The Last Animals

A FILM BY KATE BROOKS

Press Notes

Press Contact:
After Bruce PR
Tracy Nguyen-Chung
tracy@afterbruce.com
503-701-2115

Eseel Borlasa
eseel@afterbruce.com
562-881-6725
Log Line

_The Last Animals_ follows the conservationists, scientists and activists battling poachers and criminal networks to save elephants and rhinos from the edge of extinction.

Short Synopsis

_The Last Animals_ is a story about an extraordinary group of people who go to incredible lengths to save the planet's last animals. The documentary follows the conservationists, scientists and activists battling poachers and transnational trafficking syndicates to protect elephants and rhinos from extinction. From Africa's front lines to behind the scenes of Asian markets, the film takes an intense look at the global response to this slaughter and the desperate measures to genetically rescue the Northern White rhinos who are on the edge of extinction.

Long Synopsis

For three years, war photographer and first-time director Kate Brooks documented the plight of the Northern White Rhinoceros in the midst of a global wildlife trafficking crisis. When she started filming, there were just seven left in the world. Today there are only three.

The Northern White Rhino's last wild population was poached out of existence a decade ago at Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Garamba is now ground zero for one of the last viable elephant populations in central Africa. Poachers and park rangers are at war due to the ivory trade.

The film looks at the industrial scale illegal wildlife trade from a global perspective, from Africa to the Far East and The United States. Despite international trade bans, the contraband is openly sold and easy to find in both legal and unregulated domestic markets.

Meanwhile, scientists across the globe use cutting-edge technology to apprehend criminals and save threatened species. In Europe and San Diego, geneticists race to reproduce the Northern Whites using IVF and stem cell technology. In Seattle, a forensic expert uses DNA-testing to trace seized ivory back to the killing fields and the criminal networks behind the trade. And in Kenya, an ivory kingpin is finally put on trial—but will he be brought to justice?

_The Last Animals_ is a sweeping and sobering film about an extraordinary group of people who go to extraordinary lengths to save the last animals. The film reveals the tentacles of this illicit and nefarious business, which despite its devastating impact, often seems as elusive as a ghost.
Filmmaking/Creative Team Bios

Kate Brooks, Writer, Producer, Director
Kate Brooks is an American photojournalist who has chronicled conflict and human rights issues for nearly two decades. She began her career in Russia at the age of 20 while documenting child abuse in state orphanages. The resulting photographs were published worldwide and used by the Human Rights Watch to campaign for orphans' rights.

Following 9/11, Brooks moved to Pakistan to photograph the impact of U.S. foreign policy and spent the next 10 years covering conflict across the Middle East. Brooks has been the recipient of numerous international awards, and her photographs are regularly published in American and European magazines and have been exhibited in galleries and museums. Her introspective collection of essays and photographs, In the Light of Darkness: A Photographer's Journey After 9/11, was selected as one of the best photography books of 2011.

Brooks's passion for filmmaking was sparked from working as a contributing cinematographer in Afghanistan on the film The Boxing Girls of Kabul. The film won the Inspirit Foundation Pluralism Prize at HotDocs and a Canadian Screen Award.

In 2012-13, Brooks was awarded a Knight Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan. There she researched the pan African poaching epidemic before embarking on directing The Last Animals. Her drive and passion for this issue come from the fundamental belief that time is running out and that we are at a critical moment in natural history.

Stephanie Soechtig, Producer
Stephanie Soechtig is an award-winning writer, producer, and documentary film director. Her most recent film, Under the Gun, received a prolonged standing ovation when it premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. Lionsgate and Epix acquired the award-winning film, which critics called "masterfully crafted" and "the best film on firearms since the 2002's Oscar-winning doc Bowling for Columbine."

Two years earlier, Fed Up premiered at Sundance where it was acquired by Radius/TWC and became the second highest grossing documentary of 2014. A New York Times Critic's Pick, many have likened Fed Up to Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth for the way we eat; it spotlights our addiction to sugar and the ensuing obesity epidemic, and succeeds in bringing the issue into the mainstream.

