THE LAST ONES

12 episodes X 60 minutes



Overview

In each episode of this natural history documentary series, will introduce viewers to a new and different rare and endangered animal species as we begin an exciting and compelling journey through the landscape, and environment in which the animal lives. It will combine natural history film with a biologist documentary. The "THE LAST ONES" series seeks to attract lovers of adventure, nature, photography and natural history in an informative and entertaining way.

Our ambition will be to showcase the beauty of nature in its purest form, getting to know the extraordinary and untouched places on our planet, but point to the causes of endangerment; overhunting, use of body parts in folk medicine, bushmeat and illegal trade, but especially by environmental destruction.



Treatment

As a series led by photographers, filmmakers, wildlife experts and scientists, the emphasis will be to deliver strong visuals. Time-lapse and aerial footage, thermal imaging cameras and night vision, as well as slow motion sequences of animals in their natural habitat, will all be used throughout the series. With miniature cameras, photo traps and camera hides, the creators will take the viewer from the comfort of their home directly into the "hunt" for the best shot and to experience these rare animals - perhaps for the last time.



Director

Photographer, filmmaker and naturalist Tomáš Hulík, who has collaborated and cooperates in the field of photography with prestigious magazines such as National Geographic, GEO, Universum and many others. His photographs have been shown at more than 50 exhibitions worldwide. In his film work he has produced for Terra Mater Studios, RTVS, ORF, WDR, NDR or BR and has shot endangered animals all over the world.

EPISODES



Spanish Lynx

Scientific Name: Lynx pardinus Region: Andalusia, Spain

One of the rarest felines in the world, endemic to the Iberian Peninsula. In 2002 it was listed as a species threatened with extinction. Their number in the wild was reduced to only 94 individuals. We will track them in the wild mountains of Spain to get a glimpse of one of Europe's last wild cats.



Shoebill

Scientific Name: Balaeniceps rex Region: East-Central Africa

Shoebills are large, prehistoric-looking birds which haunt freshwater marshes and swamps of East Africa. Although they are sometimes incorrectly referred to as a stork, they are more closely related to pelicans and are classified as Vulnerable, meaning the species is at high risk of becoming extinct. Estimates suggest there are only between 3,300 and 5,300 mature individuals left in the wild, and populations are on the decline. Their future is in jeopardy due to hunting, habitat loss, and drought. Shoebills are also threatened by illegal live bird trade. We will travel to their wetland home to shoot this predatory King of the Swamp as they wait patiently for the next lungfish or baby crocodile to pass their way.



Przewalski's Horse

Scientific Name: Equus Ferus Przewalski Region: Kazakhstan

In 1966, the only representative of what many claim is the origin of the modern horse was declared extinct in the wild. Efforts to reintroduce it from zoo breeding have been successful thanks to the Prague Zoo and the Mongolian wild herds are slowly returning. A major restitution programme is currently underway in Kazakhstan to bring the Steppe Horse back to its home.



Red Panda

Scientific Name: Ailurus fulgens Region: Nepal

It is listed as an endangered species on the IUCN Red List, hunted for its meat and fur, which symbolizes a happy marriage, and so honeymoon hats are sewn from it. But the real cause of their endangerment is the loss of their natural habitat. The encroachment of humans into once remote part of Nepal and the clearing of precious mountain forests is fragmenting populations and isolating the range of the red pandas, who are finding it very difficult to find an unrelated mate in this changed environment.



Whooping Crane

Scientific Name: Grus grus Region: Hungary

One of nature's most breathtaking spectacles. In the autumn months, tens of thousands of cranes converge on the vast wetlands of Hortobagy National Park on their annual migration. Before sunrise, one of nature's avian spectacles begins. the roosting flocks of these huge majestic birds become restless and the 5ft tall birds begin to call loudly. Eventually, they take off spreading their huge wings and fly off with an incredible hurrah and scream as they fill the skies above us.



Kakapo Owl

Scientific Name: Strigops habroptilus Region: New Zealand

A nocturnal parrot that lives to be a hundred years old and doesn't fly, but walks on the ground and climbs trees with agility. And because of this, its numbers have declined rapidly from predation by non-native species such as cats and rats. In 2012, only 126 individuals survived in the wild and It is now found in several locations on the South Island and Stewart Island. Mating and egg laying only occurs in three to five year cycles and is accompanied by an amazing ritual. The males summon females with a deep "boom" that can be heard for miles. After many "booms" comes an iron "clink" response from a mating female. The kakapo is very persistent... The "buum" and "clink" echoes for eight hours every night, for two to four months.



Snow Leopard

Scientific Name: Panthera uncia Region: India

The mystical spirit of the high mountains. The snow leopard is hunted mainly for its fur and bones, used in Chinese medicine. It also struggles with the loss of its habitat due to the degradation of grazing land, where it becomes an enemy of domestic herders when it dares to attack domestic animals.



European Wolf

Scientific Name: Canis lupus Region: Poland

We will go to the beautiful Wolf Mountains on the borders of Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine - one of the last true remaining wildernesses in Europe and journey to wild San River, where, in addition to wolves, bears and bison also live. Why are people so afraid of wolves? Will the Red Riding Hood Syndrome spell the end of these empathetic, family oriented key cultural species.



Mountain Gorilla

Scientific Name: Gorilla beringei beringei Region: Uganda

We will go on a quest to find an incredibly charismatic species, very similar to us humans, and there aren't many mountain gorillas left. Due to deforestation and poaching, fewer than 800 mountain gorillas survive in Uganda and Rwanda. Poaching is a huge problem where gorillas are killed for meat and for sale on the black market. We will visit to document these amazing creatures and maybe we will be lucky enough to see gorillas in the mist...



Hyena dog

Scientific Name: Lycaon pictus Region: Botswana

One of the most endangered animals in Africa. Its population is down to 1500 individuals. Painted dogs, as their literal English translation is, hunt in large packs where a strict hierarchy reigns. They use a rich variety of sounds to communicate. A perfectly organised pack has a unique hunting style where despite their speed and strength, they do not ambush their prey, but deploy their superior stamina to pursue it until it is exhausted



Giant otter

Scientific Name: Pteronura brasiliensis Region: Brazil

The largest of the otter family, these beautiful but ferocious creatures reach up to 1.4 metres and have earned the nickname of the The water wolf, or river cat as the Amazon rainforest natives call them. Living in groups of up to 20 individuals, they communicate with an unmistakable voice. They hunt together, rest together, clean their fur and care for their young.

American Puma

Scientific Name: Puma concolor Region: Chile

In this episode we search for pumas in South America in the picturesque region of Patagonia, in the breathtaking scenery of the Torres del Paine National Park. It is here that pumas feast on guanaco llamas and so we will most likely witness their hunt...

THE LAST ONES

12 episodes X 60 minutes

