



PLANET CRUNCH: The Life (Or Death?) of Planet Earth
A review by Piers Warren



Just been looking through my copy of **Planet Crunch** – the new book from Richard Brock.

I am very impressed – funky design, loads of photos and a staggering amount of information. It's all about the challenges the planet faces, good news and bad, provocative, challenging and fact-packed.

The book is entirely funded by Richard Brock (former BBC Natural History Producer) and is unique. Far more interesting, entertaining and informative than your average 'planet-in-crisis' book.

Since leaving the BBC Richard has made over 100 films on many aspects of the environment and has amassed a huge knowledge of the complex issues the planet faces. This book brings all that knowledge together in one place.

Highly recommend you get yourself a copy – and it's free (even the postage is free in UK – subsidised rest of the world).



FREE copy of **Planet Crunch** and view **film promos** **CLICK HERE**



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PLANET CRUNCH: The Life (Or Death?) of Planet Earth
A review by Rosemary Low, Parrot Magazine



Planet Crunch – The Life (or Death?) of Planet Earth is a ground-breaking and ambitious project of three 25 minute films on YouTube and Vimeo, plus a book.

A unique perspective at crunch-time, and is based on how the media have lifted the natural world to the front-page headlines. For two years the author clipped relevant news items and articles from daily and Sunday newspapers and wildlife publications, and he gives his own forthright and often humorous, take on them. The book is richly illustrated, with images (including cartoons) on almost every one of the 145 pages. I love the cartoon he commissioned on 'The Disastrous World of Donald Trump'. In the background, Greta Thunberg's scowling face could refreeze a glacier!

The book is packed with commentary on wildlife, natural resources, impact of global politics, population, climate change and our future. And it is FREE! No, there is no catch. It is free because Richard wants to motivate everyone to read it. He describes it as political, challenging, cheeky, significant, educational and even rude! A publication that is both up-to-date and down-to-earth.

He is so wise and intensely passionate about conservation and has never profited financially from his films. He said, "It is a very personal view and includes David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg, biodiversity, shopping, forests, farming, fishing, food, consumption, waste/plastic/recycling, energy/oil, climate change, Covid-19, water, the media, money/fashion, Trump/Biden, aviation/travel/tourism, human population, China, nature and us. The white stork is the theme ending with some really good news."

Richard is an amazing man who I have known for more than 20 years and whose friendship and humour I value enormously. We met at the International Parrot Symposium held at Loro Parque, Tenerife, in 2000. He asked for my input in making a film about Spix's Macaw. He has made so many thoughtful and original films, long and short, on conservation and environmental issues. One hundred of these films are free for everyone to access via his website. Many have been used overseas, especially in Africa, to help local people to conserve and value their wildlife and their environment. Species include: seals, red squirrels, chimps, wolves, frogs, butterflies, giraffes, lions,

eagles, sharks, salmon, turtles, whales, osprey and puffins.

Richard's career in wildlife documentary making include 35 years with the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, as the producer of some of David Attenborough's most famous series, Life on Earth and The Living Planet. He left the BBC because he felt wildlife was glamorised and the facts about the dire state of the planet was ignored because it was bad news. So he set up his own company to tell the truth and not to hide unpopular issues. He was decades ahead of his time.

You can order a copy for your bookshelf or send as a gift. And please extend the project – pass on this offer to friends and contacts and share it on all your social media.

Donations to charity will be welcomed. If you would like to contribute, say £10, to Richard's preferred local charity, the Avon Wildlife Trust, based close to where he lives, or to a charity of your choice, please do so. These days, many charities are desperate for income to help continue projects around the world.

Free shipping is to the UK only. For other worldwide destinations please contact the distribution team.





An Interview with Richard Brock



Richard Brock talks about his career at the BBC, working with David Attenborough and the future of our planet in an interview with Peter Brownlee, director of Chew Valley Films.

[Click here to watch the interview](#)

Richard Brock's NEW FILMS FOUR NEW FILMS COMING SOON

Battle of the Beaks – who's the winning bird along the shore in this light-hearted contest?

