

**CHAMPIONS  
OF THE  
WILD**

**Part 13**

## ORANGUTANS

The world's largest tree-dwelling primate, the endangered orangutan has been the victim of poaching, the ape trade and habitat destruction.

Dr. Biruté Galdikas has lived for over 35 years in the gruelling jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, fighting to save the orangutan. At first a passive observer, she soon became an activist researcher, rescuing orphaned victims of the ape trade, re-introducing captured orangutans into the



wild and lobbying the Indonesian government to help protect these close relatives of humanity.

Endangered animals – and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them – feature in this spectacular series of 13 half-hour videos! Stunningly shot around the world, from the frozen ice fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines fascinating natural history with the intrigue of personal drama.

Director: **Jack Silberman**

Producers: **Christian Bruyère and Ian Herring** (Omni Film),  
**George Johnson** (NFB)

Executive Producer: **Michael Chechik** (Omni Film)

**25 minutes**

Order number: **C9197 098**

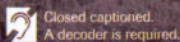
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# ORANGUTANS

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VHS

C9197 098

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# ORANGUTANS



**AS SEEN ON  
DISCOVERY  
AND  
ANIMAL  
PLANET**

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE



# ORANGUTANS

Part 13

Dr. Biruté Galdikas has spent over 25 years in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, fighting to save the world's largest tree-dwelling primate, the orangutan. Victims of food poaching, the Asian ape trade and constant habitat destruction, the number of orangutans has been halved in the last 10 years.

Along with Dian Fossey and Jane Goodall, Dr. Galdikas was one of the three women taught by the famous Dr. Louis Leakey. He dubbed them the "trimates" and imbued them with his enthusiasm, dedication and research techniques. Dr. Galdikas is the world's top orangutan expert and the founder of Orangutan Foundation International.

She arrived in Borneo in 1971. At that point there was little documentation on the life of the orangutan. With a background in psychology and anthropology, Dr. Galdikas began documenting this ape's life cycle. Soon she left passive observation behind and started rescuing orphaned victims of the ape trade and reintroducing captured apes into the wild.

The rehabilitation program at Camp Leakey, which Dr. Galdikas runs, includes assigning a native worker to a newly orphaned or rescued orangutan for survival training. The camp also attracts habituated adult orangutans, who are generally reclusive loners. They return from time to time for food.

Food shortage is a key element in the fight for the survival of the orangutans. Habitat encroachment is continuous and it is only after years of lobbying that Dr. Galdikas has managed to persuade the Indonesian government to finance an ape-feeding program. She also persuaded them to extend the park boundaries which encompass Camp Leakey and the surrounding orangutan habitat.

## PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Locate Borneo and Sumatra on a map of the world. What does their location say about the climate and vegetation of the area?

How would the extinction of an animal or specific habitat affect the global environment?

What is the canopy of a forest and why is this an important element of the forest environment?

## POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Baby orangutans stay with their mothers for six to eight years. Why is this relatively long weaning period a necessary part of the orangutan life cycle?

What do the ex-captive and orphaned orangutans learn from their wild relatives at the feeding stations in the park?

Why do the wild orangutans not live in large groups like gorillas?

Orangutans are able to identify over 400 sources of food in the tropical rain forest. Many of these 400 foods are fruits or berries. Ask the students to brainstorm a list of fruits and berries that human beings recognize as well as eat. How does the class list compare with a possible list of orangutan foods?



Champion:  
Dr. Biruté Galdikas

### Champions of the Wild

is a spectacular  
13-part series featuring  
endangered animals  
and the champions  
who have dedicated  
their lives to  
saving them.

Produced by  
Omni Film Productions Ltd

with the participation of  
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in association with  
British Columbia Film,  
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of Canada, and  
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the Cable Production Fund  
and Rogers Telefund.



### WORLD WIDE WEB SITES:

Orangutan Foundation International, founded by Dr. Galdikas  
<http://www.ns.net/orangutan/index1.html>

Orangutan pictures at the Smithsonian Museum  
<http://www.si.edu/organiza/museums/zoo/photos/phoset.htm>

Biography of Dr. Galdikas and her work, with lots of orangutan info  
<http://fas.sfu.ca/1h/css/gcs/scientists/Galdikas/galdikas.html>

### CHAMPIONS OF THE WILD SERIES:

**Part 1: SHARKS** (C9197 096): From their research station on Bimini Island in the Bahamas, Tim Calver and his mentor, Dr. Sam Gruber, are committed to changing the world's negative perception of sharks.

**Part 2: GORILLAS** (C9197 104): In the dangerous surroundings of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, Dr. Pascale Sicotte risks her life to protect one of the world's last remaining populations of mountain gorillas.

**Part 3: GRIZZLIES** (C9197 093): Wayne McCrory has spent the last 25 years passionately campaigning to protect the grizzly and rare white spirit bears of the British Columbia rain forest.

**Part 4: WOLVES** (C9197 103): Dr. Paul Paquet studies the harmful effects of wolves coming into contact with civilization and has succeeded in reintroducing wolf packs into the southern Alberta Rockies.

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**Part 6: PANDAS** (C9197 102): A self-proclaimed "pandaholic," Dr. Sue Mainka helps the Chinese make critical breakthroughs in raising captive pandas.

**Part 7: LEMURS** (C9197 105): Dr. Lisa Gould's mission is to protect the ring-tailed lemurs of Madagascar and to make the world aware of these obscure primates.

**Part 8: ORCAS** (C9197 100): Radical researcher and visionary Dr. Paul Spong, having researched killer whales for over three decades, helps us understand how humans affect orca habitat and behaviour.

**Part 9: POLAR BEARS** (C9197 095): Biologist and photographer Dr. Dan Guravich has a love affair with the polar bear. His thousands of photographs have profoundly influenced our understanding of the world's largest land-based carnivore.

**Part 10: DOLPHINS** (C9197 097): Diane Claridge and Ken Balcomb are leaders in the fight to free the planet's imprisoned dolphins and whales and return them to the wild.

**Part 11: SWIFT FOXES** (C9197 094): Clio Smeeton has dedicated her life to completing her parents' dream of reintroducing the once-extinct swift fox to its Canadian Prairie home.

**Part 12: RIGHT WHALES** (C9197 101): By policing the Bay of Fundy and educating those who use the world's waterways, Deborah Tobin and Dr. Moira Brown are dedicated to saving the northern right whales, the planet's rarest marine mammal.

**Part 13: ORANGUTANS** (C9197 098): Activist researcher Dr. Biruté Galdikas lives in the gruelling jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, fighting to save the increasingly threatened orangutan.