



# GREEN SCREEN®

Internationales Naturfilmfestival Eckernförde

---

## Press Release

**International Wildlife Film Festival Green Screen Strikes a Positive Balance**

### **Nature Close-Ups on the Big Screen**

Kiel / Eckernförde, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. **The International Wildlife Film Festival Green Screen taking place in Eckernförde in Schleswig-Holstein has confirmed its position as the largest festival of its kind in Germany and is by far the most well-attended in Europe, welcoming 14 500 visitors this year. At the end of the eighth festival on Monday, the organizers struck a positive balance. Viewer interest in top productions in the field of nature and wildlife films and documentaries remains undiminished. These nature films offering a cinematic experience on the big screen attracted thousands of viewers from all over Germany to the town on the Baltic coast from last Thursday until today (Monday).**

Green Screen has also developed into a Mecca of professionals in the field of wildlife film. More than 130 experts – filmmakers, producers and representatives from German and European TV-stations in charge of scheduling – used the festival for sharing expertise and planning new productions. Furthermore, the experts from Germany, other European countries, Canada, Japan, India and South Africa participated in the specialist seminars offered alongside the festival screenings in order to enhance their skills and acquire new information.

The awards presented by Green Screen are renowned trophies, highly coveted by experts in the field. At the festive gala evening with 600 guests, prizes were awarded in 16 categories. The British production „Penguins -Spy in the Huddle“ was honoured as „Best Film“ and the award in the category „Best Camera“ went to the German



# GREEN SCREEN®

Internationales Naturfilmfestival Eckernförde

---

documentary „Wild Australia – Desert of the Red Kangaroo“ by filmmakers Thoralf Grospitz and Jens Westphalen.

This year's festival saw 242 nature film submissions from 35 countries, including first-time entries from Mozambique, Chile and Kyrgyzstan. Exactly 100 film were screened during the five-day festival.

Green Screen is underlining its international character by cooperating with neighbouring Denmark: On September 19<sup>th</sup>, prize-winning films from the festival repertoire will be shown to a public audience in Sonderburg in southern Denmark. This collaboration with partners in Denmark is to be expanded in the years to come.

Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry for the Environment will donate two new awards to Green Screen for next year's festival. The prize „Wild Schleswig-Holstein“ will be endowed with 5000 Euros and aims to encourage filmmakers to depict pristine regions of the state's inland and coastal areas and to document how the locals there shape the landscape, how it is maintained and protected. Robert Habeck, minister for the environment: „They should also show where people, society and politics must do more to protect the natural environment“. In the years to come, the prize will be part of a campaign named „Wildes Schleswig-Holstein“ which is launched by the nature conservancy foundation „Stiftung Naturschutz“ and by the ministry for the environment. Additionally, a young talent award endowed with 1000 Euros will be donated for works by junior filmmakers on the same topic.