



NAMIBIA SANCTUARY OF GIANTS

1 x 53 min.

Written and directed by Harald Pokieser

HD, 5.1 + Stereo

Executive producers: Andrea Gastgeb, Sabine Holzer



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Of all the countries of Africa there is one that wears a crown for wildlife, Namibia. Vast cattle properties and industries are beginning to swallow the land where Namibia's wild animals roam. Poaching is on the rise. Elephants and rhinos are under threat.

With the threat comes hope. Namibian government experts, biologists and philanthropists have joined forces to develop simple, innovative strategies to stop the tide of destruction.

This film is a celebration of the people who are making Namibia a sanctuary for the giants of Africa and an intimate look at the majestic creatures they are fighting for.

THE BLACK RHINO (CRITICALLY ENDANGERED)

In South Africa more than one thousand rhinos are killed by poachers for their horn each year. But how to stop the slaughter? There is a refuge in Namibia where black rhinos still roam freely: Kunene. Here we follow a brave team of experts from 'Save the Rhino' Trust who are monitoring and protecting the rhinos.

RHINOS ON LOAN

To help with the enormous effort of monitoring and guarding the black rhinos in the wild, young bulls are captured and released into select, privately owned reserves. Their new carers must take full responsibility for their welfare and

protection. We follow the dramatic task of rhino capture in Kunene and the bordering Etosha National Park.

AFRICAN ELEPHANTS (ENDANGERED)

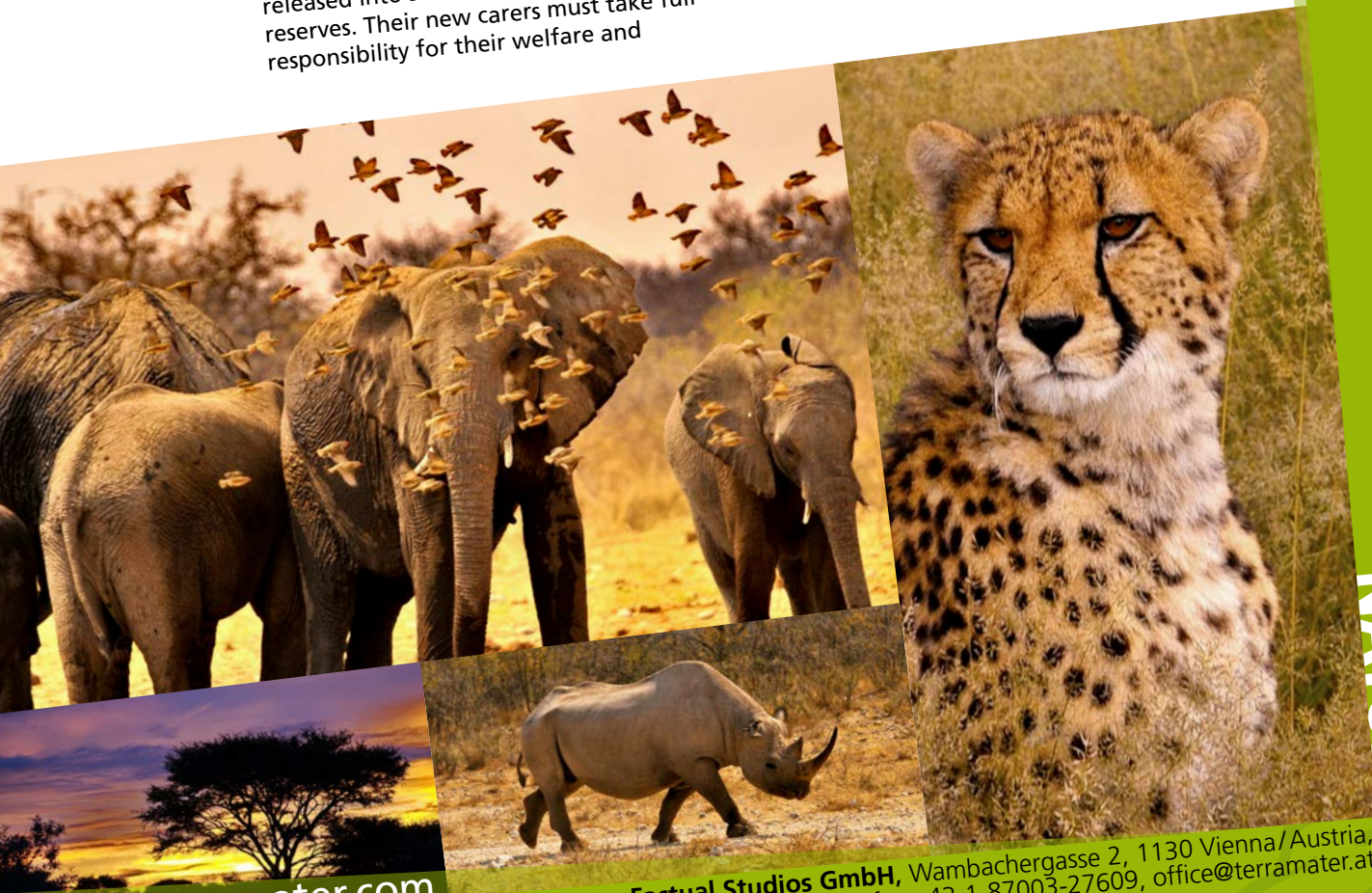
The Kunene region is also the habitat of the legendary desert elephant. An estimated 50,000–60,000 elephants live in the northwest and east of the country migrating along traditional routes. But some of the scarce water resources now belong to farmers and the elephants repeatedly destroy their newly dug wells and wind-powered pumps.

The Namibian government has found a solution. In an unpopulated, arid landscape, waterholes are constructed close to the ancient elephant paths. Scientists monitor the thirsty giants using radio tags and GPS. When elephants are detected approaching settlements and farms, the villagers are warned; a combination of loud noise, fire works and the even chilli plants is then employed.

CHEETAHS (ENDANGERED)

In some parts of Namibia cheetahs are impacting the livelihoods of Namibian farmers.

To save cheetahs and the farms, scientists are giving Namibian farmers dogs to guard their livestock. At CCF's research centre in the Waterberg region, experts raise Anatolian shepherd dogs and Kangal dogs. For centuries these breeds have been successfully used to guard small livestock in Turkey.



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