

PRESS KIT

CREATING A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE

Short Synopsis

This film is a journey through Southern Africa, discovering how people are positively dealing with climate change. As the region's temperature rises and weather patterns become more unpredictable the lives of people living here are in the balance. This film offers a perspective of hope and ingenuity as local solutions to this global problem empower people to improve their lives through the protection of the world's natural resources.

Programming Descriptors

FORMS: Documentary, Television

GENRES: Educational, Nature, Human Rights, Independent, Environmental, Science, News

LANGUAGE: English

Qualifiers

Exact Runtime
31 min : 50 sec

Date of Completion: February 2012

Country of Production: South Africa

Country of Filming: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia

Production Budget : 55000 (in U.S. Dollar)

Fund Source: - The Open Society Foundation For South Africa
- The Open Society Initiative For Southern Africa

Medium Synopsis

This film is a journey through Southern Africa, discovering how people are positively dealing with climate change. As the region's temperature rises and weather patterns

become more unpredictable the lives of people living here are in the balance. This film offers a perspective of hope and ingenuity as local solutions to this global problem empower people to improve their lives through the protection of the world's natural resources.

World leading science from deep in the Namib Desert, together with information from the largest computer models on the continent, underpins this journey of discovery. The film travels over pantoon bridges and dry lake beds visiting projects that create jobs through water restoration; support conservation farmers; and remove regional pre-colonial borders - taking on a whole systems approach to conservation.

While bringing to bear the realities around climate change this film also tells the story of how development, international and national co-operation can effectively fight the related evils of poverty and environmental destruction. We can look to these people driven projects in the face of the current international inertia in climate change negotiations as they illustrate success stories for the world to follow today. This film illustrates that there is hope here in Africa and helps create a climate for change in the way we see ourselves, from consumers to caretakers of nature.

Long Synopsis

Creating a Climate for Change” is a 50-minute documentary showcasing how Africans are positively adapting to and mitigating climate change. The film offers a perspective of hope and ingenuity countering the perception that Africa is a lost continent in constant need of aid. This film provides local solutions that empower people to improve their lives through the protection of the environmental resources the world depends on for food and water.

The story is narrated by Jeffrey Barbee and is told through the voices of two main characters: Miya Kabayane is a young Namibian Researcher at the Gobabeb Desert Research Foundation in Namibia. As part of a team of experts she studies the adaptations of plants and animals that survive in this harsh and unforgiving landscape. This is one of the oldest research stations in Southern Africa. Thirty researchers call the station home with visitors coming from all over the world. Miya is the face of young African scientists who link up with global science around the world, which has and will continue to vastly expand the human understanding of climate change.

Dr. Francois Englebrecht is a climate modeler working at the Centre for Scientific Industrial and Research in Pretoria (CSIR). This young, dynamic scientist runs the highest resolution climate change models of the region on the biggest computers in Africa. He represents the level of sophisticated scientific knowledge emanating from this continent, allowing Africans to map and prepare for their climatic futures. The message he delivers is a dire one: even if the world is successful in limiting the rise of temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius – the international target as it is being discussed – that still means a 4 degree rise in temperature for the Southern African region.

To find out how the damages caused by these changes can be mitigated, the story journeys to into the remote mountains of the Baviaanskloof of South Africa. Here government, civil groups and local communities have joined forces to replant vast areas

of the Spekboom tree. This restores the water in the area, generating financial benefits through carbon trading, creating a sustainable cycle of renewal that ultimately finances itself, restoring the environment and creating jobs. The human faces behind this huge project are a mosaic of South African people. Farmer Piet Kruger works with formerly unemployed people like Johanna Swartz, who now heads a tree-planting unit and enjoys a much better life. Together they are forging a new economy for the area based upon carbon sinks, tourism and ecosystem services, literally bringing back the rain and refurbishing their own local climate in a way that the world can learn from.

In the North of Zambia the benefits of conservation farming have come at a time when climate change has made rainfall more variable. The country now has 300,000 farmers working in conservation agriculture. This system helps farmers adapt to climate change, increasing food security dramatically, turning this food importing country into a food exporter. The movie follows Zambian conservation farmers like Agnes Mumbi and conservationist Hammerskjöld Simwinga, a Goldman environmental prize-winner and champion of conservation farming who are part of this large scale revolutionary movement.

On a regional level, the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) straddles 5 countries borders. It was created to protect the health of the two largest rivers in this region. Bigger than Italy and only signed into existence in 2011, the KAZA park plan provides a striking example of a multi-national conservation approach. This plan cascades the problem of climate change and water security up to a regional level where international agreements like this are vital for sharing and securing resources for everyone's benefit. 2 million people live here but the KAZA is also elephant country, a third of Africa's remaining herds call this vast area home. People and animals share this landscape in a new park plan where communities are in control and act as custodians of wildlife and wetlands. Only through conserving these two huge watersheds and by treating the ecosystem a whole will the millions of people who rely upon them for water have a secure future.

