



#NEWF2020

REPORT

SHARING *Stories of Hope* IN
OUR COMMUNITY
Reimagined

A SOCIAL VR WORLD

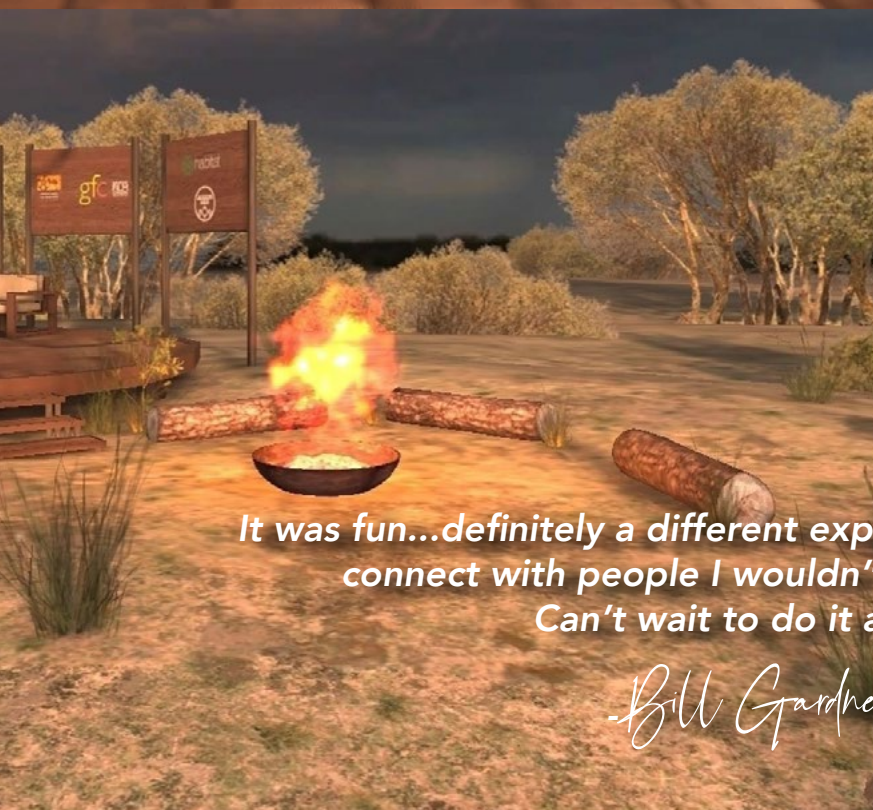
TODAYS SCHEDULE
IN CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME
(GMT+2)

- 12:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
- 14:00 | THE N.E.W PITCH
DRAKENSBERG WORKSHOP ROOM
- 14:30 | INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL MODEL
AMPHITHEATRE
- 18:00 | IN CONVERSATION WITH BILL GARDNER | PBS
GRAND TETONS
- 19:30 | HOW DID THEY DO THAT?
GORONGOSA
- 21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK

#NEWF2020 | @NEWFCONGRESS



The Watering Hole
A PLACE TO GATHER



It was fun...definitely a different experience! I loved that I could connect with people I wouldn't normally be able to. Can't wait to do it all person!!

Bill Gardner (PBS)



NEWF



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC



National Geographic Education



gfc

Small text: Green Building Solutions



habitat



NEWF



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC



National Geographic Education

gfc

Small text: Green Building Solutions



habitat

The Amphitheatre

A CIRCLE CONNECTS US ALL -
COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS DRIVE IMPACT



MEETING ROOM 1

MEETING ROOM 2

MEETING ROOM 3

SA HOPE

Private Meeting Rooms



national film and video foundation
SOUTH AFRICA
an agency of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture



TODAYS SCHEDULE
in CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME
(GMT+2)

ALL DAY | BAKHAI YETU, PENO YU ALE, THE FRESH GONDOLA WILDFIRE BEANS

12:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO AIR TOUR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO AIR TOUR

14:00 | THE N.E.W. PITCH
CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

15:30 | PARTNERSHIP'S BEYOND WEATHER
AMPHIBIANS

16:30 | BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE FIELD
AMPHIBIANS

18:00 | DOCUMENTING EXTRACTION
AMPHIBIANS

19:30 | PAYING IT FORWARD | THE POWER OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP
AMPHIBIANS

21:30 | NETWORKING & THE HARBOR PROJECT
WATERING HOLE

21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO AIR TOUR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO AIR TOUR

#NMF2023 | #NMFCONGRESS



NEWF

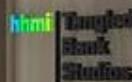


Prev Play Stop Next 1/8



Workshop Rooms

in The Drakensberg



at Gorongosa National Park



at Rietitei Nature Reserve



overlooking The Grand Tetons



PHOTOARK

JOEL SARTORE



#SaveTogether

LIFE ON OUR PLANET IS INTERCONNECTED.

All life forms play a role, often fine-tuned over thousands or even millions of years. No matter their size, the interactions of these creatures with their environments are the engine that keeps the planet healthy for all of us. When you remove one, it affects the rest.

Our natural infrastructure depends on animals that pollinate, trees and plants that provide oxygen, shellfish that filter pollution, and a host of other actions that enrich life on Earth. The Photo Ark reminds us of those connections and the possibilities of what passionate people can do to keep the web of life together.



MOLE RAT
IUCN Status: Endangered
Museum of Natural History, Houston, Texas

"I want to get people to care, to fall in love, and to take action."
- Joel Sartore



CIVET CAT
IUCN Status: Endangered
Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



TIGER
IUCN Status: Endangered
Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas



BLACK RHINOCEROS
IUCN Status: Critically Endangered
Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas



BLUE RABBIT
IUCN Status: Endangered
Oregon Zoo, Portland, Oregon



BLACK-FOOTED FERRET
IUCN Status: Endangered
Oregon Museum of Science and History, Corvallis, Oregon



GIANT PANDA
IUCN Status: Endangered
Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia



MEXICAN GRAY WOLF
IUCN Status: Endangered
Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, Eureka, Mississippi

