

Planet Africa

13 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Episode 1

In the first Episode of this weekly fast-paced, environmental magazine we visit a surf school to find out how catching waves can give troubled youths a new start and positive outlook on life. We discover how cheetahs are being reared to work as ambassador cats, representing their own species in Africa and around the world. We visit the Chrysalis Academy, where through education young people from disadvantaged communities are given a brighter future and a way out of poverty. And Lastly we visit the Karoo National Park to see how modern technology is bringing this ancient bushman's skill into the 21st century.

2. Episode 2

Episode 2 kicks off with a visit to the Zip Zap Circus School. When having fun and learning new, exciting skills brings children from all walks of life together in a positive learning environment. Next we find out what a wolf sanctuary is doing in South Africa, thousands of miles away from their natural habitat. Then we take a tree top canopy tour and learn about South Africa's indigenous trees and wildlife. And finally we drop in on a snake handling course which aim to give people the confidence to deal with snakes safely and respectfully.

3. Episode 3

Episode 3 begins with a visit to the Pebbles Project to see how their dedicated team provide support and necessary education to neglected children who are in desperate need of their help. Then we take a trip to farm who have switched over to revolutionary new Hydroponic farming techniques as see the amazing results. We find out how guarding dogs are now being used throughout Southern Africa as a non-lethal method of predator control that leaves the livestock and the local predators unharmed. And finish up at a primate sanctuary situated in 23 hectares of indigenous forest where we find out why these wild animals, although cute, do not make suitable pets.

4. Episode 4

In Episode 4 we visit the Cragg's community where a group of enterprising ladies have set up a variety of craft business bringing economic and social benefits to the local area. We learn how bio-dynamic farming takes the organic farming principle one step further with its respect for the land and local environment. We Visit an Animal Rescue society operating in South Africa's

impoverished townships. Their mission is to reduce the number of unwanted animals roaming the streets and educate people to create an awareness of the moral and ethical treatment of animals. And finally drop in on an aviary with a difference, where rescued birds are given freedom to fly high whilst receiving the protection they still need.

5. Episode 5

Episode 5 kicks off with a stint in raptor rehab! Husband and wife team Hank and Tracey show us around the rescue centre for birds of prey who have been injured and abused and show us how they get them back on their feet again and ready for release. Then we find out how the Eco Schools programme is working to make sure that no child in South Africa ever has to go school on an empty stomach. We also discover how scientists in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park are working to bring the African Cheetah back from the brink of extinction. And lastly we meet Paul, a lion fanatic, who is determined to put a stop to canned hunting in South Africa and care for its victims - hand-reared, captive-bred animals that can't be rehabilitated into the wild.

6. Episode 6

Episode 6 begins with the Schools in Motion Project where children are taught how to recycle someone else's castoffs into fun, new toys. Next we visit the Cape Leopard trust and find out what is being done to help this highly endangered predator co-exist with the farming community in the Western Cape. Then we take a look at how a shark spotting programme is creating jobs for previously disadvantaged individuals and making the waters of Cape Town safer for all its users. And we finish up with the Cart Horse Protection Association, a team of dedicated vets and farriers who are working in very poor communities to improve conditions for the horses through providing education and support of their owners.

7. Episode 7

In Episode 7 of this weekly environmental news show we begin by dispelling some myths about the Great White Shark as we visit South Africa's very first Shark Festival and Outreach Programme. Then we find out how the Oasis association is helping intellectually disabled people to live in a dignified manner and take their rightful place in the local community. We examine the frightening new trend of childhood obesity and look at the dangers this poses for the future. And finally we wrap up with a look at SASSI a new initiative that aims to inform and educate everyone in the seafood industry, from wholesalers to restaurateurs to seafood loving consumers about the conservation crisis facing our depleted oceans.

8. Episode 8

Episode 8 kicks off with a visit to Hoops 4 Hope, where playing basketball provide children with a safe, nurturing environment in which they develop more than just skills for the court, they develop skills for life! Then we travel to Botswana to see how teaching training programme is helping to bring cheetahs into local school syllabus' and therefore into the hearts of their children, the conservationists of the future. Next we catch up with The Africa Foundation, a non - profit organization that works closely with communities in and around game reserves in Southern Africa. Providing different projects that the community can get involved in from health care, education and

incoming generating activities. And to finish up we take a look at Green Energy and find out how South Africa is looking to a cleaner, brighter future by turning towards renewable energy sources.

9. Episode 9

The 9th Episode in the series begins with a visit to a Cheetah Outreach centre where there are welcoming a new member of the family. Baggins is a serval kitten, in training to become an ambassador cat and represent his little known highly pressurized species to the public. Then we find out how the Conservation Corporation Africa is promoting Ethical tourism that delights the guests and conserves the land through sustainable conservation that protects wildlife and supports rural communities. And finally we visit Durban Wild Talk Africa, an international film festival and conference which takes place annually in Durban, South Africa. It attracts filmmakers from around the world by offering a forum for networking, debating and negotiating with commissioning editors, distributors and producers.

10. Episode 10

Episode 10 begins in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park which stretches over the boundaries of several Southern Africa countries. Initiatives like this park are opening up the borders between countries allowing the wildlife more space and freedom to migrate which is of great ecological and social benefit to all involved. After finding out about Africa wide open space we then discover how passionate would be film makers are given the chance to learn about and capture the essence of African wildlife at the Wildlife Film Academy. Then take the time to learn more about the traditional way of life in Africa spending time in a zulu village. And finish up with some adventure in Botswana as we follow a team of brave crocodile researchers in the Okavango and find out how to catch a crocodile!

11. Episode 11

Episode 11 begins by delving into the Shangaan culture is one, a traditional African way of life which is on the brink of extinction and see what can be done to preserve its remarkable traditions. Then we visits Cheetah Outreach, a place where dogs and cats work together as conservationists. Here Captive bred cheetah cubs are reared to become ambassadors for their species, working with members of the public. Next we journey to the Namib desert where water is so scare that years can pass without any rainfall. Here we find out how the desert creatures have adapted in remarkable way to survive in this harsh climate. And finally we visit another desert, this time the Kalahari discover the skills and ancient wisdom of the surviving Kalahari Bushmen.

12. Episode 12

In Episode 12 we discover the myths and legends of the people of Lake Fundudzi and find out how the ancient culture is struggling to find a way to exist in modern Africa. Next we take a trip to the Namib desert to track down its mysterious giants. The desert elephants of Namibia are, rare, beautiful and supremely adapted to their harsh environments. Then we journey on to Cameroon where Gorillas are in crisis. The gorillas are regularly killed by poachers for bush meat. Their helpless babies are then captured and sold on the black market of illegal wildlife trading and with not much of a happy ending. But with the International Fund for Animal welfare's involvement there is hope as 4 stolen babies are finally returned to their rightful home. And the episode finishes up with a visit to a very unusual farm. Since 1995, Andre Laubsher has been combining a

farm with a foster home for street kids of Cape Town where the animal interaction has many benefits for children who have receive very life love in their lives.

13. Episode 13

In the final episode of this environmental news series we begin with a visit to the 'Succulent Karoo.' With levels of plant diversity rivalling the rainforests, the Succulent Karoo is an unique plant kingdom, unequalled anywhere else in the world. Then we go on patrol in the Kruger National Park with an anti poaching unit. Tracking down armed poachers can be a dangerous business but this dedicated team is prepared to risk everything to protect Africa's fragile flora and fauna. And finally the series wraps on small animal with a big personality! The Cape Ground Squirrel is well adapted to life in the Kalahari desert. We spend some time with this cute, intelligent little creatures and find out about life from a squirrels point of view.