

PICASSOfilm<sup>®</sup>  
presents

# HOMECOMING

A documentary series about successful re-introduction of species to their habitats

6 x 52 min.

4K  
UHD





## SERIES OVERVIEW

This documentary series is a **journey through conservation success stories** featuring **animals** living on the **brink of extinction** in some areas, **returning** to their original homes.

The docuseries will explain the **reasons** of the species disappearance in their areas and the **impact** on these biotopes caused by their disappearance. How, when and why these species were reintroduced, how the environment changes again once they are reintroduced? We will tell their extraordinary journey from species on the brink of extinction to their return home.

## EPISODE STRUCTURE

One unique story per episode. Our crew will **be following the project team** for a good period of their activities, **we will be living with them, interviewing them**, explaining the importance of the return of the species to their natural environment, what their objectives are for the future development for the positive change. Our mission is to **present** their tireless efforts in as much detail as possible, capture them interacting with the animals and learn as much about the species they are protecting as possible on the locations where they live. We will also address issues they are facing in their mission and concerns for the future developments. Biologists and renowned experts will also explain in detail the broader context of the importance of the species returning to these biotopes.

## VISUAL STYLE

The goal is to present **interviews** in an **immersive and engaging style** on the locations, during their activity. The presented talking points will be therefore explained on the spot giving all the context possible. Using camera stabilisers in the field will give out a perfect dynamic to the interviews.

The cinematography of the show will be very much focused on the detail using **telescopic lenses** to get as close to the animals as possible, **drones** to give an overview of their environment, using a combination of **the regular framerate and slow-motion** for dynamic changes in the edit. All in **4K**, all in **RAW** format allowing for a **free hand in post production**, giving the show **it's own unique visual identity**. This powerful mix of the wildlife focus and the interviews on locations with guests in action will create a powerful testimony to the **HOMECOMING** of this species.





# EPISODE 1 :

## THE RETURN OF THE DEVIL - AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Devils Reintroduced to Australia after 3,000-Year Absence. It's thought that packs of dingoes helped eradicate them on the mainland.

Tasmanian devils are back Down Under for the first time in thousands of years, thanks to a reintroduction project that released a group of the feisty marsupials in Barrington Tops, a protected national park about 200 kilometres north of Sydney .

Conservation group Aussie Ark worked with other animal groups to release the Tasmanian devils into the 1,000-acre fenced sanctuary. The animals have been placed in the sanctuary to help keep their chances of survival high. They have no supplied food, water or shelter.

The first group of 15 were released in March 2020. After the animals showed signs of thriving in their environment, a further 11 were released in September the same year.

We want to experience and re-live the experiment, see the development of the successful conservation effort first hand in the location where they live and thrive.





## EPISODE 2 : WILD HORSES FOUND THEIR WAY BACK HOME - MONGOLIA

2017 witnessed the 25th anniversary of the Przewalski's horse (Mongolian name: Takhi) reintroduction in Mongolia. The Przewalski's horse is the last remaining truly wild horse species in the world. Extinct in the wild in 1960's, it survived thanks to a successful reintroduction program that began a quarter of a century ago and the efforts are still ongoing with amazing results.

The first 16 Przewalski's horses arrived in Hustai National Park, Mongolia on 5 June, 1992, World Environmental Day transported by the Dutch NGO FRPH and the Mongolian NGO MACNE's. Since then, many Przewalski's horses have come from European countries to Mongolia. Today, more than 500 Przewalski's horses are free ranging in Mongolia, which is the highest number of free ranging Przewalski's horses in the world. In consequence, the world population status according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ changed from Extinct in the Wild to Critically Endangered in 2008, and to Endangered in 2011.

Prague Zoo in Czech republic is the breeding station that made this possible and our unique relationship with the management of the Zoo allows us to get a close look into the procedures they have been using until this day to help stabilise the population of an animal that was on a brink of extinction. We will follow the horses from CZ where they are bred in captivity, speak with people responsible for saving them, all the way to their free ranging wild habitat where we will see the results of this amazing effort.





## EPISODE 3 : JAGUARS CLAWING THEIR WAY BACK - ARGENTINA

The largest predator in South America, the jaguar, has returned to the Iberá wetlands in Argentina 70 years after the species was driven to local extinction through hunting and habitat loss. Currently, only about 200 jaguars remain in Argentina.

Mariua, an adult jaguar who was rescued as an orphan cub in Brazil, and her two captive-born cubs were released into Gran Iberá Park in January 2021. They are the first of nine jaguars slated to repopulate the species in the, a 687,966 hectare protected area, which offers an abundance of wild prey for the big cats.

The release marks the first reintroduction of jaguars in a place where they have gone extinct. It is part of an effort known as “rewilding” – restoring the missing species, biodiversity, and natural processes to areas affected by human activity.

Our intention is to visit the center and spend a good time observing and capturing the amazing work of the local professionals and the renewal of the local population of these magnificent felines first hand.





## EPISODE 4: THE RETURN OF THE PROUD SYMBOL – BALD EAGLES, USA

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the bald eagle population in the lower 48 states has grown, since 2009, from just over 72,000, including roughly 30,000 breeding pairs, to an estimated 316,700 birds.

In 1782, when the bald eagle was declared America's national symbol, there were hundreds of thousands of them living across the continent. But they were hunted for sport and for their feathers, which were used in trade. The federal government, believing eagles were a threat to livestock, placed bounties on both bald and golden eagles. And, as the human population increased, essential food sources (waterfowl and fish) were depleted. Hunting and harvesting continued until the Bald Eagle Protection Act, which prohibited the killing or selling of bald eagles, was enacted in 1940.

