WASHINGTON, D.C. – The 21st annual Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital, March 12 through 24, presents 190 documentary, narrative, animated, archival, experimental and children’s films selected to provide fresh perspectives on environmental issues facing our planet. The vital role of rivers and watersheds in the global environment is a special theme of the 2013 Festival, which features cinematic work from 50 countries and 110 Washington, D.C., United States and world premieres. Some 196 filmmakers and special guests will discuss their work at the Festival.

The Washington, D.C. premiere of acclaimed director Terrence Malick’s latest film, To the Wonder, an exploration of love featuring spectacular cinematography of the natural world and starring Ben Affleck, is a Festival highlight. Two World Cinema Grand Jury Prize-winning films from 2013 Sundance Film Festival: A River Changes Course, about the effects of globalization on Cambodia’s environment and people, and Jiseul, a harrowing Korean war story, also have their Washington, D.C. premieres in the Festival.

The world premiere of Hot Water, exposing the toxic effects of uranium mining in the American West, with former Congressman Dennis Kucinich, who is featured in the film, and filmmaker Elizabeth Kucinich, opens the Festival. The film, Harmony, highlighting the efforts of HRH Prince Charles to develop a more sustainable and harmonious relationship with the planet, is the winner of the Festival’s annual Polly Krakora Award for artistry in film. Canadian filmmaker and environmental activist Rob Stewart presents his latest film, Revolution, empowering youth to save the natural world and humanity itself.

The Festival’s focus on rivers encompasses films that explore the ecological importance and threats to the world’s rivers, including the Rhine, the Amazon, the Mekong, the Ganges, the Lena, the Colorado, the Willamette, the Yellowstone and our local D.C. rivers, the Potomac and the Anacostia.

Films heralding the upcoming Smithsonian exhibition, “Earth Matters: Land as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa,” profile Jane Goodall and explore the struggles of farmers, fishermen, lions and bonobos in Africa today. Classic films shot by John Huston in Africa address themes that are still relevant.
An Evening with James Prosek features the film, *Picture the Leviathan*, about the life and work of this artist, writer and naturalist, called “the Audubon of the 21st century,” for his paintings of threatened fish. Other films examine the state of our planet’s oceans and fisheries and the new era of ocean stewardship.


*Daughters of the Dust*, the first film by an African American woman to receive general theatrical release, chronicles an African-American family’s leave-taking as they prepare to move north from their island home in South Carolina in search of a better life.


Two 3D films are among 31 films geared to children and families: *Meerkats 3D*, about tiny mammals that survive in the harsh Kalahari Desert, and, in IMAX, *Titans of the Ice Age 3D*, transporting viewers to the frozen landscapes of North America, Europe and Asia ten thousand years before modern civilization.

Beijing’s battle with waste, the art of falconry, the global Transition Movement, the wild Alaska Peninsula, the downside of carbon offsets, the life and times of Adrian Cowell, the birds of Central Park, the environmental and health dangers of aluminum, foraging for mushrooms and Venice’s battle with the sea are among additional topics explored in the 2013 Festival. Selections from international Festivals, including the Matsalu Nature Film Festival in Estonia, the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival and the 2012 Wildscreen Film Festival in England will also be shown.

Celebrating 21 years of environmental film in Washington in 2013, the Environmental Film Festival is the preeminent showcase for films on environmental subjects in the United States. Presented in collaboration with over 100 local, national and global organizations, the Festival is one of the largest collaborative cultural events in the nation’s capital. Films are screened this year at 75 venues throughout the greater Washington area, including museums, embassies, universities, libraries and local theaters. Most films are free.

For the complete schedule, visit the Festival Web site, [www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org](http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org). Photos are available on our Web site under the press section or by email from info@envirofilmfest.org. To receive a printed film program, sign up for our mailing list on the Web site, email us at info@envirofilmfest.org or call 202-342-2564.