

NARRATOR VO:

LOGO:

MAN BUILDS, MAN DESTROYS

A series of programs about this planet and what man is doing to it.

ACTIVITY ABOARD WHALING
SHIP

WHALE SWIMS WITH
HARPOON STUCK IN IT

Bang! Now the animal is done. Nevermore to peep again, creep again, leap again. Eat or sleep or drink again. For wherever man has traveled upon the face of this earth, there too have all manner of beasts been in peril of their lives.

SUPER TITLE:

"THE VANISHING BREED"

Once there were over four million. Now only a couple hundred thousand remain.

WHALE SWIMS

Before they got too scarce in the last century, they hunted bowhead and right from longboats. Later, with better technology, whalers could raise their sights to the greatest of them all, the blue - weighing as much as 26 elephants. At the same time, the humpback and the grey were decimated too. Now the only whales unprotected against the hunt are the sperm, fin, sei, and minke. They too are going.

WHALE ROLLS ON
ITS BACK AND DIES.

WHALE CARCASSES BESIDE
BOAT

SCOTT McVAY VO:

In August, 1970, we were at a whaling station in Japan, and from a catcher boat that was tied up there we observed one whale who was going to be flensed in the next hour that had it's eye open. That eye remained open as the whale passed from life to death, and the last image of the assailant might have remained faintly on the retina, but the shutter never closed. The open eye gazes back at us, and we wonder what we have done.

WHALE HAULED ABOARD SHIP

SCOTT McVAY
ON CAMERA

McVAY:

The whale has become, if you will, a symbol of neglect of earth. It is the largest life form that we know. Upwards to 100 species of whales, perhaps 55 of them, are porpoises and dolphins, and until very recently the only persons that have been specifically interested in whales have been the whalers, themselves.

The two principal whaling nations today are Japan and the Soviet Union. These two countries take 85% of the world whale catch, and the world-wide whale catch today is somewhat over 40,000 whales.

WHALE FLENSING

NARRATOR VO:

40,000 whales a year. That's more than four whales each hour of each day.

Our shame is that we sacrifice the whale needlessly.

There is nothing he gives us that we can't do for ourselves through chemistry or get from more plentiful animals. The irony is that while there

are substitutes for whale products, there are none for the whale, itself.

Since whaling comes under no single nation's jurisdiction, it hasn't been an easy matter to regulate.

PROCESSING WHALES
ABOARD SHIP

McVAY VO:

The only mechanism that exists today for dealing with the problem of management of the whale fishery is the International Whaling Commission. The basic problem is that it has for many years been essentially a meeting of interested representatives of the industry, and only in the last few years has there been a strong conservation influence. As a consequence, the International Whaling Commission has been less than effective. The general consensus as especially expressed at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in June, 1972, was in favor of a general 1-year moratorium on whaling.

The Japanese and Russians permit whaling to go on. The Japanese continue because of an investment they have in factory ships; because it's easier to continue what they have been doing; because it still yields a profit. But the Japanese are sensitive to world opinion, and there's a strong sentiment in that country that they cease whaling.

The Soviets are continuing in the Antarctic and in the North Pacific. They've invested in two enormous factory ships. They're 750 feet in length-- 15 times the length of a sperm whale. Well, they're still, if you will, amortizing this investment.

SCOTT McVAY
ON CAMERA

McVAY:

And the Soviets are also not unmindful of the gathering storm of world opinion and have indicated a number of measures that they may take to curtail their efforts, but it's a slow process.

SCAMMON'S LAGOON

NARRATOR VO:

If progress is slow, it does exist. Canada has joined the United States in a whaling ban, with the U.S. going even further by prohibiting all importation of whale products.

Baja California's Scammon's Lagoon, the site of a 19th century grey whale massacre, has been established by the Mexican government as a permanent sanctuary.

A gentle creature, the whale regards man with mild curiosity. Scientists, returning the curiosity, are only beginning to produce answers, some of which suggest an intelligence close to man's.

Time is needed not only to conserve their numbers, but to find out more about how they affect the ocean's ecology.

