

NATURE

media information



PBS

thirteen
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***A WORLD WITHOUT FROGS?
A REAL LIFE WHO DONE IT UNFOLDS IN NATURE'S
FROGS: THE THIN GREEN LINE***

There is an environmental crisis unfolding in our own backyard as well as around the globe. As the celebration of Earth Day draws near, THIRTEEN's *Nature* series takes an in-depth look at the greatest mass extinction of amphibians since the dinosaurs. Frogs have been on this planet for more than 250 million years and now scientists are struggling to keep them alive. *Nature Frogs: The Thin Green Line*: premieres nationally Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).

Researchers have found evidence that one of the major reasons for the loss of one-third of our amphibians today stems from a fungus called chytrid. Unfortunately, the experts don't know where it started and don't know how to stop it. What they do know is that it thrives at high altitudes, needs water and requires a host to survive. That host, sadly are the many beautiful species of amphibians the disease destroys.

"Once again we're fortunate to be working with Emmy-Award winning filmmaker, Allison Argo," says Fred Kaufman, executive producer of *Nature*. "Allison is able to craft a powerful story with remarkable footage capturing the intimate details of both life and death of these creatures."

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Frogs sit right in the middle of the food chain causing a tremendous change in the ecosystem affecting fish, water quality, snakes and birds. Because of chytrid we see other creatures disappearing. In Central Panama, biologists have evacuated frogs from the forest in order to save their lives. Today, their facility shelters 58 species of frogs – some of the rarest on earth.

Where there used to be the calls of frogs, scientists now hear only silence, and this silence is traveling from Australia to North and South America. Yet two hours south of the Panama Canal, there is a small patch of forest called Burbayar where frogs live as they have for millions of years. Scientists in Panama are hoping this disease hasn't yet reached this isolated forest. The forest at Burbayar still seems to be healthy with thriving frogs and insects. The question is for how long?

Nature has won more than 450 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities, and environmental organizations – including 10 Emmys, three Peabodys and the first award given to a television program by the Sierra Club. Most recently, the series won a Peabody Award for *Silence of the Bees*.

Nature: Frogs: The Thin Green Line is a production of THIRTEEN and ArgoFilms in association with WNET.ORG for PBS. Award-winning filmmaker Allison Argo is producer, writer, director, and narrator. Available in HD. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer; William Grant is Executive-in-Charge. Major corporate support for *Nature* is provided by Canon U.S.A., Inc. and SC Johnson. Additional support is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the nation's public television stations.

Nature video podcasts, available on iTunes and at *Nature Online* (www.pbs.org/nature), range from two to 10 minutes in length and feature behind-the-scenes interviews with filmmakers and producers, program excerpts, and outtakes.

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