
CATALOGUE OF FILMS ON
THE ENVIRONMENT


CENDIT



TVE

Television Trust for the Environment

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1954

SENIOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Ancient Futures : Learning from Ladakh

English

Beta; 60'

International Society
for Ecology and
Culture (ISEC)

John Page

*P*erched in the Himalayas on the edge of the Tibetan plateau, Ladakh has one of the harshest climates on earth. For over 1,000 years, Ladakhis survived - and prospered - by husbanding their resources and protecting their land from overuse. Here economic life reinforces strong family and community ties. But for the last 20 years, Ladakhis culture and environment have been systematically eroded in the pursuit of Western-style progress. Shops are now filled with luxury goods, but the water is contaminated by pesticides, sanitation is almost non-existent, and squalid housing colonies sprawl towards the desert from the overcrowded capital Leh. What is happening in Ladakh, claims director John Page, is a microcosm of social and environmental breakdown in the West, challenging assumptions about the nature and value of progress.

And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon

English/French Spanish
VHS;50'

Banyan Ltd/TVE/BBC
for One World Group
of Broadcasters

Christopher Laird and
Anthony Hall

*T*he dish which protrudes from the roof of Trinidad & Tobago Television is a giant ear, permanently cupped, whose function is to pick up programmes from North American television and beam them directly into a million Caribbean homes. For cricket on the beach, read basketball on the screen. In a region where culture is politics - a way of forging new identities from the ashes of colonialism and slavery - the struggle for cultural autonomy takes place on television screens every night. In a wry, irreverent look at the whole question of cultural imperialism, Christopher Laird and Anthony Hall mix interview and vox pop with local music and imported television clips to show how foreign programming - made almost exclusively in the north - is polluting the Caribbean airwaves.

Angel is Missing

English

VHS;52'

Yorkshire Television

*I*n the vicious civil war that raged between the military and the Sendera Luminos guerrillas in the 1980s in Peru, 15,000 Peruvians were killed and 10,000 kidnapped, or 'disappeared'. One of the victims was Angel Escobar Jurado, secretary of the Human Rights Commission in the small town of Huancavelica. ANGEL IS MISSING follows Felicita, Angel's wife, and Belsa, his daughter, as they set out on a long search to find him. Their investigation seems doomed from the start. "So you're admitting that it's impossible to administer the law and stay alive?" they demand of the public prosecutor; "That is so," he replies. Inter-cutting interviews with victims of torture and those in authority, Nick Gray's film explores Angel's fate and the options left for his family.

Anima Mundi

No Commentary

Beta;28'

New York Institute of
Regional Education

Godfrey Reggio

*T*he first collaboration between cinematographer Godfrey Reggio and minimalist composer Philip Glass produced the cult film KOYAANISQATSI, a futuristic documentary about the dehumanising effect of modern society. In ANIMA MUNDI, Reggio and Glass join force once again to celebrate the mystery and wonder of the natural world in a haunting marriage of images and music. Tableaux of swooping birds merge into scenes of galloping zebras and strutting ostriches, reclining insects and cells multiplying in their millions to the rising tempo of the music. Glass alternates ethnic rhythms with choral chants and hypnotic arpeggios. Director Reggio produces a dense mix of colour and texture, editing together natural history footage with ravishing original material, and intercutting busy close-ups with landscapes of grandeur and tranquility.

Before Columbus

English

VHS;3 x 52'

Central TV

Brian Moser

"If my people are wiped out, you must destroy all photos of us," said Chief Davi Yanomani in 1990, "because future generations will be too ashamed at such a crime against humanity." Made to mark the 500th anniversary of the arrival in the New World of Christopher Columbus, this haunting three part series from veteran anthropological filmmaker Brian Moser chronicles over half a century of such crimes, from the 1913 extermination of the Ona people of Tierra del Fuego to the massacre of 40,000 Q'Eqchi Indians by special units of the Guatemalan army during the 1980s. Subdued by arms and subjugated by religion over five dark centuries, Moser shows how American Indians today - from Canada to Colombia - are reclaiming their history, their culture and their land.

Big Heat

English

VHS;40'

*I*nvestigates the international politics of global warming.

