Welcome to the first ever virtual edition of Wildscreen Festival 2020 which celebrates the authentic voices, unique relationships and the very best craftsmanship of the natural history industry.

Our world-leading programme of headline speakers and unmissable keynotes will be streamed to our Wildscreen Festival virtual platform alongside everything you have come to expect of your Wildscreen experience – sessions, masterclasses, live Q&As, very special commissioner content and unique networking opportunities.

We are excited to kick off Wildscreen Festival 2020 with the launch of our unique film library of over 200 films including our fabulous Panda Award Submissions and inaugural Official Selection. All content will be available for you to enjoy on demand, post Festival until December 16th.

Sue Martineau
Interim Wildscreen CEO
Monday 19th October

09:00 - Welcome to Wildscreen Festival 2020
11:30 & 16:00 - Commissioner sessions
11:00 - Beyond the Boom: How Natural History Can Hold On to its Global Audience.
Big blue chip series on VOD platforms have enjoyed a commissioning (and a viewing) boom, and the pipeline is bursting with more. The audience is well and truly super-served. But is it about to be over-served? Do we risk saturation of our market and what can we do to prevent it?
Matt Cole | Howard Swartz | Alastair Fothergill & Janet Han Vissering

11:30 - Commissioner Briefing - Jörn Röver NDR

12:30 - Scriptwriting Masterclass: In Conversation with Jeff Pope
How do you craft a winning narrative for your wildlife film? Award winning screenwriter Jeff Pope - the man behind "Philomena", "A Confession", "Stan and Ollie" and "Isolation Stories" - shares lessons and top tips on what he's learned from scripting Drama.
Lynn Barlow & Jeff Pope

14:00 - Audio Network Masterclass: How Music can tell your story
Join Audio Network's head of music Ali Johnson in discussion with composers and producers on the tremendous value music brings to natural world documentaries. Offering insights into working with original scores, production music and live orchestras, this masterclass clearly demonstrates how music can support and maximise the creative storytelling of any wildlife documentary.
Ali Johnson | Jody Jenkins | John Ashton Thomas & Lara Bickerton

15:00 - Sharing the Wealth: Philanthropy for Conservation Communications
Fundraising for a project is always a challenge. But as the power of conservation storytelling becomes more recognised there is a growing community of philanthropists funding these projects. This panel is made up of benefactors from around the world whose support of conservation stories is moving the dial.
Buffy Redsecker | Jessica Sweidan | Rohini Nilekani & Shari Sant Plummer

16:00 - Johan Rockström Keynote: The Latest Science Behind the Planetary Crisis
We are always being asked to "trust the science." But what is the science? Leading environmental scientist Johan Rockström has pioneered the understanding of the critical planetary tipping points - one-way doors beyond which the natural world will never recover. If you want to understand the hard facts behind the planetary crisis - and the possible solutions - this is a must-see keynote.
Johan Rockström & Alastair Fothergill

16:00 - Commissioner Briefing - Howard Swartz - Discovery

17:30 - How can an Impact Campaign bring about Change?
How can we make films that bring about real change? How can we use films to support it? And what’s the point of having an impact campaign if it doesn’t result in tangible change? In this session a panel of filmmakers and impact producers discuss measurable ways that films can contribute to campaigns that create lasting conservation change.
Dave Allen | Joanna Natagesara | Franny Armstrong & Natalie Cash

20:00 - Planet Earth: A Celebration - Premiere and Q&A
Indulge in a visual and musical feast as Planet Earth: A Celebration takes you on an exhilarating journey to the wildest places on Earth. Bringing you eight of the most extraordinary sequences from the BAFTA award-winning Planet Earth II and Blue Planet II, with new narration from Sir David Attenborough and new compositions from Hans Zimmer and Bleeding Fingers - performed by UK rapper Dave and the BBC Concert Orchestra. Join Lizzie Daly in a conversation with the award-winning team behind these incredible series, Jo Shinner, Mike Gunton and Mark Brownlow, and have your chance to ask them a question yourself!
Lizzie Daly | Jo Shinner | Mark Brownlow & Mike Gunton
11:30 & 16:00 - Commissioner sessions

11:00 - Everything has Changed
Everything has changed since Wildscreen 2018. A global pandemic has left economies in meltdown while global climate change has caused wildfires on every continent. Trump has left the Paris Agreement and China’s committed to Net Zero. Greta, Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter have all dominated the news.

The way we make and consume wildlife content has been utterly transformed. Streaming has overtaken linear viewing. And David Attenborough has joined Instagram. So what should our roles be in this rapidly changing world? We talk to filmmakers with very different jobs and backgrounds to discover more about both the challenges and the opportunities that this much altered world presents for natural history content production.

