

HOPE Production  
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# A THIRSTY WORLD

A FILM BY  
Yann Arthus-Bertrand

DIRECTED BY  
Thierry Piantanida      Baptiste Rouget-Lucaire

After HOME and the Earth from Above series,  
Yann Arthus-Bertrand's 90' documentary  
film A THIRSTY WORLD, directed by Thierry  
Piantanida and Baptiste Rouget-Lucaire,  
proposes another journey around the world.



This film was made with the support of the Agence Française du Développement and the World Water Forum  
[hopeproduction.fr](http://hopeproduction.fr)

## Synopsis

After HOME and the Earth from Above series, Yann Arthus-Bertrand's 90' documentary film A THIRSTY WORLD, directed by Thierry Piantanida and Baptiste Rouget-Luchaire proposes another journey around the world.

This time, the famous photographer is looking at one of the major challenges to human survival: WATER.

Today, against a backdrop of sharply increasing demand, growth in the world population and the growing impact of an unsettled climate, water has become one of the most precious natural resources of our planet.

Faithful to Yann Arthus-Bertrand's reputation, A THIRSTY WORLD, filmed in some 20 countries, reveals the mysterious and fascinating world of fresh water through spectacular aerial images shot in regions that are difficult to reach and rarely filmed, like Southern Sudan or Northern Congo. It also lets us discover the most beautiful landscapes on our planet, the lakes, rivers and wetlands created by water.

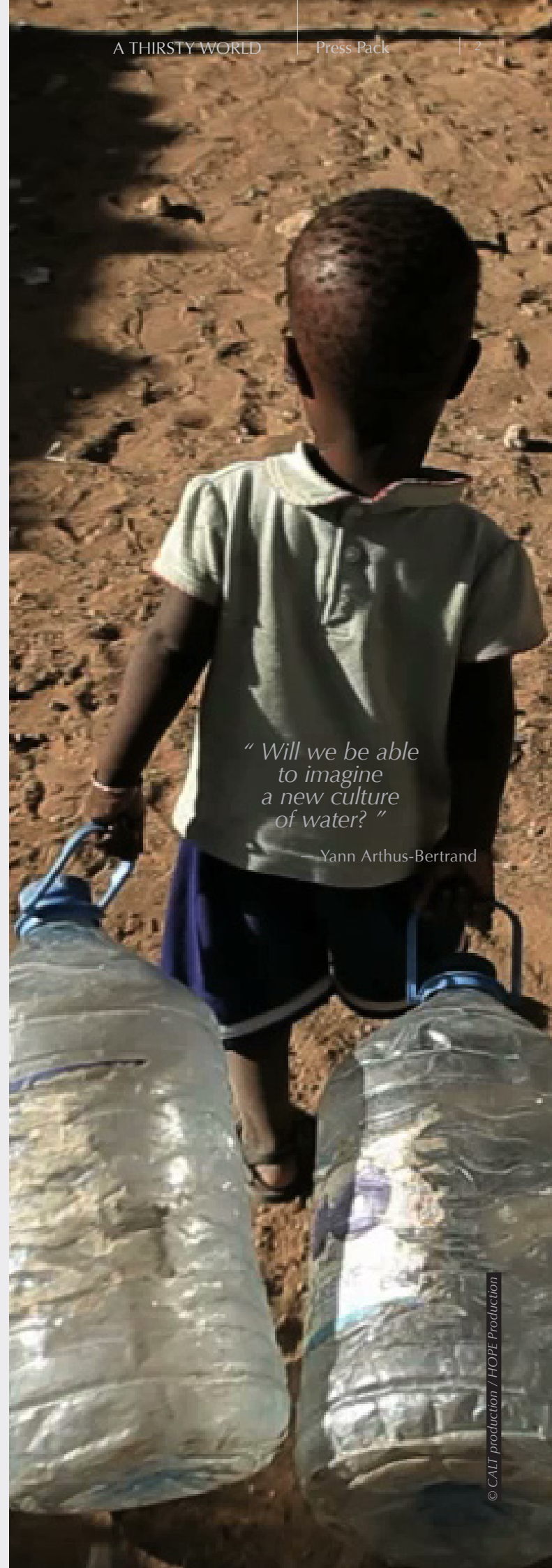
A THIRSTY WORLD attempts to bring together Yann Arthus-Bertrand's trademark aerial view of the world with the harsh, everyday reality of all those people who are deprived of water and may even die for lack of it, the people engaged in the daily struggle to find water, purify it or bring it to those who need it.

