grass remember its main predator is colour blind. Not only this but when in a large group the many stripes tend to confuse an attacker, and the same stripes are unique to each zebra and are used, like fingerprints, to identify each individual animal.

5. Fat Cat

With his confident lope and impressive mane the Male Lion is surely the undisputed king of the jungle. Wrong in actual fact the female lion is more of a king than the male and is generally the one who provides for the pride and cubs. The male might act like a king with the females in waiting but he is to a large extent just a lazy fat cat.

6. Sweating Blood

The Hippopotamus is normally seen lazily wallowing in cool pools and not often prone to major activity, but believe it or not this large mammal sweats blood, literally. In fact their sparsely haired skin contains special pores, which secrete "blood sweat." This thick, oily, pinkish substance which allows them to remain in water or on dry land for long periods actually acts as a very useful sun block. Another time this water borne mammal works up a sweat is when his territory is threatened and then he will leap into action using his ivory lined famous jaws to fend off the intruder.

KIDDIES SHORTS IV

7 x Five-Minute Programmes

1. The African Bullfrog

One of the ugliest species around with its warty skin a massive head and horny tubercles on its hind feet used for digging, the African Bullfrog is viciously territorial and will attack any intruder on his patch no matter what the size. When fighting one another bullfrogs grip onto each other with their strong jaws and sharp teeth and hurl the opponent, judo like, away from themselves.

2. Camouflage

Crab Spider - Just like the chameleons famous ability to change colour to suit their environment so is the Crab Spider that blends in with its flower of choice and waits for nectar loving insects to come along. The crab Spider takes hunt and pursuit to another level.

3. Ostrich

A male ostrich definitely lives by the creed he who tries harder will succeed and this is shown as an eager bird tries desperately to lure a female into his clutches. At first he is ignored by most but eventually a female shows some interest and the chase is on, literally.

4. Zebra

The stripes on a Zebra are not just a slight of nature but have a real function in its ongoing endeavor to survive. Its black and white coat is the perfect camouflage for its favored habitat the savannah grasslands and helps the Zebra avoid persistent predators who strive to prey on this handsome horse.

While you might be wondering how black and white blends in with yellow grass remember its main predator, lions, are color blind. Not only this but when in a large group the many stripes tend to confuse an attacker. The same stripes are unique to each zebra and are used, like fingerprints, to identify each individual animal.

5. Seal

Living among a family group of up to ½ a million is hard enough but when each year about 90 000 new seal pups are born in a rookery life just gets harder especially if you are one of the new born pups.

To make matters worse mum keeps popping off to swim and hunt for fish leaving a new born pup alone to discover the many challenges faced in its desert environment.

Getting a drink is hard enough but the pups are also faced with the added adventure of learning to swim, not to mention avoiding being squashed by a large bull.

6. *Bushbaby*

As the sun sets and most animals retire into dens and safe (relatively) havens, a large eyed, furry, insect eating animal emerges, awaking in the dusk ready to start its day of survival in the African veld.

The bushbaby, spending the daylight hours in the hollows of trees and nests high above the forest floor, has an almost ghostlike screech as it leaps from tree to tree in search of juicy insects and tree dwelling bugs.

Problem is some insects have defense mechanisms of their own and bite back.

7. *Giraffe Legs*

The giraffe has only two gaits an ambling walk and a gallop. When walking the entire weight is supported first on the left legs, and then on the right as in a camel. Otherwise the long limbs on the short trunk would interfere with one another. The neck moves in synchrony with the legs and helps the giraffe maintain its balance. At a gallop forefeet and hind feet work together in pairs. as in a running rabbit, the hind feet landing outside and ahead of the forefeet. Even when travelling 50-60 kph the giraffe is so long legged that it appears to be moving in slow motion, meanwhile the tail is held curled up on the rump and switched at regular intervals.
