

National Geographic Showcases Earth's Most Resilient Species in Epic Natural History Series Hostile Planet



Six-part global nature docuseries, hosted and narrated by Bear Grylls, hails from Academy-award winner Guillermo Navarro, Emmy- and BAFTA-winning natural history filmmakers and Plimsoll Productions

HONG KONG, APRIL 17, 2019 – National Geographic, recognized worldwide for its unparalleled commitment to natural history storytelling and cinematic craft, unveils its six-part saga **Hostile Planet** premiering in Hong Kong and South East Asia on **Wednesday, May 1, 2019**, at **9.00 PM (Hong Kong time)** on National Geographic and video-streaming service, FOX+.

This is *not* your mother's natural history series.

Executive produced by Academy Award-winning cinematographer and director Guillermo Navarro ("Pan's Labyrinth"), Emmy-nominated producer Martha Holmes ("The Blue Planet"), Emmy Award-winning Tom Hugh-Jones ("Planet Earth II"), BAFTA winner Delbert Shoopman ("The Island") and BAFTA winner Bear Grylls ("The Island") – who also serves as the series' host and narrator – **Hostile Planet** draws attention to the most extraordinary — almost supernatural — accounts of animals that have adapted to the cruellest evolutionary curveballs. The series zooms in on the world's most extreme environments to reveal the animal kingdom's most glorious stories of survival on this fast and continuously shifting planet.

Hostile Planet is the next generation of wildlife filmmaking that builds a compelling, current and dramatic narrative through each episode, establishing characters with its six distinctive biomes and the animals that call them home. **Hostile Planet** acknowledges the world is rapidly changing and that the challenges animals face are different than how they have always been. Each titular episode – mountains, oceans, grasslands, jungles, deserts and polar – navigates the brutal conditions endured by some of the most complex, unrelenting and awe-inspiring species on the planet. Facing an overwhelming host of challenges including punishing weather, an intense competition for resources and a constant predator-vs.-prey conflict, the mission is quite simple: survive or die.

Hostile Planet logged approximately 1,800 hours of footage, traversed all seven continents in 82 shoots over 1,300 days of filming and employed 245 crew members on location. Through innovative technology and access to some of the most remote and hostile locations on the planet, **Hostile Planet** captures new behaviours as well as behaviours from new perspectives, including a heart-stopping snow-leopard-and-ibex tumble; a jaguar seizing a giant caiman; barnacle geese chicks base jumping from cliffs; and the first-ever filmed hunt where an Arctic wolf pursued a muskox.

“**Hostile Planet** is a cinematic journey across our planet through experiencing six extreme environments. The rapid evolution of the planet has outpaced the ability of the species to adapt to the hostile circumstances, making the stakes extremely high,” says Navarro. “Through our visual narrative, we bear witness to their survival.”

“**Hostile Planet** may feel otherworldly, but it’s a very visceral portrayal of the planet through animal eyes, which is what makes this series stand out from the rest in the genre,” says Hugh-Jones. “We let the viewers endure the drama and triumphs directly through the eyes of the planet’s ultimate survivalists; we put them right in the heart of the action and worlds.”

Adding a sense of energy and intensity, Grylls, an ultimate survivor himself, guides the viewers through narration and appears on camera at the beginning and end of each episode.

Episodes Include:

Hostile Planet: Mountains

Premieres Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 9.00 PM HKT

The highest mountains on Earth are home to snow leopards, golden eagles, mountain goats, barnacle goslings and gelada monkeys. But only the toughest can endure the extreme weather, scarce food supplies and limited oxygen on these peaks. Showcasing never-before-filmed animal behaviour using new technology to capture fresh angles and scales, **Hostile Planet** provides unique access to one of the most extreme environments on the planet.

Hostile Planet: Oceans

Premieres Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 9.00 PM HKT

Delve beneath the surface of the largest habitat on Earth – our oceans – to uncover a world of extraordinary extremes from crushing depths to stormy coasts and vast blue deserts to crowded reefs. Oceans are dynamic environments where animals must adapt to life of constant change. Discover how seals fend off sharks; how turtles risk their lives to create their next generation; and how ingenious orca fight to survive in the face of ever-increasing competition.

Hostile Planet: Grasslands

Premieres Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 9.00 PM HKT

Grasslands are home to the biggest stars of the animal kingdom, but top billing doesn't make life here any easier. The wildernesses are among the most volatile environments on Earth, where animals must endure an ever-shifting rollercoaster journey through freeze, fire, flood and drought. Now, seasons are becoming more extreme and unpredictable. Life is harder than ever for the wildlife featured in this episode of **Hostile Planet**, including bull elephants clashing in mating battles; the predator-and-prey dance between cheetahs and gazelles in the depths of the Kenyan savanna; a herd of bison battling a blizzard in the North American plains; and a huge pack of wolves in pursuit of them.