At the start of the 20th century, New York was home to more than 70 nesting pairs of bald eagles and was the wintering ground for several hundred. But by 1960, only one nesting pair remained and a scant few dozen overwintered here. Today however, as a result of protection and active management, New York State is home to more than 426 occupied bald eagle nest sites.

We intend to follow experts on their bird-watching quests and to explain in the field how such a conservation success can be achieved.





## EPISODE 5: SALMON BREEDING IN THE EUROPEAN RIVERS AGAIN— CZECH REPUBLIC

For countless generations, salmon had migrated up the Elbe, a 1,090-kilometer river that winds through Germany from the Krkonoše Mountains on the Czech-Polish border to the North Sea. In Bohemia, the region that today occupies 52,000 square kilometres of the Czech Republic, the salmon swimming in the Elbe and its tributaries were once very plentiful.

Though centuries of fishing undoubtedly dented the salmon population, industrial development at the turn of the 20th century truly destroyed the species' presence in Bohemia. Tanneries, textile mills, and glue factories polluted the water; gravel mining and dredging damaged habitat; and a set of locks, completed in 1935, fatally bisected the Elbe. By the mid-20th century, the Elbe's salmon had vanished.

Though the unique genes of the Bohemian salmon are gone forever, the river itself is not lost. Water quality has improved; biologists and anglers have continued to introduce hatchery fish from Ireland, Sweden, and Norway; and in 2006 a fisherman, to his surprise, caught a meter-long salmon—the Elbe's first in 57 years. Today, a handful of Atlantic salmon return annually.

We want to visit the hatcheries and see the dedicated group of individuals at work during the egg planting and follow the path of the salmon to explain how changes in dam infrastructure can help bring the fish populations back. This coordinated effort for a species with extremely complex reproduction habits is the only way we can bring life back to the European rivers.





# EPISODE 6: THE IMPOSSIBLE RESURRECTION OF BISON – NORTH AMERICA

If there is a symbol of excessive hunting on land, then it is most likely the American Bison. Driven to extinction by the ever expanding human population, being hunted for meat, pelts as much as for sport, bison nearly disappeared on the American continent.

Over the past five years, WWF has invested more than \$2.2 million in bison restoration efforts with indigenous communities in the Northern Great Plains. This new opportunity, which aligns strongly with Lakota foundational values and beliefs, will offer a model for cultural and ecological restoration efforts by Native American nations across the US. Today some 500,000 bison have been restored in over 6,000 locations, including public lands, private ranches, and Native American lands. As they return, researchers like me are gaining insights into their substantial ecological and conservation value.

Bison feed almost exclusively on grasses, which, because they grow rapidly, tend to out-compete other plants. Bison's selective grazing behavior produces higher biodiversity because it helps plants that normally are dominated by grasses to coexist.

Because they tend to graze intensively on recently burned zones and leave other areas relatively untouched, bison create a diverse mosaic of habitats. They also like to move, spreading their impacts over large areas. The variety they produce is key to the survival of imperiled species such as the greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) that prefer to use different patches for different behaviors, such as mating and nesting.

Bison impacts don't stop there. They often kill woody vegetation by rubbing their bodies and horns on it. And by digesting vegetation and excreting their waste across large areas, they spread nutrients over the landscape. This can produce higher-quality vegetation that benefits other animals.





# Alternative Story Ideas

## AUSTRALIA

- Humpback whales are being sighted in giant pods on a scale never recorded before off the Australia coast as conservation measures help restore numbers thought to be approaching those of pre-whaling days.
- A total of 39 possums were safely translocated from Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary in south-west Western Australia and Dryandra Woodland to Mt Gibson throughout the month of May. Nineteen of the brave brushtails were released outside the predator-proof fence – a significant step building on years of feral cat and fox control and research. The possums are the first species to be reintroduced by AWC outside the 7,800-hectare safe haven, which is already home to 8 other species of reintroduced mammals. The other 20 possums were liberated within the fenced haven.

## ASIA

- A century ago, more than 100,000 tigers roamed the planet, but as humans encroached on their habitats and hunted them that number dwindled to a record low of just 3,200 in 2010. India is one of 13 nations working on a common goal to double tiger numbers by 2022. It's estimated that India's wild tiger population has increased by 33% since 2015.
- Great news! Giant pandas are no longer classified as 'endangered'. They've been downgraded to 'vulnerable' on the global list of species at risk of extinction after their population increased by 17% in a decade. It shows that conservation efforts are working and provides hope for the world's other threatened wildlife.
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## EUROPE

- Eight lanes wide, with a circumference of 188 km, London's orbital motorway, the M25, is an unpromising habitat for wildlife. But motorists crossing its north-western edge may have noticed large, majestic birds with distinctive forked tails, circling effortlessly in the skies above. Initially, only 13 kites - which had been brought from Spain - were released. Others were released soon afterwards. The red kite population in the UK is now thought to number around 4,600 breeding pairs.
- The animal is more typically associated with images of the wide-open plains of North America. But they were once a regular feature in Europe, too. At least until the last wild European bison was shot and killed in 1927. The only bison left in Europe were in zoos and parks. But in the 1950s, a series of initiatives began to reintroduce Europe's largest wild land mammals into their former habitats.
- Dogs may be one of the world's most popular pets, but their common ancestor the wolf is rarely a welcome visitor. The subject of fear and darkness in many children's tales, wolves were hunted across many centuries and were almost driven to extinction across much of Europe by the middle of the last century.



# HOMECOMING

6 x 52 min.

Concept by:

Max Serio & Radek Houška

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