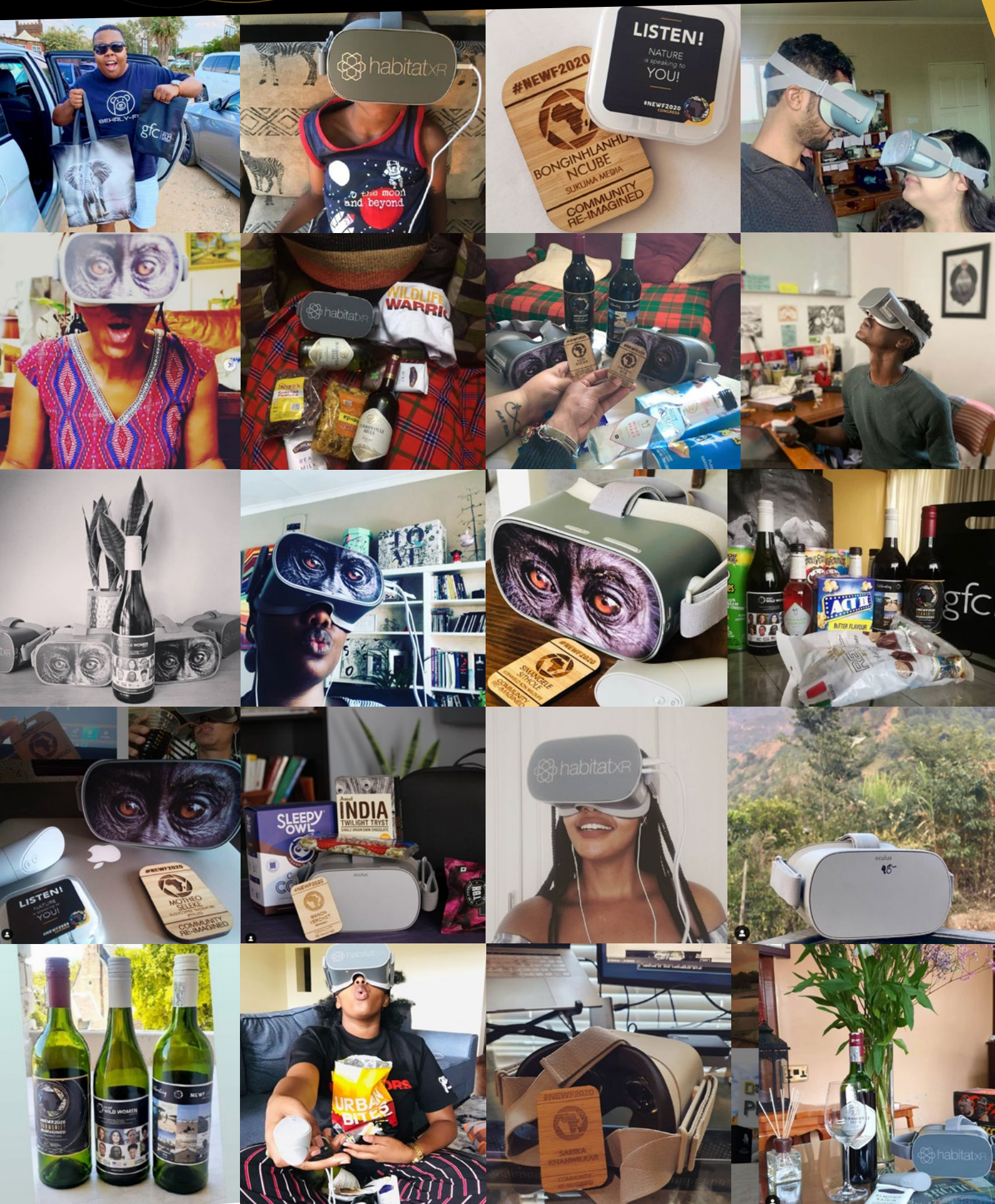


BORNEAN ORANGUTAN & SUMATRAN

"Today we are losing species at rates 1,000 times greater than ever before."

- Joel Sartore

A COMMUNITY RE-IMAGINED



01

#NEWF2020

THE VISION

The fourth edition of the Nature Environment & Wildlife Filmmakers Congress, #NEWF2020 was re-imagined and hosted in a truly virtual world from October 25th - 30th 2020 where delegates attended as avatars in Social VR!

Covid-19 has affected us all in varying ways, as humans we love to gather and the NEWF Congress has over the past three years given us great moments to do just that, growing connections, building partnerships and fostering community through its inclusive atmosphere. In rethinking how we continue to do this, we reimagined our world and created what we called a #CommunityReimagined!

The theme for this year's congress was #StoriesOfHope because as all the unheeded warnings about species extinction, climate change and pandemics come home to roost, we say don't bury your head in the sand, don't give up, because together in our re-imagined community we shared our Stories of Hope and inspired a call to action.

Keep reading as we take you on a journey, introduce our visionary partners and discover what #NEWF2020 was all about!

The 2020 NEWF Congress was an inter-disciplinary gathering with over 260 registered delegates from 17 countries across Africa and the globe, a balanced cross section of industry professionals, young filmmakers and science communicators.

Highlights included the National Geographic Photo Ark Exhibition, a powerful state of the continent address by Kaddu Sebunya, CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation and a key-note by Nomazulu Mda of the NFVF. Special sessions featuring National Geographic Explorers and African Storytellers were inspiring to say the least. International companies, storytellers and scientists participated in engaging panel discussions that drive impact, elevate local storytellers and enable access.

NEWF Labs 2020 and N.E.W Pitch 2019 films were showcased to the delegates followed by Q & A's with the participants - celebrating Africa's next generation impacting conservation through film.

The N.E.W Pitch Competition 2020 was ground-breaking with the finalists having to pitch in VR and the Narrator Project was hosted once again!

The experience was offered on both desktop PC and Oculus Go headsets with 360 films loaded onto the headsets for further immersive experiences in VR. Delegates gathered at the watering hole with an iconic African sunset during networking, the amphitheatre in a rainforest for sessions, branded workshop rooms for the N.E.W Pitch and In-Conversation sessions and branded meeting rooms for private meetings!

NEWF2020 is supported by the National Film and Video Foundation, National Geographic Society, KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission, Gauteng Film Commission, PBS, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, SABC, 50i50, People'sWeather and Habitat XR.

