



4pm update

Arkive sets sail on the web

Ashley Davies
Tuesday May 20, 2003

The Wildscreen Trust has set up what it says is the world's only centralised and publicly available online collection of pictures and videos of endangered species.

The Bristol-based wildlife organisation has so far spent £3m collating 5,000 images and accompanying videos and information on 3,000 web pages for the site, called Arkive.

Its aim is to provide information for people doing academic research, school work, or simply trying to find out more about extinct or threatened species. In some instances, the pictures on the site are the only visual record of some rare or extinct animals.

With films and photographs scattered around the world or housed in dark libraries, access to them would otherwise be restricted or impossible, say the organisers. The Arkive team wanted to preserve their value for now and the future.

Sir David Attenborough, who is supporting the project, said in a statement: "Over the past few decades a vast treasury of wildlife images has been steadily accumulating, yet no one has known its full extent - or its gaps - and no one has had a comprehensive way of getting access to it. This will become an invaluable tool for all concerned with the wellbeing of the natural world."

When the team's researchers were putting together images of the extinct dodo, it occurred to them that because nobody knew what the bird sounded like, the calls of existing, endangered species should also be recorded for the website.

According to the IUCN - the world conservation union - 11,000 species are threatened with extinction.

The website includes the world's only surviving film of the thylacine, an extinct, carnivorous Tasmanian marsupial. The last known shots of the South American golden toad, believed to be extinct, are also included.

There are also unusual images of moments such as brown hares boxing and an otter suckling her cubs. There is a separate section for British animals.

Photograph and film donations have been made by a number of broadcasters and wildlife camera operators, photographers, scientists and wildlife enthusiasts.

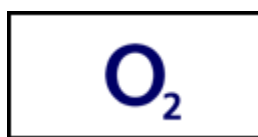
The website - named after Noah's ark - will feature a "most wanted" list of images its creators need. Planet Arkive is a zone for children, and Arkive Education is a resource for educators.

Hewlett Packard has donated £1.3m of hardware, software and technical services to the project, the Heritage Lottery Fund put in £1.6m and the New Opportunities Fund contributed £500,000.

Useful links

[Arkive](#)
[Planet Arkive](#)
[Arkive Education](#)

Search this site

**Europeans spend
3 times more on
ice cream**

In this section

[Chicken farmers reintroduce growth drugs despite public fear](#)

[Decision day looms over cultural crown that promises riches](#)

[Speeding charge for ambulance driver sets test case](#)

[Refugee sews up his lips, eyes and ears](#)

[Fry pitches Waugh's 'kind of morgue comedy'](#)

[Bell berates media giants for warmongering words](#)

[Museums could help run state secondary schools](#)

[Domestic violence register to alert women to dangerous partners](#)

[Merseyside needs the Glasgow effect](#)

[Questions remain over growth drugs in chicken](#)

[Cycle groups attack road safety 'skull' campaign to shock youngsters](#)

[Cancer patients forced to wait months for scans](#)

[Pratchett backs academy for gifted teens](#)

[One in 20 new mothers may suffer post traumatic stress disorder](#)

In brief

['Untreatable' Broadmoor patient goes to jail](#)

[Printable version](#) | [Send it to a friend](#) | [Save story](#)

Daily sections Weekly sections 