

## NATURE ENVIRONMENT

DOCUMENTARY  
30 MIN.

### VERSIONS

Arabic, English, Spanish:  
13 x 30 min.

### RIGHTS

Not available worldwide.  
Please contact your regional  
distribution partner.

### ORDER NUMBER

56 4771 | 01-13



## SOS – Earth Calling!

Massive changes are underway on planet Earth, and many have to do with human actions and their intended and unintended consequences. Greenhouse-gas emissions, pollution and land degradation drive climate change, which poses a threat to the environment as a whole, to biodiversity, and to humankind itself. Global warming is setting a destructive, self-accelerating chain of climatic events in motion, resulting in more frequent natural disasters. More and more farmland is being lost the world over. Some argue that genetically manipulated organisms can help solve the problems, but the consequences of releasing such organisms into the environment are not known.

**SOS – Earth Calling!** Many people are hearing this cry for help. The nations of the world won't rethink their response to global warming overnight, but local projects can try to mitigate some of the consequences of our blind exploitation of the Earth.

### 01 Losing Ground – When Fields Turn to Desert SD

Rapid worldwide desertification is one of the biggest environmental problems facing our planet. 250 million people in 110 countries are threatened by this process of degradation, which is jeopardizing food supplies for one sixth of the world's population. A variety of projects show that something can be done to reduce the advancing devastation.

### 02 Ecocide – Canada's Oil Sands SD

Canada holds the world's second largest oil reserves. But that oil lies hidden in layers of sand up to 70 meters below the surface. In order to extract it, gigantic wounds are being torn in the untouched Canadian wilderness. The process is having a catastrophic effect on the environment and on people living in the region.

### 03 Plastic Waste – The Imperishable Problem SD

Most synthetic materials in daily use are virtually non-biodegradable and over time emit hormonally disruptive additives into the atmosphere. Scattered by wind, water or illegal garbage dumping, these materials are in evidence throughout the globe, even in ocean regions far from any civilization. Recycling is the only solution to the problem.

### 04 Genetic Contamination – Unchecked Technology SD

Since the 1980s, genetic engineering was viewed as the cure-all for the agricultural sector. But today it appears clear that its advantages benefit industry rather than farmers, and that its risks have not been properly assessed. Independent studies of the impact of genetically modified crops or organisms are thin on the ground.

### 05 Coal Seam Fires – The Smoldering Poison SD

Huge subterranean fires are raging in the coal belts of China. The fires are often caused by incorrect and illegal mining practices. The seam fires ignite upon contact with air and can smolder for decades. Vast amounts of toxic substances are released, and valuable resources destroyed.

## NATURE ENVIRONMENT

DOCUMENTARY  
30 MIN.



### VERSIONS

Arabic, English, Spanish:  
13 x 30 min.

### RIGHTS

Not available worldwide.  
Please contact your regional  
distribution partner.

### ORDER NUMBER

56 4771 | 01-13

#### 06 Climate Change – The Big Melt SD

The Earth is getting warmer. Climate change is most evident in three key regions. In Greenland, average temperatures have risen by five degrees Celsius. In the Peruvian Andes, ancient glaciers are melting. In Bangladesh, saltwater from rising seas is infiltrating inland regions via the tributaries of the Ganges and is rendering coastal areas infertile.

#### 07 Uranium Ore Mining – The Clean Energy Lie VoD HD

Accidents such as those that occurred in Chernobyl and Fukushima contradict the claim that electricity generated by nuclear power is clean and cheap. Furthermore, the extraction of the nuclear fuel uranium in nations such as Namibia, Canada and Australia causes huge ecological damage. Germany too is having to clean up its former uranium mines at great expense.

#### 08 Overfishing – Our Seas at the Crossroads HD

Oceans are rich and complex ecosystems. Humans extract 90 million tons of fish from them every year, and this affects the balance of life in our waters. The path to sustainable fishing demands radical steps that must be taken now.

#### 09 Contaminated Ground – Industry's Toxic Legacy SD

Industrial plants often use toxic substances. And if waste from the manufacturing process seeps into the ground, it can pose a threat to the health of those living in the surrounding area. Germany is now going to great lengths to clean up several former industrial sites.

#### 10 Invasive Species – The Endangered Garden of Kauai VoD SD

The Hawaiian island of Kauai is known as the 'garden isle'. It is home to a wide range of rare plants and animals not found anywhere else. But this biodiversity is under threat: Over the past 200 years more than half of Kauai's indigenous species have been wiped out. Many were overwhelmed by non-native species of flora and fauna.

#### 11 Chemicals in Water – The Invisible Threat VoD HD

Increasing amounts of pharmaceuticals and other chemicals are being found in lakes and rivers, and in our drinking water. These substances cannot be filtered out completely, even by the most advanced purification and sewage-treatment plants. Researchers are warning of the considerable risks.

#### 12 Illegal Logging – Undercover Against the Timber Mafia HD

The illegal trade in timber is threatening the tropical forests of the world and exacerbating the effects of climate change. Alexander von Bismarck is taking steps to tackle the problem. In undercover missions, he draws back the veil on the shady deals and transit routes of the timber mafia.

#### 13 Nuclear Waste – Submerged and Forgotten HD

Until the 1990s, Europe's nuclear waste was simply put into containers and thrown into the sea – in all, more than 100,000 tons of radioactive material. Now, those containers are beginning to leak. This nuclear legacy has come back to haunt the Europeans.