



The United Nations General Assembly has designated 2011 as the International Year of Forests, with the theme "Forests for People".

Countries around the globe, including Brazil and New Zealand, have been organizing events to mark this special occasion and to enhance people's awareness of the importance of conservation and sustainable development of the world's forests.

One of the events was the International Forest Film Festival:  
<http://www.jhfestival.org/forestfestival/index.htm>

As part of the celebrations, the NZ International Year of Forests Coordination Committee, in collaboration with the Embassy of Brazil, has the pleasure of inviting you to see a selection of four films featured at the International Forest Film Festival and two forest related documentaries from the Embassy's library.

All screenings are FREE to the public and will start at 5.30 pm. (please read "important information" regarding reservations & access to building)

See programme and synopses below:

### **Thursday, 17 November**

#### **THE QUEEN OF TREES** (overall festival winner)

52 minutes

Deeble & Stone Productions, NHK (Japanese Broadcasting Corp.), Thirteen/WNET, BBC, Granada International, and ZDF in association with Kenya Wildlife Service

The beauty of Africa's wilderness sometimes depends on the most delicate relationships. A close look at how one creature's behaviour starts off a critical chain of events, uncovers an incredible tale of drama and intrigue. Competing for the title of 'nature's oddest couple,' the sycamore fig tree and the miniscule fig wasp share a curious and important co-dependency—a relationship whose influence extends out widely across the African bush and supports hundreds of plants and animals. Shot with extraordinary care and patience, the film reveals a surprising tale of survival within the microcosm of a single fig. The filmmakers spent more than two years documenting the intimate details of fig wasps living, mating and dying inside figs. Despite being one of the smallest creatures, this story of the wasps proves to be as large as the grandeur of Africa itself.

#### **THE MUSIC TREE** (part of the Embassy's collection)

78 min

Direction & Screenplay: Otavio Juliano. Interface Filmes & North Produções.

Listed as one of the plant species threatened with extinction by the Brazilian Environmental Institute (IBAMA), Brazilwood has been vital in the making of fine violin bows and other musical instruments ever since Mozart. From the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest to major theatres throughout Europe, the documentary explores the path to saving the tree for which Brazil was named and the music that depends on it.

*The documentary has received the first annual Polly Krakora Award for artistry in film at the Washington DC Environmental Film Festival, amongst many other prizes in festivals in Brazil and overseas .*

## Wednesday, 30 November

### **TRIBAL LIFE: MEET THE NAMAL JUNGLE SCHOOL**

49 minutes

Natural History New Zealand

The lives, loves and everyday dramas of the Namal tribe from Vanuatu's Tanna Island unfold in this intimate and revealing, funny and touching series that allows audiences to experience life in one of the world's last untouched cultures. At the end of the rainy season, Namal tribes' people launch a number of ambitious construction projects which they use to teach their children traditional skills. Yakel village rivals Tom and Touata are on competing teams racing to build ladders to bypass a dangerous path at a waterfall swimming hole. At Innouloul village, Chief Kuaru commissions a project dear to his heart – a school for custom learning. Cultural leader Bosen and his friend Solomon mastermind the construction of a magnificent schoolhouse in a tree overlooking the village. As whole communities combine their skills in bush architecture, the youngsters learn about jungle life through work as well as fun and games.

### **PIRINOP, MY FIRST CONTACT** (part of the Embassy's collection)

83 minutes

Brazil. Directed and produced by Mari Corrêa & Karané Ikpeng, with the contribution of Kumaré Ikpeng & Natuyu Ikpeng.

In October 1964, the Ikpeng – indigenous people from a remote part of Mato Grosso, Brazil - had their "first contact" with the "white man", who photographed and filmed this historic encounter. This documentary mixes rare footage with images recorded between 2003 and 2007 by the Ikpengs themselves, whilst reenacting and telling the story from their perspective. The film addresses the impact this contact had on their lives and how it continues to affect them to this day.

## Wednesday, 7 December

### **KINGDOM OF THE FOREST** (winner of Living Forests category)

50 minutes

United Kingdom. Parthenon Entertainment, Ltd., Nautilusfilm

Shot in stunning high definition, the film explores the wildlife of Europe's primeval forests. The full range of large and charismatic mammals and birds are captured in Kingdom of the Forest with fascinating insights into hunting, reproduction and other behaviour. Kingdom of the Forest also explores the hidden elements of the woodlands, using long-term time lapse, super slow motion and extreme macro photography. Incredible footage of plant life through the seasons brings the spectacular yearly cycle to life.

### **CLIMBING REDWOOD GIANTS**

49 minutes

National Geographic Television

They are living giants, one of Earth's largest and oldest trees. Some tower more than 350 feet high, taller than the Statue of Liberty; some may have been seedlings when Jesus was born. Yet, these natural legends still shroud centuries-old secrets. Climbing Redwood Giants reveals the little-explored environment of the redwoods using high-tech aerial laser surveys and breathtaking imagery. Humboldt State University's, Steve Sillett, the first researcher to explore the redwood canopy, discovered the canopy contained a hidden world of trees growing within trees, fern gardens growing on soil mats the size of a bus, and a mysterious salamander as top predator. Sillett tallied every speck of biological stuff from ground to crown in one plot of redwood forest. His patch contains more biological material by far than any other measured patch of the planet. As Sillett investigates redwoods up in their towering crowns, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Mike Fay, is charting the entire redwood range on the ground, step by step, on an epic year-long journey to get a sense of the past, and future, of the world's most awe-inspiring living things.

Read more about the International Year of Forests 2011 at:

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/international-forestry/international-year-of-forests-2011.aspx>

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

Since the space at the Embassy is limited to 45 seats, should you wish to join, **please make sure you reserve your seat by either emailing [cultural@brazil.org.nz](mailto:cultural@brazil.org.nz) or calling (04) 473 3521. Please indicate in your message which screenings you wish to attend.**

The films, in DVD format, will be shown on the Embassy's 109" projector screen, at 10 Brandon Street – Deloitte House, Level 9, Wellington CBD. The building automatic doors close at 6 pm, so please make sure you arrive before then. Doors will open at 5.30 pm.

**THE ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THOSE WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THE RESERVATIONS LIST. FOR SECURITY REASONS, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT PHOTO ID BEFORE ENTERING THE EMBASSY.**