BUZZWORDS 2020

#NEWF2020
#STORIES OF HOPE

#COMMUNITY

#HOPE



STATE OF THE CONTINENT ADDRESS



MR KADDU SEBUNYA
CEO AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION



IEWF2020 ©

**“Your industry, this industry
can be the voice
of African Wildlife.”**

02

SPONSORS, FUNDERS AND PARTNERS



national film and video foundation
SOUTH AFRICA
an agency of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture



KWAZULU-NATAL
FILM COMMISSION
SOUTH AFRICA

• OUR KINGDOM IS YOUR STAGE •



GAUTENG
FILM
COMMISSION
SOUTH AFRICA



WILDLIFEDIRECT



AFRICAN WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION



WILDOCEANS™

A programme of the  WILDTRUST



50 | 50
ONS PLANEET
ONS TOEKOMS



NEWF would like to thank the individual friends and organisations who assisted tirelessly with logistics around the world to ensure that delegates received headsets and delegate packs: Sherene Kingma, Shamier Magmoet, Doel Trivedy, Gautam Pandey (Riverbank Studios), Akanksha Sood-Singh, Catherine Nchimbi, Mercy Njobvu, Marie Claire Dusabe, Rufusiah Molefe, Paula Kahumbu, Joy O (Wildlife Direct), Robin McGahey, Matt Milios (Vulcan Productions) and Danielle Cales and Will Thompson (National Geographic Society).

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

NOMAZULU MDA

National Film & Video Foundation, HOD



"The film industry is forever evolving, and practitioners are also finding ways to do things better. One cannot ignore the amazing work that went into putting together an interactive, engaging, and relevant virtual festival like the NEWF team did. The best part was the ability to make us feel so connected even though we were far apart. I have a recollection of a distinct feeling of being underwater, a unique testimony of how the VR transported me to location. Hats off to the team. The NFVF prides itself on being able to support progressive festivals in the local audio-visual sector. It is even more exciting when the results in so world-class especially during the crazy times of COVID-19. The NEWF team showed the ability to stretch boundaries of creativity during a trying time; thus, cementing reasons to continue striving to reach more audiences in South Africa and abroad and spread the love for SA Film".

CAROL GOETZEE

KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission, CEO

"Wildlife, nature and conservation filmmaking is without a doubt a form of activism and has with it the potential to be an incredible tool to inspire conservation and also increase tourism in our province. In a year that's been characterized by a vigorous awakening to all of kinds of socio-political injustices and the global activism towards racial inequalities, Gender Based Violence, Farm murders and it is an honour for the KZN Film Commission to again support the NEWF Congress. The KZN Film Commission has been part of the NEWF Congress from its inception, and have been able to witness it growth from strength to strength!"



03

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

NTHABELENG PHORA

Gauteng Film Commission, Industry Development



"NEWF Congress 2020 wasn't a Virtual Festival but an experience which demonstrated potential and reality of the future. The congress delivered an extraordinary festival that reached audiences within the continent.

Virtual reality was able to engross and develop audiences young and old, encouraging household involvement and talking beyond the congress on the importance of Nature, Environment and Wildlife preservation. In my view the NEWF community was certainly re-imagined."

KAITLIN YARNALL

National Geographic Society, Chief Storytelling Officer & SVP

"The NEWF team has always been innovative. They've consistently created a space that's unique, inclusive, and warm, which is not easy to do in the often-competitive film industry. The fact that they managed to accomplish that again this year in a virtual setting should be applauded. The National Geographic Society is proud to partner with them."



PROGRAMME AND SPEAKERS

SUNDAY | 25 OCT SCHEDULE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT+2)

- 14:30 | NETWORKING WATERING HOLE
 - 15:30 | OPENING ADDRESS | NOMAZULU MDA, NPVF AMPHITHEATRE
 - 16:15 | WELCOME & THE YEAR GONE BY AMPHITHEATRE
 - 17:30 | KEY NOTE: STORIES OF HOPE | KADDU SEBUNYA, CEO AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION GORONGOSA
 - 18:15 | TIES THAT BIND SESSION FILMS CINEMA
 - 19:00 | STORIES OF HOPE | TIES THAT BIND AMPHITHEATRE
 - 21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
- #NEWF2020 | @NEWFCONGRESS

MONDAY | 26 OCT SCHEDULE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT+2)

- 12:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
 - 14:00 | THE N.E.W PITCH DRAKENSBURG WORKSHOP ROOM
 - 16:30 | INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL MODEL AMPHITHEATRE
 - 18:00 | IN CONVERSATION WITH BILL GARDNER | PBS GRAND TETONS
 - 19:30 | HOW DID THEY DO THAT? GORONGOSA
 - 21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
- ALL DAY | CINEMA BACKYARD WILDERNESS
- #NEWF2020 | @NEWFCONGRESS

TUESDAY | 27 OCT SCHEDULE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT+2)

- 12:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
 - 14:00 | THE N.E.W PITCH GRAND TETONS WORKSHOP 4
 - 15:30 | NEW PERSPECTIVES: ILLUSTRATION AMPHITHEATRE
 - 16:30 | NEW PERSPECTIVES: SHARK ATTACK AMPHITHEATRE
 - 19:30 | PHEFULMA SCREENING & Q & A WATERING HOLE
 - 21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
 - 12:30 | PHEFULMA CINEMA
 - 15:00 | HOW DID THEY DO THAT? WORKSHOP NOT IN VR | ZOOM
 - 18:00 | SHORTFORM AMPHITHEATRE
- #NEWF2020 | @NEWFCONGRESS

WEDNESDAY | 28 OCT SCHEDULE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT+2)

- 12:00 | SHOOTING FOR THE EDIT DISTASSI WORKSHOP 1
 - 12:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
 - 13:00 | COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AMPHITHEATRE
 - 14:00 | THE N.E.W PITCH DRAKENSBURG | WORKSHOP 3
 - 15:30 | NEW PERSPECTIVES: PODCASTING AMPHITHEATRE
 - 17:00 | WILD WOMEN MEDIA LAB SHOWCASE + Q & A AMPHITHEATRE
 - 19:00 | IN CONVERSATION WITH JARED LIPWORTH | HSMI TANGLED BANK STUDIOS GORONGOSA | WORKSHOP 2
 - 20:30 | THE POWER OF SCIENCE STORYTELLING AMPHITHEATRE
 - 21:30 | NETWORKING & FILM SCREENING WATERING HOLE
 - 21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
- ALL DAY | CINEMA NATURES FEAR FACTOR WILD WOMEN MEDIA LAB
- #NEWF2020 @NEWFCONGRESS

THURSDAY | 29 OCT SCHEDULE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT+2)

- ALL DAY | BAHARI YETU, PENG YU SAI, THE FIREFOX GUARDIAN, WILDLIFE WARRIORS CINEMA
 - 12:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
 - 14:00 | THE N.E.W PITCH DRAKENSBURG | WORKSHOP 1
 - 15:30 | PARTNERSHIPS | BEYOND WEATHER AMPHITHEATRE
 - 16:30 | BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE FIELD AMPHITHEATRE
 - 18:00 | DOCUMENTING EXTINCTION AMPHITHEATRE
 - 19:30 | PAYING IT FORWARD | THE POWER OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP AMPHITHEATRE
 - 21:30 | NETWORKING & THE NARRATOR PROJECT WATERING HOLE
 - 21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
- #NEWF2020 | @NEWFCONGRESS

