



The United Nations presents

HOME

A film by

Yann Arthus-Bertrand

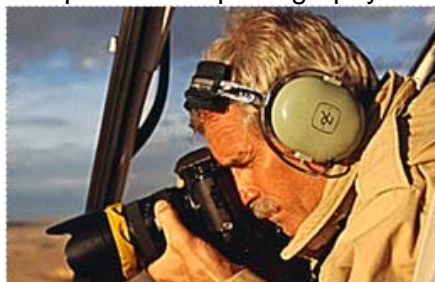


www.unric.org

BIOGRAPHY: YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

Born in 1946, Yann Arthus-Bertrand has always been fond of nature. It was in Kenya in the late 70s, while studying a pride of lions, that he discovered his passion for photography. He wanted to express the facts through images rather than words. He also discovered the beauty of the world seen from above when he became a hot air balloon pilot and began experimenting with aerial photography.

Upon his return to France in 1981, he published his first book 'Lions', the first in a series of 80 books. He also began his career as a reporter-photographer and worked closely with various naturalists including Dian Fossey. His work was published in many internationally recognised magazines such as Paris Match, Geo, Life and National Geographic.



In 1991, he created Altitude, the first photo-agency specializing in aerial photography. In the 90s, under the patronage of UNESCO, he embarked upon his most ambitious project: creating an image bank of the earth seen from the air. In 1999, his work was published and 'The Earth from Above' became a best-selling illustrated book.

In 2003, he launched "Six Billion Others" in which he travelled the world to meet and interview people. The aim of the project was to create a sensitive, human portrait of the planet's inhabitants, by revealing each person's universality and individuality. Six different directors travelled across the world to interview about 6,000 people from 65 different countries.

In 2005, Yann Arthus-Bertrand created GoodPlanet, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of sustainable development, his leitmotiv, through all his different projects. Yann would like to enable each and every one of us to become custodians of our planet's future and consequently of our own future. He also directed a series of four two-hour documentaries entitled the Earth From Above which were broadcast on French television in 2006-2007, and this year completed HOME - a feature length film on the state of the global environment and the challenges we face.

WHAT IS HOME?

A Hymn for the Planet

HOME is an ode to the planet's beauty and its delicate harmony. Through the landscapes of 54 countries captured from above, Yann Arthus-Bertrand takes us on a unique journey around the planet, to contemplate it and to understand it. But HOME is more than a documentary with a message, it is a magnificent movie in its own right. Every breathtaking shot shows the earth - our earth - as we have never seen it before. Every image shows the earth's treasures which we are destroying and all the wonders that we can still preserve. "From the sky, there's less need for explanations". Our vision becomes more immediate, intuitive and emotional. HOME has an impact on anyone who sees it. It awakens in us the awareness that is needed to change the way we see the world.



Governments Convene to Seal the Deal on a New Climate Agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009



The first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will expire in 2012. Therefore, a new climate agreement is urgently needed to respond to one of the greatest challenges of our time: climate change. If a new climate agreement is to be approved and ratified in time, 2009 presents more or less the last chance to achieve this goal. The 15th Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, popularly known as COP 15, will convene on 7 December 2009, in Copenhagen to negotiate on this crucial agreement.

Scientific reports show that the climate is changing more rapidly than ever before. Millions of people are already suffering from the effects of climate change. Hundreds of millions more could be affected if we do not act immediately. In Copenhagen governments need to reach an ambitious, fair and effective climate agreement, but COP 15 also presents an unprecedented opportunity to promote investment in low-carbon solutions and green growth - the foundation of long term economic growth and sustainability.

The agreement in Copenhagen is expected to deliver at least five points.

- Industrialized countries will have to reach an agreement on their individual targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Decisions have to be made on what developing countries will have to do to limit the growth of their emissions.
- Countries need to agree on financial support for developing countries on responding to the effects of climate change.
- An agreement has to be reached on governance for the efficient disbursing of these funds.
- A global framework must be established that will reinforce the climate resilience of vulnerable countries and protect lives and livelihoods.

The CoolPlanet2009 and Seal the Deal Campaigns

On World Environment Day 5 June, the United Nations kicks off its “Seal the Deal” campaign. The campaign seeks to encourage governments to successfully conclude a fair, balanced and effective agreement on climate change when they meet at COP 15 in Copenhagen in December.

CoolPlanet2009 is the European arm of the Seal the Deal campaign run by UNRIC—the UN Regional Information Centre. The CoolPlanet2009 website, www.coolplanet2009.org, brings together projects, innovations and people from all over Europe to show what individuals can do to make a difference for the planet.

CoolPlanet2009 has joined forces with decision makers, artists, organizations and individuals such as Yann Arthus Bertrand and Good Planet, the Icelandic rock band Sigur Rós, Icelandic artist Björk and her NGO Náttúra and the Road to Copenhagen initiative headed by Margot Wallström, Gro Harlem Brundtland and Mary Robinson, to raise awareness and spread the word.

For more information please see:

Cool Planet 2009: www.coolplanet2009.org

Seal the Deal campaign: <http://www.sealthedeal2009.org>

COP15: <http://en.cop15.dk/>

Gateway to the UN System’s Work on Climate Change: <http://www.un.org/climatechange/>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>