

# Protecting Our Environment

## WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING ❖ HOW YOU CAN HELP

### A New Program Examines The State Of The Earth And What Can Be Done

(NAPSA)—What do we have to do to keep the world capable of supporting human life?

For journalist Bill Moyers, this is the most important question being asked this century. That's why he and his award-winning team of producers have traveled the globe to report on how the human species is affecting Earth's ability to sustain life.

"This is not a report on saving the pandas or even a beautiful scenic view," said Moyers. "Scientists are asking whether the earth can continue to sustain human life. We are reporting on what they are finding."

According to a World Resources 2000-2001 study, the statistics are staggering. Half the world's wetlands lost in one century, half the world's forests chopped down, 70 percent of the major marine fisheries at risk, and the world's reefs at risk.

"Scientists want the facts and they are starting to comb every room in the global household to see what we have to do to go on living here," said Moyers.

His report, *Earth on Edge*, which premieres on PBS on Tuesday June 19, 2001, from 8 to 10 p.m., provides a close look at five ecosystems around the world, describing the impact of human activity on the environment and the kind of behavioral changes that can restore it. But, according to experts consulted for this program, time for change may be running out.

"We are pushing our planet to the absolute limit of its ability to function," says Dr. Melanie Stiassny, one of the biologists interviewed.

Moyers tells individual stories in far-flung locations—South Africa, Brazil, Mongolia, Vancouver, Kansas and British Columbia, but in the end it is clear that the program is about what we have all done to the earth and what can still be done to



**Every day brings news of how human beings are affecting the life-support system known as Earth. A new show tells the truth behind the headlines.**

turn things around.

"We don't like to react to the first warning light that comes on the dashboard," says marine biologist Carl Safina who was interviewed for the show. "We like to make sure that we're hearing a big grinding noise before we can all agree that maybe we should stop and get out and take a look at what's wrong."

#### Top Ten Indicators That Earth Is On The Edge

1. Fifty percent of the world's forests have been cleared and demand for wood is growing.
2. Fifty-five percent of all grasslands are susceptible to drought.
3. Forty percent of the world's population suffers serious water shortages.
4. Seventy-five percent of the world's major marine fisheries are already depleted or fished at their limit.
5. The world's freshwater wetlands have been reduced by as much as fifty percent worldwide.
6. Demand for rice, wheat and maize is expected to grow forty percent, pushing water demand up fifty percent or more.
7. Nearly 60 percent of coral reefs are at risk.
8. Almost sixty percent of the world's largest 227 rivers have been strongly fragmented by dams, diversions or canals.
9. Global temperatures have already risen by 1.1 degrees Fahrenheit over the last 100 years.
10. Since 1980, the world's population has grown 30 percent to six billion and is expected to grow to nine billion in the next 50 years.