Esperanza – a Mountain Tapir of Hope – the real true costs of coffee and chocolate, linked, surprisingly to a rare, strange, large animal – a cross between an elephant and a horse!

Crisis in Corfu – a threat to a Mediterranean paradise, home to one of the world's rarest seals

Boxing Swifts – how a Somerset village is trying to tempt these amazing birds back to brand-new homes. They feed, sleep and even mate on the wing. But will the nest box project work?



Is Teddy So Terrible?

If you were scanning the listings in TV Guide, as I do every week, you'd find a channel called National Geographic Wild. Yes, that National Geographic, famous worldwide, and very proudly pushing that fact.

- Wolf Vs Bear
- Alaska Fish Wars
- Monster Croc Wrangler
- Animal Fight Club
- Savage Kingdom
- World's Deadliest Jellyfish
- Shark Attacktics
- When Sharks Attack
- The Shark Bite State
- Africa's Deadliest
- Lethal Strike
- Fangs That Kill
- Africa's Deadliest, Best of
- World's Deadliest
- 10 Animals That Will Kill You
- Deep Sea Killers: Into the Dark

- Cougar Vs Wolf
- Predator in Paradise
- Ultimate Viper: Fear the Fang
- Predators Fail: When Prey Attacks
- Shark Vs Surfer
- Alaska's Deadliest
- Africa's Deadliest: Fangs That Kill
- King Cobra: Cannibal Snake
- When Predators Attack
- Africa's Deadliest: Search and Destroy
- World's Deadliest Bite
- Venom: Nature's Killer
- The Lakeshore Killers
- Africa's Deadly Kingdoms
- Kingdom of the Apes: Battle Lines
- Africa's Deadliest: Ganglands

- Assassins
- Africa's Deadliest: Best of Creepy Killers
- Africa's Deadliest: Cat Attack
- Africa's Deadly Eden
- Africa's Deadly Kingdoms
- Man Vs Shark
- Shark Vs Tuna
- Shark Vs Predator Showdown
- Scotland's Killer Seals
- Predator In Paradise
- Africa's Deadliest: River Rivals
- The Predators That Lurk
- Africa's Deadliest: Best of Savage Seas
- Tiger Shark Terror
- Wild's 7 Deadly Sins: Sinful Species of The Animal Kingdom

But what about wildlife conservation, so relevant these days? From Nat. Geo. you might expect a sympathy and support for the environment and threatened species of wildlife. But you won't get it. That's judging by the titles of their shows.

I've been monitoring the channel's output, and its content is depressingly repetitive, especially for nature globally, which Nat. Geo. Wild claims it tries to help. Well it does not. These titles say it all.

Richard Brock
July 2021

From Brock's Blog
<https://brockinitiative.org/blog/>

You get the idea. A case of limited vocabulary, I'd say.

No wonder some scientists won't co-operate with Nat. Geo. any more, as the very subjects they are studying are under threat, not only to their survival, but from such really bad exposure – and, in effect, lies.

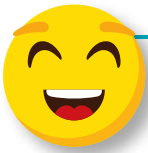
The demographic/ratings are driving down any respect or true understanding on the Nat. Geo. Wild channel. This is now known as, and despised, as "Fang TV". Some even say that it reflects an aggressive, ruthless attitude of some Americans, the home base of National Geographic. It's potentially a great force in global conservation. What a shame that opportunity has been wasted. Surely time to "de-fang" the channel and help fragile nature?

At a meeting at the Wildscreen Film Festival, I put this to Janet Han Vissering who was senior vice president of development and production for Nat. Geo. Wild. In other words, the flavour of the content is/was due to her and her team. She replied: "Well, sharks do kill people." I said: "So do toasters, vending machines and cars for that matter." But hang on! What's this? Recently, listed as a new episode is "Secrets of the Zoo-Babies On Board: The baby animals at the zoo." Has Nat. Geo. Wild de-fanged itself. At last!

But just when you thought it was safe to try Nat. Geo. Wild again, along came 20 more "shark-killer" demonizing shows with *World's Most Dangerous Shark* on 21/7/21. Can Nat. Geo. consider itself a conservation outfit when it's encouraging such a negative attitude to sharks? No.