WHALES IN OPEN SEA

If this, the largest of all living creatures, is not to join the over 300 animal species already gone from the face of the earth, we must hope that its songs, so rarely heard by human ears, will somehow reach our conscience.

DISSOLVE TO
BABY ELEPHANT

From the land, from Africa, come other calls to our awareness.

Through eons of time, the animals and the land have become as one, in a complex balance.

AFRICAN ANIMALS

Amidst the teeming variety, the ceaseless struggle for superiority and for a mate goes on.

In the endless cycle of birth and death, life sometimes consists of only a few short moments in the dead of night.

INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY
OF NIGHT BIRTH

A baby wildebeest must compensate for its vulnerability to predators by being able to run in the first minutes of life.

BABY ATTEMPT TO WALK
AND HYENAS CLOSE IN

But the hyena too must live, and hunting in a pack is the most efficient way to insure against starvation. Outnumbered, the mother wildebeest

HYENAS FIGHT OVER KILL

is powerless to stop what may seem to us a tragedy.

But this is not cruelty as we know it. It is simply nature's way of keeping animals in proper

MASAI DRIVING THEIR
CATTLE

ratio to one another and to the land. It was so, long before man's appearance on earth, an appearance which eventually was to disrupt a harmony millions of years in the making.

MASAI DRIVING
CATTLE

One of the earliest threats to that harmony came as the Masai moved down into East Africa from the north, driving their cattle before them in search of greener pastures. Cattle are foreign to Africa's ecology, but they form the center of Masai life, as a measure of each man's wealth. Understandably, for all the herds in evidence, beef is eaten only on ceremonial occasions.

MASAI TENDING CATTLE

PAN FROM WILDLIFE TO
NEARBY GRAZING CATTLE

Wildlife is heavily affected by the Masai obsession with cattle, as it loses out in the competition for the grasses on which both feed.

BURNING GRASSLAND

What the cattle don't eat is burned off, to hasten the growth of a new crop of forage.

MASAI CATTLE ON MOVE
OVER ARID LAND

Eventually the Masai and their cattle will move on to new grazing, leaving behind an eroded land.

BURNED GRASSES AND
TREES

The fires have also left their legacy in stunted bush. The trees will not soon return ... and neither will the gerenuk nor the giraffe.

GERENUK AND GIRAFFE

CITY

If Masai cattle were an early threat to wildlife, the coming of European settlers represented the potential lethal blow.

Their numbers swelling since the last century, they've had a habit of spreading out, and of staying put. In Africa, as everywhere else today, such a loss of natural habitat is the single greatest threat to wildlife.

CHEETAH WITH BUILDINGS IN
BACKGROUND

Animals take very low priority when it comes
to building industry and roads.

ELEPHANT IN BUSH

Africa's increasing food demands have brought
about a direct clash between farmers and wild
animals they regard as crop-eating pests.

ELEPHANT AND RHINO

LARGE FARM

Dr. Leslie Brown, Kenya's former Chief Agronomist.

BROWN VO:

People are trying to look for more land to live in...

LESLIE BROWN
ON CAMERA

BROWN:

...And partly as a result of the fact that
we've had a succession of good rainfall years,
they're invading what were formerly semi-arid
areas in which you couldn't really cultivate
properly before. By getting crops in these
areas, in some cases in areas where we know
there is no permanent water, they're continuing
to invade these areas quite fast...

BROWN VO:

GIRAFFE

...And as a result, removing habitat that used to
be full of wildlife. When land is farmed, what

ZEBRA

this involves is direct destruction of the vegetation.
Nobody develops on what you might call sound principles
or on a broad front.

BABOONS

Odd people go and cut out a shamba in the bush, and
this actually sterilizes for wildlife probably
50 times the area that is actually cultivated.

Because these widely scattered farms with little
paths running between them - large wild animals
generally can't survive in these areas. They're
constantly disturbed and they constantly move away

from these areas if they can. A good many small wild animals still manage to survive. Animals like baboons frequently then thrive... but most of the bigger things go away under these circumstances.

