

Heroes Of The Wild Frontiers

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. The Fragile Islands/Andaman

What seems calm and tranquil may not necessarily be so. Under the tranquility there maybe a vibrant dynamic world and above water there maybe dangers which are lurking at very corner. Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is one such. In the Andaman Islands a group of 15 islands make up this fragile eco system. Coral, is one of the most productive and endangered wild fauna in the shallow coastal waters. This episode documents the diversity among the corals and the challenges they face due to climate change. The episode also shows the multilayered work the Forest guards have to do here including underwater and above. The episode has, unique footage of the salt water crocodile, one of the most fearsome animals on earth, captured for release elsewhere in safe waters. It also documents the leather back turtle laying eggs. This is another one of the very rare sights in the wild. The episode follows Hussain the Ranger who multitasks to protect the fragile islands .

2. Return of the Shan/Hemis

Snow Leopard is the one of the most elusive big cats in the world. This episode details how the wildlife guards and the wildlife department has set up conservation and scientific plans to protect and indeed to enumerate and increase it's population. For the first time we see the radio collaring operations of the big cats and also the very rare Lynx. The episode also shows how the guards live and work in these tough terrains sometimes even by putting their lives in danger. The threats to this seemingly beautiful and sustainable Himalayan kingdom are also touched upon so that viewers don't forget that every eco system has to be nurtured and protected to sustain for the future. The wildlife guard Khenrab is the hero of these sparse and tough forests.

3. The Battle of the Horn/Kaziranga

Rhino horn is very expensive in the illegal market and the poachers know it. Kaziranga has the only concentrated population of the one horned Rhino in the world. And poachers are attracted to Kaziranga like ants are to sugar. The primary work of the forest department here is to then protect the rhino from the poachers and save the horn. We meet forest guard Shanti Ram Chetri who after 33 years of glorious service retires. He spearheads an anti poaching operation on the last day of his service and saves a Rhino from being killed.

4. Elephant 911/North Bengal

Elephant human conflict has been going on in India for decades. Only now it has increased because of the shrinking forests and the expanding human habitation. North Bengal with its fragmented habitat of tea gardens, human habitation and paddy fields is a hot bed of conflict. We follow an elephant flying squad which is responsible for keeping the elephants away from these human dominated landscapes. The film follows the squad mostly in the night when the elephants come out of the forests and attack the fields. Over 100 people are killed in West Bengal and a third probably in these parts. The motely group of 5-6 people manage herds of over 30-40 elephants every night playing with their lives each night.

5. The fear of the Stripes/Sunderbans

The Royal Bengal Tiger is in its most primeval form here in the Sunderbans. The tangled mangroves along the tributaries of the river Ganga are one of the most fearsome forests of the World. The tigers could kill humans and eat them. The people living around the forests are also one of the poorest in the country. They have to go inside the forest to eke out a living by catching crabs and fish. And that's the opportunity the tiger may seek. The conflict here is huge and in these forest, the Forest Guards have to work. The episode brings out the hard commitment of the guards and their daily routine amidst the dangers of keeping the humans and the tiger safe. The episode follows Rajib Nashkar young and courageous wildlife guard.

6. The reclaimed forest/Pakke

Hunting has been a long-standing cultural tradition in the North Eastern India for long. But with the shirking of the forests and endangering of the wildlife, hunting has become unsustainable. But it is not that this has stopped hunting. The architects of Pakke, a 800 sq Kms forest reserve, in the heart of the hunting villages has done a wonderful job of giving protection to the several endemic species here by keeping the forest safe from the hunters. The episode follows the local forest Guard Tangru and how he converted into a protector from being a hunter and talks to the makers of the forest, while participating in a planned raid on hunters.