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***Nature: Silverback* Explores the Dangers and Dilemmas of Wildlife Habituation in the Congo**

Season 43 premieres on Wednesday, October 23 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#)

Award-winning wildlife cameraman Vianet Djenguet has held a deep spiritual connection with gorillas since he was a child. Witness as he is given the opportunity of a lifetime, to document a grueling but vital mission to habituate a notoriously protective 500-pound silverback, in ***Nature: Silverback***, premiering [Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 8/7c on PBS \(\[check local listings\]\(#\)\)](#), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#).

This observational documentary chronicles a last-ditch effort to save the critically endangered eastern lowland gorillas from extinction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Djenguet (*Nature: My Congo*) joins the park rangers of Kahuzi-Bienga National Park to get close to a wild gorilla troop and document them for three months. With less than 5,000 eastern lowland gorillas left in the wild, the rangers' goal is to create vital income from tourism by habituating a family of 23 gorillas, led by a silverback called Mpungwe, so tourists can safely observe them in the forest. The revenue will not only fund the care and protection of the eastern lowland gorillas but also support the local community in efforts to reduce poaching, deforestation and the spread of disease.

The habituation process is dangerous and unpredictable as the silverback's role is to protect his family from perceived threats. **Nature: Silverback** marks the first time this process has been captured on film and leads Djenguet to wrestle with the dilemma of doing whatever it takes to preserve the subspecies, even at the cost of agitating the silverback. It's an emotional journey that reveals Djenguet's unresolved feelings about traditional masculinity and his own upbringing.

Nature: Silverback is an Off the Fence production for BBC in co-production with France Télévisions in association with Featuristic Films and The WNET Group. The documentary is directed, filmed and edited by Miles Blayden-Ryall. Presented and filmed by Vianet Djenguet. For Off the Fence, Andrew Zikking and Guy Gilbert are Executive Producers. For **Nature**, Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer, Bill Murphy is Series Producer and Janet Hess is Series Editor. **Nature** is a production of The WNET Group.

Series funding for **Nature** is made possible in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Arnhold Family in memory of Henry and Clarisse Arnhold, The Fairweather Foundation, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Kathy Chiao and Ken Hao, Charles Rosenblum, Sarah and Sandra Lyu in memory of Seung and Dorothy Lyu, Colin S Edwards, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, Gregg Peters Monsees Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Sandra Atlas Bass, and public television viewers.

Since 1982, **Nature** has pioneered a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry, bringing the natural world to millions of viewers. The series has won more than 800 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 21 Emmys and three Peabodys. **Nature** is available for streaming concurrently with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. Classic episodes are available on various [FAST channel platforms](#) and on [PBS Passport](#).

Websites:

[pbs.org/nature](https://www.pbs.org/nature); [facebook.com/PBSNature](https://www.facebook.com/PBSNature); twitter.com/PBSNature; [instagram.com/pbsnature](https://www.instagram.com/pbsnature); [youtube.com/naturepbs](https://www.youtube.com/naturepbs), [tiktok.com/@pbsnature](https://www.tiktok.com/@pbsnature), #NaturePBS

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](#), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New

Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series **Nature**, **Great Performances**, **American Masters** and **Amanpour and Company** and trusted local news program **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi**. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series **Cyberchase**, interactive **Mission US** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

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