The film is built up on a host of encounters. A shepherd from north Kenya looks us in the eye and says he has killed for water and would do so again. Women dance when water finally arrives in their village. An atypical United Nations ambassadress talks about her combat to make governments too commit to providing access to water and the most modern purification techniques to guarantee the survival and health of the poorest populations.

Reportages filmed in Europe, Africa, Asia and America invite comments from the people working and innovating to bring water to those who need it, use it more intelligently, purify it, or, better still, stop polluting it.

Engaging personalities, internationally recognized or simple front-line players, illuminate the film with their energy, their imagination and their enthusiasm.

Because access to clean drinking water is more than ever the big challenge of tomorrow.

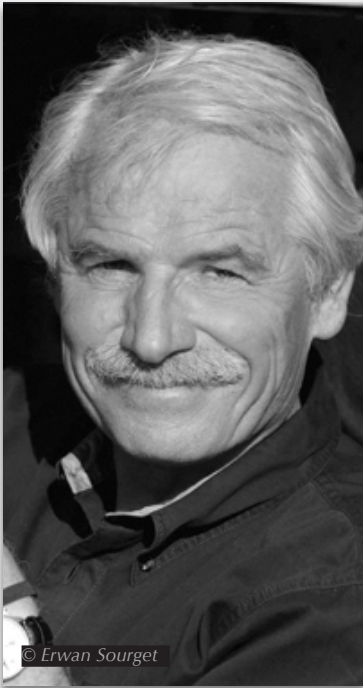


*" Will we be able  
to imagine  
a new culture  
of water? "*

— Yann Arthus-Bertrand

# Biographies

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## YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

Photographer and film director, Yann Arthus-Bertrand is the author of the work *La Terre Vue du Ciel* (Earth Seen from Above), an international success with over three million copies sold. The outdoor photo exhibition, presented in some one hundred countries, was seen by some 200 million people.

Continuing with his commitment to the environmental cause, Yann Arthus-Bertrand created the Goodplanet foundation, a non-governmental organization that works to educate people about the environment and is closely engaged in the combat against climate change and its consequences.

Yann Arthus-Bertrand is also the author of *Earth from Above*, a television documentary series in which each episode explores a particular ecological issue. The program is currently being exported to 49 countries in the world. Drawing on this television experience, Yann Arthus-Bertrand produced a full-length film, *HOME*, looking at the state of our planet, which has been seen by almost 600 million viewers in over 100 countries.

In 2011, Yann created Hope Production, a new structure supporting his return to the airwaves on France Télévisions.



## THIERRY PIANTANIDA

Journalist by training, he directed the Publications department for Jacques Cousteau. Today he is an author and producer of nature and science films including «10,000 miles dans les glaces», «Le nouvel Eldorado», «La Planète blanche» and «Le Diamant bleu».



## BAPTISTE ROUGET-LUCHAIRE

Author and producer of documentary films on social issues and the environment, including the audiovisual project «6 billion Others», which inspired an exhibition at the Grand Palais and travelled to 50 countries.

# Water – key figures

## THE MIRACLE OF WATER

If the Earth was only 5% closer to the Sun, it would be a burning desert without water, like Venus.

If the Earth was only 3% further from the Sun, it would be a frozen desert, like Mars.

Our planet is the only one that has water in gaseous, solid and liquid form!

Water is what makes the Earth a living planet.

## ONLY 0.02% OF THE EARTH'S WATER IS AVAILABLE FOR US TO USE!

Take away the salt water of the oceans, which we cannot use; the frozen water at the Poles, which we must not touch; the water buried deep under the ground, which is inaccessible. What is left? Barely 0.02% of all the water on the planet. The equivalent of Lake Baikal, in Russia, the world's largest lake. This is the quantity of water that Nature gives to human beings and all other terrestrial species every year.