Biodiversity: A Chance for Salvation

English

VHS;30'

Mercury film Studio

Michael Tzyganov

*O*ver the last 30 years, Michael Tzyganov's film claims, more than a million species of plants and animals have become extinct. BIODIVERSITY: A CHANCE FOR SALVATION is an emotional treatment of a now familiar issue: the interdependence of all species - including human beings. With man at the top of a complex food chain, the film provides a timely warning that it is all too easy to overlook our economic interest in keeping the complex web of life intact and to ignore our dependence on plants and animals for food, shelter, medicine, industry and technology. One example is the Rosy Periwinkle which contains a compound used in the treatment of childhood leukaemia, and occurs only in the forests of Madagascar. But like so many other species-rich habitats in the tropics, they are fast-disappearing.

Call of the Forest

English
Beta;30'
Viewfinders
Raman Mann

"All you men are useless", exclaims a Bastar woman, after trying in vain to persuade the village leader to call for demonstrations to protect the local forest which provides the tribal people with most of their needs. And so the women of Asna - until recently, a densely forested village in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh - set about organising themselves to defend it. Together they confront the state forestry department's officials, demanding that they stop digging trenches and laying barbed wire, unmoved by their threats or their vague promises of handing back the 'improved' forest to the villagers in five years' time. Raman Mann's film re-enacts the women's stirring protest - and their final triumphant victory.

Can Tropical Rainforests Be Saved ?

English
VHS;120'
Richter Productions
Robert Richter

Fifty years ago, tropical rainforests covered 14 per cent of the planet's surface in a belt of 33 countries, mostly grouped along the Equator. Over half of this forest has now been lost, much of it to barren wastelands. In Brazil, for example, debt is a driving force behind the deforestation of vast tracts of the Amazon; while in Indonesia, timber companies, population pressures and controversial resettlement policies have destroyed large areas of primary forest. Director Robert Richter explores alternative approaches to conservation, including debt-for-nature swaps in Costa Rica and Cameroon, and the sustainable harvesting of products like nuts, berries and latex in the Amazon. But to the central question posed in the central question posed in the film's title, his bleak response is: rarely.

Children of Chernobyl

English

VHS;52'

Yorkshire TV

Clive Gordon

When Unit Four of the power station at Chernobyl exploded on 26 April 1986, it released 90 times as much nuclear radioactivity as the Hiroshima bomb. This shocking documentary was one of the first to assess the full impact of the explosion on the families living in the contaminated region. Children are more susceptible to radiation ills than adults. As a result of damage to their immune systems, doctors witnessed a massive increase in recurrent infections in children, a state of affairs known locally as 'Chernobyl AIDS'. The Soviet authorities denied huge increases in leukaemia and other cancers, but medical files were confiscated and classified as secret. In 1990, the computerised records of 670,000 people exposed to the radiation were stolen in Minsk - and have never been recovered.

Children of Conflict

English

VHS;25'

WTN

Among the unacceptable faces of modern warfare is the involvement - and sometimes deliberate brutalization - of children. WTN's CHILDREN OF CONFLICT features four stories showing how children are affected by war, and new initiatives to help rehabilitate them. BOY SOLDIERS examines the war-scarred victims of Mozambique's 15-year civil war. NEW GAMES FOR THE STONE THROWERS explores how children in the Gaza Strip who once formed the front-line of the Intifada - the Palestinian uprising - are now finally receiving an education. PLAYING WITH FIRE focuses on the thousands of children who have lost limbs, been blinded or lost their families as a result of landmines, and SARAJEVO SURVIVORS features the work of the International Children's Institute in Montreal, which rehabilitates children from Bosnia and other areas of conflict.

Donana - The Last Resort

English

VHS;51'

Central TV

Jack Bellamy

*H*ome to flamingo, coot, marbled teal, ganule and abundant heron, Donana National Park on Spain's Atlantic coast was created in 1967 to protect one of Europe's most important wetlands. Now this unique ecosystem is threatened on several fronts by industrial growth, by agricultural development, by poaching and by tourism. Diverted water from Donana's lagoons has transformed infertile deserts into orchards and plantations for the supermarkets of the west. Illegal pesticides used in rice cultivation are threatening local wildlife. Factories are polluting the Donana rivers with heavy metals and toxic waste. And sprawling tourist developments have begun to encroach on the National Park, provoking violent clashes between conservationists and local people who simply want more jobs.