FRIDAY | 30 OCT SCHEDULE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT+2)

- ALL DAY | N.E.W PITCH 2019 FILMS CINEMA
 - 12:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
 - 13:00 | AFRICAN DILEMMA WATERING HOLE
 - 14:00 | IMPACT THROUGH IMMERSION | 360 STORYTELLING AMPHITHEATRE
 - 15:30 | IN CONVERSATION WITH JESSIE SPRINGER | NAT GEO SHARKFEST AMPHITHEATRE
 - 16:30 | WATERBEAR AMPHITHEATRE
 - 18:00 | MY OCTOPUS TEACHER | LESSONS FROM THE GREAT AFRICAN SEA FOREST AMPHITHEATRE
 - 19:30 | N.E.W PITCH 2019 FILM SHOWCASE & AWARDS 2020 WATERING HOLE
 - 21:30 | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK TOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
- #NEWF2020 | @NEWFCONGRESS

#NEWF2020

//SESSIONS & SPEAKERS

STATE OF THE CONTINENT ADDRESS



MR KADDU SEBUNYA
CEO AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS



NOMAZULU MDA
NATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO FOUNDATION

STORIES OF HOPE | TIES THAT BIND



KAITLIN YARNALL
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



TARA ROBERTS
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FELLOW



SANDESH KADUR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER



THANDIWE MWEETWA
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BUILDING ON A SUCCESSFUL MODEL



TAKALANI MULAUDZI
TSHEDZA MEDIA



NTHABEENG PHORA
GAUTENG FILM COMMISSION



YOLANDA NCOKOTWANA
NATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO FOUNDATION



THANDO SHOZI
SABC



KIRSTEN HORNE
5050



TEBOHO PIETERSEN
KWAZULU-NATAL FILM COMMISSION

IN CONVERSATION WITH **BILL GARDNER** | PBS



BILL GARDNER
VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAMMING & DEVELOPMENT
PBS

HOW DID THEY DO THAT?



BRETT KUXHAUSEN
CINEMATOGRAPHER



GAUTEM PANDEY
RIVERBANK STUDIOS



INDYA MITRA
POST PRODUCTION | HHMI
TANGLED BANK STUDIOS

NEW PERSPECTIVES ILLUSTRATION



NIRUPA RAO
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FELLOW



CHIEF NYAMWEYA
ILLUSTRATOR
FREE HAND STUDIOS



POOJA GUPTA
MULTIMEDIA ARTIST



MANUEL AKATSA
CINEMATOGRAPHER & 3D MODELER

NEW PERSPECTIVES SHARK ATTACK



**SIMANGELE
MSWELI**
WILDOCEANS



**SANDILE
NTULI**
WILDOCEANS



**TEMBISA
JORDAAN**
EZEMVELO KZN
WILDLIFE

OPPORTUNITIES IN SHORTFORM



**MANON
VERCHOT**
MONGABAY



**KAMSCILLA
NAIDOO**
OTT

PHEFUMLA SCREENING + Q & A



**TAKALANI
MULAUDZI**
NEWF LAB FELLOW



**MAISHE
MOSALA**
NEWF LAB FELLOW



**LOYISO
DUNGA**
NEWF LAB FELLOW



**FIONA
TANDE**
NEWF LAB FELLOW



**JOLENE
VAN ANTWERP**
NEWF LAB FELLOW



**DUNCAN
TILLEY**
NEWF LAB FELLOW

SHOOTING FOR THE EDIT WORKSHOP



**CANDICE
ODGERS**
S.A.G.E
THINK LEMONADE
PRODUCTIONS



**JOLENE
VAN ANTWERP**
HABITAT XR



**PIPPA
EHRlich**
SEA CHANGE
PROJECT



**SUSAN
SCOTT**
SDB FILMS

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION



**CATHERINE
NCHIMBI**
AFRICAN PEOPLE
AND WILDLIFE



**SHALEENA
PHINYA**
SINGCHUNG BUGUN
VILLAGE COMMUNITY
RESERVE



**NANDINI
VELHO**
WILDLIFE
BIOLOGIST



**TEMBISA
JORDAAN**
EZEMVELO KZN
WILDLIFE

NEW PERSPECTIVES PODCASTING



**YOLANDA
MOGATUSI**
1000 HUGS
FILMS



**GARETH
CLIFF**
CLIFF CENTRAL



**REKHA
MURTHY**
PROFESSIONAL
PODCAST STRATEGIST



**AMY
COSTELLO**
THE NONPROFIT
QUARTERLY

WILD WOMEN MEDIA LAB FILM SHOWCASE + Q & A



**JANADO
CHER**
GORONGOSA
NATIONAL PARK



**MERCY
NJOBVU**
VETERINARY STUDENT



**CANDICE ANN
LORTAN**
MARINE BIOLOGIST



**NONHLE
MNGADI**
EZEMLVELO KZN
WILDLIFE



**MARIE CLAIRE
DUŠABE**
RWANDA WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



**NORAH
ROTICH**
INDEPENDENT
PHOTOGRAPHER



**BONGEKA
MAKABENI**
SANPARKS
PHOTOGRAPHER



**CATHERINE
NCHIMBI**
AFRICAN PEOPLE
AND WILDLIFE



**SIMANGELE
SITHOLE**
EZEMLVELO KZN
WILDLIFE



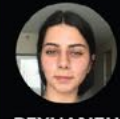
**RACHEL
IKEMEH**
SW/NIGER DELTA
FOREST PROJECT

IN CONVERSATION WITH **JARED LIPWORTH** | HHMI TANGLED BANK STUDIOS



JARED LIPWORTH
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & HEAD OF OUTREACH AND IMPACT
HHMI TANGLED BANK STUDIOS

