



CAPTAIN DARWIN

Sailing in the wake of Darwin, 200 years later.



I'M **VICTOR**, A DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER WHO SAILS AROUND THE WORLD
TO MEET SCIENTISTS AND COMPARE TODAY'S BIODIVERSITY
TO WHAT DARWIN DESCRIBED 200 YEARS AGO.

THE PROJECT

ORIGINS

In 1831, 22-year-old Charles Darwin embarks on H.M.S. Beagle for a 5-year-long voyage around the world. He thoroughly described many plants and animals, thus brushing a rich and colorful painting of life on our planet. This endeavor will ultimately lead him to form the Theory of Evolution, forever changing humanity's understanding of the natural world.

200 years have passed. Human population grew from 1 billion in the early 1800s to 7 billion today. **The climate is warming and a substantial number of species disappeared or are on the brink of extinction.**

Today, the Tree of Life that gave birth to *Homo sapiens* and continues to support its very own existence is wavering. What will it take to prevent its definitive logging?

We now need to take action and durably protect our environment. I'm certain that comparing Darwin's vivid descriptions of Nature to today's world - from the alarming to the comforting - is a story powerful enough to inspire people to choose the path of sustainability in their lives.

THE STORY

To revisit his writing, **I bought a ship and will sail around the planet, following Darwin's footsteps with his book in hands.** Along the way, I will meet his inheritors - scientists from all fields - and with them examine how the world evolved since H.M.S. Beagle's voyage. I will be focusing on emblematic species and ecosystems like the tropical rainforest of Brazil, Darwin's Finch in the Galapagos or coral reefs in Tahiti.


The storytelling platform of the project is YouTube, with videos uploaded on a regular basis. They cover the adventure as a whole, from preparing the boat for the journey to meeting the scientists on the field. Like Darwin did for his book, my goal is to intertwine the personal and naturalist dimension of the adventure.

The human journey

This is the journey of a documentary filmmaker, convinced that a story well told can move mountains, who buys a boat to keep on exploring the world in a sustainable manner.

The naturalist journey

This is a story of a changing world, where human development forever modified landscapes and the diversity of life. In each new location reached by boat, I meet with scientists who study species that Darwin observed 200 years ago. Each new film is the piece of the large puzzle of the world's biodiversity. **My investigation aims at answering the following question: can Nature and Mankind adapt fast enough to survive the ongoing climate change?**

A full-page background image of a lush, green forest. The scene is misty, with sunlight filtering through the dense canopy of trees. Large, dark tree branches frame the top and sides of the image. In the lower center, there is a semi-transparent circle with a red-to-orange gradient. Overlaid on this circle is the text:

**Can Nature and Mankind
adapt fast enough to survive
the ongoing climate change?**

THE VOYAGE

*A FILMMAKER'S JOURNEY
AROUND THE WORLD*



TIMELINE

Darwin departed from Plymouth on December 27th 1831 for a five-year-long voyage. I intend on setting sail from the very same harbor in summer 2021. The circumnavigation will take me 4 years, including numerous stops discovering natural life with scientists.

I will winter the boat in Ushuaïa from June to November 2022. I will cross the Pacific from the Galapagos Islands to the southern tip of Australia in one year. I will reach Cape Town in early spring and will finally cross the Atlantic Ocean back to Plymouth by June 2025.

THE BOAT

A STEEL SAILBOAT DESIGNED FOR EXPEDITIONS

Bought in August 2020, sailboat MUKTI was built over 11 years by a professional metal worker. The boat's philosophy is simple: it's designed to be able to sail anywhere on the planet.

She is sturdy, behaves well in bad weather and is comfortable. She is well insulated and has a considerable autonomy thanks to her solar panels, wind turbine and large water and gas oil tanks.



*13
METERS*



*4
SAILORS*



*500L
OF WATER*



*SOLAR
WIND*



*107M²
OF SAILS*



3 EXAMPLES



SLOTH UNDER PRESSURE IN THE BRAZILIAN RAINFOREST

In 1832, Darwin was the first to unearth the skull of a gigantic sloth, a creature that roamed South America some 10,000 years ago. It showed evidence that species could go extinct, which was a key idea leading to the Theory of Evolution.

The descent of this huge mammal, the biggest ever to have lived on planet earth, was thriving in the Brazilian rainforest when Darwin explored this region.

Since then, much has changed. The habitat of sloths has shrunk due to deforestation. The maned sloth is now listed as a threatened species. We'll go to Centro de Reabilitação on Bahia's Cocoa Coast, a rehabilitation center saving sloth from poachers and habitat fragmentation, and meet with scientists and conservationists.

Will Brazilian sloths know the same fate as their gigantic elder?

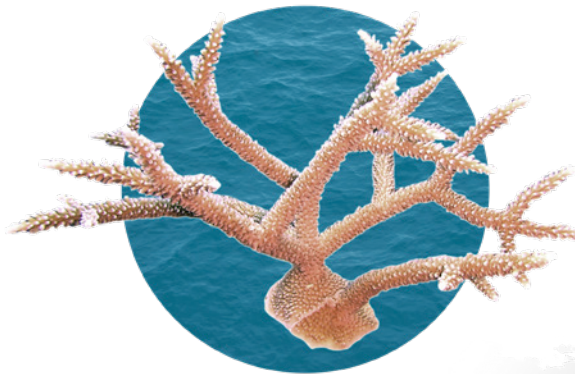




*DARWIN'S FINCHES
IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS*

Darwin noted that on each island of the Galapagos Archipelago lived a different species of finch. He would later find out that from a common ancestor, they evolved to different species to adapt to their differing environments.

Finches continue to be the subjects of intense research. We'll meet with evolutionary biologists who are focusing on how certain species are better equipped to deal with the rapidly changing climate.



*CORAL REEFS
IN FRENCH POLYNESIA*

Corals are 500 million years old. 200 years ago, Darwin was the first to find out how they colonize volcanos in the Pacific and how they create atolls over time. They are of the utmost importance for life in the Ocean, hosting 25% of the

world's marine biodiversity. They greatly suffer from global warming, causing massive bleaching events year after year. We'll dive with Tahiti's scientists to try to understand what it would take to save the reefs from disaster.



WHO I AM

I'm Victor Rault, I just turned 30 years-old. I've been working as a documentary filmmaker for 7 years. In 2014 and 2015, I lived nearly 2 years in Greenland on a boat with the Under The Pole team, including 5 months stuck in the arctic sea ice. In 2017, we crossed the Northwest Passage from Greenland to Alaska. In 2018 and 2019, I spent much time in French Polynesia, diving and documenting the life of the reef.

From all these adventures, I brought back images that toured the world, both on TV and the Internet.

I firmly believe that documentary films can change people's perspective on life. **I'm set to show Nature's richness, fragility and resilience to inspire the public to have a positive impact on the environment.**

HERE ARE MY MOST RECENT FILMS



The Green Belt
Germany
ARTE 2020



Three days under the sea
French Polynesia
Thalassa 2020



Harvard Forest
United States
ARTE 2020

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