Tom Mustill | Verity White | John Aitchinson
Andrew Cohen & Ashwika Kapur

11:00 - Commissioner Briefing - Meghan Cassin - Nat Geo Wild

12:30 - Dolby Vision Masterclass: Netflix’s Our Planet and Apple TV+ Tiny Worlds - Dolby Vision HDR makes nature shine in your home
Join Dolby in conversation with the teams behind Netflix’s Our Planet and Apple TV+’s Tiny Worlds as they take you through HDR capture and the creative process to deliver these landmark series in Dolby Vision.

14:00 - The Money Shot Masterclass: The Business of Photography

John Harrington

15:00 - What’s the Big Idea? Developing and pitching natural history shows
How do you create and shape a winning TV concept? What’s the best way to tempt someone to buy your show? And is there really no such thing as a bad idea? Wildlife presenter Lizzie Daly quizzes a range of industry experts on the Development business.

Lizzie Daly | Gavin Boyland | Meghan Cassin & Alison Barrat

16:00 - Commissioner Briefing - Gernot Lercher - ORF Universum

16:00 - Sky’s CEO Jeremy Darroch in Conversation with Steve Backshall - Keynote
Under Jeremy Darroch’s leadership SKY has saved over a billion trees in the Amazon Rainforest, campaigned for healthy oceans and set the ambitious target for its business to become net carbon zero by 2030. Discover more about the broadcaster’s new factual channel Sky Nature. And get under the skin of a man for whom the environment is both a personal, and a business issue.
17:30 - Pitch Perfect
Successful freelance photographers not only make great images, they also know how to research and pitch their ideas. Join an expert panel led by former Director of Photography at National Geographic, Sarah Leen, as they discuss best practises for crafting the perfect pitch, finding the right audience for your ideas and avoiding common mistakes.
Sarah Leen | Kathy Moran | Tom Gilks
Chrissie Goldrick & Sabine Meyer

19:00 - Keynote - David and Greta in conversation - the Planetary Crisis
He’s the world’s best loved natural history presenter and broadcaster. She’s the Swedish schoolgirl who inspired a world to sit up and take notice of the climate emergency with her Climate for School strikes. Wildscreen is thrilled to be virtually bringing them together for a very special Keynote conversation. They’re separated by 77 years in age but united by one shared desire - to protect the natural world. Join them as they discuss some of the key issues facing the planet - and what we can do to mitigate against them.
Sir David Attenborough & Greta Thunberg

20:00 - Special Screening: Our Gorongosa - A Park for the People
Dominique Gonçalves, a young Mozambican elephant ecologist, shares the inspiring story of Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique, a park as committed to enriching the lives of the local people—and in particular the girls and women—as it is to protecting its wildlife. This powerful and empowering story reveals the surprising links between wildlife conservation and human development, and showcases Gorongosa’s role as a model for conservation in the 21st century. Our Gorongosa is an official selection of the Wildscreen Film Festival and is available to watch through the festival Film Library.
Jared Lipworth | Dominique Gonçalves & Larissa Sousa

22:00 - Special Screening: Jane Goodall: The Hope
Jane Goodall: The Hope follows world famous conservationist Jane as she travels over 300 days a year meeting with everyone from schoolchildren in Zanzibar to Prince Harry. Using wisdom, heart and humour she spreads a message of hope, showing how every individual has the potential to be a catalyst and create lasting change. "Jane Goodall: The Hope" premiered on 22nd April 2020 on National Geographic, and is now receiving a special screening at Wildscreen.
Wednesday 21st October

11:30 & 15:00 - Commissioner sessions
11:00 - Wildlife Camera Craft: Tips from the Top
What does it take to capture a world class natural history sequence? From hard-won lessons to magical moments, a panel of leading wildlife cinematographers from around the world share their stories about the most unforgettable experiences that have shaped their careers. Combining clips, anecdotes and tips this is a fascinating insight into the long journey to acquiring the skills of a top-tier wildlife Director of Photography.
Tom Hugh-Jones | Gautam Pandey | Gavin Thurston
David Reichart & Sue Gibson

11:30 - Commissioner Briefing - Jack Bootle - BBC
12:30 - Masterclass: Through the Door: How to get a job in the BBC Natural History Unit
Get the low down on how to get your foot through the door from a range of industry insiders working across the BBC Natural History Unit. With hints and tips, practical advice and inspirational insight this is THE masterclass for anyone wanting to work at the BBC.
Donna Gomes | Chloe Mnatzaganian | Lee Bacon & Sylvia Mukasa