Richard Brock





CHEER-YOU-UPPLEMENT

Save the Planet with a Smile!



ANIMALS AND US

Who's a naughty boy?

Five parrots turn air blue

Five foul-mouthed parrots have been separated after learning to swear at a Lincolnshire zoo. The parrots – named Billy, Eric, Tyson, Jade, and Elsie – joined Lincolnshire Wildlife Centre's colony of 200 grey parrots in August. However, they soon started encouraging each other to swear. *"We saw it very quickly; we are quite used to parrots swearing but we've never had five at the same time,"* Steve Nichols, the wildlife park's chief executive said. *"Most parrots clam up outside, but for some reason these five relish it."* The parrots have since been distributed to different areas of the park so they do not "set each other off". Mr Nichols explained that nobody had complained about the parrots, but they were separated for the sake of young visitors in the hopes that they would pick up natural calls from the other African grey parrots. *"People have told us that they think it's highly amusing – we haven't had one complaint,"* Mr Nichols said. *"When a parrot tells you to f**k off it amuses people very highly. It's brought a big smile to a really hard year."*



The park is also home to parrot Chico, who made headlines in September after learning to sing a range of pop songs, including Beyonce's "If I Were A Boy".



NATURE

Stag-gering Story

There's this deer – a fine stag, minding his own business one day in the Czech Republic. There's also this group of hunters armed with rifles. Guess what will happen? You'd be very wrong. Dog startles stag which charges straight at deer-killers. Rifle snatched and ends up on antlers and is carried away. Stag 1, Hunters 0. Police are looking for an armed stag and he's working out how to use it – perhaps aiming to be trigger-happy next time?



Like a Rolling Stone...

Like most parents with a bored primary school child, I'm being pestered by my daughter to get a pet. I may have to tell her the story about Keith Richards, who was offered a tortoise for his birthday. The indestructible Rolling Stone was uncertain and asked how long they lived for. Told "about 300 years", Richards replied: *"Now you see why I'm against it, you get attached to an animal and then it dies."*



Health Warning



Not all health warnings are about viruses. The Dalesman magazine share a photo of a sign spotted on a fence near Austwick, North Yorkshire. "Do not cross the field unless you can do it in nine seconds," it says. "The bulls can do it in ten."



Tortoise's ten weeks on the road take him 200m

United States. A tortoise that escaped from its home in Tennessee two and a half months ago has been found 200 metres away. Solomon, a 15-year-old, 68kg African sulcate, was grazing at a building site in Ashland City. *"We will never know the full details of Solomon's great adventure and how he managed to elude us all for so long."* Lynn Cole, its owner, said.



Monkey Business

When tourists stopped coming to a monkey temple in Thailand, the locals got frustrated, because of the lack of feeding. Enter British musician Paul Barton plus piano. He plays them their favourites and they join him on his stool and on his shoulders. Unfortunately they even eat his music. One wonders what "Greensleeves" tastes like. (The i 24/11/2020)



PETS

Dog/Alligator

Sequence of events...In Florida, a man takes a little dog for a walk...He's smoking a cigar (no, the dog doesn't smoke). As they pass a small pond, a young alligator leaps out and grabs the dog. The man still has the cigar in his mouth. He dives into the water and wrestles with the reptile (don't know if the cigar is still alight, but it's still in his mouth). He manages to free the dog and they continue their walk together leaving behind a frustrated (and hungry) alligator. Thought: perhaps it was all publicity for a particular brand of waterproof cigar?

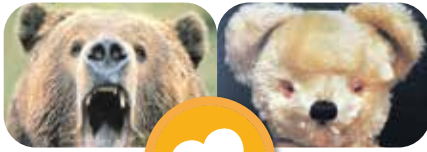
And, talking of dogs, you've probably heard the joke about the talking dog. It's for sale and waiting for the potential buyer. He says to the dog "Hello" – as you do. "Hello" the dog replies – as some dogs do, especially this one. Amazing: "I can speak English, French, Spanish too, and bark like that too. Workable Arabic as well. I picked it up in Iraq doing bomb disposal for the army. Got a medal from the Queen. That was after I'd scored the winning goal in the Cup Final. And that's my CV, just for starters." The potential buyer is flabbergasted: "I just can't understand why you'd want to sell him." "Because he's a flat-out liar", comes the answer.





