

## EARTH TOUCH SIGNS INTERNATIONAL SALES ACROSS SLATE OF BLUE CHIP DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Durban. London: 27 March 2012. South African-based wildlife and factual producer and distributor Earth Touch is growing the global reach of its shows, ahead of its attendance at MIPTV later this month, signing a number of deals with broadcasters including KBS, Discovery Asia, TVE, SVT, ARTE and VIASAT from its slate of blue chip HD natural history films.

In Asia, Earth Touch has furthered its presence in the region with KBS acquiring seven one-hour documentaries including: *Dolphins – Beauty before Brains?*; *Trouble in Lemurland*; *The Lost Lagoon*; *Deep Blue Dive*; *Gannets – the Wrong Side of the Run*; *Leopards of Dead Tree Island*; *Boteti – the Returning River*. In a further deal, Discovery Asia has picked up two titles, *Pride in Battle* and *Cheetah – The Price of Speed*.

In Europe, TVE has taken trio *Dolphins – Beauty before Brains*, *Boteti - the Returning River* and *The Lost Lagoon*, which have also been picked up by Viasat, alongside deals for *Gannets – the Wrong Side of the Run* and *Trouble in Lemurland*. Viasat has acquired the films for both its Scandinavian and Eastern European feeds.

In further sales, SVT has acquired five films including *Leopards of Dead Tree Island*, *Pride in Battle*, *Deep Blue Dive*; *Gannets – the Wrong Side of the Run* and *A Dog's Life*, a documentary which investigates the plight of Southern Africa's Wild Dogs from Emmy-award winning filmmaker Kim Wolhuter, which Earth Touch represents third party. ARTE has also picked up a brace of titles: *A Dog's Life* and *The Lost Lagoon*.

Examining recent controversial theories in the scientific community *Dolphins - Beauty before Brains?* takes us on a scientific journey into the complex world of the dolphin and investigates the facts surrounding neurology Professor Paul Manger's recent assertion that dolphins are not nearly as smart as previously thought.

*The Lost Lagoon* (1x52') looks at the increasing environmental threat to the delicate eco-system of the Pomene tidal zone where mangrove swamps and sea-grass beds hide an extraordinary assortment of colourful creatures.

Free-diver Trevor Hutton prepares for the 2010 World Championships in Greece and a subsequent world record attempt. Will his harsh training regime in the wild, cold seas of Southern Africa with its strong currents, bad visibility and presence of sharks, give him the edge over his Mediterranean counterparts?

In *Trouble in Lemur Land* (1x52') American primatologist Erik Patel and Malagasy conservationist Desire Rabary aim to protect a rare and beautiful species of lemur in the remote mountains of northern Madagascar.

*Cheetah – Price of Speed* follows a young family of cheetahs on the exposed plains of the Southern Serengeti and tells the dramatic story of their battle for survival as a single mother attempts to keep her

demanding cubs safe while also ensuring they have enough to eat.

Filmed in the remote Xakanaka area of Botswana, ***Pride in Battle*** sees two lion brothers emerging as undisputed rulers of a pride after a ferocious battle for dominance.

In ***Diving With Crocodiles***, cameraman and crocodile expert Brad Bestelink undertakes the unthinkable and dives deep into the Okavango Delta, a feat never recorded before to film these fearsome creatures in their underwater lair.

***Gannets – the Wrong Side of the Run*** explores the movement of two massive sardine populations and the effect they have on the food chain of a huge diversity of wildlife, in particular the Cape Gannet.

***Leopards of Dead Tree Island*** centres on the life of a young mother with her first litter of cubs. Can this family survive alone with everything against them?

Filmed over a period of two years, ***Boteti – the Returning River*** (1x52') contains many examples of previously unrecorded behaviour, and provides a lasting and unique record of the transformation of an entire environment.

Earth Touch will be at MIPTV with a diverse slate that includes: Aquavision TV Productions' ***Africa's Deadliest***; in house productions ***Speed Kills*** a three-part series, and one-hour specials: ***Death Beach***, ***Venom Island***, ***Coelacanth - The Great Survivor Underwater Okavango***, ***Croc Labyrinth*** and ***Raggies – A Mouthful of Teeth***.