## WATER IS INCREASINGLY SCARCE!

In 1950, world population was 2.5 billion, with 16,800 cubic meters of water available for each individual. Today, we are 7 billion and the quantity of water available to each individual is just 5,600 cubic meters.

In 2025, there will be approximately eight billion people and less than 4,800 cubic meters for each individual.

## THE BIG THIRST

According to the UN and the FAO, 22% of human beings will be living in regions where water is very scarce. Looking to 2030, 47% of the world's population will be living in regions subjected to severe hydric stress.

## WHEN WILL CLEAN DRINKING WATER BE AVAILABLE TO ALL?

In 1990, 77% of the world's population had access to clean drinking water. In 2012, that proportion has increased to 87% - a remarkable performance thanks to mobilization in the field, particularly in Asia.

A note of caution, however, despite this performance: while the percentage of the world's population benefitting from this essential service is growing, the number of people deprived of it is growing too. Why? Because population growth outstrips growth in access to water.

## WATER FOOTPRINT

We also talk of virtual water. This is calculated by taking into account the volumes of water withdrawn or polluted to produce a product (but not its transportation to where it is consumed).

It takes 1,000 liters of water to produce a liter of milk (water consumed by the cow, animal feed and washing); 3,920 liters to produce a kilogram of chicken (30 liters to drink and 6,630 liters to grow its feed (cereals and oils); 100 liters to produce a kilogram of cotton (mostly for irrigation); 15,155 liters of water to produce a kilogram of beef (120 liters to drink, 35 liters for washing and 15,000 liters to produce the feed the animal consumes).



# AFD – Agence Française de Développement

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The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) is a public institution that has been acting for 70 years to combat poverty and encourage development in the countries of the South and French overseas territories. It executes the policy defined by the French government.

Active in the field in over 60 countries and French overseas territories, AFD finances and supports projects that improve living conditions for the population, contribute to economic growth and protect the planet. In 2011, AFD devoted €7 billion to funding initiatives in the developing countries and French overseas territories. These funds will contribute, in particular, to improving access to clean drinking water for 2.5 million people and access to sanitation for 1.5 million.



[www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)

# World Water Forum

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From March 12 to 17, 2012, France and Marseille are hosting the 6th World Water Forum.

Thousands of delegates are expected from all over the world to attend more than 400 lectures and take part in 140 events. Through this 6th World Water Forum, our city will be a Time for Solutions and Commitments.

This week is a crucial step in a process that combines dialogue, action and tracking of results. Bringing together elected officials, decision-makers, civil society, financial backers and experts, this 6th Forum is a seed bed for growing commitment and partnerships to find solutions for water. The work done will be presented, in particular, at the Earth Summit in Rio and in Stockholm in August.

Why a World Water Forum?

To respond to the challenges of water, the work of the 6th Forum will be organized around 12 priorities for action and three conditions for success, broken down into common goals. Defined collectively, these goals and their road maps will provide a framework of action to identify and implement solutions: the audit will have been done and the challenges to be met identified.



[worldwaterforum6.org](http://worldwaterforum6.org)



# Hope Production

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This new production company, the result of a meeting between Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Jean-Yves Robin (Robin&Co), is entirely dedicated to the big international environmental issues. Its profits will be reinvested in other audiovisual projects focusing on sustainable development or to finance NGO activities.

Open to the world, representative of the engagement of each person, it will work with the most well-known professionals in the field to make its productions available to the greatest number, on all types of media.

In this sense, HOPE Production is seeking to invent a new way of working, from financing to distribution, with the aim of having the freedom of tone required for any subject linked to the future of our planet.



[hopeproduction.fr](http://hopeproduction.fr)



# The film team

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A film by

YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

Directed by

THIERRY PIANTANIDA

BAPTISTE ROUGET-LUCHAIRE

Original Soundtrack

ARMAND AMAR

Executive producer

MARC STANIMIROVIC

Associate producers

YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

JEAN-YVES ROBIN

NICOLAS COPPERMANN



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France 2 documentary unit – Fabrice Puchault

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*The photos that appear in this folder are not press photos.*

*Please contact us for the photos made available as part of promoting the film.*