

PRESENTATION ON ARKive: NOAH'S ARK FOR THE INTERNET ERA

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Presenter: Harriet Nimmo, Chief Executive, Wildscreen



Harriet Nimmo, Chief Executive of Wildscreen, Bristol - which delivers the world's largest wildlife and environment film festival - was introduced to the audience by Mr. Daniel Shepherd, First Secretary, Economics, Environment & Trade, British High Commission.

Harriet's passion and expertise lies in communicating about the natural world - building bridges between conservation, the media and the public, so that better stories may be told to ever-wider audiences in the effort to raise awareness about the world's biodiversity. Harriet has been instrumental in developing ARKive, the world's centralized collection of important nature films, sound recordings and photographs of endangered species made accessible as a valuable educational resource via its award-



winning website. The ARKive attracts 18,000 visitors daily from 140 countries worldwide. Its user rates continue to soar with more than 15,000 individual website visitors a day, ranging from school children to scientists. Harriet was also associated with a DEFRA project with overall responsibility for delivery of the on-line coral identification guide.

Harriet has been honoured with the European Professional Woman of Achievement in 2003 in recognition of her efforts in developing ARKive. In 2005, National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) nominated her as one of UK's five most talented Cultural Leaders.

The presentation commenced with how the idea of developing an e-archive was conceived and how Wildscreen thought of creating a central digital library. With the help of the power point presentation, Harriet explained the mission of such an effort and the patrons to it. She explained the need of such a digital archive and how it would be useful for future generation including natural history broadcasters, commercial picture libraries, conservation organizations, research institutions and private individuals. She also added that the ARKive has 1,800 species profiled, 16,000 moving footage clips totalling 60 hours, 12,000 still images & scientifically authenticated fact-files, apart from online links to relevant conservation organisations. During the presentation Harriet accessed some information from the site and showed how to search and download relevant information. The session proved to be very informative and inspiring to a mixed audience comprising of established as well as aspiring filmmakers in wildlife and environmental concerns, journalists and representatives of media houses, students from the field of communication and media, environmental experts and academicians, representatives of NGOs & civil society organizations and school students.



SCREENING OF BEST OF WILDSCREEN

9:30 am – 11:15 am, Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

Jeff Wilson, Head of Press and Public Affairs, British High Commission introduced Ms. Harriet Nimmo, the Chief Executive of Wildscreen in Bristol & Wildscreen, the world's largest wildlife and environment film festival, to the audience.

As Chief Executive, Harriet was responsible for delivering her first Wildscreen Festival in 2004. This opened with The Selfish Green, a landmark televised debate on the future of conservation featuring Sir David Attenborough, Richard Leakey, Jane Goodall, and Richard Dawkins. She receives £57,300 over 15 months and will work alongside two leaders in the field of conservation in Africa – Conservation International and the World Conservation Union.

Vatavaran hosted the screening of the Best of Wildscreen, The Elephant, the Emperor & the Butterfly Tree. The film has been co-produced by Oxford Scientific Films & BBC Natural History Unit. It en-captures in essence the Mopane woodland, which had been symbolic of African bush for centuries but whose ecology has often been misunderstood. Its importance to the fragile ecosystem is paramount. The film explores the delicate relationship between the elephant, the emperor moth and the incredible mopane tree on the one hand, while on the other hand it dwells on the ecological impact. It delves into a vital impact that this ecosystem has on a local family who depend on the delicious harvest of mopane worms to supplement their diets and the previous resources the mopane tree provided in order to survive in the Mopane woodland of Botswana.