

Man with a mission – to help save the planet

By Steve Egginton

WILDLIFE cameraman and producer Richard Brock is about to launch a collection of 50 films from around the world showing nature's "Winners and Losers" in their fight against climate change and other environmental challenges. "It shows how to turn losers into winners," he says.

For 15 years he's risked the wrath of governments and big corporations to make films showing how man's activities are harming nature and he's updated these for the new series.

He's used his BBC pension to make them – he was formerly Sir David Attenborough's producer on landmark series like Life on Earth and The Living Planet.

Richard said: "We've been celebrating nature by bringing its wonders to the TV screen all over the world. Now that world is changing, faster and faster, and nature needs help.

"Films can do that, at a local level, be it with decision-makers in the government or in the village."

From the impact of flower farms in



Kenya to the battle to save the world's rarest wild bird, a parrot, the films span the globe.

But it isn't all bad news. Locally he's filmed one of Britain's rarest mammals, water voles, in Cheddar Gorge, which have been saved by the eradication of mink. Across Europe he says wolves have now returned to 26 countries from Portugal to Russia.

He said: "When we filmed in Sweden there was only one female wolf left. A man shot her so her pups starved. Wolves have recovered in Sweden but are now heading towards Stockholm, which has alarmed farmers worried about losing their livestock and valuable hunting dogs.

"What the government is doing is providing farmers with fencing and special guard dogs so a certain number of wolves can be tolerated. We can live alongside nature."

He's recently been filming the decline of a beautiful seabird, the fulmar, in Cornwall, caused by plastics getting into

the food chain. He said: "A blob of toothpaste may contain thousands of microbeads, which are used to improve the texture of toothpaste and cosmetics. What goes down our loo can ultimately affect life in the ocean and around the world."

Richard, from Chew Magna, is currently editing the films with Gareth Trezise from Clutton and has already had an approach from the USA to distribute them on their educational network. There will be short trailers on YouTube, with the films available online or as DVDs.

Richard said: "With every film there's an intention to show how you can turn a loser into a winner. We also want to inspire younger people to think about making films like this. With modern technology anyone can make them.

"The more there are and the more we embarrass the authorities and major corporations the more chance we have of beating the 'big boys'. This is my contribution to the living planet and its precarious future."



Details: www.brockinitiative.org