



Part 2

GORILLAS



Amid the chaos of war-torn Rwanda, anthropologist Pascale Sicotte has risked her life to protect one of the world's last remaining populations of mountain gorillas from poachers and loss of habitat.

In dangerous surroundings, she carries on work started by the legendary Dian Fossey, guarding the sanctuary of more than 100 mountain gorillas – and convincing the Rwandan government that, thanks to ecotourism, the precious primates are worth more alive than dead.

Endangered animals – and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them – feature in this spectacular series of 13 half-hour videos! Stunningly shot around the world, from the frozen ice fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines fascinating natural history with the intrigue of personal drama.

Director: **Christian Bruyère**

Producers: **Christian Bruyère and Ian Herring** (Omni Film),
George Johnson (NFB)

Executive Producer: **Michael Chechik** (Omni Film)

25 minutes

Order number: **C9197 104**

Series order number: **193C 9197 106**

TO ORDER NFB VIDEOS, CALL TODAY!

1-800-267-7710 (Canada)

1-800-542-2164 (USA)

www.nfb.ca



Closed captioned.
A decoder is required.

Video jacket © 1998 National Film Board of Canada. All rights reserved. A license is required for any reproduction, broadcast, sale, rental or public screening. Only educational institutions or non-profit organizations that have obtained this video from the NFB or an authorized distributor have the right to show this material free of charge to the public.

National Film Board of Canada P.O. Box 6100, Station Centre-Ville, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5
Printed in Canada

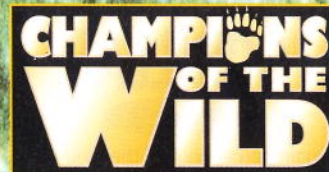


GORILLAS

Part 2

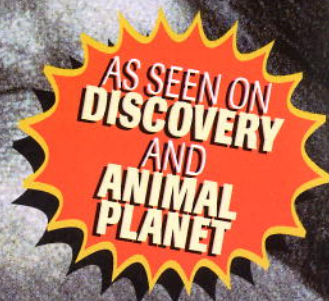


VHS
C9197 104



Part 2

GORILLAS



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE

GORILLAS

Part 2

"In the past, one of the main perceptions of the mountain gorilla was that these animals were extremely aggressive and would attack very ferociously; and then there's been a reverse tendency to see them as gentle and peaceful vegetarians. I think the right picture is somewhere in between," observes Dr. Pascale Sicotte, an anthropologist from the University of Calgary. Dr. Sicotte has made it her life's work to discover the truth behind the Hollywood myth of King Kong. Following up on the studies of the legendary Dian Fossey, Sicotte first went to Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda to complete data collection for her doctorate. There, in the green misty shade of the lush jungle, she became fascinated by the ancestors of Fossey's beloved primate friends.

Mountain gorilla society is a complex web of relationships that Sicotte has helped to unravel. Families are led by a patriarch, a 400-pound Silverback who protects a harem of females and their offspring. Female mountain gorillas leave home to have their own families when they reach puberty, at about 15 years of age. They will have up to three children in their lifetime, bearing one child every four years. In pursuit of a female, male mountain gorillas will kill the young of a rival's family, so mature family members are particularly diligent about protecting the survival of their own children. They are so protective that for each baby mountain gorilla stolen by poachers in the past, it is estimated that six adult mountain gorillas died trying to save it. And yet, these ferocious creatures will not eat meat like their close relatives – the human and the chimpanzee. Strictly vegetarian, they eat up to 150 varieties of forest plants, which keeps the family on the move constantly, searching for food.

Sicotte prolonged her stay in the troubled country to take on the directorship of the Karisoke Research Center, but was eventually evacuated during the brutal civil war. She returned in 1994, to find the Karisoke Center destroyed and the mountain gorilla population further decimated by poaching, land mines, and human encroachment. With only 600 mountain gorillas remaining in the wild, Sicotte rebuilt Karisoke and increased her lobbying efforts, finally convincing the new government that the precious primates were an important source of ecotourism dollars.

PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Locate Rwanda on a map of the world. Develop a picture of Rwanda that includes information on geography, recent political history, weather patterns, languages spoken and crops grown.

What myths and stories around gorillas have been created by the Hollywood movie industry?

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

What are the behavioural similarities between gorillas and human beings? Discuss parenting and grooming behaviours and activities of both species. Draw an anatomical comparison between gorillas and humans. How does Charles Darwin describe the relationship between gorillas and humans?

In Rwanda, gorillas and humans are competing for the same resources for their survival. What are these resources? Based on your knowledge of Rwanda, could either gorillas or humans find another resource to maintain their survival and avoid competition for the same resources?

What is poaching? Why are poachers killing the mountain gorillas of Rwanda?

Define ecotourism. Why and how could this industry save the mountain gorilla from extinction?



Champion:
Dr. Pascale Sicotte

Champions of the Wild is a spectacular 13-part series featuring endangered animals and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them.

Produced by
Omni Film Productions Ltd

with the participation of
Telefilm Canada,

in association with
British Columbia Film,
Amaya Distribution,
Discovery Channel and
The National Film Board
of Canada, and
with the participation of
the Cable Production Fund
and Rogers Telefund.



WORLD WIDE WEB SITES:

The Mountain Gorilla Protection Project – a database of maps of gorilla habitats
<http://deathstar.rutgers.edu/projects/gorilla/gorilla.html>

Gorillas Online – gorilla information and photos
<http://www.selu.com/~bio/gorilla>

Sea World Education Site
<http://www.seaworld.org/gorilla/gorillas.html>

CHAMPIONS OF THE WILD SERIES:

Part 1: SHARKS (C9197 096): From their research station on Bimini Island in the Bahamas, Tim Calver and his mentor, Dr. Sam Gruber, are committed to changing the world's negative perception of sharks.

Part 2: GORILLAS (C9197 104): In the dangerous surroundings of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, Dr. Pascale Sicotte risks her life to protect one of the world's last remaining populations of mountain gorillas.

Part 3: GRIZZLIES (C9197 093): Wayne McCrory has spent the last 25 years passionately campaigning to protect the grizzly and rare white spirit bears of the British Columbia rain forest.

Part 4: WOLVES (C9197 103): Dr. Paul Paquet studies the harmful effects of wolves coming into contact with civilization and has succeeded in reintroducing wolf packs into the southern Alberta Rockies.

Part 5: HUMPBACKS (C9197 099): Dr. Jim Darling, a leading authority on humpback whales, follows the migration of these magnificent creatures in order to protect them in their Pacific environment.

Part 6: PANDAS (C9197 102): A self-proclaimed "pandaholic," Dr. Sue Mainka helps the Chinese make critical breakthroughs in raising captive pandas.

Part 7: LEMURS (C9197 105): Dr. Lisa Gould's mission is to protect the ring-tailed lemurs of Madagascar and to make the world aware of these obscure primates.

Part 8: ORCAS (C9197 100): Radical researcher and visionary Dr. Paul Spong, having researched killer whales for over three decades, helps us understand how humans affect orca habitat and behaviour.

Part 9: POLAR BEARS (C9197 095): Biologist and photographer Dr. Dan Guravich has a love affair with the polar bear. His thousands of photographs have profoundly influenced our understanding of the world's largest land-based carnivore.

Part 10: DOLPHINS (C9197 097): Diane Claridge and Ken Balcomb are leaders in the fight to free the planet's imprisoned dolphins and whales and return them to the wild.

Part 11: SWIFT FOXES (C9197 094): Clio Smeeton has dedicated her life to completing her parents' dream of reintroducing the once-extinct swift fox to its Canadian Prairie home.

Part 12: RIGHT WHALES (C9197 101): By policing the Bay of Fundy and educating those who use the world's waterways, Deborah Tobin and Dr. Moira Brown are dedicated to saving the northern right whales, the planet's rarest marine mammal.

Part 13: ORANGUTANS (C9197 098): Activist researcher Dr. Biruté Galdikas lives in the gruelling jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, fighting to save the increasingly threatened orangutan.