Eden Shorts

English

VHS;19 x 3'

World Television

*"H*umankind can be seen as either the climax of evolution's course, or as its greatest error," declared the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. "No other creature is a fraction so precocious, or reveals such capacity for perverse behaviour - for gross misuse of its habitat and for reckless proliferation of numbers, without thought for the consequences." World Television's series of stylish, three-minute educational videos for 11 to 18-year-olds look at the problems facing humanity today - through consumption, population growth, commerce and agriculture to debt and energy - and their possible solution.

Gene Hunters

English
VHS;54'
ZEF Productions,
TVE for Channel 4
Ian Taylor

Could DNA from the blood of indigenous peoples hold the secret of new drugs to treat ravaging human diseases like AIDS or motor neurone disease? Genetic scientists working on the worldwide Human Genome Biodiversity Project believe it's possible, and in the remote rainforests of northern Colombia they're collecting blood from the Ahuaco and Asario Indians to provide DNA - the genetic chemical code that defines an individual's genetic characteristics - for their labs. They aim to gather the genetic blueprint of 700 pure-blooded tribal peoples before they become extinct or lose their unique genetic make-up through intermarriage. But, as Luke-Holland's fascinating film underlines, there is a dilemma. Now drugs can earn massive profits, and, community leaders ask, who will benefit? the Indians, or the wealthy pharmaceutical companies?

Global Detective: The Journey of Death

English
VHS Colour;50 mins.
BBC

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

Global Dumping Ground

English

VHS Colour; 52 mins.

The Centre for
Investigative
Reporting and KQED

Lowell Bergman and
Sharon Tiller

The United States produces 500 million tonnes of hazardous waste every year - ten times as much as any other country. The high cost of disposal in the USA, together with loop-holes in US environmental laws, means that hazardous contaminants ranging from PCBs to asbestos are shipped abroad to developing countries like Taiwan. A compelling expose of the vested interests which influences US policy on hazardous waste and its effect on the people of Taiwan.

Inside the Poison Trade

English/French

VHS; 52'

Belbo Films, Central
TV, TVE

Nick Davidson, Alan
Hayling and Ludi
Boken

Leaking drums of toxic waste discovered on Nigeria's Koko beach in 1988 helped to alert the world to the threat posed by the dumping of toxic waste. The drums, from the Italian chemical industry, were loaded on to the ship The Karin B, destined for the UK. Banned from docking by the British government, the ship was sent back to Italy. But the Karin B was only one of many ships carrying toxic waste destined for the developing world. **INSIDE THE POISON TRADE** was first broadcast during the negotiations for the Basel Convention to control dumping of hazardous waste. With the Treaty now in force, the film is a potent reminder of the threat unwanted toxic waste can pose to Third World governments hungry for hard currency.

Kalasha: The Rites of Spring

English

VHS;52'

Disappearing World,
Granada TV

John Sheppard

Women busily embroider elaborate head-dresses, while their menfolk enthusiastically set about the task of festooning their houses and stables with garlands of walnut branches. Preparations are under way for the Joshi festival - the highlight of the year for the 3,000 - strong Kalashi people who live in north west Pakistan. But the portrait that director John Sheppard's film conveys of a harmonious, traditional society nestling in the folds of the mighty Hindu Kush mountains belies the immense pressures faced by Kalashis for centuries. Sheppard films an interview with Saifullah who has been formally educated but still maintains his traditional beliefs - he fears that the new pressures of tourism and development from the outside world threaten to engulf the region's cultural identity.

Life on the Line

English

VHS;38'

Bare Faced
Productions

Damien Lewis

In 1988, troops from SLORC - the Burmese military regime's notorious State Law and Order Restoration Council - brutally suppressed student demonstrations for democracy in Rangoon. In protest, Western governments cut off all aid. Since then, Burms's military ruler General Ne Win has been courting the West again, seeking finance for new infrastructure and tourist development in the country. Director Demien Lewis and anthropologist Tom Sheahan spent eight months in Burma investigating how this is affecting ordinary Burmese citizens. Travelling through the countryside, they film evidence that Ne Win's government has been forcibly clearing whole villages, raking the houses with machine-guns and rounding up the inhabitants to work - in chain-gangs - on clearing jungle and building roads for a new pipeline carrying gas from the coast to Rangoon.