CHEER-YOU-UPPLEMENT

Save the Planet with a Smile!



NATURE Bear love

In Poland a TV channel has agreed to cancel plans for its New Year's party at a ski resort, because of bears, hibernating in nearby caves. 28,000 people signed a petition preventing harm to the animals from noisy celebrations. One can bearly believe it. How is it we love teddy bears in our bed, but less so when they're "rampaging killers", as crappy TV often depicts them. The teddy bear type is like Boo, a tourist favourite in the Canadian Rockies. With 100,000 views on Twitter, his emergence from hibernation was epic "Once he gets up, you can see he's got a grin on his face. He's like: 'Hello world, here I am again'. It's brought a lot of happiness into people's worlds".

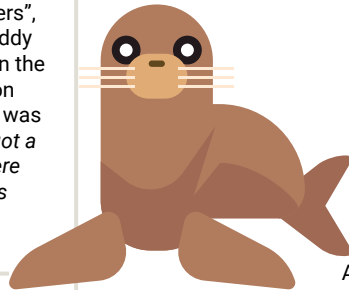
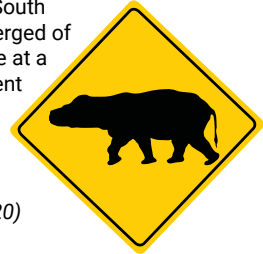
Satisfied?

Yes, animals can go too far – like us in fact. Take that cute hungry dormouse for example. A birdfeeder full of tasty nuts and other Christmas goodies was too good to resist. But the result was a bigger dormouse than the version that was tempted in. So it couldn't leave and go home and had to be released by the birdfeeder's owner. There's a moral in there somewhere. *(The Times 20/11/2020)*



Hip-po-posterous!

Say What? In St Lucia, South Africa, footage has emerged of a hippo causing a scene at a petrol station after it went for a late night stroll across the forecourt, to the bemusement of drivers. Fill 'er up? *(The Guardian 26/2/2020)*



Sporty Seal Sally

A female common seal, named Sally, seemed to like joining people on their kayaks and paddleboards. She had swum 15 miles up the Rivers Bure and Thurne in the Norfolk Broads and appeared to enjoy her visit. But the attraction of dead fish lured her back to her real home in the sea. *(The Daily Telegraph 28/8/2020)*

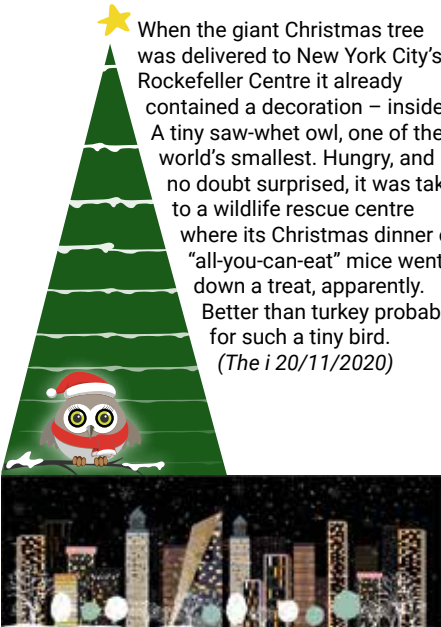
Laptop theft

When you're at your laptop, and nude too in public, a wild boar and her two piglets can turn the situation hilarious, when she runs off with said laptop, chased by said bather. And the pictures went worldwide. Fairly embarrassing.