THE POWER OF SCIENCE STORYTELLING



**REYHANEH
MAKTOOFI**
GBH/NOVA



**ANAND
VARMA**
ANAND VARMA
PHOTOGRAPHY



**PAULA
KAHUMBU**
WILDLIFE DIRECT/
WILDLIFE WARRIORS

BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE FIELD



**RACHAEL
STRECHER**
NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY



**CHLOE
SAROSH**
WILDSTAR
FILMS



**MANUEL
AKATSA**
CINEMATOGRAPHER/
3D MODELER



**FAITH
MUSEMBI**
PRODUCER/
FAMUS FILMS



**KIKI
NG'OK**
FIELD READY
MENTEE

DOCUMENTING EXTINCTION



**MALAIIKA
VAZ**
UNTAMED
PLANET



**GUNJAN
MENON**
DIRECTOR/
CINEMATOGRAPHER



**RU
MAHONEY**
IMPACT
PRODUCER



**PAULA
KAHUMBU**
WILDLIFE DIRECT/
WILDLIFE WARRIORS

PAYING IT FORWARD | THE POWER OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP



**TRACEY-LEE
RAINERS**
STORY OASIS



**NADINE
CLOETE**
MA'ENGERE FILM
PRODUCTIONS



**TSHEGO
KHANYILE**
ZINC PICTURES



**PAMELA
AGUILAR**
PBS



**JACQUELINE
FARMER**
NATURE THROUGH
HER EYES

AFRICAN DILEMMA



**NOEL
KOK**
NEWF



**PAULA
KAHUMBU**
WILDLIFE DIRECT/
WILDLIFE WARRIORS

IMPACT THROUGH IMMERSION | 360 FILMMAKING



**ULRICO
GRECH-CUMBO**
HABITAT XR



**RAM
ALLURI**
WILDLIFE
CAMERAMAN



**DOEL
TRIVEDY**
RIVERBANK
STUDIOS



**GAUTAM
PANDEY**
RIVERBANK
STUDIOS

TALKING NAT GEO SHARK FEST WITH GRAEME DUANE



GRAEME DUANE
EARTH TOUCH

THE WATERBEAR NETWORK



SAM SUTARIA
HEAD OF STRATEGY
WATERBEAR NETWORK

MY OCTOPUS TEACHER | LESSONS FROM THE GREAT AFRICAN SEA FOREST



**PAULA
KAHUMBU**
WILDLIFE DIRECT/
WILDLIFE WARRIORS



**SWATI
FOSTER**
SEACHANGE
PROJECT

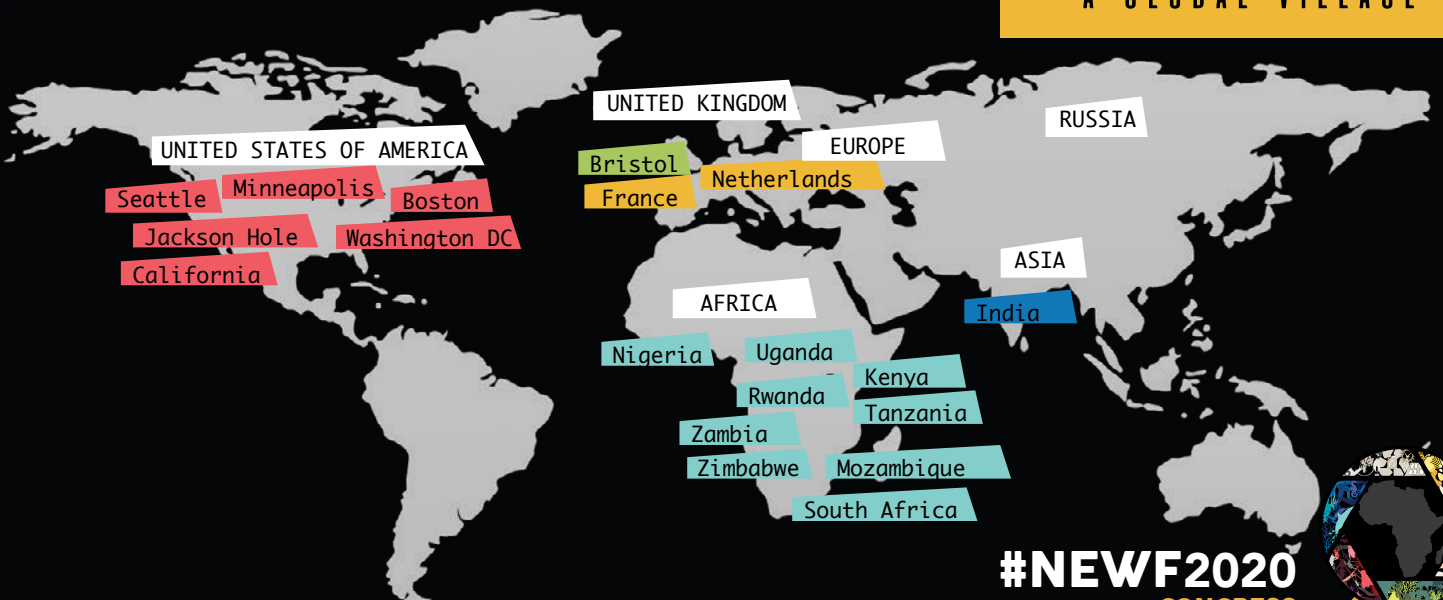


**PIPPA
EHRlich**
SEACHANGE
PROJECT



**LOYISO
DUNGA**
MARINE
BIOLOGIST

A GLOBAL VILLAGE



#NEWF2020
CONGRESS



05

N.E.W PITCH FELLOWSHIP

WATCH THIS VIDEO!



The N.E.W Pitch is dedicated to

DISCOVERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NATURE, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE FILMMAKERS!

Targeted towards emerging and student filmmakers The N.E.W Pitch Competition is an opportunity to win a production grant of R 50 000 (+/- \$3500) to produce a documentary short. The project includes pitching workshops and mentorship by industry professionals throughout the development & production process.

This year, the NEWF team made the decision to change the name from the N.E.W Pitch Competition to the N.E.W Pitch Fellowship. Beyond the programme that the winners participate in, we are also establishing development opportunities for the finalists.

A call for submissions detailing specific guidelines was publicised prior to the hosting of the congress. The submissions go through two rounds of preliminary judging before the finalists are selected. From the entries received 10 finalists are selected to pitch live during the Congress before a judging panel. Five winners were chosen to each receive the production grant for the production of their documentary short.

The aim is to pitch engaging, innovative and inspirational natural history, environmental and conservation stories. The winning filmmakers are required to produce their short films within a year.

Importantly, the objective is to provide these emerging filmmakers and storytellers with the necessary skills-set to ultimately produce documentary shorts, features and series on their own and with collaborative partnerships.

The finalists were each given 5 minutes to pitch their project before an esteemed judging panel and the congress delegates, followed by a 5 minute Q & A with the judges.

The finalists pitched in VR as avatars! Each day of pitching took place in a funder branded Workshop Room!