Love Women and Flowers

English/Spanish
VHS;56'
Fundacion Cine
Documental
Jorge Silva and
Marta Rodriguez

Cut flowers are Colombia's third largest export industry. Hothouse carnations and chrysanthemums from the fertile plain of Bogota are flown all over the world - to the USA, Japan, Europe, even China - to furnish buttonholes and grace wedding bouquets. But to produce the perfect blooms required for international flower markets; this devastating Colombian documentary discloses, the flowers are dosed with lethal concoctions of pesticides and fungicides. The 40,000 women who tend the blooms in the giant glasshouses suffer from a whole catalogue of diseases: leukaemia, epilepsy, miscarriages, dermatitis, asthma and bronchitis. If they complain about working with hazardous chemicals, they risk losing their jobs. "Flowers are very beautiful," says one worker in the film, "but they are a health hazard. Behind every flower there is a death."

Lucia

English/Talago/
French/Spanish/
VHS;90'
Manila Inter-Film/
TVE/BBC for One
World Group of
Broadcasters
Mel Chionglo

It is dawn in the Filipino village of Bataan when the fishermen's families are suddenly roused from sleep by an alarm. Grabbing their lanterns, they hurry to the sea to discover thousands of dead fish washed ashore on black waves. A tanker has sunk in the night, spilling oil that threatens not just marine life but the existence of the entire community. Based on an original screenplay by the late Filipino director Lino Brocka, Mel Chionglo's powerful human drama chronicles Lucia's family struggle to build a home in a country that, ironically, operates an open door policy in respect of tourism and foreign investment. Driven to destitution by corporate activity, by pollution and by militarisation, Lucia is powerless to prevent the disintegration of her family forced into the slums of Manila.

Miracle in Calcutta

English
Beta;48'
Univisjon
Bjorn Vassness

*L*ike so many megacities in developing countries, Calcutta can't afford sophisticated water treatment, and polluted water is an all too real threat to the health of the Indian city's two million inhabitants. But, as Bjorn Vassness' inspiring film shows, a local initiative by fishermen has become an environmental success story. A simple filtration technique allows sewage to pass through a whole series of man-made ponds and canals where naturally occurring algae and plants such as hyacinths cleanse the waste water. As a result, the now filtered water is suitable to farm fish. The 'miracle' in Calcutta is that recycling sewage reduces the risk of hazardous water-borne diseases, while offering employment, food and good health to its citizens through a now sustainable fishing industry.

Mpingo - The Tree that makes Music

English
VHS;50'
Green Umbrella
Films
Michael Gunton

*A*t a musical instrument factory in France, skilled craftsmen work fragments of African blackwood into clarinets and flutes for the international market. But in the early 1980s, with more and more wood cracking under pressure on the lathes, investigations turn to the plains of Tanzania, and to the Mpingo tree - the source of the remarkable black heartwood. The Mpingo takes over 70 years to reach commercial maturity. Prized by musicians around the world, it is also much sought after by Tanzania's Makonde woodcarvers whose sculptures play an important role in cultural life. Michael Gunton's exquisite film links the instruments of today with the forests where people first made music, and shows how sustainable management of Mpingo plantations benefits local communities and international markets alike.

Rights & Wrongs

English
VHS;3x 26'
Globalvision

From Globalvision's innovative and wide-ranging human rights series, CHILD LABOUR reports from Pakistan and elsewhere on the millions of child workers systematically abused, despite international treaties drawn up to protect their rights. HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA marks the sixth anniversary of Tiananmen Square and the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War by reviving the debate about human rights in Asia. And HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA examines that country's difficult journey towards its objectives in the year following democratic elections.