14:00 - Masterclass: Bertie Gregory: A Filming Adventure with Wolves and Polar Bears
How do you get the best out of your equipment when you’re filming in an extreme environment? As a wildlife cinematographer who films in far-flung places on assignments for National Geographic, Bertie Gregory shares how he got started in wildlife filmmaking. He’ll also detail the Canon products that form part of his staple kit list, enabling him to produce the highest quality content. And he’ll share the incredible shots and footage he’s recently captured of polar bears, wolves and more.
Bertie Gregory

15:00 - Commissioner Briefing - Masa Hayakawa - NHK
15:00 - Storytelling Superpowers: Photography in Conservation Campaigns
Storytelling has the power to create empathy, change hearts, influence minds and generate action. Meet the photographers who’ve dedicated their lives and careers to showcasing issues and fighting injustices, using their work and their partnerships with non-profits to bring about tangible change.
Tara Kilachand | Jason Houston | Joan de la Malla & Robert Glenn Ketchum

16:00 - Sandesh Kadur Keynote: Shifting Focus - The Journey from Photographer to Filmmaker
Sandesh Kadur’s work straddles both the still and the moving image. From wildlife photographer, ILCP senior fellow and National Geographic explorer to award-winning documentary filmmaker, his work powerfully demonstrates just how much visual storytelling is key to conservation. From his work on Planet Earth II to his groundbreaking films for Nat Geo Wild, his impactful images show us the natural world in a new light.
Sandesh Kadur
17:30 - Moving the Dial on Diversity
Much of the world is responding to the need for greater diversity and inclusion across all aspects of life. How is the natural history filmmaking community responding? What role can in-country talent, both on and off screen, play to build a more globally inclusive industry? Join a panel of broadcasters, producers, presenters and industry experts as they share how we can all turn the dial on diversity.
Ashley Hoppin | Patrick Ayree | Sandesh Kadur
Gavin Boyland | Sabrina Scollan | Karen Greenland & Pamela Aguila

19:00 - Keynote: James Cameron: Deep-Sea Explorer and Filmmaker - in conversation with Orla Doherty
We are proud to announce a rare and exciting opportunity to hear from a man who is not just one of the world’s best-known filmmaking visionaries but who has also made history for his deep-sea exploration. Director James Cameron, a National Geographic Explorer at Large for nine years, is currently executive producing “Secrets of the Whales” and “OceanXplorers” for National Geographic. Cameron additionally executive produced “Akashinga: the Brave Ones” - the story of a group of all women anti-poaching rangers in Zimbabwe. This short film, winner of two Jackson Wild awards among others, will receive a special screening at Wildscreen.
James Cameron & Orla Doherty

20:00 - Premiere Screening: A Bee’s Diary followed by live Q&A
A Bee’s Diary explores what is life like for an individual honeybee. Narrated from the point of view of just two bees, an elderly winter bee who nurtures the new generation and then a young forager who grows as the colony expands, this documentary reveals the secrets of a bee’s life from a completely new perspective. Through an alpine spring and summer, the film follows two star bees as they tend to their colony, forage, scout, get lost and fight off invaders, each with her own unique style and personality. To be followed by live Q&A with the programme makers Dennis Wells & James Manfull.

22:00 - Special Screening: Akashinga: The Brave Ones
Executive produced by James Cameron and directed by Maria Wilhelm, ‘Akashinga: The Brave Ones,’ is the story of a team of women-only rangers and their fight to protect some of Africa’s key species from poaching in Zimbabwe. This short film, winner of two Jackson Wild awards among others, will receive a special screening at Wildscreen.

James Cameron & Orla Doherty
Thursday 22nd October

11:30, 15:00 & 16:00 - Commissioner Sessions
11:00 - Remote Control: How To Make a Wildlife Programme During a Pandemic
The global pandemic has forced the TV industry to be more creative than ever as social distancing measures, lockdowns and travel restrictions have challenged ongoing productions like never before. Join programme-makers and producers from across the BBC Natural History Unit as they compare and contrast their experiences of creating content amid Coronavirus restrictions.
Hannah Stitfall | Mark Flowers | Alice Keens-Soper & Paul Deane

11:30 - Commissioner Briefing - Fred Kaufman - PBS
12:30 - Masterclass: BBC's Seven Worlds, One Planet: Dolby Atmos brings you closer to nature
Join Dolby in conversation with the team behind BBC One's landmark series 'Seven Worlds, One Planet' as they take you through the creative and technical process behind the creation of the series' immersive soundtrack - from capture to broadcast.