Connecting the projects throughout the narrative are the team's vehicles, crossing rivers, plowing through mud, and traversing vast desert salt flats that used to be covered in water. Time lapse photography, aerial images and animation blend with the videographer's striking images of the people of these lands, working together to help tell the story of what we as humans can do today to combat a changing climate.

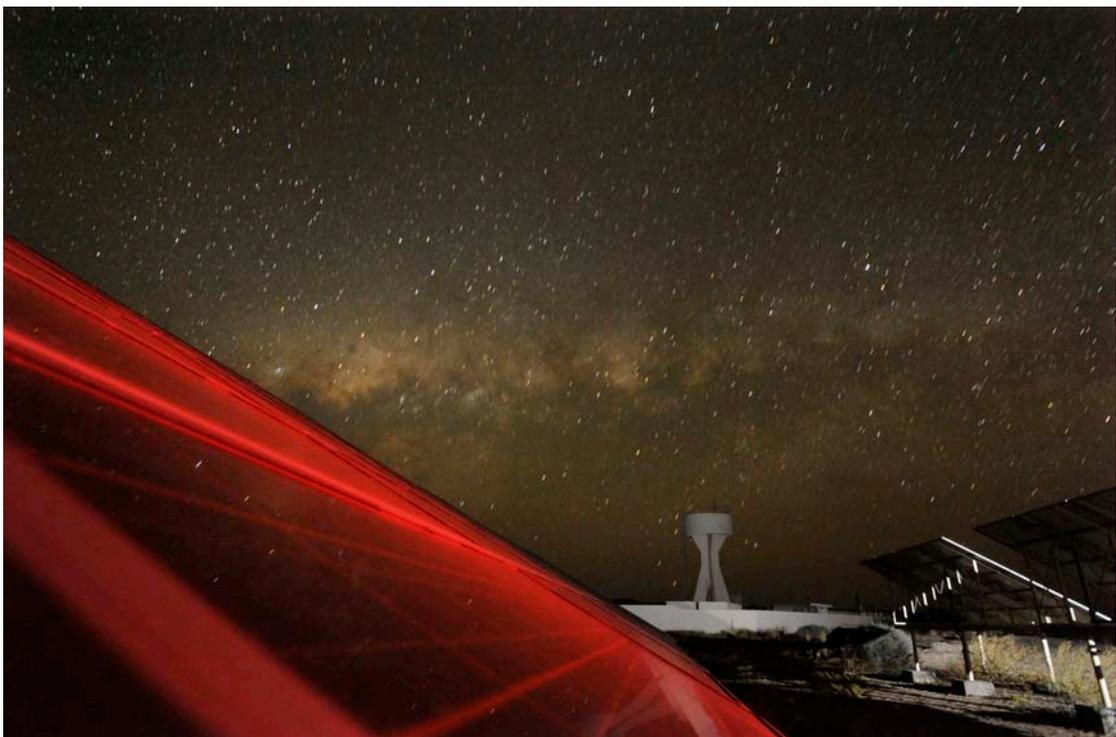
The multi-dimensional solutions captured in this documentary show that fighting climate change and protecting and restoring environmental resources can bring sustainable, social and economic empowerment and long-term development to the people involved in the projects and to the continent as a whole. While bringing to bear the realities around climate change this film also tells the story of how development, international and national co-operation around natural resources can effectively fight the related evils of poverty and environmental destruction. We can look to these people driven projects in the face of the current international inertia in climate change negotiations which illustrate success stories for the world to follow today.

Production Still Photos



The Okavango Delta will be one of the centrepieces of the new Kaza Park. This is Max Thokobotshabelo, travelling in the north part of the Delta, into a community-run conservancy that works in partnership with a private lodge called Nguma Island Lodge. The proposed Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) will encompass an area the size of Italy through five African countries. The park's core area is centered around the Okavango River and the Delta.

photo by Jeffrey Barbee



The photographer's red torchlight illuminates the solar panels of Gobabeb Research Station. This "Oasis of Learning" is helping inform the Namibian Government and Universities around the world about the effects and possibilities of adapting to climate change. Gobabeb is run by Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia.

photo by Jeffrey Barbee



The sun sets over the grass covered Namibian Desert in Damaraland, Namibia. Usually rock and stone, changing weather has turned this area of the desert a verdant green. Wild fires will sweep this grass away within the next season but for now it's an example of the changing climate of this region.

photo Jeffrey Barbee

People

Submission Contact

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Digital Effects

Jurgen Meekel

Assitant Editor
Solana Pyne

Shooting Formats

Digital Video
NTSC
PAL
HDV

Preview Formats

DVD Video

NTSC

PAL

Region 0-6

Digital Video

NTSC
PAL
SECAM
HDV

Media Files

.MPG (MPEG or MPEG2)
.AVI (Audio-Video Interleaved)
.MOV (QuickTime)

Exhibition Formats

HD Frame Rate
1080/50i
or any requested

DVD Video
NTSC
PAL

Region 0-6

HDV

Media Files
.MOV (Quicktime)
.WMV (Windows Media)
.AVI (Audio-Video Interleaved)
.MPG (MPEG or MPEG2)
.FLV (Flash Video)