TOURIST SHOTS

NARRATOR VO:

Where do animals go when they are driven from the bush? Mostly to national parks... land tracts set aside by African governments for preservation, and not incidentally, for tourism.

TOURIST GAME LODGES

Some argue that parks don't offer enough living space for the animals and that during drought they suffer greatly by not being able to migrate to better areas.

TOURISTS OBSERVING
ANIMALS

But there's no disputing that parks produce a lot of government revenue brought in by tourists from all over the world, who come just to relax and look.

HILARY NG'WENO
ON CAMERA

NG'WENO:

Tourism is a very fickle kind of industry. Tourists come and go. Today they come to Kenya, tomorrow they'll go to Spain or France or Italy. And most important I think it's the fact that a lot of tourist movement depend on a feeling by the tourist that the country is politically stable.

VARIOUS SHOTS OF ANIMALS
IN NATIONAL PARKS WITH
TOURISTS TAKING PICTURES

The only thing which is going to save wildlife, I'm afraid is economic development. It's strange to say that this is going to be the only solution, since if you look at the highly economic developed countries, all the wildlife has been wiped out. Nevertheless, there has to be monetary inducement

to the population of African countries to preserve wildlife, and I have a feeling that unless we industrialize much faster than we're doing at the moment, we will not be able to absorb the rising populations of our countries. So long as they remain on the land, the pressure on land alone will force them willy nilly to put pressures on the existing national parks or game reserves.

SPOTTED CAT STALKING

NARRATOR VO:

But there are already pressures on the parks, pressures brought by poachers who illegally hunt game for profit. Spotted hides like this can mean thousands to a poacher who sells them for ladies' coats. Licensed hunting of spotted cats has mostly been banned because many of these predators, so necessary to nature's balance, have come close to extinction.

CAT KILL

POACHED CARCASSES

The poacher has other favorite targets. Zebra hide, rhino horn, elephant tusk. Sometimes a wildebeest is slaughtered because his tail makes a novel fly swatter. The rest is left to the vultures.

VULTURES

MAIMED ZEBRA AND ELEPHANT

Still, the quick death is the lucky death. For the maimed which survive the poacher's efforts, the end is painfully slow in coming.

SMALL ANIMAL IN TRAP

Poacher traps aren't at all selective. They catch even commercially worthless animals in a grip of terrible pain which increases with each effort to escape. Though park wardens are constantly at war

ATTEMPTS TO FREE ANIMAL

with poachers, relatively few are caught and rare is the poacher's victim found in time to ensure its survival.

RHINOS

AERIALS OF RHINO
AND GAZELLE ON THE RUN

AFRICAN CHILDREN BEGINNING
TOUR OF A GAME PARK

Survival of animals everywhere is very much the point of an international group of preservationists called the World Wildlife Fund, under the leadership of its international president, His Royal Highness, Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands. Sometimes referred to as the United Nations of Conservation, the organization is involved with some 550 projects in 60 countries.

PRINCE BERNHARD VO:

TOURIST AND ANIMALS

It is an absolute duty that we have towards the generations that come after us to maintain what is still left of wild animals so that the people won't live in an asphalt jungle sooner or later. In most developing countries what we always say to the various governments is...

PRINCE BERNHARD
ON CAMERA

...that it is part of their national heritage of which they should be proud and that whatever their religion is that the world was made this way and they shouldn't destroy it. And that we have all sinned all over the world not thinking over the last centuries in this respect. But now we're beginning to, in fact have taken a lot of protective measures in all European countries and we want to save you from making the same mistakes. Because we're sorry, having made these mistakes now and trying to repair at the very last minute, whereas in your country, you can stop them from being made...

LARGE GAZELLE

...The unsolved problems today are of such magnitude still that it is a tremendous amount of work to really find out the right priorities of what should be undertaken first and what has a little more time. But the crux of the matter is the more of the public you get really feeling that it is their problem just as much as anybody else's then we'll do something about it...

PRINCE BERNHARD
ON CAMERA

...We even go so far that we, my children when they see somebody wearing a coat like that say: "Don't you think it would look better on the animal than on you?"