Christmas Surprise to New York

★ When the giant Christmas tree was delivered to New York City's Rockefeller Centre it already contained a decoration – inside it. A tiny saw-whet owl, one of the world's smallest. Hungry, and no doubt surprised, it was taken to a wildlife rescue centre where its Christmas dinner of "all-you-can-eat" mice went down a treat, apparently. Better than turkey probably for such a tiny bird. *(The i 20/11/2020)*



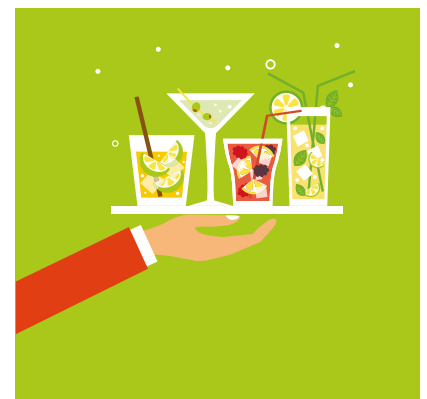
Christmas Cheers

The chubby racoon was finishing off the dregs of a Christmas party and staggering around bumping into people's (also wobbly) feet. It then slid down the street, somehow not being run over before falling into a drunken dream (whatever racoons dream about – more booze, and a happy new year). *(The Times 10/12/2019)*



Fungi Facts

Of the 15,000 species of fungi, the giant puffball is one of the most spectacular. They've even been mistaken for sheep out there on the fields. One puffball, up to 64-inch circumference can have seven trillion spores inside it. If each germinated, the whole world would be covered in two years. Fortunately, only one in a trillion germinate. *(Jonathan Tulloch, The Times 23/9/2020)*





Unique Political Challenging Cheeky

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Provocative Significant Educational Rude!

6-5-21

Dear Richard,
Many thanks for sending me a copy of Planet Crunch. There cannot be enough of us spreading the message. I hope it is hugely influential.
Best wishes
David.

from David Attenborough

FOR YOUR FREE COPY SCAN ME!



CLIMATE DECEIPT

It is very distressing and sad to see the deaths, damage, destruction in North America, China and Europe this summer



Understandably, the first reaction, especially in the media, is about that. Then comes the link to climate change – how direct is it? Some scientists are still cautious about specific disasters and general climate change around the planet. The immediate response is to improve fire, forest and flood protection. But it's usually too late. And there's more trouble to come.

The only real solution is to reduce the climate crisis as soon as possible. But, to make any difference, we will have to change our life styles dramatically – politically likely to be high unpopular. Not back to "freedom" or "normal". Because "normal" was/is the basic problem. Less growth, less people, less consumption. World football, Olympics, more and bigger airports and roads. It's ironic that some of the very people who currently enjoy "normal", or want to get back

to it, are those who cause the problem in the first place. To understand that though, doesn't remove the pain of the loss of loved ones, homes and possessions.

Politically: Boris: "spend, spend, spend"

= Consume, consume, consume

= Plunder, plunder, plunder...

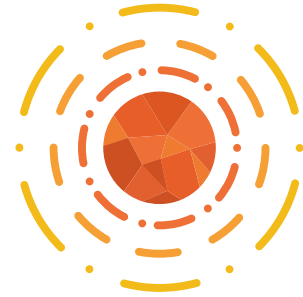
... the planet

... until it dies

... then so do we



Caroline Lucas MP Green Party:
 ...the endless pursuit of economic growth...is what is driving the climate crisis. An economy based on taking more and more from the Earth, making more, then discarding it in the pursuit of GDP growth is pushing the planet beyond its natural limits. Our life-supporting system is being destroyed in front of our eyes. It's only when (2021/2022) governments recognise this, and switch the focus of the economy to the wellbeing of people and the health of the planet, rather than endless growth, that we will get off the road to disaster we are currently on."
The Guardian 24/4/21)



Wildlife filmmaker Richard Brock says:

“ There is still time to save the planet.
 My **WILDLIFE WINNERS AND LOSERS** series is my contribution.

Now it's your turn. Watch these free films. Choose from 100+ films of different lengths to inspire you to take action.

They're free to watch and share with as many people as possible. Use the series to give you ammunition to help save the planet.

www.brockinitiative.org

Richard Brock

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