File Links: HD Video Full Length: <http://youtu.be/UcvKGdJ6REs>

Exhibition Info

Exact Runtime
00 hr : 31 min : 50 sec
Print Details
Color, Stereo
Film Sound
Dolby Digital OTHER Dolby Digital EX
Aspect Ratios
1.78 (16x9 VIDEO)

Production Notes

"The Rise Of Vincent"

During the production of this film a small hitchhiker attached itself to Mira Dutschke's inner thigh. Named Vincent, this two-headed protuberance of a spider bite became more pronounced as we made our way north to the Congo border for the piece about Conservation Farming in the film. The rains started, it was dark, muddy, late in the shooting schedule and the pain of Vincent drove Mira to a clean doctor's place, where he immediately wanted to "drain" Vincent. Mira would have none of it. So Vincent stayed with

us until we finished shooting and headed down to Livingston about five hundred miles away. At this point Mira was very sore, slightly feverish and much more willing to go under the knife. So there, in a dark and dingy little clinic run by a trainee male doctor who painted his toenails sparkly red for all the world to see in his flip flops, Mira got two large 3-inch incisions cut about half an inch into the whole head of Vincent, releasing him into the world in a sputter of grey-green bile. It was far too much to handle. The video is enough to put anyone off an African Safari for life. However, she was better with the morphine that followed and she was back in South Africa the next day where less flashily dressed Drs could have a good look at her leg. She is fine now, but we are editing up the film of Vincent's rise and fall for a youtube special.

"Getting Green"

This production is 100% carbon neutral. The carbon from the project was offset through Elemental Equity, the carbon trading company set up in the Baviaanskloof Mountains and linked to farmers like Johanna Swartz, who we hear from in the film. This money for the planting goes directly to the farmers, and helps reforest the hardy little thicket called Spekboom. This type of offsetting creates jobs, rebuilds damaged landscapes, and secures South Africa's scarce water supplies for the generation to come. www.elementalequity.org

News & Reviews

"Creating A Climate For Change"

The Mail and Guardian (November 25, 2011)

Director Jeffrey Barbee wrote a series of articles for publication about the project, this is one of four that have been published.

<http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-25-creating-a-climate-for-change>

Film Launch Invite

CREATING A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE

By Jeff Barbee

Tuesday 28 February 6.30 PM
Origins Centre
RSVP: (011) 717-4700 or email ask@origins.org.za
Entrance Fee: R45/R35 Wits staff & students



Jeffrey Barbee is a fellow with the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, creating a series of stories about Climate Change. He is a photojournalist and film producer whose work appears in the New York Times, the BBC, NOS Tv Holland, Smithsonian Magazine, RTL News, Time Magazine, Newsweek and Vanity Fair

2012 Lecture Series
Origins Centre



Sponsored by the Open Society Foundation for South Africa and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

Resumes

Jeffrey Barbee: Agent, Cinematographer/DP, Director, Manager, Print Return, Print Shipper, Producer, Publicist, Submission Contact, Writer

Jeffrey Barbee started his media career working with National Geographic photographer David Hiser. Moving to Africa in 1995, we worked as a media photographer with the Black Star agency in New York, and then went on to work on assignment for Newsweek and Time Magazine throughout the region. His environmental writing on Congo first appeared in the journal GEO, and he honed his writing skills with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Tom Masland at Newsweek magazine. For three years Barbee was the New York Times photographer for Southern Africa. Barbee came to film through a grant from the Pulitzer Centre on Crisis Reporting in 2005, shooting a series with Fareed Zakaria on the environment in conflict zones in Rwanda, DRC Congo, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. As the Zimbabwean conflict grew Barbee returned and worked as a producer and DOP for NOS TV Holland in the crisis-torn country and he and journalist Bram Vermeulen created a ten-part TV series that won Reporter of the Year in the Netherlands. Barbee also worked in Zimbabwe on photographic assignments for the Guardian, Vanity Fair and The Telegraph. In 2008 the fledgling internet news company Global Post invited Barbee to become their Africa At Large Reporter, producing stories, films, pictures and multimedia content throughout the continent. Barbee's short films help win the news portal reporting awards for the last three years. Today he still works with Global Post, and LinkTV as their Africa correspondent, producing and shooting television stories. He is the Guardian photographer for Southern Africa and works for RTL news, PBS and other television stations.

Mira Dutschke: Agent, Associate Producer, Manager, Publicist

The assistant producer Mira Dutschke has a master's degree in Human Rights Law and has 10 years of research experience in South Africa and Northern Ireland. Her focus is on the research and advocacy around on social, economic and cultural rights. She is a part-time lecture at the University of Cape Town, teaching the human rights and advocacy module for the Masters in Child and Maternal Health. Her work has been published in the South African Journal of Human Rights; the European Human Rights Law Review; the Economic and Social Rights Review; the International Journal of Social Work; and the South African Child Gauge.

Official Website

<http://jeffreybarbee.blogspot.com/>

Trailer

<http://youtu.be/FxT5B50nouM>

Full Movie

<http://youtu.be/UcvKGdJ6REs>