

BBC Worldwide Press Office

BBC Worldwide Australia

Level 5, 6 Eden Park Drive, Macquarie Park NSW 2113

**The most ambitious BBC global wildlife series ever undertaken -
Planet Earth Live to air globally in 140 countries**

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#Planeteearthlive to air globally in 140 countries**

27 April 2012: This May the Earth's most charismatic animals will be followed day and night by award winning **BBC** Natural History Unit film makers, international wildlife specialists and **BBC** viewers around the world* - for an epic global animal soap opera ***Planet Earth Live*** where nature writes the script.

Filming in six different time zones, across five diverse continents, in seven locations using spectacular cinematography, real-time filming techniques and up-close HD wildlife footage – the young animals' struggle for survival during the critical month of May will air across **BBC** channels around the world. The lives of the Earth's youngest animals truly hang in the balance over the course of the series including baby elephants in Kenya, black bears in Minnesota, macaque monkeys in Sri Lanka, meerkats in South Africa, grey whales in the Pacific and lion cubs in the Masaai Mara.

Anchored in Southern Kenya, *Top Gear's* **Richard Hammond** will fulfill his childhood dream as he tracks the Marsh pride of lions with specialist camerawoman Sophie Darlington. The group of lions, made famous by the **BBC's** *Big Cat Diary*, are reaching a crucial time in their history thanks to a pride takeover. A lioness has already escaped with the cubs but with limited food, their survival remains threatened.

Meanwhile over 13,000 kilometres away in the wild Northwoods of Minnesota, **Julia Bradbury** will get up close and personal with one of the most feared predators on the planet – black bears. Julia joins wildlife expert Dr Lynn Rogers as bear families emerge from their dens with new born cubs. On the Pacific coast Julia will also follow the epic migration of grey whales and their calves running the gauntlet of killer whales.

From the team behind the global phenomenon *Frozen Planet*, ***Planet Earth Live*** will simultaneously broadcast to a global audience** via **BBC Knowledge** (Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Poland, the Nordic Region, Asia and Italy) **BBC Entertainment** (India) and **BBC HD** (Latin America, the Nordic Region, Poland and Turkey).

David Weiland, SVP Programming and TV Channels comments: “We are the only network in the world which can broadcast the biggest wildlife series ever undertaken to an international audience, across multiple platforms. The culmination of ten years development and digital technological innovation from the BBC’s Natural History Unit means our audiences will be a part of this truly global viewing experience, where even the show’s producers don’t know what’s going to happen next, to this cast of truly incredible animals”.

Planet Earth Live is the latest synchronised broadcast from **BBC Worldwide**, reinforcing the network’s commitment to stage bold and ambitious global television events, showcasing the very best of British programming and UK talent to the World. Following on from The Royal Wedding in 2011, *Sport Relief* in March 2012; *Planet Earth Live* is the second global moment for our international audiences to share this year. *Planet Earth Live* will be closely followed this summer by *London Calling* - a unique season of programming celebrating the music, fashion, art, culture and history of Britain’s capital city; led by live coverage from the spectacular Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

In Australia, *Planet Earth Live* will broadcast from Monday May 7 at 4:50am on BBC Knowledge with a special encore screening that evening at 7:30pm.

***Planet Earth Live* will continue for three weeks into May, Monday & Friday Mornings at 5am followed by the encore screening at 7.30pm.**

Monday May 7 at 4:50am and 7:30pm (AEST)
Friday May 11 at 5:00am and 7:30pm (AEST)
Monday May 14 at 5:00am and 7:30pm (AEST)
Friday May 18 at 5:00am and 7:30pm (AEST)
Monday May 21 at 5:00am and 7:30pm (AEST)
Friday May 25 at 5:00am and 7:30pm (AEST)

ENDS



Notes to Editors:

* Dates and times vary according to territory.

**Live simulcasts:

From Sunday May 6th *Planet Earth Live* will air simulcast with BBC ONE at 19:50 BST (UK time) on **BBC Knowledge** (EMEA – Poland, Africa and the Nordic region), **BBC Knowledge** Australia and New Zealand and **BBC HD** (the Nordic Region, Poland and Turkey) and then at 20:00 BST (UK time) every Thursday and Sunday for three weeks, with later languaged localised repeats also scheduled.

For further information, please contact:

Nicole Haraldson
Communications, BBC Worldwide Australia
Tel: +61 2 9744 4551
Email: nicole.haraldson@bbc.com

Charlotte Scarborough
Communications, BBC Worldwide Channels
Tel: +44 (0)208 433 3209
Email: charlotte.scarborough@bbc.com

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www.bbcworldwide.com/annualreview

About BBC Worldwide Australia

Australia is a priority territory for BBC Worldwide, focusing on growth across all five of its core businesses. Based in Macquarie Park, Sydney, the company's addressable market share has trebled in three years. BBC Worldwide Australia wholly owns five channels; UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies in Australia; UKTV NZ and BBC Knowledge NZ in New Zealand; and is responsible for the sales, promotion and distribution of World News which transmits in both countries. It distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to all free-to-air and most subscription channels in Australia and New Zealand. BBC Worldwide Australia is a stakeholder in Australian production company Freehand and has a joint venture company with ACP, Park Publishing, which publishes BBC-branded magazines in the territory. It works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, digital apps, innovative products and live events to the local market, as well as offering advertising opportunities for the BBC's world renowned bbc.com news site and lonelyplanet.com. BBC Worldwide Australia has recently launched the global BBC iPlayer in Australia.

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