Final Judging took place on Zoom.

N.E.W PITCH

PITCHING WORKSHOP



Connecting on Zoom

Gatimu

Based on the success of the workshop hosted in 2018 and 2019, we prepared the N.E.W Pitch finalists a Pitching Workshop a week prior to congress. The 2 day workshop, hosted this year on Zoom whilst balancing multiple global time zones was attended by all 10 finalists and was facilitated by industry experts, Independent producer & NEWF Mentor, Yolanda Mogatusi and Love Nature Executive Producer, James Manfull. Each facilitator provided insight from their particular perspective on how best to improve the finalists pitching skills and storytelling in preparation for the live pitch. Each finalist was given the opportunity to pitch their project and receive feedback from the mentors as well as peer feedback from the group.

The finalists found the workshop extremely beneficial.

N.E.W PITCH 2020 FINALISTS

Katie Biggar - *Grassland* | South Africa
Samson Moyo - *Reformed* | Zambia
Mpho Motsoane - *Mother Earth's Child* | South Africa
Brian Gatimu - *The Future of Conservation is Here* | Kenya
Makhosi Khuzwayo - *The Paddler* | South Africa
Kennedy Gitau - *I am Mbogo* | Kenya
Bill Afwani - *Nungunungu* | Kenya
Matshepo Khumalo - *Perserverance* | South Africa
Tshepiso Tjeeke - *Human Being Mushroom* | South Africa
Anthony Onyango - *Forest Guardian* | Kenya

N.E.W PITCH

JUDGES



LISA SAMFORD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JACKSON WILD



PAMELA AGUILAR
SENIOR DIRECTOR | PROGRAMMING
& DEVELOPMENT
PBS



YOLANDA NCOKOTWANA
HEAD OF INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
NFVF



VANESSA SERRAO
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
IMPACT MEDIA



THANDO SHOZI
HEAD OF FACTUAL
SABC





NEWF
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 gfc
 PBS

THE N.E.W PITCH

BILL AFWANI JONES
 N.E.W PITCH FINALIST

#NEWF2020 | #NEWFCONGRESS

NEWF
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 gfc
 PBS

PBS

NEWF CONGRESS

#NEWF2020

THE N.E.W PITCH

BRIAN GATIMU
 N.E.W PITCH FINALIST

#NEWF2020 | #NEWFCONGRESS

KWAZULU-NATAL
 FILM COMMISSION
 SOUTH AFRICA

OUR KINDNESS IS YOUR STAGE

Outline

gfc

NEWF CONGRESS

Pitching in VR

NEWF
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 gfc
 PBS

THE DEDROPHILIA
 A MAN WHOSE HEART IS THE FOREST

A story of a 41-year-old man called Sezi who is committed and passionate about forests. His passion goes beyond his personal challenges and those of the forest. He plans to retire, but with the increase of forest fires around the world he has committed another 10 years to train young farmers and continue to support conservation of the 391 hectares of forest that is now home of up to 60 Chimpanzees.

NEWF
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 gfc
 PBS
 hml Tangled Bank Studios

N.E.W PITCH WINNERS



*Final Judging
on
Zoom*



06

THE NARRATOR PROJECT

WATCH THIS VIDEO!



Through the Narrator Project we're adding **DIVERSE VOICES** to the narration of nature & wildlife documentaries!

Launched at #NEWF2019 with



A call was announced for entries into the Narrator Project - a call for diverse authentic African voices. In partnership with Safari Live, entrants were all provided with the same video clip and script. Entrants were required to voice the script over the video clip provided & submit. Over 150 entries from around Africa were received and underwent 2 rounds of preliminary judging. The Narrator Project was hosted on Thursday 29th October at the Watering Hole where the evening was opened by Nthabeleng Phora of the Gauteng Film Commission. Emily Wallington of WildEarth talked to the success of 2019 winner, Pulane Sekepe.

The Narrator Project is supported by WildEarth.

NARRATOR FINALISTS

Omolemo Nthathe
South Africa | Gauteng
Tumisang Mothei
Botswana | Gabarone
Vusi Lesetedi
Botswana | Gabarone
Themba Behrens
South Africa | Gauteng
Aurelie Stratton
South Africa | Gauteng

NARRATOR PROJECT

JUDGES



NTHABELENG PHORA
INDUSTRY SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT
GAUTENG FILM COMMISSION



EMILY WALLINGTON
DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER
WILDEARTH



TEBOHO PIETERSON
PRODUCTION ANALYST
KZN FILM COMMISSION



KWAZULU-NATAL
FILM COMMISSION
SOUTH AFRICA

• OUR KINGDOM IS YOUR STAGE •



ANDREW SOLOMON
FORMER HEAD OF
NATURAL HISTORY | ORF

Finalists are judged on:

- Tone
- Delivery
- Diversity of Voice
- Storytelling Journey

And this we also encouraged delegate engagement by including an **audience vote!**