TAXIDERMIST FACTORY

NARRATOR VO:

Killing wildlife is not always wrong or harmful. So long as it is carefully controlled, hunting unendangered species with a gun represents no more than Man's ancient participation in the balance of nature.

The business of licensed big-game hunting safaris provides important income for many African economies. And the decision to hunt, pretty much remains a combination of personal choice and a well-padded pocketbook to support the expense.

TRUCK ON DIRT ROAD

Sport hunting now accounts for only a 3% attrition of plains game. Proceeds from licenses go mostly to government treasuries.

But Africa's people need more personal income, and a different kind of hunting might provide it.

FAO MAN GETS OUT OF

Harvesting is a term for selectively shooting animals to thin out a herd. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, as part of its activities, is investigating this profit potential.

MIXED ANIMAL HERD

It's estimated from 10 to 20% of a herd could be harvested yearly, without damage, by taking animals otherwise lost through natural causes. That off take could mean a cash crop in hides or fertilizer that would go directly to Africans owning the land on which the game feed.

FAO PEOPLE TALKING
WITH MASAI

Unless wildlife pays its way for the people living closest to it, there's increasing danger they may exterminate it as a nuisance to their livestock in the competition for food and water.

CATTLE AND ELAND

There's a fairly recent notion that cattle have no business near wildlife anyway, at least not on the semi-arid lands to which some wildlife has adapted through evolution.

This idea is called game ranching, and David Hopcraft is one of the few in Kenya who's had any experience with it.

DAVID HOPCRAFT
ON CAMERA

HOPCRAFT:

I think that up to now there's been very little research to indicate what the potential of game ranching is. Also, the people themselves, being used to a different form of productivity from the land, which involves domestic stock, they have not just come into the idea of possibly using what nature originally provided. Nature provided the

land, the animals, the grass to live in a balance, and man has upset the balance by moving the wild animals out and introducing cattle...

HOPCRAFT WORKING WITH
ANIMALS

...We have so far completely missed the boat as far as land use is concerned. Using the original animals that nature produces, you can produce more meat and more hides per acre. What I'm talking about is not domestication, it is utilization. It is a perimeter fence around a farm, elimination of the small predators like the jackals and hyenas which basically play havoc with the young, and the proper management of the animals within that area. I found in my research that even one species, and this was the small Thompson's Gazelle, were producing more carcass meat per acre than the cattle on the adjoining piece of land which is on the experimental area...

DAVID HOPCRAFT
ON CAMERA

...If the disappearance of the game was the price we had to pay for increased productivity from the land, it may be a price worth paying. But in fact it's not. The disappearance of the game spells the destruction of our environment, and this is the primary resource.

CATTLE AND ELAND
ON HOPCRAFT RANCH

NARRATOR VO:

Game ranching faces some pretty tough obstacles. For one thing, there's long been resistance to having wildlife for Sunday dinner, because it's often tough or gamey and takes pretty careful preparation.

CATTLE IN PEN

Another problem is that for centuries farmers everywhere have stuck with traditional livestock, cattle, pigs, and sheep, not just because they're what we like to eat, but because they've also been easy and profitable to raise.

Even if further research makes game ranching practical, old habits may be hard to change.

DISSOLVE TO
RHINO IN ZOO

PEOPLE OBSERVING
ANIMALS

In his relations with animals, man has learned a few things about himself. Most people seem to have a scale of convenience by which they love their animals. "Bambi" of course, is at the top, but hyenas are way down at the bottom.

LION IN CAGE

If instinctively we understand it's unwise to destroy something which took millions of years to evolve, we have not quite known what to do about preserving it either.

DISSOLVE TO
AERIAL OF BARREN
AFRICAN LAND

The success of wildlife preservation heavily depends on human requirements. Obviously a world with just a few species we happen to like or need would be a barren place. Yet it's man who crowds animals out. In a shrinking world, we need more land, and as king of the animals we shall take it.

ZEBRA HERD IN FLIGHT

Difficult as it may be to face for those of us who care, the hard truth is that you cannot share your acre with an elephant, or your goats or cattle with a lion.

SUPER END TITLES