Stephanie's directorial debut documentary, Tapped focused on the high cost -- to both the environment and our health -- of the bottled water industry. Hailed by critics as “stunning”
and “whip-smart,” *Tapped* swept film festivals across the country while picking up six awards for Best Documentary Feature.

Dubbed by Fortune Magazine as one of the “Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink,” Stephanie has also directed political campaign commercials, short films and viral videos for nonprofit groups including Environmental Working Group and Food and Water Watch.

A graduate of New York University, Stephanie began her career in television, producing documentaries for 20/20, Primetime Live, The O’Reilly Factor, and VH1. She joined forces with Michael and Michelle Walrath in 2008 to start Atlas Films.

**Mark Monroe, Writer**

Mark Monroe is a journalism graduate from the University of Oklahoma. Monroe began his television career in Atlanta as a CNN news writer for Headline News and Newsnight. Monroe has since transitioned his writing talents to documentary film. His theatrical writing credits are many and include *The Tillman Story, Chasing Ice* and *Fed Up*. Monroe was also the writer for the 2009 Academy Award winning documentary, *The Cove*. In *The Cove*, renowned dolphin trainer Ric O’Barry and a team of activists infiltrate a Japanese cove to expose the annual slaughter of innocent dolphins. Most recently, Monroe reteamed with the director of *The Cove*, Louie Psihoyos, for the documentary, *Racing Extinction*. 
T O B I  B E R G E R
Chainsaw Engineering
JEFF SENGPIEHL
ANTHONY GRANATA

Post Production
MOLINARE

DI Colourist
CHRIS RODGERS

Online Editors
DES MURRAY
BEREN CROLL

DI Manager
MATT JAMES

DI Co-Ordinator
KATIE MCCULLOCH

DI Delivery
DAVID GRIFFIN

Graphic Designers
DOLORES MCGINLEY
RICHARD CRADICK

Graphics Producer
MARK WELLBAND

Sound Re-Recording Mixer
GEORGE FOULGHAM

Assistant Sound Re-Recording Mixer
CHAD ORORORO

Dialogue Editor
CLAIRE ELLIS

Effects Editors
TOM FOSTER
KIM TAE HAK

Post Production Manager
REIKO SHIMAZAKI

Sales Executive
TOM ROGERS

Mixing Engineer
BILL JACKSON

Musicians
Cello                  SARAH O'BRIEN
Violin                BETHANY FOLSON
Drums                 PALOMA ESTEVEZ

Featuring
ZDENĚK ČERMÁK
BATIAN CRAIG
PATRICK DUBOSCOQ
YUSUF GILISHO
DR. ROBERT HERMES
DR. THOMAS B. HILDEBRANDT
DR. PAULA KAHUMBU
JANE KENNEDY
SENATOR RAYMOND J. LESNIAK
COLONEL JACQUES LUSENGO
JEAN CLAUDE MAMBO MARINDO
GRETCHEN PETERS
JEN SAMUEL
TALIGO TENGU
LENKA VÁGNEROVÁ
DR. SAMUEL K. WASSER
HRH, THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, PRINCE WILLIAM
JAN ŽDÁREK

Legal Counsel
DONALDSON + CALLIF, LLP
LISA A. CALLIF
ALEXANDRE YOUSEFZADEH
LOEB & LOEB
CRAIG EMANUEL
Distribution and Sales Advisory Services
WILLIAM MORRIS ENDEAVOR ENTERTAINMENT
LIESL COPLAND

Production Insurance
MOMENTOUS INSURANCE BROKERAGE
WINNIE WONG

Fiscal Sponsorship provided by
INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATION
FRACUTED ATLAS

"HOLD MY SOUL"
Produced by EMMANUEL JAL AND KENWYN KIPENJI
Arranged by KENWYN KIPENJI
Written and Performed by EMMANUEL JAL
Courtesy of GATWICH RECORDS

"THE LAST ANIMALS"
Arranged and produced by EMMANUEL JAL AND JESSE BUKINDU
Background vocals by MAUREEN NYANG'OMBE
Written and Performed by EMMANUAL JAL
Courtesy of GATWICH RECORDS

© 2017 The Last Animals LLC
All rights reserved