NARRATOR PROJECT

WINNERS



The Narrator Project Showcase



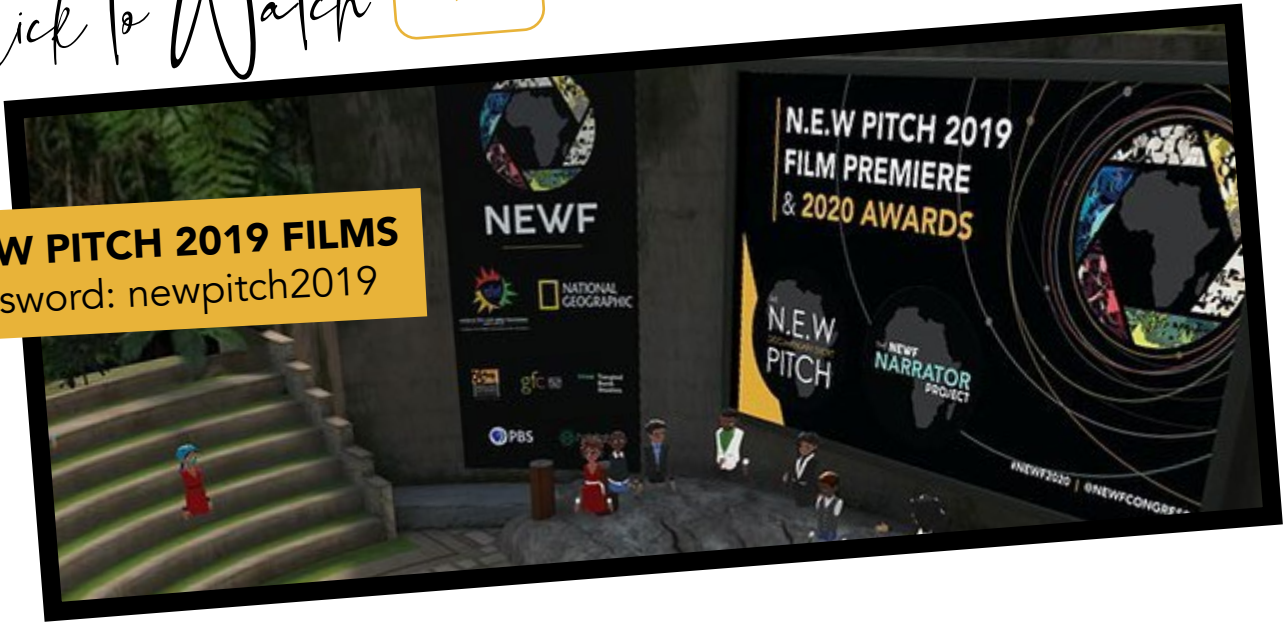
NEWF was honoured partner with National Geographic Society and host the highly acclaimed National Geographic Photo Ark in Virtual Reality. This exhibition was hosted for the first time in virtual world in an underground cave resembling the Cradle of Humankind but living on Boulders Beach! Photo Ark uses the power of photography to inspire people to help save species at risk before it's too late. Founder and photographer Joel Sartore has taken portraits of 10,531 species — and counting — in his quest to document our world's astonishing diversity! He's over half way to his goal of documenting all of the approximately 15,000 species living in the world's zoos and wildlife sanctuaries. A #NEWF2020 highlight included Joel Sartore himself visiting the first ever National Geographic Photo Ark in VR!



NEWF LAB FILM SHOWCASES

Click to Watch 

N.E.W PITCH 2019 FILMS
Password: newpitch2019



PHEFUMLA BTS + FILM



WILD WOMEN MEDIA LAB
Password: WWML2020



AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

VIRTUAL MEETS REALITY

NEWF partnered with 50I50 to air all 2019 N.E.W Pitch Films on national television! The broadcasts started in September, with the 7th film broadcast on the pen-ultimate episode of the season! 50I50 is South Africa's longest running nature and conservation television series! Each young filmmaker was paid an industry level license fee for their film.

Viewership statistics will be received once the Production Company receives these from SABC 2.

A further broadcast and media partnership was achieved with People's Weather Channel, DSTV 108 and OpenView Channel 115. People's Weather is Africa's first and only 24/7 weather, environmental news and lifestyle channel, People's Weather for a NEWF Short Film Festival. People's Weather Strives to make Africa's nature more inclusive for all. Focusing on our affinity and connectedness with nature to tell impactful stories with insightful narratives. Using weather, which connects us all, as the conversation starter. The Channel has broadcast all N.E.W Pitch films, NEWF Lab (Underwater and Wild Women Media Lab) in as NEWF Short Film Festival. The festival coincided with the the NEWF Congress and has also had a rerun in November and December 2020.

NEWF Films will also be added for 28 days to DSTV CatchUp Plus as a result of this growing partnership with People's Weather.

COMMUNITY STARTS AT HOME

We were blown away by the photos and comments of delegates family members - children, parents, grandparents experiencing NEWF2020 in VR!

See NEWF2020 photos from delegates here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/npwihyl3vn6n5cx/AABHa55BXZQH17ITJRRj0x8Da?dl=0>

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

We all know COVID-19 has been a challenging time for us all BUT we used the time to think about how we could re-imagine what we do without losing the sense of community that the Congress has become known for... and so #NEWF2020 Community Re-imagined was born!

One of the greatest challenges which is also a key learning is that people across the world cannot fully commit time in this current climate as working from home and going away for a week long conference is no longer required. This means that as event planners we need to be more flexible and adaptable in how we host.

The need to rely on technology and strong WiFi is often a problem in Africa. Pre-loaded headsets with content worked really well and is something we need to look into further.

The delaying of Congress due to headset availability brought upon additional staffing costs not initially budgeted for.

Receiving the help guide late was problematic for us and our delegates.

Whilst networking is AMAZING and REAL in Social VR a downside is the ability to over hear conversations.

RECOMMENDATIONS & WAY FORWARD

Our sense of community was indeed reimagined and going forward we as NEWF would like to purchase our own headsets that we will use for Labs as well and NEWF Community Cinema and other outreach initiatives at schools.

We are researching other Social VR platforms other than Altspace so that we understand the full Social VR landscape available.

Consider loading more films as well as pre-recorded sessions onto the headsets.

Giving delegates more time to get comfortable with the headset prior to the event as well as providing them with the help guide sooner.

We are compiling a more detailed technical report which will assist with the planning of future events in VR!

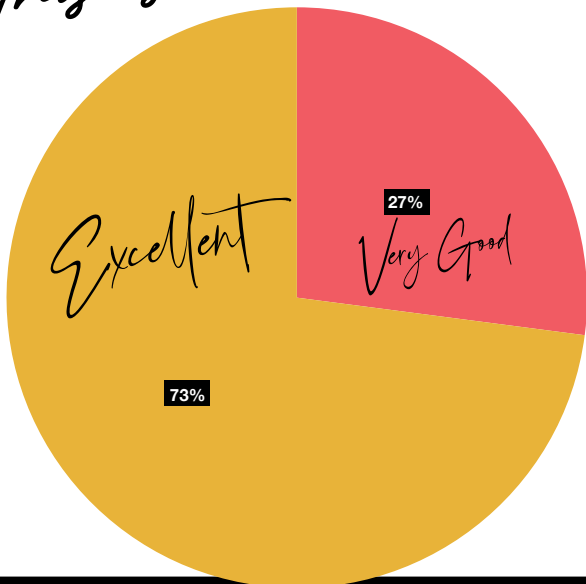
Always be innovative!

DELEGATE STATISTICS

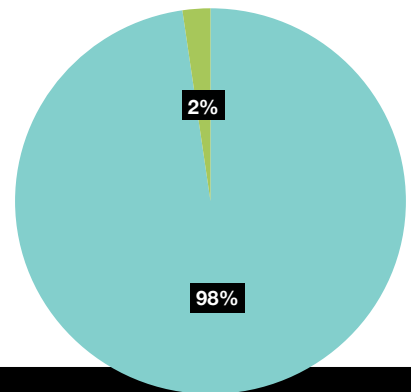


#NEWF2020 REGISTERED DELEGATES: 277

This is what they thought ...