14:00 - Masterclass: RED Virtual Cinematographer Series: "Behind the Look" - with Justine Evans
British wildlife filmmaker Justine Evans' work has featured in many BBC Natural History Unit productions including Frozen Planet, Planet Earth II, Night on Earth, Seven Worlds One Planet and the upcoming Queens. She is a canopy specialist and an expert on filming nocturnal animals. Justine's "Behind The Look" conversation with RED focuses on her work shooting wildlife from the Arctic to the Tropics, and her ongoing relationship with nature and shooting in extreme environments. - Justine Evans

15:00 - Commissioner Briefing - Hélène Ganichaud - ARTE France
15:00 - A Different Picture: The Push for Diversity in Photography
Join the first female Director of Photography at National Geographic, Sarah Leen, and a panel of photographers as they discuss diversity behind the camera and the challenges of breaking into the industry.
Sarah Leen | Esther Horvath | Jamie Rojo George McKenzie | Jen Guyton & Jasper Doest

16:00 - Commissioner Briefing - Christian Cools - ARTE Strasbourg
17:30 - How did they film that? Top tech solutions for hard to film content
As technology advances so too do the options available to the wildlife filmmaker. Join our industry professionals as they share their experiences of using cutting edge tech to get to the heart of the action.
Tom Hugh-Jones | Gautam Pandey | Gavin Thurston David Reichert & Sue Gibson

19:00 - Keynote - Dr. Jane Goodall & Thomas Mangelsen: A Conservation Conversation
Dr. Jane Goodall and Thomas Mangelsen are legends in the conservation field - and great friends. Join them as they discuss the impact of photographs and films in bringing conservation issues to a wider audience, the changes in storytelling techniques over the years, and how environmental threats and issues are fast evolving.

20:00 - Panda Awards Ceremony
Introduction by Lizzie Daly

11:30 & 16:00 - Commissioner Sessions

11:00 - Creative Collaboration: How Storytellers United to Protect Alaska’s Arctic Refuge
What happened when a team of photographers, filmmakers, writers, artists and First Nation peoples were sent to Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to create and share stories in opposition to proposed drilling? Find out in this session on creative collaboration.

Peter Mather | Katie Schuler | Tom Clynes
Jeffery Peters & Mason Cummings

11:30 - Commissioner Briefing - Alison Barrat - Love Nature

12:30 - Presenting Masterclass: So you want to be a wildlife TV presenter?
Breaking into the wildlife TV presenting business isn’t easy. But our three panelists Gillian Burke, Dan O’Neill and Malaika Vaz have all recently successfully navigated the process. Get top tips and advice from them on how to get in, how to get on, and how to make yourself stand out in a crowded market.

Jo Shinner | Gillian Burke | Dan O’Neill & Malaika Vaz

14:00 - Masterclass: How to Make a Landmark Globally Successful
At a time when there have never been so many high budget landmark series in production, Alastair Fothergill shares some of the lessons he has learnt over 30 years of blue chip landmark production and explains the particular challenges of making an environmental series that will attract massive global audiences.

Alastair Fothergill

15:00 - How Digital is Changing the nature of Wildlife Content
Love Nature is attracting new audiences on FAST channels and social platforms in the US market at rapid speed. Join Love Nature’s VP of Digital, Stephanie Atlas and a team of experts to find out why a new generation of wildlife and nature fans are flocking to these platforms in search of natural history programming during a time when this genre has never been more popular.

Sam Barcroft | Stephanie Atlas | Julian Braatvedt & Anthony Layser

16:00 - Commissioner Briefing - Susan Dando - CBC

16:00 - Keynote: Cristina Mittermeier: Conservation Photography - Art, Ethics, and Action: 15 Years of Progress
15 years ago Conservation Photography was just emerging as a genre. Since then technology and media platforms have shifted but the overarching goal remains the same - how to sway public opinion and create action. One of the world’s best photographers Cristina Mittermeier discusses lessons learned since the founding of the International League of Conservation Photographers.

Cristina Mittermeier

17:30 - All Stories Great and Small: with Aardman Animation
For the last 40 years Aardman animations have been creating some of the world’s most distinctive and beloved animated entertainment through a blend of comedy and technical excellence. But they’ve also been captivating and holding their audience’s attention through top storytelling techniques – across Series, Specials, Shorts and now Immersive. Join them to hear how they do it, and to get top tips on storytelling for your next wildlife project - whatever its shape!

Lynn Barlow | Peter Lord & Gavin Strange

20:00 - Short Film Showcase: Wilderland at Wildscreen
Industry-leading judges introduce their favourite independent natural history short films. Now in its second year Wilderland, the UK’s first touring wildlife film festival, showcases the very best of this year’s international short wildlife films

Wildscreen Festival 2020 Close