Rabi

English/More/
French/Spanish/Po
VHS;60'
Cinecom
Productions for
TVE/BBC/One
World Group of
Broadcasters
Gaston Kabore

Swerving to avoid a tortoise in his path, Kuilgar crashes his bike and breaks all the clay pots he had planned to sell at the market in Ouagadougou. He picks himself up angrily. Then, seeing the funny side of the situation, he decides to take the offending tortoise home for his son, Rabi. Though clearly attached to the creature, the boy torments it until his furious father returns it to the bush. Rabi is devastated. He confides his disappointment to his wise old grandfather, Pusga, who helps him to find his own tortoise. A modern day fable using traditional African story-telling techniques, Kabore's exquisite drama is a gently, enigmatic exploration of the relationship Rabi builds up with the tortoise, his father and grandfather, and with his own conscience.

Saving the Ozone Layer - Every Action Counts

English

VHS;18'

TVE, UNEP

Deirdre O'Connell
and Charlotte
Metcalf

Ozone Layer depletion in the upper atmosphere may no longer be front-page news, but the threat to ecosystems and human health it poses has not disappeared. EVERY ACTION COUNTS reveals what nations can do to halt the damage. Ozone is destroyed, in the main, by two groups of chemicals: halons, used in fire-fighting appliances, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), used in dry cleaning, aerosol sprays, air conditioners and refrigerators. In the early 1970s, scientists discovered that CFCs could destroy ozone. Following the well-publicised 'hole' in the ozone layer over Antarctica in the late 1980s, concern had increased to such an extent that governments signed the Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Convention - a milestone in international environmental legislation. One result has been the supply of technical guidance and aid to rapidly expanding economies like China, encouraging them to adopt more ozone layer-friendly methods of production.

Science for Survival

English

Beta;50'

International
Broadcasting Trust

Ani King-
Underwood

Set in India, SCIENCE FOR SURVIVAL looks at a people's movement - spearheaded by ex-nuclear physicist turned activist and ecologist, Vandana Shiva - that has grown up against the perceived threat of 'reductionist Western science'. In India, argues Vandana Shiva, the introduction of high yielding crop varieties has failed to take women's knowledge of seeds into account. "A science which does not respect nature's needs and a development which does not respect people's needs inevitably threatens survival," she claims. But is there a meeting point, the film asks, between western science and indigenous knowledge? Silk technologist Prabha Shekar claims that, if done sensitively, the fusion of modern science with indigenous knowledge can provide a powerful way forward for poor communities.

Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of Sorrow

English/French/
Spanish

Beta;50'

Media Workshop for
TVE/BBC/One World
Group of
Broadcasters
Manjra Dutta

Widely acknowledged as one of the most successful development strategies of the 20th century, the 1960's Green Revolution is credited with ensuring that India and other developing nations are no longer suffering from famine and hunger. But 25 years later, Manjira Dutta's thoughtful documentary asks, who has been the principal beneficiary of the biotech package? The poor peasant? The big farmer? The multinational corporation? And what damage has the Green Revolution done to the social structure and ecologies of Third World countries? The film reveals a darker, more problematical side to the Green Revolution. In India it has helped create a new serf class and the dramatic crop yields of the early year's have fallen away in the wake of pesticide poisoning and short-lived miracle wheat strains.

The Last Show on Earth

English

VHS; 106' (1-4)

Central TV, TVE

Philip Cayford and
Julian Ware

Over the last three centuries, more than 400 known animal species and an unknown number of plant species have become extinct. Scientists predict that by the year 2000, if the current abuse of the planet continues, more than 100 species of fauna and flora will disappear every day. But the conservation of these species is inextricably linked, claims Philip Cayford, with the survival of the human race. From the plains of South Dakota with their protected buffalo herds to the snake stalls of Taiwan's markets, he travels the globe filming rare and endangered animals, interviewing well-known conservationists, and going undercover to observe illegal wildlife traffickers. With a stirring soundtrack produced by Michael Kamen and featuring top western musicians, his film is a powerful plea to conserve the planet's biodiversity.