OVERALL RATING



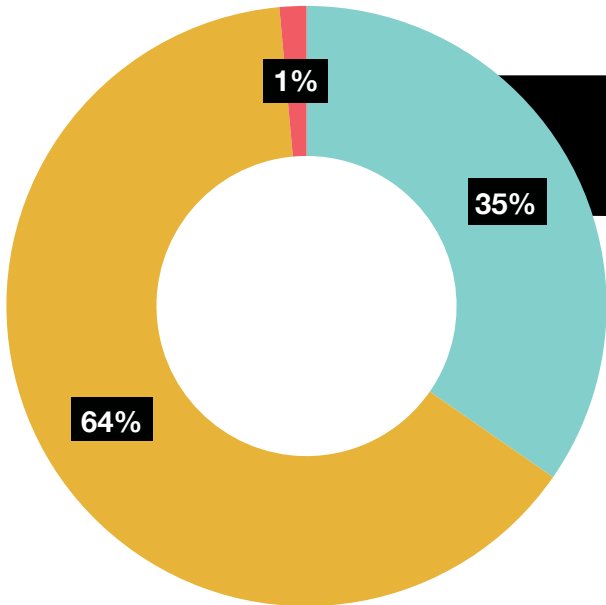
Would you attend NEWF in VR Again?

- YES
- ONLY ON DESKTOP

**DID YOU FEEL THE NEWF IDENTITY?
WAS OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY REIMAGINED?**



DELEGATE STATISTICS

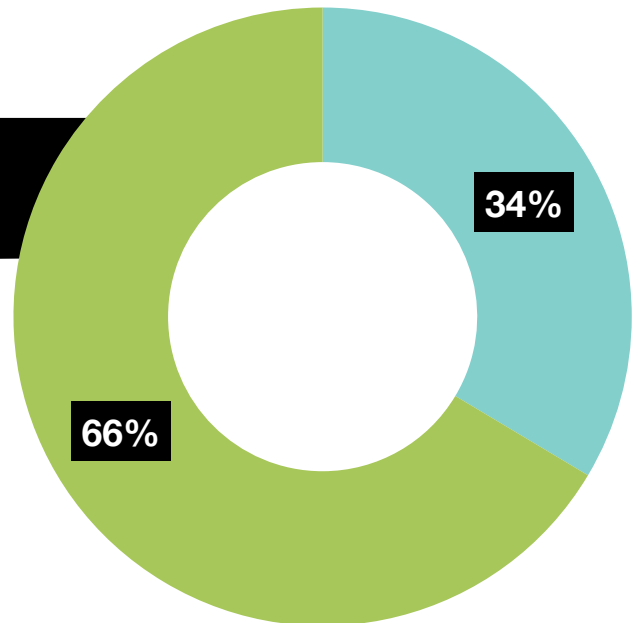


DELEGATE RACE BREAKDOWN

- BLACK (ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN TERMS)
- WHITE
- OTHER

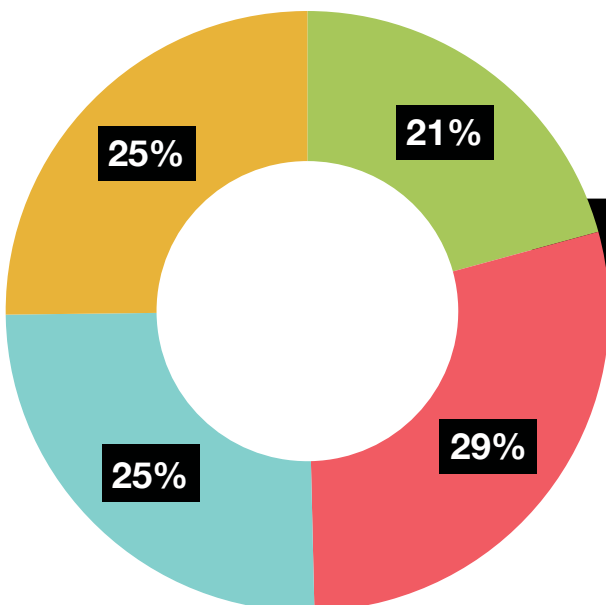
DELEGATE GENDER BREAKDOWN

- FEMALE
- MALE



DELEGATE EXPERIENCE BREAKDOWN

- EMERGING / STUDENT
- PROFESSIONAL
- CONSERVATIONIST/SCIENTIST
- OTHER (Government, Media, Distributors, Funders etc)

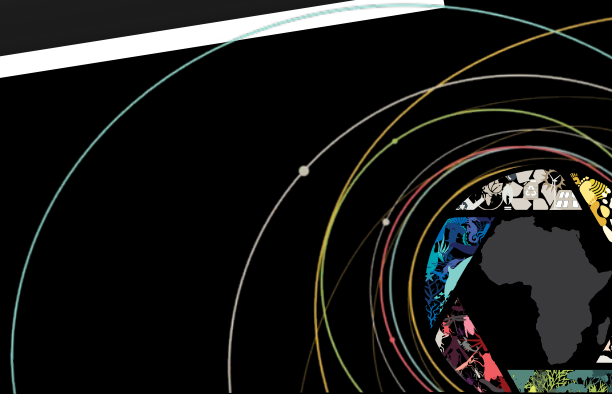


We leave you with this



THE BEST!

THANK YOU @NEWFCONGRESS & @HABITATXR FOR PROVIDING US WITH THESE OPPORTUNITIES.



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THE VISION CONTINUES

#STORIES OF HOPE

#NEWF2020 - Our signature event the NEWF Congress was truly a community re-imagined where we found a common voice, celebrated unity, discovered and diversified - delegates engaged, networked, connected and contributed, building meaningful partnerships, sharing stories of hope and growing an industry.

We thank our mentors who commit time and passion to developing this industry, empowering minds and increasing the professional skills of the next generation of nature environment and wildlife filmmakers in Africa.

Thank you to our funders who have committed to our journey - creating a path to conservation through film and more importantly discovering, developing and amplifying the next generation of storytellers, change agents, filmmakers and digital media content creators.

This year we also introduced a new award... The NEWF Rising Star Award in partnership with Jackson Wild, which celebrates an individual who is making waves in this growing industry.

We look to the future to create more initiative using the power of technology and the right partners to make a positive measurable change on this planet we call home.

#NEWF2021 strives to be even more INNOVATIVE! Here we go... BEYOND 2020!

#COMMUNITY REIMAGINED

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