Hostile Planet: Jungles

Premieres Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 9.00 PM HKT

Plenty of water, warmth and light provide perfect conditions for life to survive, which make the jungle the most diverse habitat on Earth. But make no mistake, the rainforest is no Eden. As rains become increasingly unpredictable, only the most resilient species will triumph. This episode of **Hostile Planet** spotlights the fiercest jungle species both obvious and unassuming, including jaguars, caimans, gibbons, orangutans, spectral tarsiers, hummingbirds and even parasites. Discover why survival of the fittest amid this crowded and competitive world has never been more apparent.

Hostile Planet: Deserts

Premieres Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 9.00 PM HKT

The planet's hottest habitats – our deserts – are getting even hotter, drier and bigger, yet a host of remarkable animals still survive in the harshest conditions, including cunning hyenas, pint-sized meerkats and sand-dwelling spiders. Follow their lives through a single day in the desert to appreciate how they deal with the sun's formidable power as it grows stronger with every passing minute.

Hostile Planet: Polar

Premieres Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 9.00 PM HKT

Step inside the most frigid habitat known to Earth – the poles. Here, the planet's ultimate survivalists include whale-hunting polar bears, leopard-seal dodging penguins and a pack of Arctic wolves that bring down a pair of musk oxen. Polar species have evolved bodies and behaviours that help them combat the intense hostility of their habitats. But now, their world is changing so fast – literally breaking apart under their feet – and their resilience will be tested beyond the extreme.

Hostile Planet is produced by Plimsoll Productions for National Geographic. For Plimsoll Productions, executive producers include Grant Mansfield, Andrew Jackson, Martha Holmes, Bear Grylls, Delbert Shoopman and Tom Hugh-Jones, who also serves as showrunner. Guillermo Navarro is executive producer. For National Geographic, Kevin Tao Mohs is executive producer. Geoff Daniels is executive vice president of global unscripted entertainment for National Geographic Channels.

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About Bear Grylls

Bear Grylls has become known worldwide as one of the most recognized faces of survival and outdoor adventure. His journey to this acclaim started on a small island off the U.K. coast where his late father taught him to climb and sail. Trained from a young age in martial arts, Grylls spent three years as a soldier in the British Special Forces as part of 21st SAS Regiment. It was here that he perfected many of the survival skills that his fans all over the world enjoy as he pitted himself against the worst of Mother Nature. Despite a free-fall parachuting accident in Africa, where he broke his back in three places and endured many months in military rehabilitation, Grylls went on to become one of the youngest climbers ever to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

He then went on to star in seven seasons of the Discovery Channel's Emmy award-nominated "Man vs. Wild" TV series, which became one of the most watched shows on the planet, reaching an estimated 1.2 billion viewers. Since then, he has hosted more extreme adventure TV shows across more global networks than anyone else in the world including the BAFTA award-winning "The Island With Bear Grylls," "Bear Grylls' Survival School," "Man vs. Wild," "Running Wild" for NBC and "Absolute Wild" for Chinese TV. He is a No. 1 best-selling author, an honorary colonel to the Royal Marine Commandos and the youngest-ever chief scout, an inspiration to 55 million scouts worldwide.

About National Geographic Partners

National Geographic Partners LLC (NGP), a joint venture between National Geographic Society and Disney, is committed to bringing the world premium science, adventure and exploration content across an unrivalled portfolio of media assets. NGP combines the global National Geographic television channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo Wild, Nat Geo Mundo, Nat Geo People) with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, global experiences and events, archival sales, licensing and e-commerce businesses. Furthering knowledge and understanding of the world has been the core purpose of National Geographic for 131 years, and now it is committed to going deeper, pushing boundaries, going further for consumers... all while reaching millions of people around the world in 172 countries and 43 languages every month. NGP returns 27 percent of its proceeds to the nonprofit National Geographic Society to fund work in the areas of science, exploration, conservation and education. For more information, visit nationalgeographic.com or natgeotv.com/asia.



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About Guillermo Navarro

Guillermo Navarro has transitioned to a television directing career after a tremendous career in cinematography. He won the Academy Award for his work on "Pan's Labyrinth" and received acclaim for his work on "Pacific Rim," "Twilight" and "Night at the Museum." In the television world, he directed many episodes of "Hannibal" as well as episodes of "Narcos," "The Bridge" and "Preacher." He also recently directed "Cocaine Godmother."

About Plimsoll Productions

Plimsoll Productions creates and produces nonscripted programming for the international television market from offices in Bristol, Los Angeles and Cardiff. The award-winning creative team has produced some of the biggest factual hits of recent years, winning Emmy awards as well as



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top honours from BAFTA and RTS. Since launching five years ago, the company has produced over 40 series for domestic and international networks, including **Earth Live** (Nat Geo), “Rescue Dog to Super Dog” (Animal Planet), “Teach My Pet to Do That” (ITV) as well as the upcoming “Camp Zambia” (Love Nature, Smithsonian Networks) and **Yellowstone Live** (Nat Geo) among many more. Last year, the company earned the fifth position in the Sunday Times’ annual Fast Track 100, and the British Chamber of Commerce awarded the company the High Growth Business of the Year award, making Plimsoll the first independent production company to ever be honoured with the award.