The Legacy of Malthus

English/French/
Spanish

VHS;52'

D&N Productions
for TVE/BBC for the
One World Group
of Broadcasters

Deepa Dhanraj

*D*uring the 19th century Highland clearances in Scotland, poor farmers known as crofters were evicted from their land to make way for sheep - and then accused of being feckless, poor and unable to feed their families. The same process is taking place in India today, claims Indian director Deepa Dhanraj in a film that challenges the links between population, development and environment destruction. Re-enacting historic court-room scenes, actors playing the Highland crofters recount the hardship they endured when they were forced off their fertile farms onto the barren, infertile lands of the Scottish seashore. In India, Gyarsi Bai, an old Rajasthani woman, and her fellow villagers paint a parallel picture, describing how their wealthier farming neighbours have systematically deprived them of access to water and land.

The Savage Strikes Back

English

VHS;5 x 50'

Nexus Features

*M*any anthropological series portray indigenous peoples as exotic curiosities. In sharp contrast, Nexus Features' five-part series explores the crucial role they play in protecting wilderness and scarce resources, and their case for self-determination. **FLAMES IN THE FOREST** focuses on the Ecuadorian Indians' fierce resistance to multinational oil companies invading and polluting their forests. **HUNTERS AND BOMBERS** looks at the conflicting interests of the Inuit people of Labrador-Quebec and the neighbouring Goose Bay base's low-level bomber aircraft training. **REBELS OF THE FORGOTTEN WORLD** investigates the West Papuan peoples' armed resistance to Indonesia's transmigration policy. **THE KIMBERLEY MOB** examines moves to rebuild aboriginal culture on traditional lands in Australia. And finally **FOLLOW THE RAINBOW** tells the story of the Ho tribe's opposition to two massive dams planned in South Bihar.

The Tree of our Forefathers

English/French/
Spanish/Portugu

VHS;53'

Ebano Multimedia
Ltda/TVE/BBC for
the One World
Group of
Broadcasters

Licinio Azevedo

*D*uring Mozambique's brutal 15 year civil war, one and a half million Mozambicans fled to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. There was no time to bid farewell, no time to pay the proper respects to the dead. In 1984 when the war reached the province of Tete, Alexandre Ferrao was chosen by his uncles to take his family and flee to Malawi. Nine years later, with the war finally over, Alexandre decided it was time to return home to seek atonement under the forefathers' tree. Licinio Azevedo's award-winning documentary is the moving story of the family's three week journey home - by ox-cart, by bus, but mostly on foot - with extracts from Alexandre's daily diary of life in exile providing a running commentary.

Tukang Sampah: Masters of Waste

German/English

VHS;45'

Medusa Film

Boris Terpinec

*F*orty thousand people in Indonesia earn their living from rubbish. It's a US\$50 million a year business, vital - as in so many developing countries - to the economic and social development of cities. Recycling municipal waste has transformed Surabaya into Indonesia's cleanest city. Boris Terpinec's delightful film follows several of its practitioners; Slabat, a bottle picker; Suley, his glass collector, who supplies local recycling factories; and the proud, yellow-suited 'waste masters' of Surabaya now financing their own literacy and re-employment programmes. But successful recycling depends on a delicate balance of supply and demand - one all too easily upset by the relentless dumping of waste from industrialised countries. As an exasperated Environment Minister Emil Salim asks them: "Why don't you exploit your own waste?"

Uranium

English

VHS;48'

National Film Board
of Canada (NFBC)

Magnus Isacson

*U*ranium from Canada's Radium City mines was used to make the atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today the Canadian federal government requires that it only be sold for peaceful purposes. But, claims this disturbing documentary, the pollution from uranium waste has become a time bomb for Canada's native people, and threatens to be almost as devastating as those dropped to end the Second World War. By the year 2000, 300 tonnes of uranium waste, containing radioactive by-products which contaminate local water supplies, will have been dumped on land traditionally used by the Mohawk. Greed and chauvinism have triumphed over the collective wisdom of Canada's native population.

Water Wars

English

VHS;3 x 50'

BBC

*I*n this trio of programmes investigating the role of water in power politics, *GOOD AS GOLD* focuses on the United States where water is a highly marketable commodity (something few people have and a lot of people want). In the San Luis Valley of Colorado, geologists identify a vast underground lake whose contents, if pumped across the Rockies to thirsty Denver, represent a fortune for the brokers and rights merchants. In the second programme, *TO THE LAST DROP*, the focus shifts to the Middle East where water inevitably raises the stakes within every regional dispute or settlement. The final programme, *THE GIVER OF LIFE*, highlights the Islamic heartland of the former CIS where the implications of the Aral Sea's demise are viewed as a catastrophe on a Chernobyl scale.

We the Peoples

English
Beta; 30'
Carlton
Productions, TVE

All round the world today grassroots groups are taking action to safeguard their environment. Commissioned by TVE from local producers, **WE THE PEOPLES** tells the stories of six inspiring community groups - in Nigeria, India, Colombia, Latvia, Panama and South Africa - which show that there is no barrier between environment and human rights. In Nigeria, the minority 500,000-strong Ogoni people are protesting at the oil companies' devastation of their fertile agricultural land. In India, traditional fishermen oppose unsustainable fishing by industrial trawlers. In Central America, the indigenous Embera people are fighting to preserve their biologically-rich jungle homeland in the Darien Gap, while in South Africa the people of Pongoland resist attempts to evict them from their land to make way for a reserve.

Women in Paradise

English/Portuguese
Beta; 53'
Ying-Yang
Productions
Petter Nome and
Torbjorn Morvik

Beautiful and remote, a group of coral islands breaks the surface of the Indian Ocean just north of the equator. For the low-lying Maldives, however, predictions of global warming and rising sea levels from greenhouse gases could have dire consequences indeed: the entire archipelago could slip beneath the very waves which today lap its seductive shores. But even if western nations peg back their carbon dioxide and other emissions, countries like India and China are already embarked on ambitious development programmes which could massively increase atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases. Why should India not build her economy on fossil fuels as Europe and North America have already done with conspicuous profligacy? Fraught with complexity and contradiction, the global warming debate gets a timely airing.

Wondertree

English

Beta;47'

Musafilmi

Likka Vehkalahti

*I*n India, the neem tree is known as the village pharmacy - so numerous are its everyday uses, from pesticide and malaria cure to tooth brush, skin treatment, beauty product and even contraceptive. Neem's value has long been recognised in the East. Unlike synthetic pesticides, it doesn't accumulate in the food chain. As a result, some major pharmaceutical companies in the United States are now investing millions of dollars in extracting and purifying azadirachtin - the active ingredient in neem that helps prevent insect pests reproducing. But because of their hefty investments, they are also patenting the products they develop from neem. So who really owns the tree - and who should benefit from its products? Finnish director Likka Vehkalahti's *WONDERTREE* looks at the remarkable tree, and the controversies it's aroused.

World Animation

English

VHS Colour; 96'

Pannomia Films

A series of abstract, animated short witty films by leading animators from Eastern Europe to Latin America highlighting man's relationship with the environment. A variety of themes are taken up including: the problems of industrialisation and the associated waste, reliance on non-sustainable energy sources and the disparity in consumption patterns between North and South.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and expansion. From a small collection of colonies on the eastern coast, it grew into a vast nation that stretched across the continent. The early years were marked by struggle and conflict, but the spirit of independence and self-determination prevailed. The American Revolution was a turning point, leading to the birth of a new nation. The years following were a period of rapid growth and development, as the United States expanded its territory and influence. The Civil War was a defining moment, testing the nation's unity and values. The Reconstruction era followed, a period of rebuilding and reform. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the United States emerge as a world power, with its influence extending across the globe. The 20th century was a period of great change, with the United States playing a central role in the world's affairs. The challenges of the 21st century are new and complex, but the United States remains a nation of hope and possibility.

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Television Trust for the Environment (TVE)

TVE is a clearinghouse for information about environment and development films, film-makers and technologies and provides a global distribution service for such films. Nearly half the films it distributes are from developing or former Eastern Bloc countries, or are North-South co-productions. TVE is the only international distribution service promoting South-South audio visual exchange via its network of Video Resource Centres in over 50 countries.

CENDIT

The Centre for Development of Instructional Technology

CENDIT is a non profit organization created in 1972 to promote the use of communication media for development. Its activities include research, training, production and dissemination. CENDIT has a large library of video films available for non commercial utilization. These are represented in its catalogue The Other Picture.

CENDIT is a Video Resource Centre for TVE and copies of their film are available for hire and purchase.

CENDIT

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